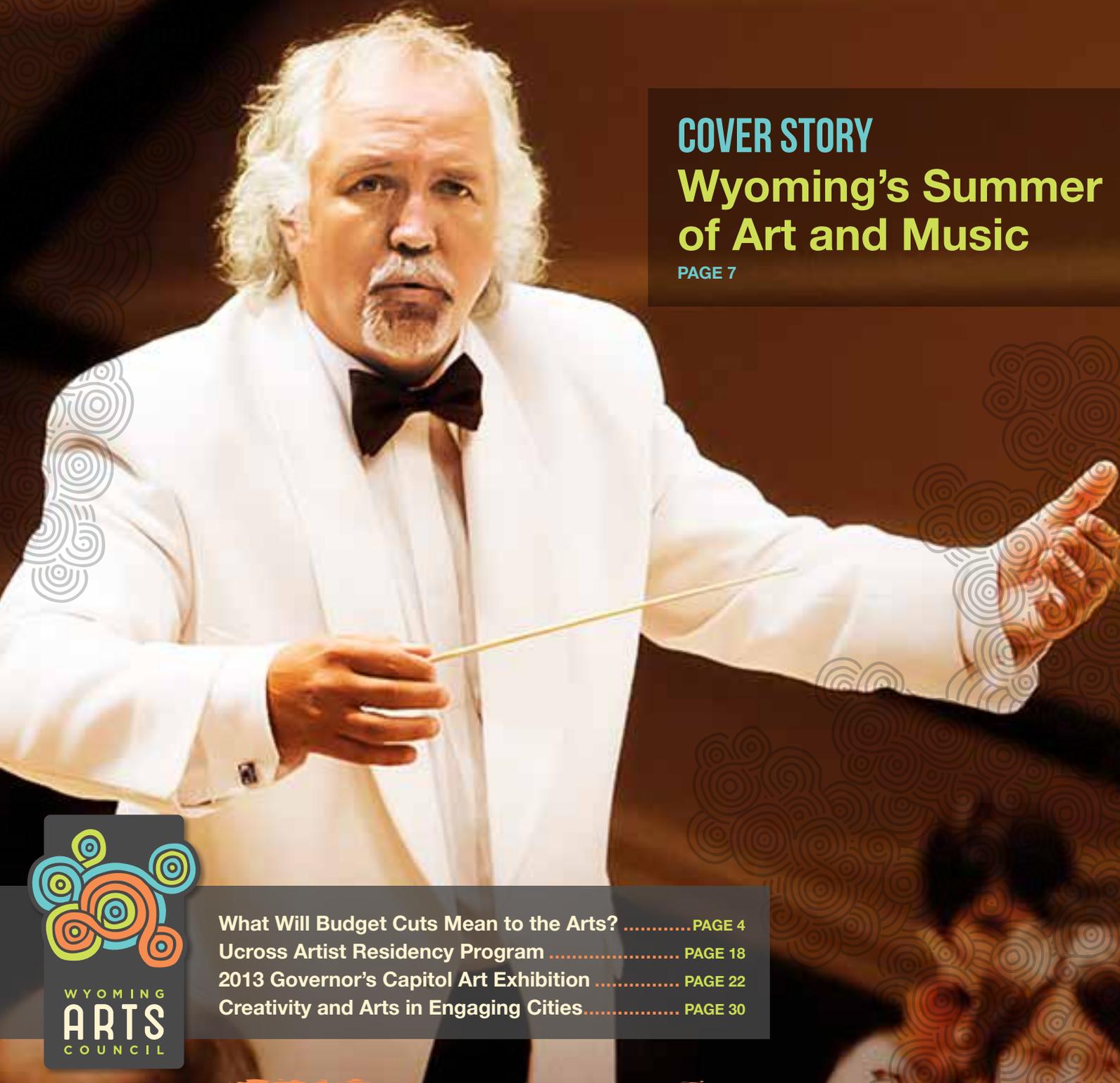


W Y O M I N G

# ARTSCAPES

WYOMING ARTS COUNCIL NEWS • SPRING 2013



## COVER STORY

### Wyoming's Summer of Art and Music

PAGE 7



WYOMING  
**ARTS**  
COUNCIL

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Creativity and Arts in Engaging Cities.....	PAGE 30



# WYOMING ARTS CONFERENCE

A Statewide Gathering of Arts Organizations,  
Community Arts Leaders and Individual Artists

Save the Dates: October 12-14, 2013

**SNOW KING RESORT/GRAND VIEW LODGE AND CENTER FOR THE ARTS IN JACKSON**

The Wyoming arts community, including staff and board members of Wyoming arts organizations, community arts leaders, and individual artists in all disciplines are invited to attend the Wyoming Arts Conference, Oct. 12, 13 and 14 at the Snow King Hotel/Grand View Lodge and Center for the Arts in Jackson. The conference will feature three tracks: one for individual artists; another focusing on organizational development; and a third for an assortment of arts topics of interest to arts organizations and communities. The conference is being held in conjunction with the Wyoming Arts Alliance's annual Block Booking events, which will include showcases of state and regional performing artists and information sessions on Wyoming arts presenters, visual arts opportunities, and arts advocacy in Wyoming.

**More information will be posted on the WAC web site at [www.wyomingartscouncil.org](http://www.wyomingartscouncil.org) or can be requested by calling 307-777-7742.**





## OUR MISSION

The Wyoming Arts Council (WAC) provides leadership and invests resources to sustain, promote and cultivate excellence in the arts.

## WAC STAFF

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## NEWSLETTER

Wyoming Arts Council newsletter published quarterly. Funded in part by the NEA and Wyoming Legislature.

[wyomingartscouncil.org](http://wyomingartscouncil.org)

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**ON THE COVER:** Maestro Donald Runnicles, General Music Director of Deutsche Oper Berlin and Chief Conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, spends his summers conducting the Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra. *Photo by Ashley Wilkerson.*



**ARTS. PARKS.  
HISTORY.**  
State Parks & Cultural Resources



## WYOMING ARTS COUNCIL

2320 Capitol Avenue • Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Phone: 307-777-7742 • Fax: 307-777-5499  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
[wyomingartscouncil.org](http://wyomingartscouncil.org)

# WHAT WILL BUDGET CUTS MEAN TO THE ARTS?



I'm sure all of you have been reading and hearing about the reductions to state and federal budgets, and wondering how this will impact your community, your arts organization or yourself in the coming year (FY14), and in the next biennium (FY15-

and other administrative support items. We will be pinching all of our pennies on expenditures for supplies, postage, printing and basically all of the costs of running the WAC office. There will be fewer printed publications mailed out, with more focus on getting information to our constituents through our quarterly news magazine and our new web site. If you are not in the habit of checking the WAC web site on a regular basis, you might want to put "wyomingartscouncil.org" in your "favorites" list so you can easily visit our site more frequently.

16). While we don't yet have all of the answers, we do know what areas of the Wyoming Arts Council budget will be most impacted during the upcoming fiscal year, and how that might translate into reductions in services to our arts constituents.

We will be cutting back on contracts with individuals and businesses who provide services to the WAC, which means it may take longer for our staff members to get to special projects and other things outside of their regular work loads. We still need the services of grant readers and panel members from across the state, and out-of-state fellowship jurors, so will cut back in other contract areas to keep these programs intact.

At this point, no full-time staff positions are being discontinued, so you can still get the same helpful advice and assistance with grant requests and other services from the WAC staff. We appreciate Governor Mead's, the Legislature's and our Department Leaders' support for keeping these positions in place!

The largest reductions in state funding will be in the areas of staff and board travel, dues to regional and national arts organizations,

**WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF BUDGET CUTS ON PROGRAMS THAT SERVE OUR ARTS CONSTITUENCY.**

While we are trying to keep as much funding as possible in the grants program budgets, there will be some reductions in this area. State funds for grants will be reduced by \$39,000 which is a 7.5% reduction from the FY13 funding level. We've been told to expect about a 2.7% decrease in

our federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for FY14. Since NEA funds are used primarily for salaries (50 percent of three WAC staff positions and 100 percent of a part-time temporary position) and grant programs, any reduction in federal funding will most likely affect the grants program budgets.

Based on this, we estimate a reduction of \$18,900 in federal funds for grants. Together, the predicted reductions to state and federal funding could mean that the WAC will have about \$57,900 less to award in grants and fellowships to non-profit arts organizations, schools and individuals in FY14, but we will still be awarding at least \$995,000 across all categories. If additional state or federal budget reductions are required for the FY15-16 biennium, WAC grant budgets and other areas will be further impacted.

The WAC staff and board are looking at tightening up the requirements for organizations and individuals that receive grants from us, including a stronger focus on “artistic excellence.” The board will decide whether to give fewer grants at higher amounts, or to divide up the available funds to provide smaller grants to more applicants. This will be a discussion at the quarterly WAC Board meeting to be held at the U.W. Art Museum in Laramie on May 30 and 31.

Please know that the WAC staff, board and the leadership of the Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources are doing everything we can to reduce the impact of budget cuts on programs that serve our arts constituency. At the same time, we realize that during these tough economic times, all state and federal programs are being impacted, and we are not immune to these reductions.

So... you may be seeing less of our WAC staff in your communities, but we are always available to assist you by phone and e-mail. You may not get as much mail from us, but you can get information from our web site, listservs, Facebook, and other social media. We're streamlining our grant programs, but organizations can still request and receive up to two grants from the WAC in FY14.

For individuals, you can still receive one Professional Development grant in a two-year period, and can apply for fellowship awards. We still plan to hold quarterly WAC Board meetings in different locations across the state where you can come and express your opinions and concerns. We

will still be doing arts gatherings and special events by working with partners to make these events less expensive.

The truth is, we are public servants, and are here to do what we can to help promote and support the arts in the State of Wyoming through our various programs and services. Please help us to help you by letting us know what is most important to your organizations, schools, communities, and to Wyoming artists in all artistic disciplines. You can call or e-mail me at any time: [rita.basom@wyo.gov](mailto:rita.basom@wyo.gov) or 307-777-7473. We will keep you informed as we make adjustments in staff and budgets, and move forward through these difficult financial times.

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**THE TRUTH IS, WE ARE PUBLIC SERVANTS, AND ARE HERE TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP PROMOTE AND SUPPORT THE ARTS IN THE STATE OF WYOMING THROUGH OUR VARIOUS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**

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**Rita Basom**

*Wyoming Arts Council Manager*



Patti Fiasco • Lander Brew Festival, June 7-8 (page 10)

# WYOMING'S SUMMER OF ART AND MUSIC

Nobody seems to know exactly how many arts-oriented fairs and festivals make up Wyoming's short summer.

The Wyoming Arts Council funds many of them, but not all. A few years ago, WAC staffers made an attempt to address the burgeoning summer arts scene with a special fairs and festivals category. Last year, that was merged with the Arts Projects category. In the summer of 2012, Arts Projects grants funded more than 40 events.

Every county has a fair, as does the state of Wyoming every August in Douglas. There are scads of city-sponsored festivals, including Flaming Gorge Days in Green River, Cheyenne Frontier Days and Cambria Coal Mine Days in Newcastle.

Some events, such as Big West Art Fest in Sheridan and NIC Fest in Casper, combine an art fair with music. Others celebrate the state's rich ethnic heritage. The Wind River Reservation hosts a number of celebrations and powwows, including the Northern Arapaho Celebration July 19-21 and the June 21-23 54th Annual Eastern Shoshone Treaty Days in Ft. Washakie. Several towns kick off the warm weather with Cinco de Mayo celebrations. Celtic music is aired in Cheyenne, Gillette, Jackson and Evanston. Cheyenne holds its annual Hispanic Festival and Car Show at the Historic Depot Plaza on Memorial Day weekend. Basque traditions are celebrated in Buffalo and Yiddish foodways in Cheyenne.

History is celebrated at the July 27-28 Sierra Madre Muzzleloaders Mountain Man Rendezvous and

Black Powder Shoot on the Grand Encampment Museum grounds, Gold Rush Days at South Pass City and the July 11-14 Green River Rendezvous in Pinedale.

Don't forget comestibles and drinkables. Any festival worth its salt has food and beverage vendors. Some events specialize in it, such as the Chugwater Chili Festival and various brewfests throughout the state that begin with Harmony, Hops and Hope in Casper May 18.

As our name suggests, we're mainly interested in the arts. There's nothing like an outdoor concert on a warm summer night, the sky streaked with stars and lightning flickering on the horizon. Fremont County celebrates the Hot Notes/Cool Nights concert series with performances in Lander and Riverton city parks. Oystergrass arrives in Kemmerer every July and NoWoodstock blooms in Ten Sleep every August. Powell and Cody are home to some fantastic jazz and big-name country music headliners play nightly at Cheyenne Frontier Days. One of the hottest concert tickets is for the Snowy Range Music Festival during Labor Day weekend in Laramie, with headliners such as Los Lobos, Big Head Todd and the Monsters, Mavis Staples and the Derek Trucks Band.

In this issue of ArtsCAPES, we highlight some of those summer offerings. It's only a sampler, as is the event listing that accompanies it. Enjoy reading about them. And then get out there and be a part of Wyoming's summer of art and music.

# ALL THINGS YIDDISH PART OF ANNUAL MT. SINAI FESTIVAL

Cheyenne's Mt. Sinai, Wyoming's oldest Jewish Synagogue, hosts the annual Yiddish Food Festival. Food is a big part of the May 19 event. Members spend weeks preparing mandlebrot (Jewish biscotti), honey cakes, hammentashen, chocolate-covered motza brittle, latkes, cabbage rolls, corned beef sandwiches and regelah.

But it's not all about eating.

According to the web site, the all-day event "introduces the non-Jewish community to Jewish/Yiddish foods, customs, music, dance, and culture. It is also an opportunity for the Jewish community in this region to celebrate and enjoy our shared culture, and for Mt. Sinai to invigorate the local Jewish community."

Participants will have the opportunity to tour the Synagogue, to watch and join in with the Jewish & Israeli Dance Group, to listen to klezmer music, to hear the blowing of the Shofar, to enjoy the singing of Jewish and Yiddish songs, and to discuss Jewish and other religious beliefs with the Rabbi.

Returning to the festival is Hal Aqua and the Lost Tribe. Its members play nouveau klezmer music, an exuberant musical experience, rooted firmly in tra-

ditional Jewish modes and melodies and driven by contemporary rhythms and danceable grooves.

The band has a deep respect for their source material, from the evocative tunes of Eastern European Jews and Gypsies to the sinuous rhythms of the Middle East & Mediterranean. Klezmer music originated in the shtetls and ghettos of Eastern Europe,

where itinerant Jewish troubadours performed at joyful events since the early middle ages. It was inspired by secular melodies, popular dances, and Jewish liturgy as well as by the nigunim, the simple and often wordless melodies intended by the Hasidim for approaching God in a kind of ecstatic communion.

Howard Rodack, a member of Mt. Sinai, will open the Festival with his memorable rendition

of Hatikvah, the Israeli national anthem. He will be the emcee throughout the day and will also be singing.

The Mt. Sinai Israeli & Jewish Folk Dancers will be performing in costume. Bea Montross and Mary Weinstein have been teaching a dedicated group of dancers. The audience will also be invited to participate in the dancing. Rabbi Karz-Wagman will be hosting educational sessions entitled "Questions

**THE ALL-DAY EVENT  
"INTRODUCES THE NON-  
JEWISH COMMUNITY  
TO JEWISH/YIDDISH  
FOODS, CUSTOMS, MUSIC,  
DANCE, AND CULTURE..."**

and Comments about Judaism”. The sessions promote a better understanding of Judaism, in part as a religion but primarily as a culture. The timing of the sessions allow for Q&A periods from the public.

Dr. Jason Bloomberg will again be leading the very popular walking tours of the Synagogue. In addition, Dr. Bloomberg will be sounding the shofar to officially begin the festival and as part of the tours.

Hal Aqua’s band includes Hal Aqua (vocals, guitars, octave mandolin, oud), Ben Cohen (bass, tuba), Shanti Hazan (drums and percussion), Sherman Jacobs (violin), and Meg York (clarinet). Hal Aqua and his previous group, Los Lantzman, have performed to enthusiastic audiences during the Yiddish Food Festival.

Howard Rodack, Bea Montross, Mary Weinstein, and Jason Bloomberg, all members of Mt. Sinai, are experienced performers/educators who draw on a wealth of experience. All have performed at previous festivals.

Rabbi Harley Karz-Wagman serves as Mt. Sinai’s part-time rabbi. In addition, he teaches a class in Holocaust History at LCCC and he is very much involved in the Jewish community. He has served as a congregational rabbi for many years and likewise brings a wealth of experience.

These artists will provide artistic and educational experiences otherwise unavailable in Cheyenne. The festival is funded in part by an Arts Project grant from the Wyoming Arts Council.



Art of the hammentashen cookies

# WHAT COULD BE BETTER ON A SUMMER DAY THAN MUSIC, RUGBY, BEER AND BURGERS?

**A**re You Ready? The Lander Brew Festival is just around the corner on June 7-8.

The fun begins Friday, June 7, 5-9 p.m. with Red Dangit warming things up. Jon Wayne and The Pain takes over with their special sound at 7 p.m. and keeps things rockin' until closing. Saturday festivities kick off at 2 p.m. and go until 7 p.m. Grant Farm starts things off and is sure to get everyone in a fine and dandy mood! Finishing off the fun-filled day is Patti Fiasco.

The Central Wyoming Speedgoat Rugby Club will hold another rugby game so watch for details on that Saturday match-up. The Fremont Area Road Tour will hold its ride, too, and is sure to have another record number of participants. Riders get a discounted ticket into Brew Fest.

The Fremont Toyota Lander Brew Festival is a celebration of a lot of great things in life:

Lander, Wyoming, friends, the finest brews from the best breweries in the Rocky Mountain West, foot stompin' music and the best time of year -- summer! Food includes burgers, brats, pizza and more. Please keep your pets at home.

Call the Lander Chamber of Commerce at 307-332-3892 for more information. And now a public service message from: The Lander Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Fremont Toyota remind you to Drive Smart -- Don't Drink and Drive!



**John Wayne and the Pain**

# FLAMING GORGE DAYS GOES ALL-ROCK FOR THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION

**F**laming Gorge Days June 27-29 in Green River bills itself as “Southwest Wyoming’s Weekend of Fun.”

It will be especially fun this year for hard-rock fans. Traditionally, Friday night is billed as the event’s “Country Night,” when some of the biggest country acts are on stage at Stratton Myers Park, a 17 acre community park located on the banks of the Green River at 1795 Bridger Drive. Saturday has always been known as “Rock Night,” a showcase for artists such as Bret Michaels, Ted Nugent, Night Ranger, Buckcherry and Papa Roach.

This year, the event is shaking things up with two nights of rock with Slaughter and Jackyl playing on Friday night and Halestorm and Adelita’s Way performing on Saturday night. Halestorm won a Grammy this year in Best Hard Rock/Metal Performance for “Love Bites (So Do I)”

Located at Evers Park, the city’s Festival in the Park includes a variety of food and merchandise vendors, music, dancing, karaoke and much more. Located near the festival is the 3-on-3 basketball tournament, children’s entertainment, as well as Expedition Island which hosts the dodgeball tournament, 4-on-4 volleyball tournament, horseshoe tournament and the Flaming Gorge Harley-Davidson Bike Show.

Flaming Gorge Days, along with the City of Green River, holds a parade on Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. Every year the parade has a theme. The 2013 theme is “Rock of Ages”. Parade participants are encouraged to build floats, though they aren’t required, and “to be as fun and creative as possible.”

FMI: [www.flaminggorgedays.com](http://www.flaminggorgedays.com). Get ticket info at [Info@flaminggorgedays.com](mailto:Info@flaminggorgedays.com) or 1-800-FL-GORGE



# DONKEY CREEK FESTIVAL, GILLETTE

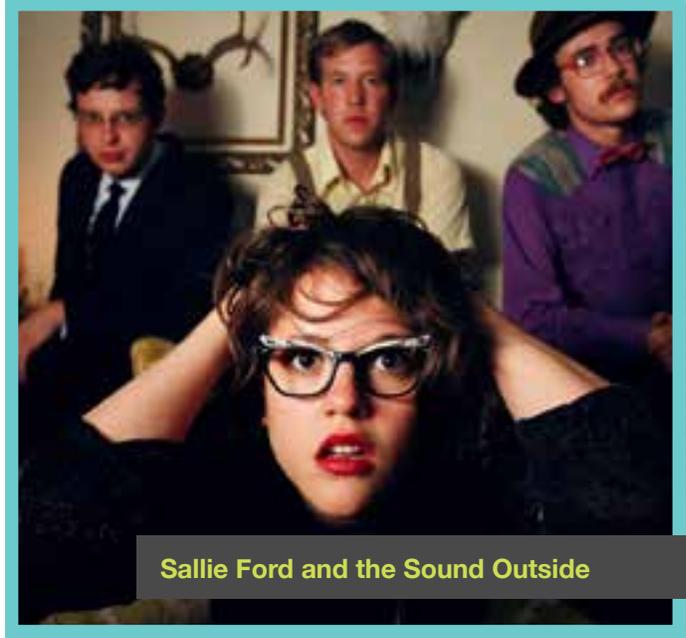
Long before it became a twenty-first century boom town, Gillette was known as Donkey Town.

Thanks to railroad engineer Edward Gillette, the name never stuck. Mr. Gillette mapped a shorter route from the region's population center to the tiny tent city. His route eliminated the need for a series of bridges over Donkey Creek, the area's only natural surface water. For his efforts, the residents named the town after the railroad engineer.

In August 2006, Gillette College began an annual summer concert named after Donkey Creek. Held on the college lawn near the banks of the sleepy creek, the first event included only one band and an audience of about 50 people. By 2011, that modest concert had grown into a three-day festival featuring nationally known musicians. Thousands showed up to enjoy the music, the food vendors, the artist booths, and other activities over the course of the weekend.

The creek was still sleepy. The festival was not.

The 2013 Donkey Creek Festival continues the tradition. The audience can look forward to a wide variety of musical genres with jazz, blues, and more. Headliners include Sallie Ford and the Sound Outside, Pickwick and Hot Club of Detroit. There will be big bands and small combos, instrumental groups and vocalists. Both the City of Gillette and Gillette College work hard to keep the Donkey Creek Festival an event the family can enjoy at no cost. Grants from the Campbell County Community Recreation District, the Campbell County Convention and Visitors Bureau and support from local businesses are



Sallie Ford and the Sound Outside

helping make that possible again this year.

Who's playing June 28-30 at Donkey Creek?

- Big Swing Trio
- California Honeydrops
- Jalan Crossland
- Crushed Out
- Sallie Ford and the Sound Outside
- Hot Club of Detroit
- Los Bohemios
- Pickwick
- Freddie Rodriguez and the Jazz Connection
- Screen Door Porch
- The Slide Brothers
- Victor and Penny Kendl Winter

Artist booths are available, as are food and beverage vendor spaces. For more information, contact Patti at 307-686-5203 or [patti@gillettewy.gov](mailto:patti@gillettewy.gov)

# GRAND TARGHEE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

When the snow melts, the music starts. Grand Targhee Resort located at 8,000-plus feet on the western side of the Tetons plays host to its renowned July Fourth concert (special guest this year is Widespread Panic), a summer music camp and two major music festivals. The summer winds up with the oldest of the two, Grand Targhee Bluegrass Festival, celebrating its 26th year from Aug. 9-11.

On the stage set up at the bottom of the resort's Papoose and Shoshone lifts, you will see some of the best bluegrass acts in the country, including Trampled by Turtles, The Infamous Stringdusters, Elephant Revival, Sam Bush Band, Run Boy Run and legendary singer-songwriter Guy Clark. The bluegrass festival is known for people watching and a ton of great music. There are 2,000-3,000 people

each day at the roomy festival site. There are food, drink, and retail vendors. If you (or your kids) get bored, the resort also offers other recreational opportunities such as horseback riding, climbing wall, disc golf, chairlift rides, hiking, cross-country mountain biking and downhill mountain biking. After the music wraps up for the night, musicians retire to the Trap Bar & Grill for some after-hours jamming.

Camping is allowed at the rear of the festival site. No dogs or bicycles, though. Store your food in bear-resistant containers. Paid parking is available on-site or you can park in Driggs on the Idaho side and take a shuttle to the festival. Children under 12 are admitted free. For more information, go to <http://www.grandtarghee.com/summer/music-festivals/bluegrass-fest.php>



The Infamous Stringdusters

# VERDI AND TCHAIKOVSKY HIGHLIGHTED AT GRAND TETON MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Grand Teton Music Festival celebrates its 52nd season with a fine array of weekend orchestral concerts. Verdi's Requiem takes over the stage at Walk Festival Hall on July 26-27. A full menu of Tchaikovsky, including the overture to Romeo & Ju-

liet, is on tap for Aug. 16-17. Both of these will be conducted by Donald Runnicles.

The GTMF also offers other, less well-known events during the week. They include Chamber Music Concerts on Tuesday and Thursdays, and Spotlight Concerts on Wednesdays. Here are the details:

## CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

*Tuesdays and Thursdays*

### TUESDAYS INSIDE THE MUSIC

**July 9, 23, 30; August 6 & 13**

8PM • FREE, tickets required

These casual, chamber music concerts are hosted by longtime Festival Musician Roger Oyster.

### FREE FAMILY CONCERT

**July 16 at 6:15PM**

### THURSDAYS MUSICIANS' CHOICE

**July 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8 & 15**

8PM • \$25 / \$10 students

These music programs are handpicked by Festival Musicians to showcase their favorite pieces, original works and rare music compositions not often performed. All artists, dates and programs subject to change.

Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra, 2011.



## SPOTLIGHT CONCERTS

### WEDNESDAYS

8PM • \$35 – \$45 / \$10 students

**July 10 : The Hot 8 Brass Band** – New Orleans-based, this band has epitomized New Orleans street music for over a decade, infusing their performances with funk and high energy.

**July 17 : The Collective** – This Nashville-based a capella singing group was a finalist on NBC’s “Sing-Off” and includes Jackson local Isaac Hayden.

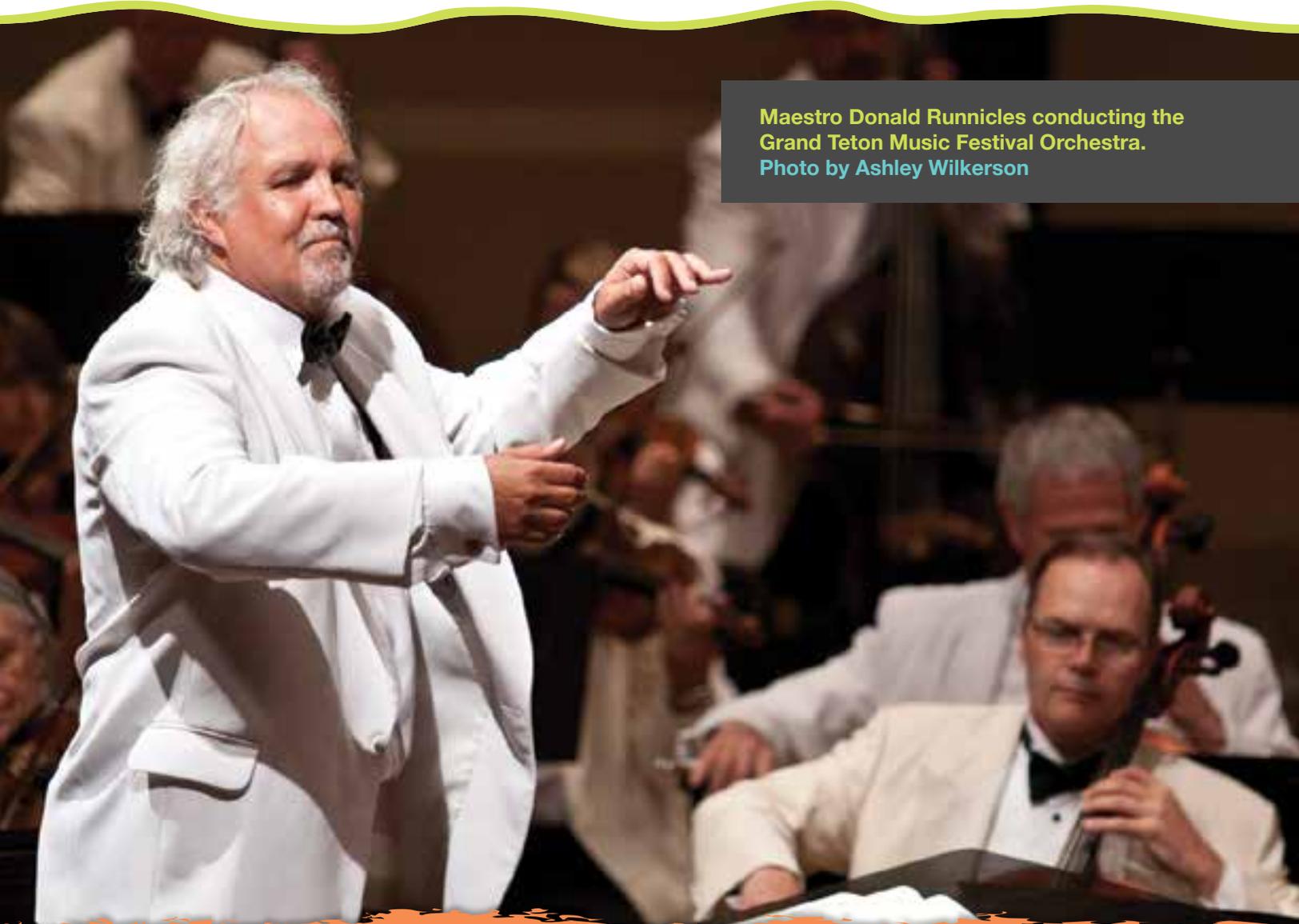
**July 24 : Christopher O’Riley** – *Out Of My Hands*  
A classical-crossover pianist, Mr. O’Riley’s latest release, *Out Of My Hands*, includes the music of R.E.M., Portishead, Cocteau Twins, Pink Floyd, Nirvana and more.

**July 31 : Entre Flamenco Company** – Five music and dance artists of this award-winning company from San Antonio, Texas, open the door to the powerful world of flamenco. Not merely a performance, but an experience not to be missed.

**Aug 7 : Richard Brown Orchestra** – *The Way We Were* – A rousing tribute concert celebrating the works of some of America’s favorite composers, writers and performers. Dancing is encouraged!

**Aug 14 : Bravo Broadway!** Tony Award® winner Debbie Gravitte, Tony Award® nominee Christiane Noll and star of Broadway and concert stages Doug LaBrecque present an exciting evening of Broadway favorites.

FMI: <http://www.gtmf.org>



**Maestro Donald Runnicles conducting the Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra.**  
Photo by Ashley Wilkerson

# WYOMING FESTIVALS, GATHERINGS, JUBILEES, RENDEVOUS AND OTHER SUMMER EVENTS

## MAY

**17-19** **20th Rocky Mountain Leather Trade Show;** Sheridan; [http://www.leathercraftersjournal.com/Rocky\\_Mtn.\\_Leather\\_Trade\\_Show.html](http://www.leathercraftersjournal.com/Rocky_Mtn._Leather_Trade_Show.html)

**19** **Mount Sinai Synagogue Yiddish Food Festival;** 2610 Pioneer Ave., Cheyenne; 307-634-3052; [www.mtsinaicheyenne.org](http://www.mtsinaicheyenne.org)

**25-27** **Hang Glider Fly-In Festival;** (Memorial Day Weekend), Big Horn Mountains at Sand Turn west of Sheridan, near Dayton; [www.sheridanwyoming.org/activities/in-the-mountains/hang-gliding](http://www.sheridanwyoming.org/activities/in-the-mountains/hang-gliding)

**31-JUN 1** **Cheyenne Hispanic Festival and Car Show;** Cheyenne Depot Plaza

## JUNE

**1** **Pioneer Day;** Glenrock

**7-9** **39th Annual Wyoming Writers Conference;** Laramie, at Hilton Garden Inn and the UW Conference Center; <http://www.wyowriters.org/>

**7-8** **Fremont Toyota Brew Fest;** Lander; <http://www.landerbrewfest.com>

**7-8** **Overland Stage Stampede Rodeo;** Green River; [www.cityofgreenriver.org/index.aspx?NID=377](http://www.cityofgreenriver.org/index.aspx?NID=377)

**8** **CultureFest 2013;** Worland Community Center Complex; [www.fairsandfestivals.net/events/details/culture-fest](http://www.fairsandfestivals.net/events/details/culture-fest)

**13-JUL 18** **Hot Notes/Cool Nights Concert Series;** site locations rotate between Lander and Riverton city parks; [www.cwc.edu/summer-concert-series](http://www.cwc.edu/summer-concert-series)

**14-15** **Chugwater Chili Cook-Off;** Chugwater; [chugwaterchilicookoff.com/index.html](http://chugwaterchilicookoff.com/index.html); 307-422-3493

**14-15** **Ft. Laramie Rendezvous;** Ft. Laramie; [www.fortlaramierendezvous.com](http://www.fortlaramierendezvous.com); 307-575-2105 or 307-715-2844; email: [ftlaramierendezvousassociation@gmail.com](mailto:ftlaramierendezvousassociation@gmail.com)

**21-23** **54th Annual Eastern Shoshone Treaty Days;** Ft. Washakie; [www.windriver.org/info/assets/pdf-pressreleases/2013%20Powwow%20schedule.pdf](http://www.windriver.org/info/assets/pdf-pressreleases/2013%20Powwow%20schedule.pdf)

**27-29** **2013 Jackson Hole Writer's Conference;** [www.jacksonholewritersconference.com](http://www.jacksonholewritersconference.com)

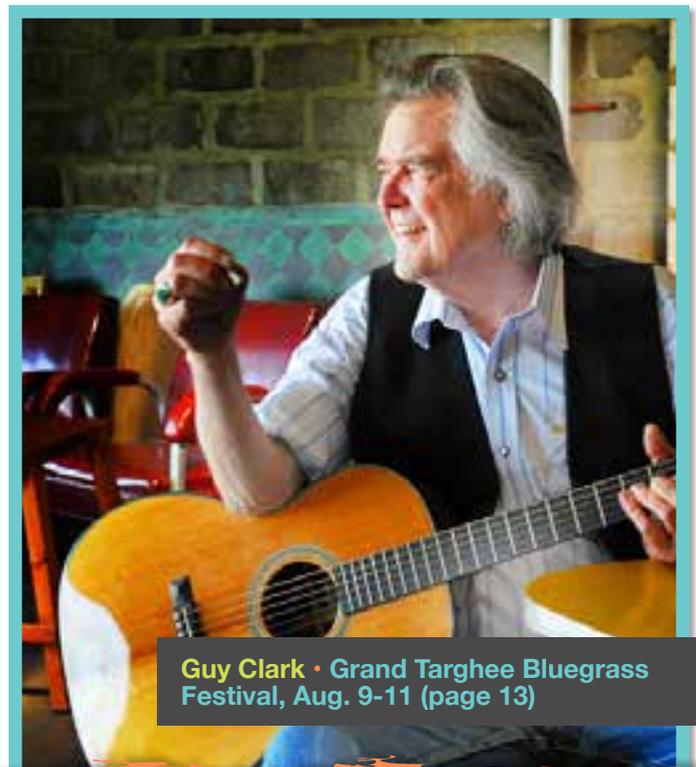
**28-30** **NIC Fest;** The NIC grounds and museum, Casper; [www.thenic.org](http://www.thenic.org)

## JULY

- 4-17 Grand Teton Music Festival;** [www.gtmf.org/complete-summer-2013-schedule](http://www.gtmf.org/complete-summer-2013-schedule)
- 11-14 Green River Rendezvous;** Pinedale; [www.pinedaleonline.com/RendezvousDays.HTM](http://www.pinedaleonline.com/RendezvousDays.HTM)
- 12-13 26th Annual Yellowstone Jazz Festival** Neil Hansen: 307-754-6427
- 13-14 Gold Rush Days;** South Pass City; [www.southpasscity.com/events.html](http://www.southpasscity.com/events.html)
- 12-14 9th Annual Big Horn Mountain Festival;** Johnson County Fairgrounds, Buffalo; featuring The Byron Berline Band and Don Edwards; [www.bighornmountainfestival.com](http://www.bighornmountainfestival.com)
- 19-20 Art Fair Jackson Hole;** Miller Park, [www.jhartfair.org/artfairinfo.htm](http://www.jhartfair.org/artfairinfo.htm)
- 19-20 Northern Arapaho Celebration;** [www.windriver.org/info/assets/pdf-pressreleases/2013%20Powwow%20schedule.pdf](http://www.windriver.org/info/assets/pdf-pressreleases/2013%20Powwow%20schedule.pdf)
- 19-21 9th Annual Targhee Fest;** Alta; [www.grandtarghee.com/summer/music-festivals/targhee-fest.php](http://www.grandtarghee.com/summer/music-festivals/targhee-fest.php)
- 19-28 Cheyenne Frontier Days;** [www.cfdradio.com/home](http://www.cfdradio.com/home)
- 19-21 Grand Encampment Cowboy Gathering;** Encampment; [www.grandencampmentgathering.org](http://www.grandencampmentgathering.org) or call Steve @ 307-327-5465
- 25-AUG 4 Wyoming's Big Show,** [www.sweetwaterevents.com/wyobigshow.aspz](http://www.sweetwaterevents.com/wyobigshow.aspz)
- 26-28 The Oyster Ridge Music Festival;** Kemmerer; [oysterridgemusicfestival.com](http://oysterridgemusicfestival.com)
- 27-28 Sierra Madre Muzzleloaders Mountain Man Rendezvous and Black Powder Shoot / Living History Days;** Grand Encampment Museum grounds; email: [dmorrison@union-tel.com](mailto:dmorrison@union-tel.com); or call Josh Saier 307-326-5503 or Joe Morrison 307-329-7944

## AUGUST

- 3-4 Beartrap Summer Festival;** Casper Mountain; [beartrapsummerfestival.com](http://beartrapsummerfestival.com)
- 3-4 Big West Arts Festival;** Sheridan, on the college grounds; [www.bigwestartsfestival.com](http://www.bigwestartsfestival.com)
- 9-11 26th Annual Targhee Bluegrass Festival** Alta; [www.grandtarghee.com/summer/music-festivals/bluegrass-fest.php](http://www.grandtarghee.com/summer/music-festivals/bluegrass-fest.php)
- 9-11 NoWoodstock XIII;** Ten Sleep; <http://nowoodstock.com> or Pat O'Brien at 307-431-2022
- 10-17 Wyoming State Fair;** Douglas; [www.wystatefair.com](http://www.wystatefair.com)
- 10-11 Wyoming Old Time Fiddle Association State Contest;** Douglas, during the Wyoming State Fair; [cafiddle@gmail.com](mailto:cafiddle@gmail.com)
- 16-18 Art Fair Jackson Hole;** Miller Park, [www.jhartfair.org/artfairinfo.htm](http://www.jhartfair.org/artfairinfo.htm)
- 30-SEP 2 Snowy Range Music Festival;** Albany County Fairgrounds; [www.snowyrangemusicfestival.com](http://www.snowyrangemusicfestival.com)



**Guy Clark • Grand Targhee Bluegrass Festival, Aug. 9-11 (page 13)**

# UCROSS ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY THIS SUMMER

by Linda Coatney

For years, the infamous Ucross junkyard served as a landmark at the junction of state highways 14 and 16 at the Sheridan County/Johnson County line. “Take a left after the junkyard” was often the way staffers gave directions to artists traveling from Sheridan to the Ucross Foundation Artist Residency Program. Some of those artists, such as painter John Hull, made the jumble of old cars and trucks a subject of their work.

With a vision in mind, Raymond Plank, founder of the Ucross Foundation, felt the time had come for the junkyard to go. He purchased the lot, and had the car carcasses hauled away. Creating the “park,” dozens of pines and weeping birch trees were planted. Workers built a deer fence to enclose a future garden. And two new buildings, still smelling of cut timber and quarried rock, now rise from the grounds: a small chapel, and the much larger Raymond Plank Library and Center for Land Stewardship.

Jim Coppoc and I toured them both, guided by Mike Latham, in his seventh year as Ucross maintenance manager. We were in Sheridan County in the middle of a frigid March to coach Arvada-Clearmont High School student Sara Ellingrod, winner of the March

4 Poetry Out Loud competition in Cheyenne, for the national finals April 29-30 in Washington, D.C. The snowstorm early that morning quickly covered the road and the hulking black Angus in the fields.

*Artsapes* Editor Mike Shay had called and asked if we’d stop by neighboring Ucross to take some photos after we’d finished in Clearmont. August marks Ucross’s 30th anniversary, making it the oldest of Wyoming’s three artist residency programs

(the others are Jentel and Brush Creek).

Heeding the editor’s call, we did just that. And Mike (Latham) gave us the grand tour of all the Ucross grounds in his heated pick-up truck.

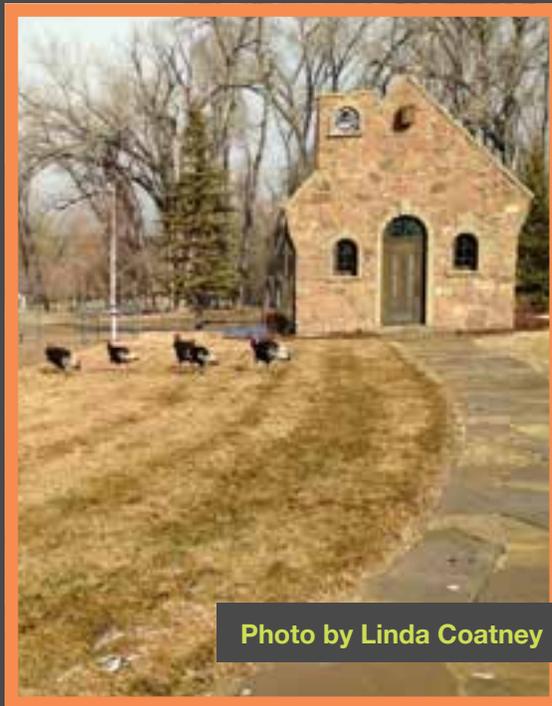


Photo by Linda Coatney

As we looked around at the remarkable interior in the building named for the Ucross founder, Latham asked us if we had any ideas for the use of this building. I couldn't think of anything at that moment, although reflection makes me think it would make a terrific visitor's center. The rock fireplace chimney rises a full two stories. Dismantled Utah wooden train trestles are used throughout as supporting pillars.

Plank personalized the interior of the library with two desks (and their chairs) in opposite corners, artwork from Egypt, and other framed memorabilia. A stack of his recently published book, *A Small Difference*, sits on a shelf by the front entrance. As Latham talked about Raymond (everyone at Ucross, it seems, calls him by his first name), I thumbed through its pages. The last chapter speaks volumes about the man: "The Impediments of Ego."

We drove the short distance over to the chapel. A rafter of toms leisurely strolled across the front lawn. As we sauntered up the flagstone walk, the turkeys crossed in front of us and disappeared into the trees.

Wanting the chapel modeled after one he'd seen in New Zealand, Plank also wanted it to look like it had been there for a long time. The small rock-walled structure is fitted with a custom door, light fixture and small stained-glass window above where a speaker might stand. Four pews flank the center aisle, allowing seating for up to 24. It's rustic, with no electricity or plumbing. It fits into the Ucross theme of quiet contemplation, and has become a popular place for Ucross residents. The guest book

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continued on page 20



Photo by Ruth Salvatore

# UCROSS ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM

continued from page 19

records visitors from Italy, New Zealand, Germany and assorted U.S. locales.

The park and buildings aren't the only new additions for Ucross's 30th anniversary. It will host its first-ever Open Studios for the community. Group residencies, the new wave of artist residency programs, brings together artists working on a focused outcome, and Ucross will host its first — for Creative Healthcare (formerly Arts in Healthcare), and the University of New Mexico's Land Arts of the American West program. To celebrate the first year that Wyoming teachers can apply to the Fund for Teachers, the organization will hold its retreat at Ucross for the third time.

In early 2014, Cheyenne native Teresa Jordan, best known for her work and her memoir *Riding the White Horse Home*, will debut her artwork in a show that features artist and WAC Board Member Chessney Sevier of Buffalo. The work of another Wyoming native, John Catterall, will be featured in summer 2014.

Rock Studios, built in the last 15 years by master stonemason Bob Hruza of Tongue River Masonry in Dayton, is for the visual artists, with four standard

studios and a print studio. The facility is set up with a common kitchen area in the center, with studios on each end of the building. Around a bend in the road is one of two composers' cabins, both of which are equipped with a baby grand. This one is not a sleeping cabin, except for the couch. The program suggests that artists go back to their bedrooms to get a good sleep, although it doesn't always happen that way, given the varying ways in which artists are accustomed to working. Jesse II, built in the last seven years, is the other composing studio and is fully contained.

The writers' studio building has its four bedrooms upstairs. The two composers' studios sit some distance from the visual arts and writing studios, as composing musicians tend to be noisier. There is a recreation cabin with a television, computer, pool and ping pong tables. All studios have wireless internet.

At the warmly restored office building we met Ruth Salvatore, resident manager. On the main floor are several rooms including a kitchen, parlor, and President Sharon Dynak's office. Views from the windows look out onto unfenced fields, pines and towering cottonwoods.

Decorative shelves in the hallway leading to the library display a small selection of books by past



Artist Joellyn Duesberry

residents: *Accidental Birds of the Carolinas* by Marjorie Hudson, *The Art of Fielding* by Chad Harbach, *Salvation City* by Sigrid Nunez, *The Submission* by Amy Waldman, and *A Long, Long Time Ago and Essentially True* by Brigid Pasulka, to name just a few. Floor to ceiling shelves in the library are also filled with books by past residents, including Elizabeth Gilbert, Annie Proulx (once on the board of trustees), Geoffrey O’Gara, Alyson Hagy and Ann Patchett. Another wall in the library houses an extensive collection of books about Wyoming, a subject that residents are often curious about.

The office walls are hung with many framed historical photos, the Ucross branding iron and much other visual art. Hanging on the wall by the front door is the framed Wyoming Governor’s Arts Award, received in 2005.

Salvatore next brought us outside and across a long walkway to the “Big Red Barn.” The main floor is where three to four exhibits a year are held. Currently, *Soundings*, a multimedia exhibition featuring paintings, video, sound and installation by Sara Mast, will run until June. At the age of

fifteen, she lost her father to a brain tumor. Gifford Morrison Mast was an early pioneer of American industrial design, an inventor and holder of U.S. patents, a physicist and optics expert.

The exhibit bridges technology with art in an “interdisciplinary collaboration with members of my biological family, in an attempt to measure the immeasurable, a passion of my father’s.” An aspect of the show is a biofeedback instrument in the form of an iPhone app that measures heart rate variabil-

ity (HRV), which unfortunately was not operable that morning, as the digital signal wasn’t working.

Such it is in the country, and everyone takes it in stride, a reminder of the ease and pace that predominates the isolated setting.

Upstairs is the loft where events and board meetings are held. An occasional resident composer has entertained on the full size grand piano that sits on the dais at one end of the room.

We met three resident artists: Megan, a writer from St. Louis completing her first novel; David, a writer/filmmaker; and Sandra, a photographer/filmmaker, both from New York City. Over coffee we introduced ourselves and talked briefly.

“Time to get to work,” the artists all echoed as they began to disperse. Outside, David wrestled a bicycle out of the rack and, with a wobble, began to pedal down the snow-dusted shoulder of the highway. Megan, a runner, began jogging down the other side of Highway 14. Sandra was already focusing her camera on a cottonwood.

**THE IDEALIZED LIFE  
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A CHARMING SIMPLICITY  
AND A SLOW, CAREFREE  
PACE — NURTURE THE  
ARTISTS WHO COME TO  
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COMPOSE, PHOTOGRAPH  
OR MAKE FILMS.**

The idealized life of the country – a charming simplicity and a slow, carefree pace – nurture the artists who come to Ucross looking for time to write, paint, compose, photograph or make films. These contemporary, oftentimes urban, artists produce work that frequently is at odds with the bucolic setting. But after all, this is part of the ideal that the program wants to foster, as is stated in its promotional brochure: “To support and participate in the process by which a society is strengthened and emboldened by its most forward-looking arts.”

# 2013 GOVERNOR'S CAPITOL ART EXHIBITION

The creations of 53 Wyoming artists will be included in the 2013 Governor's Capitol Art Exhibition and Sale. Now in its fourteenth year, the juried exhibition will be on display June 1 through June 30, 2013 at the Wyoming State Museum in Cheyenne. The Purchase Award Reception is scheduled for Friday, June 21 from 5 – 7 p.m. Artworks included in the show will be available for purchase by the public after June 10.

"This really is a 'Wyoming' show." said David L. Newell, Curator of Art at the Wyoming State Museum. "It truly captures the themes and feeling of the region, exploring these ideas in a variety of mediums and styles. We had a record number of entries this year, and our juror, Maya Hansen, Curator Emeritus with History Colorado, was very impressed with the works she had to choose from."

Artists selected for this year's show include Rede Ballard (Gillette), Gayle Barnett (Meeteetse), Mack Brislawn (Laramie), Deborah Britt (Lander), Sandra Brug (Sheridan), Sonja Caywood (Dayton), Mike Conaway (Evanston), Karen Cotton (Cheyenne), Niki DeLancey (Laramie), Vanda Edington (Cheyenne), Michele Farrier (Alta), Tom Ford (Gillette), Jerry Glass (Laramie), Scott Greenig (Lander), Brian Haberman (Cheyenne), Martin Hagen (Jackson), William Travis Hart (Green River), Daniel Hayward (Laramie), Glenda Heimback (Cheyenne), Karen Henneck (Casper), Janet Hodson (Laramie), Jennifer Hoffman (Jackson), Lorre Hoffman (Lander) and Gary Huber (Buffalo).



**First Nations Agriculture**  
by Lorre Hoffman



**Fenced Out by Ginnie Madsen**



**Lone Boat by Chuck Kimmerle**

The 2012 GCAE included 68 works. Seven purchase award winners were selected by Governor Mathew H. Mead and First Lady Carol Mead; Secretary of State Max Maxfield; State Treasurer Joe Meyer; State Auditor Cynthia Cloud and Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill.

Established in 2000 under an initiative by Governor Jim Geringer, and organized under the auspices of the Wyoming State Museum and the Wyoming Arts Council, the GCAE celebrates the work of the region's artists. Works receiving purchase awards join a dedicated collection of original Wyoming regional artworks displayed in state offices.

Also included are Travis Ivey (Laramie), Raymond Jordan (Laramie), Gary Keimig (Dubois), Chuck Kimmerle (Casper), Terry Kreuzer (Cheyenne), Sally LaBore (Sheridan), Phillippa Lack (Cheyenne), Jason Linduska (Gillette), Ginnie Madsen (Laramie), Jon Madsen (Laramie), Mike McIntosh (Cheyenne), Tom Mulhern (Cheyenne), Julie Nighswonger (Torrington), Eileen Nistler (Upton), Lindsay Olson (Laramie), Edie Reno (Gillette), Georgia Rowswell (Cheyenne) and Pat Schermerhorn (Cody)

Rounding out the roster are Tom Shaffer (Cheyenne), Edward Sherline (Laramie), Joan Sowada (Gillette), Monte Stokes (Torrington), Gail Sundell (Cheyenne), Kathryn Turner (Jackson), Jane Woods (Powell), Bruce Woodward (Rock Springs), Ken Wright (Casper), Debra Zelenak (Lander) and Cristin Zimmer (Lander)



**Buford Fire Department by Jerry Glass**

# ARTS ADVOCATES CELEBRATE INCLUSION OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS OPTION FOR HATHAWAY SCHOLARSHIPS

On the last day of the 2013 Legislative session, arts advocates from across Wyoming celebrated when a bill including the arts as an option in the Hathaway Scholarship Success Curriculum passed just under the deadline.

Advocates put five years into passing this bill, originally introduced by Rep. Elaine Harvey from Lovell in 2008. This bill represents an important recognition of the value of arts education on the part of the Legislature as part of a complete education for student success.

Introduced by Rep. Sam Krone of Cody, the bill increases the rigor for all levels of the scholarship, while also providing students with choices and opening the door to more students who are interested in the arts or career-technical areas.

Below are the original requirements and the new options for students:

**For Honors and Performance level scholarships, the original requirements were:**

- 4 years each of math, science and language arts,
- 3 years of social studies, and
- 2 years of sequenced foreign language (includes American Sign Language, Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone), one of which could be taken in 8th grade.

**Those requirements stand, and this bill adds two more years which may be taken in any one of the following three content areas:**

- Fine and performing arts
- Career technical education
- Foreign language. These two years are in addi-



tion to the already required foreign language, but do not have to be the same language.

**For the Opportunity and Provisional level scholarships, the original requirements were:**

- 4 years each of math, science and language arts,
- 3 years of social studies and,
- Demonstration of proficiency in foreign language.

**The requirements for math, science, language arts and social studies stand, and the bill makes the following change and addition:**

- Removes the proficiency requirement in foreign language

- Requires two years in one of the following three content areas: fine and performing arts, career technical education, foreign language

**THIS BILL REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT RECOGNITION OF THE VALUE OF ARTS EDUCATION ON THE PART OF THE LEGISLATURE AS PART OF A COMPLETE EDUCATION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS.**

Additionally, the bill instituted a waiver option for school districts that are unable to provide the classes for the additional two year requirement at the Honors and Performance levels.

The bill takes effect for students who graduate in the 2015/16 school year and later.

This bill represents a major success for arts advocates, led by the Wyoming Arts Alliance and the arts teachers associations.

To join the Wyoming Arts Alliance and learn about other initiatives, go to [www.wyomingarts.org](http://www.wyomingarts.org).



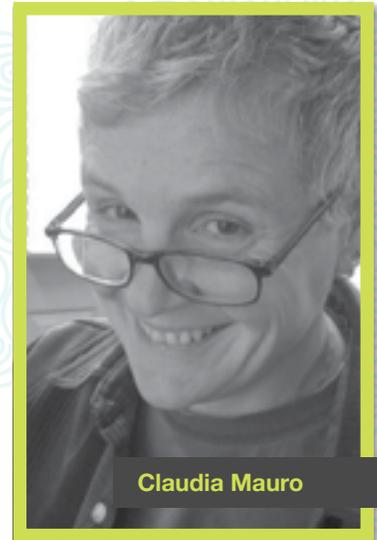
**Teachers, art advocates and legislators join Gov. Matt Mead at a bill-signing ceremony for HB 177.**

## CLAUDIA MAURO • LITERARY ARTS

Claudia Mauro of Jackson is founder and director of Whit Press, which publishes work by writers from ethnic, economic and social minorities, young writers and first-time authors. Before moving to Wyoming, she worked for nearly 20 years as a marine science tech and a backcountry pilot in support of private and public environmental projects in Alaska. She's published two poetry collections: *Stealing Fire* and *Reading the River*. Both were nominated for Lambda Book Awards. She received a 2013 creative writing fellowship from the WAC. She joined the other winners -- Matt Daly and W. Dale Nelson -- in a reading from their work on Sept. 14 at the Equality State Book Festival in Casper. They were joined at the reading by fellowship judge and soldier-poet Brian Turner.

Mauro is an active member of The Council of Literary Magazines and Presses, Book Publishers Northwest, The Northwest Booksellers Association, The

Northern California Booksellers Association, and the Triangle Publishing Group. She has served as the Northwest publisher's regional liaison to the Publishers Marketing Association, and has been a judge for the Lambda Book Awards.



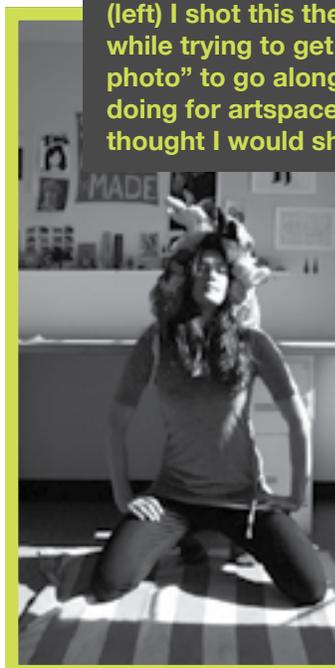
Claudia Mauro

She is the recipient of two Seattle Arts Commission Awards, a Hedgebrook Fellowship, Whiteley Center Fellowship and Jack Straw Writers Fellowship. Her work appears in various journals throughout the Northwest, King County's Poetry on the Buses project, and as a permanent installation at The Seattle Public Library, Beacon Hill Branch. FMI: <http://whitpress.org>

## JUNE GLASSON • VISUAL ARTS

June Glasson is an artist and designer who lives in Laramie. She was selected as a winner of a 2013 visual arts fellowship so will be featured in the Wyoming Arts Council Biennial exhibition at the Nicolaysen Art Museum in the fall. Her paintings have been exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery in London, Nature Morte Gallery in Berlin and various New York and U.S. galleries. They have also appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Guernica Magazine*, *Versal Magazine*, and *Asymptote Magazine* and have been featured in *Domino*, *People*, and *Myself Magazine* as well as the film "My Idiot Brother." She also has designed and fabricated exhibitions and window displays for The Center for Urban Pedagogy, Bergdorf Goodman, Bumble and Bumble, and Crumpler Bags. Web site: <http://juneglasson.tumblr.com/>

(left) I shot this the other day in my studio while trying to get a good "artist's portrait photo" to go along with an interview that I'm doing for [artspace.com](http://artspace.com). I love the light so I thought I would share it. (below) Self-portrait.



**SCOTT BRAGONIER • PERFORMING ARTS**

Scott Bragonier was born and raised in Cody. His parents instilled in him a deep love of the land and nature.

“I was one of the lucky ones, let loose to roam the wilds of Wyoming,” Bragonier says on his web site. “Not many people have the opportunity to chase cutthroat trout with a fly, blue grouse with a .22, and ride horseback to the most remote section of wilderness in the lower 48 states – all before the age of 10.”

His love of music started while working as a young man on Rocky Mountain guest ranches. During college, Bragonier wrangled for Glen and Alice Fales at the Rimrock Ranch.

“It was at this time that I began to feel the need to make music, to express myself through song, especially to an audience. On Sundays a new group of guests would arrive at the ranch. After dinner we would meet with them, make horse assignments for the week, and then have a little ‘show’ welcoming them to the ranch. Most often this would include a song or two, including Glen’s favorite song, ‘My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys.’”

Once his boss learned that Bragonier knew a couple chords on the guitar and could sing, he thrust him in front of guests during the weekly Saturday night concert.

“They paid those of us who sang a little extra for our ‘talents,’ and Alice even fronted me money to upgrade to a new guitar. She said she would just withhold the money from the next summer’s wages, which she never did. Thank you Alice.”

For the past 20 years, Bragonier has written and performed western music at major festivals such

as the Elko Cowboy Gathering and the prestigious Cowboy Songs and Range Ballads. Scott draws inspiration from modern greats like Chris LeDoux, Ian Tyson, and Brenn Hill, while staying true to the classics of Marty Robbins, Gene Autry, and Flatt and Scruggs.

It’s hard to argue the best songs may have already been written, but to Scott, it’s more than just trying to write a great song. “The stories are often the same, love, death, and other life struggles. But every day our world changes, and it’s that same change that offers a new adventure and opportunity to craft a fresh story with lyrics.”

Bragonier’s first recorded music release, LIVE AT THE 7D, provides a snapshot of life in Western Wyoming, old and new. <http://www.scottbragonier.com>



**Scott Bragonier**

# IN MEMORIAM

Longtime Wyoming resident and author Gaydell Collier passed away January 18 at Rapid City Regional Hospital. Gaydell came from the East Coast and, as a child, told people she would eventually make her home in Wyoming. She attended the University of Wyoming, and met her then-future husband, Roy Hugh Collier. While living in Laramie and the Harmony area, Collier worked as circulation manager at the UW library, and collaborated with Eleanor Prince in producing three publications: *Basic Horsemanship: English and Western*; *Basic Training for Horses: English and Western*; and *Basic Horse Care*.

She and her husband purchased their Crook County Ranch in 1977. Collier took over the Crook County Library Director position and was there for 14 years, while also operating her ranch bookstore, Back-pocket Books. She was co-editor along with Nancy Curtis and Linda Hasselstrom on three anthologies: *Leaning Into the Wind: Women Write from the Heart of the West* in 1997; *Woven on the Wind: Women Write about Friendship in the Sagebrush West*, in 2001; and *Crazy Woman Creek: Women Rewrite the American West* in 2004.

Her publications continued in periodicals, reviews, anthologies, and magazines. Her last book was the memoir, *Just Beyond Harmony*, published in 2012. She received a Governor's Arts Award in 2004. She was a charter member of Bearlodge Writers in Sundance and of the statewide writers group, Wyoming Writers, Inc., as well as a sustaining member of Women Writing the West and Western Writers of America. Collier's memorial service was at Fidler-Isburg Funeral Chapel on January 24.

## A Poem for Gaydell

Midge Farmer from Gillette writes: "I met Gaydell at the first WWInc conference in 1974. I was just learning, She was already published, I believe. We had become close friends over the years, and talked and



Gaydell Collier and Maxie

shared some of the same sadness. In 2007, Wyo-Poets published the chapbook WYOMING PAINTBRUSH, and Gaydell and I had the last two poems facing each other. It had happened before and tickled us – here we are again. I send that poem of mine here as a memorial for Gaydell. It seems appropriate for her."

### EULOGY

She may as well inked  
her fingertips  
and rolled them  
across her life.  
That was how she lived,  
all loops and whorls  
erratic spirals.

Every downward curve  
generated a giant  
leap up into  
the thin, crisp thrill  
of taking a chance,  
breaking stereotypes.

Her tightly wound  
coil of curiosity  
had no end. She  
simply twisted out,  
fingertips reaching far  
into a new dimension.

## IN MEMORIAM

We ended 2012 on a sad note. Rod McQueary's poetry enlivened almost every Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko. He served on the WAC artist roster for many years. With his passing, Recluse, Wyoming, won't ever be the same.

He was the husband of state legislator and cowboy poet Sue Wallis; father of Porter, Cecile, Ian, and Justine McQueary, stepfather of Isaac Wallis, Megan Kruse, and Rys Martin; Boppa of Ezra, Cora, and Maddox Kruse; son of Eloise, and brother of Lyle and Neil McQueary; who has touched the lives of so many, many family, friends, compadres, and like-minded souls who appreciated his articulate wit. He has followed his father Howard over that Last Great Divide. He was the epitome of kindness.

A memorial service was held at the Western Folklife Center in Elko, Nevada on Jan. 2. In lieu of flowers, family urged people to send contributions to the Western Folklife Center for the support of the Cowboy Poetry Gathering, the center of the art and the culture that Rod defined his life by, and the gathering place of his far-flung friends. The WFC address is 501 Railroad Street, Elko, Nevada, 89801.

At the Elko memorial, friends and family shared stories, songs, poems and jokes. After a short service in the G Three Bar, they had a potluck dinner in the Pioneer Saloon. Rod's daughter Ceci put together pictures and videos.



Rod McQueary

Family and friends will gather again on the full moon of July in Ruby Valley, Nevada, and Bitter Creek, Wyoming, to scatter his ashes over the mountains and ranches that he rode for the majority of his life.

# CREATIVITY AND ARTS IN ENGAGING CITIES: THE CASE FOR CASPER

by Bruce Richardson

New U.S. Census Bureau figures show that Casper is the eighth fastest growing city in the country. Are you surprised? There are some jobs, but not enough to account for this. People are coming and staying, perhaps because they like it. Could it be that Casper is “cool?”

## What’s a Creative Place?

The Creative Town model has been around long enough to breed stereotypes: funky coffee shops, hip restaurants with mismatched chairs, quirky local bookstores, a cool dog park, little art galleries, a jogging trail along the river, local brews, arts festivals, dance studios, book groups and a sublime sort of confidence that life here is being lived right. Some of this is captured and cleverly mocked in *Portlandia*, the TV show about Portland, Oregon, perhaps the poster child of hip, creative cities. We are told computer wizards, bloggers, artists, musicians, writers and other creative types just love those coffee shops, that amazing indie bookstore Powell’s, the Women’s Collective, the Pink Triangle Theatre and all the other funky bits of Portlandia.

The Creative Economy grand master, Richard Florida, has argued that creatives are drawn to cities with this sort of particular blend of amenities and ideology. Florida’s arguments stimulated a kind of war

among the cities to lure creative people and creative industries with art centers, funky festivals, riverfront parks and subsidized housing for artists in places such as Paducah, Kentucky, and downtown Las Vegas. The lively mix of data companies and arts that you see in the San Francisco Bay area, Seattle, and parts of North Carolina comes with a full-blown culture which appeals to the Google workers and Facebook folk. So Winston-Salem, North Carolina, a city known for cigarettes and Hanes underwear, has done a makeover with a downtown enlivened with music, restaurants, pottery shops and loft housing. The North Carolina School of the Arts adds to the ambiance that you can see on the packed streets of the city on a Saturday night. If Winston-Salem can do it, so can your town.

Winston-Salem, Portland, Philadelphia, Denver and hundreds of smaller places have cultural councils to stimulate creative activity and the creative economy. Across the nation are studies, summits, workshops and plans to lure artists and promote creativity and imagination.

## Why Be a Creative Place?

Why would you want to? The usual argument is money. Let’s diversify the economy, add jobs, prosperity, new people and visitors by making our town

alluring to the new bourgeois bohemians, dubbed bobos by David Brooks in his amusing, snarky book *Bobos in Paradise* (2000).

“Vibrancy” and “vitality” also come into play. These are not easy to define, but suggest that the place has some sizzle, buzz, fun, a place where people get things done, work together, enjoy themselves and have stuff that makes them proud.

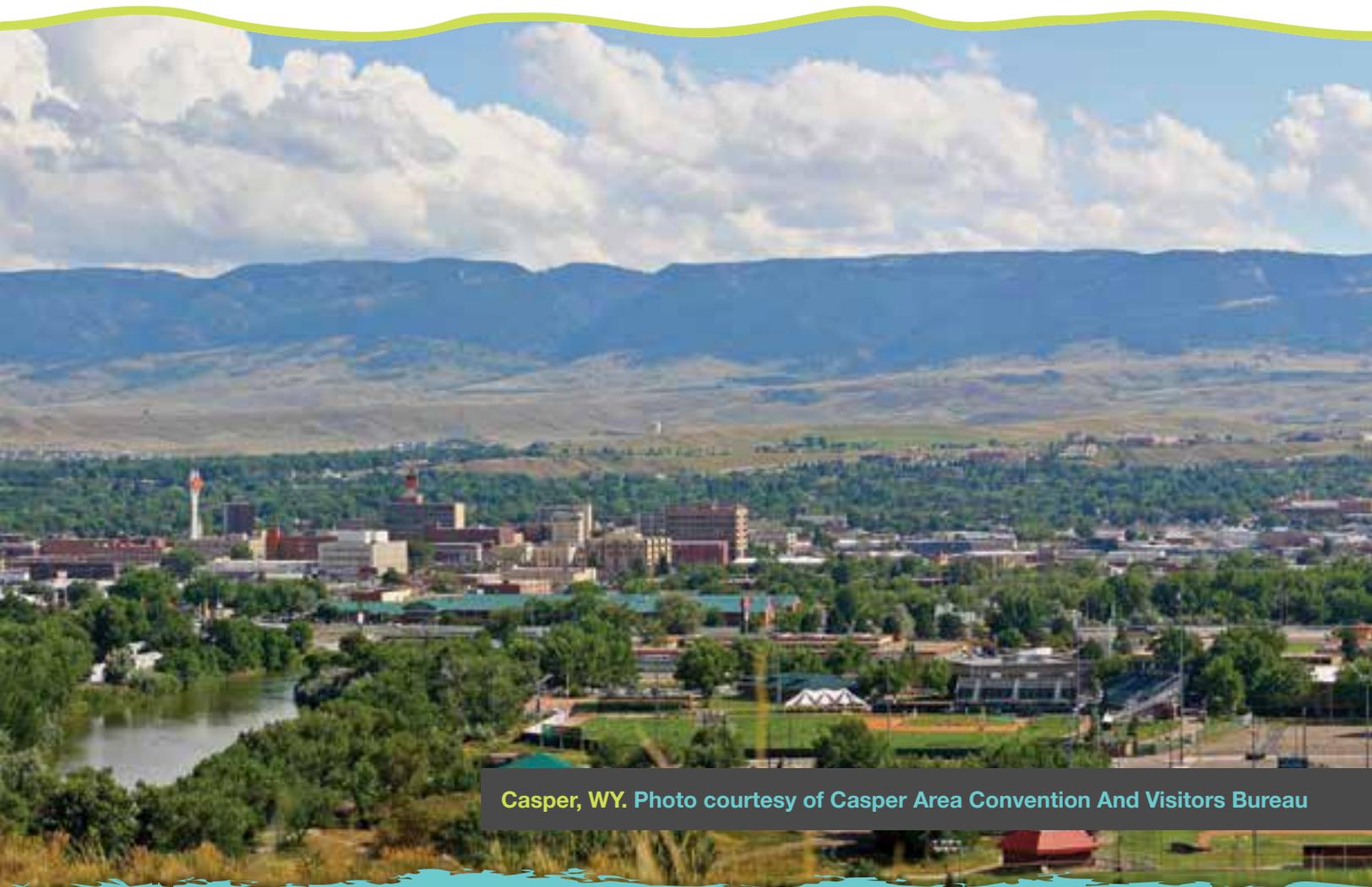
More important, “vitality” is present in a place where people and institutions have the ability and institutions to work together to get important things done. Americans have been noted for our special genius in this area. We join clubs, start associations, form boards, begin projects to improve things. This capacity astounded Alexis de Tocqueville writing in the nineteenth century and he pointed to it as a key condition of the fledgling democracy. Towns that have these lively organizations — whether to help fishing, hunting, photography, dogs, ceramics, healthy kids

and on and on — may be said to have the basis for effective problem solving or “social capital.”

Do arts help here? There is some evidence that they do. Careful studies of neighborhoods by the University of Pennsylvania suggests some close connections between the amount of creative and artistic activity and social capacity. An increase in arts activity is accompanied by lower crime and drop-out rates, more volunteering, less disease, beautification of neighborhoods and increased ability of people to work together on common projects. Arts are not the sole cause of this bounty, but seem to function as a canary in the mine — an indicator of the health or illness of a place, a key component in the map of things that mark community vitality and attractiveness. To put it simply, if folks can build a theatre and put on a play, they can do a lot more.

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continued on page 32



Casper, WY. Photo courtesy of Casper Area Convention And Visitors Bureau



Nicolaysen Art Museum. Photo courtesy of Casper Area Convention And Visitors Bureau

## THE CASE FOR CASPER

continued from page 31

### Casper and Portland?

So what about Casper? It does not seem much like Portland. There are a few galleries, one of the better dog parks around, a funky downtown bookstore, some coffee shops, excellent local restaurants, a gaggle of local blues musicians, a lively contemporary art museum, a serious concentration of photographers, popular festivals and concerts, including a big bluegrass gathering, weekly summer concerts and the incredible statewide student art festival in the big arena. Add in the local touches: world-class fly fishing, fabulous cars, high school sports tournaments, plenty of hunters, a serious rural-flavored bar scene and you end up with not a cliché, but a distinct flavor, that is Western, energy-making, and creative. Casper is Oil City all right, but an arts city too.

Really? Let's look at the numbers. The Arts Council has five years of the Creative Vitality Index that measures the concentrations of artists, arts events and creative industries in Wyoming counties. The state as a whole has usually placed second in the Rocky Mountains, ahead of even arts-rich New Mexico. Within the state, Jackson is first with numbers that make it a national leader. Cody is next, and then

Sheridan and Buffalo. After that it's Casper which has remained at or above the national average.

### Creative Places Get Things Done

Why care about this? The real money is in the oil patch, right? Well, there is money in creativity and art, but there is something else too — a meaningful life. A place with lots of people making art has a good flavor. Imagination stimulates imagination; creativity grows from one person to another to another. In the creative economy, creativity is the primary source of value and it's that way in creative towns, too.

And in Casper, this activity is taking shape with individuals and small organizations. Stage III Community Theatre, the 307 Dance Studio, Casper Children's Choir, the Casper Chamber Music Society, the Blues and Jazz Society, the Casper Photography Association, the Children's Theater, Artists' Guild and many other small nonprofits are cheap, quick, responsive, member-shaped and able to turn on a dime as new opportunities and needs emerge. It's not big organizations — the huge symphonies and theatres and art museums that make places click — argues Ann Markusen in her study *Artists' Centers: Evolution and Impact on Careers, Neighborhoods and Economies* (2006), but small, inexpensive, street-front places that are built quickly by

locals for their own creative purposes. Small arts organizations, argues Maria Rosario Jackson, are the “center of real life in communities” and centers of “social capital” (“Art and Cultural Participation at the Heart of Community Life,” 2008).

The people who started the Casper Youth Orchestra loved the music, saw its value for children and themselves and got it going through hard work and collaboration. A community theatre such as Stage III depends on hundreds of people to select plays, build sets, act, write, do the box office, do lighting and sound, market and fill the seats. Groups that can do this provide steady training for the hard work of democracy, getting things done as a group. In towns such as Casper, the so-called larger organizations such as the Nicolaysen Art Museum or ARTCORE, have the opportunity to participate, lead and shape directions characteristic of community arts.

This eagerness to get projects going is very much the spirit of Casper. In 1984 when I arrived to teach for the University of Wyoming, the city and economy were in terrible shape. Houses stood empty; grocery stores and banks were closing; unemployment would have been very high except that the jobless were leaving as quickly as they could. In the middle of all that, you still saw people getting going on projects. It looked like a town of Mickey Rooney’s also ready to put on a show, as he did in those 1940s *Andy Hardy* movies. My second week here, I was invited to an early meeting of the creators of ARTCORE. How did these people find me so quickly? I was surely not in Los Angeles any more. That meeting was full of energy and argument — a staple of every arts group. The result is an arts organization flourishing nearly thirty years later.

I would not claim that Casper is a perfect bastion of social capital. Lots of projects are hard to do. Agreement can be hard to reach. Apathy can sink things here as elsewhere. Casper faces serious problems with poverty, affordable housing and access to health care, but there may be the social capacity to tackle these challenges. The Mickey Rooney thing is a real part of Casper. Consider dogs. Dog lovers in Casper, and there are a lot, never sat back, comfortable to let the Metro service take care of homeless hounds. We have the Humane Society, Rainbow Rescue, The Hector Foundation, Rescue Rangers, other small rescues and now Friends of Morad Park, a fledgling group to keep the park

clean, safe and leashless. The scene is diverse, a bit chaotic, sometimes informal, but seems to be working. De Tocqueville would be impressed.

Do the vibrant arts in Casper create social capital or are they the result of it? Data will not answer that question. As the statisticians say, we have correlations here, but no clear evidence of cause. And the case that

Casper is a vibrant center of community action is plausible, but open to question and needs more comparisons and benchmarks. I’d say, though, that Casper and other Wyoming towns are good places to map the interaction of arts activity and social capital. Common sense tells us that people learn from others and efforts to start an art museum in Casper stimulated and taught others who had their own visions. Creativity begets creativity; imagination stimulates imagination. As a rule, the map of a vital community includes local arts.

*Bruce Richardson is a Senior Lecturer of English at the UW/CC Center. He is past Chair of the Wyoming Arts Council Board.*

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# WYOMERICANA CARAVAN PLANS CONCERTS IN FOUR STATES

Jalan Crossland, JShogren Shanghai'd and Screen Door Porch have joined together for WY-Omericana Caravan in May and June. They kick off the tour with a May 15 concert in Laramie's Gryphon Theatre and wind their way through venues in Wyoming, Colorado, Montana and Idaho. They finish the tour June 8 at the Hi-Water Hoedown at the Yard in Saratoga.

JShogren Shanghai'd plays original hard acoustic music from lives lived in loud proportions. Their style of WYOmericana is a modern interpretation of traditional roots music; an amalgamation of blues, old timey, country/western, jazz, vaudeville, rockabilly roll, ballads, and polka. Their varied sound has a rawness and vitality reminiscent of 1920-40s blues and dancehall music filtered through a contemporary dissonant transmitter. They have fun too. Shogren just got back from representing Wyoming at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, and his new album was named to House of Mercy Radio's Top 50 Albums of 2012.

Quartet Screen Door Porch delivers a Wyoming-grown fusion of soulful Americana, Roots-Rock, and Country-Blues that has been likened to "Gillian Welch meets The Band, with Ryan Adams and Bonnie Raitt hanging out backstage" (*605 Magazine*). The core female/male singer-songwriter combo of Seadar Rose & Aaron Davis thrive in a space that houses colorable harmonies, varied acoustic & electric instrumentation, and have "a sort of Lennon/McCartney arrangement and get it right every time"



(*Americana UK*). SDP's two studio albums—*Screen Door Porch* (2010) and *The Fate & The Fruit* (2012)—were internationally recognized in six "Best Albums of the Year" lists and hovered in the Top 25 of the Euro-Americana Chart and Top 30 of the Roots Music Report Roots-Rock Chart.

In a blue collar, John Hartford, van-down-by-the-river, porch-pickin' sort of way, Jalan Crossland's down-home style makes you wonder what's in the water in *Ten Sleep*. Crossland is one of the very few alt-country artists his age who still claims the "country" as home. Maybe this explains the lyrical, "truth is stranger than fiction" wobble to his songs about 21st century rural life. Despite becoming a roots music virtuoso spanning six studio albums, he managed to revert to his true slacker past by placing a mere second in the Winfield National Guitar Fingerpicking Competition. Crossland was recently awarded the 2012 Governor's Arts Award and released his sixth studio album, *Portrait of a Fish*.

Go to <http://www.wyomericana.com/tour/> for complete schedule of tour dates -- and ticket info.

# ELLINGROD CLINCHES THIRD-STRAIGHT POETRY OUT LOUD TITLE

For the third straight year, Sara Ellingrod of Arvada/Clearmont High School captured first place in the Poetry Out Loud state competition.

Ellingrod vied with twelve other high school competitors from across the state in the memorization and recitation competition. Runner-up for the second year in a row was Hannah Hout, a senior at Star Lane Center in Casper.

The 2013 Wyoming Poetry Out Loud state competition and awards ceremony took place March 4-5 in Cheyenne. Judges for this year's event were Henry Real Bird, Pat Frolander and Rick Kempa. Special guest Justine Haka from the Poetry Foundation in Chicago attended the event.

This year's student contestants came from Sundance, Hulett, Hanna, Ft. Washakie, Riverton, Kaycee, Shoshoni, Cheyenne, Casper, Clearmont, Worland, Laramie, and Lander.

First Lady Carol Mead presented the participation and award certificates. Ellingrod received \$200; Hout, \$100. Both also earned a cash prize for their respective schools to purchase poetry books for the library.

Ellingrod and her chaperone received an all-expenses-paid trip to compete at the national finals in Washington, D.C., April 29-30. Scholarships totaling \$50,000 were awarded to the top finishers.

Poetry Out Loud is a memorization and recitation competition for ninth through twelfth grade students. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, the state program is administered by the Wyoming Arts Council.

Interested teachers can call Linda Coatney at 307-777-6393 for details about participating in the 2014 competition.



Participants and judges at the 2013 Wyoming Poetry Out Loud state competition.

# PIATIGORSKY TOUR'S "STRINGS & STORIES" VISITS EIGHT COMMUNITIES

For the tenth consecutive year, the Muriel & Seymour Thickman Family Charitable Trust in Sheridan funded The Piatigorsky Foundation's tour of Wyoming. In an effort to serve more communities, two tours were planned for the state this year. The spring tour began April 8 with a non-public performance for veterans and their families at the V.A. Medical Center in Sheridan.

It continued with public concerts and school outreach programs in Buffalo, Rozet, Wright, Hanna, Rock River, Guernsey and Pine Bluffs. The Wyoming Arts Council served as the facilitator with each of the communities throughout the state.

The spring performance teamed up violinist Linda Rosenthal and actor/comedian Bill Blush for *Strings & Stories*. Commissioned in 1995 by the Education Department at the Kennedy Center, Washington D.C., *Strings & Stories* continues to delight audiences of all ages.

Initially created as a children's concert, *Strings & Stories* offers a great variety of styles and sounds ranging from classical short stories, insightful letters and prose by Leonard Bernstein and Beethoven to the music of Bach, Paganini and Fritz Kreisler.

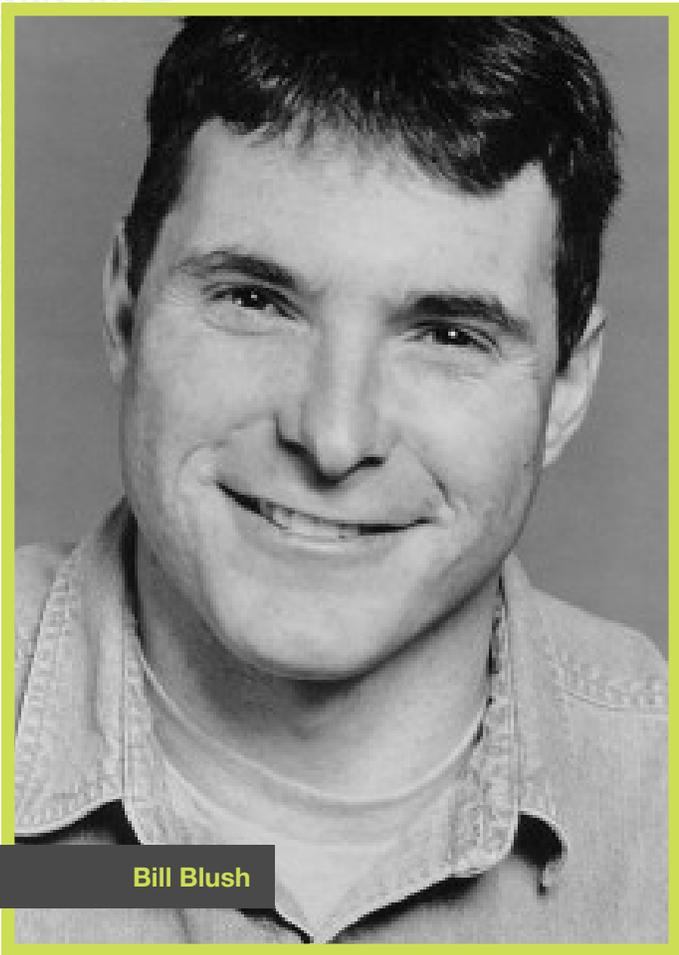
Violinist Linda Rosenthal performs throughout North America, Europe and Asia in recitals, as a soloist with orchestra and as a chamber musician. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of the annual



Linda Rosenthal

nationally-acclaimed Juneau Jazz & Classics music festival in Juneau, Alaska, where she makes her home, as well as being the Artistic Director of the Lake Placid Chamber Music Seminar.

Linda has commissioned and premiered over a dozen works in the past decade, including pieces for solo violin, violin and narrator, and a concerto for violin and jazz big band. She has recorded five solo CDs and plays on a violin made in 1772 in Turin, Italy by J.B. Guadagnini.

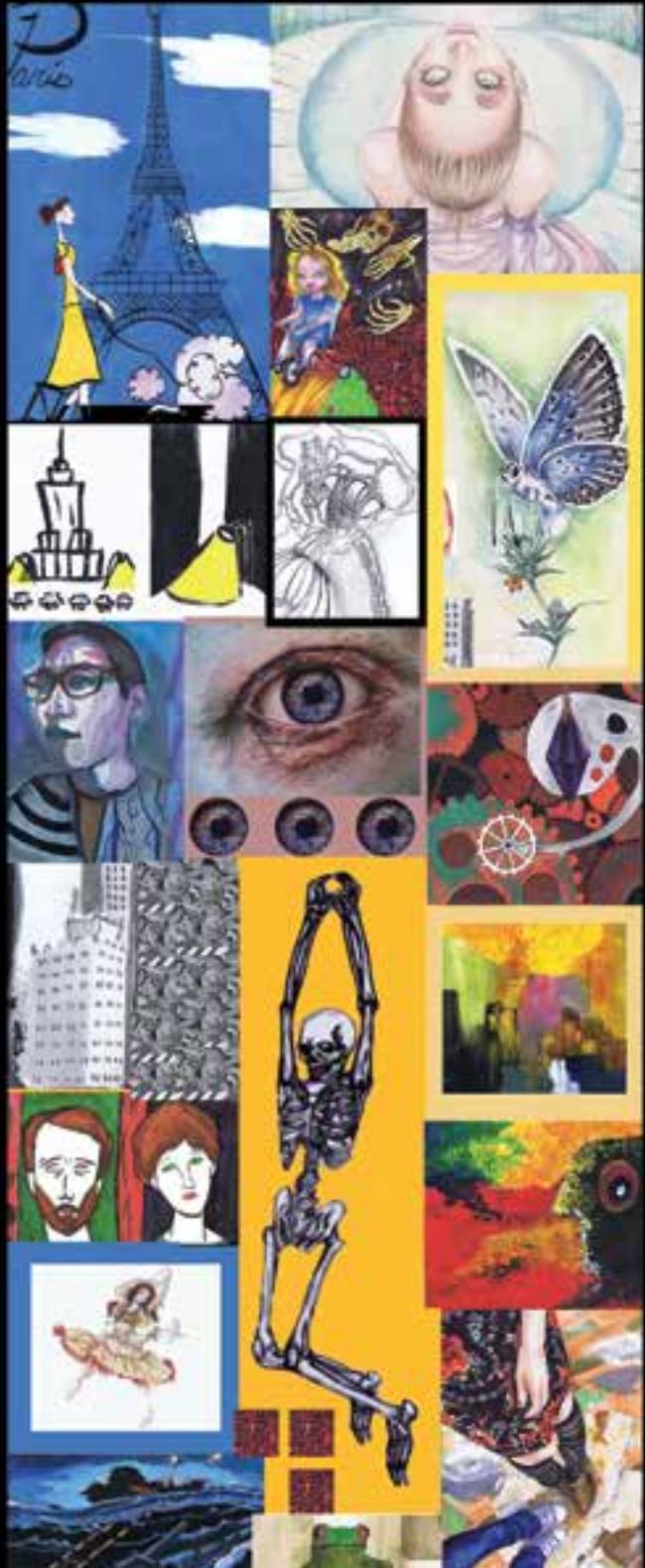


**Bill Blush**

Actor Bill Blush, a native of Los Angeles, has performed *Strings & Stories* with Linda Rosenthal throughout the United States for over ten years. He has long been involved in all aspects of the theater with emphasis on acting, writing and directing. As an actor, Bill has played just about everything from classic characters to more original roles including... *The Kitchen Sink*. His works as a playwright are *This Above All, About What?, Darn You Kenny!, Ziggy's Right* and, most recently, *A Bad Idea*.

Bill's love for humor has inspired him to develop and direct several improvisational theater troupes and to venture into the arena of stand-up comedy where he has performed at The Laugh Factory, The Improv and The Comedy Store in Hollywood.

For more information on this or future Piatigorsky artist tours in Wyoming, contact Michael Lange at the WAC, 307-777-7723 or Michael.Lange@wyo.gov. Visit the Piatigorsky Foundation web site at [piatigorskyfoundation.org](http://piatigorskyfoundation.org).



**Eric Lee's students at Central High School in Cheyenne created this year's Youth Arts poster.**

**Youth Arts Month**  
 March 2013  
 Celebrating Art, Music, Dance & Drama

Artwork created by Cheyenne Central High School, Laramie County School District 1  
 Art: Eric Lee's AP, Painting and Drawing Courses  
 Illustration: Andrea, Brianna Foley, Jackson Foley, Tony Morgan, Jack Brighman, Belle Griffin  
 Music: Hannah, Luke Anderson, Rachel Piers, Sean Kim, Andrew Zabala

# GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS



Four Arts-Supporting Gillette Mayors



Reception at the Governor's Residence



Advocacy for Visual Arts Center with Governor Mead and First Lady



Advocacy for Visual Arts Center board member Dara Corkey with Governor Mead



Advocacy for Visual Arts Center



Gov. Matt Mead and First Lady Carol Mead flank Wyoming Poet Laureate Pat Frolander



Wyoming Poet Laureate Pat Frolander and signer

# GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS



Jalan Crossland (left) and Shaun Kelly



Ted Wagner, Jalan Crossland and Shaun Kelly flanked by Gov. Matt Mead and First Lady Carol Mead.



Gov. Mead, GAA awardee Lynn Munns and SPCR Director Milward Simpson



Awardee Lynn Munns



Jalan Crossland and Gov. Mead



WAC Board Members



Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources Director Milward Simpson at the podium



WAC Manager Rita Basom and signer

# ENCAMPMENT NATIVE AND ACCOMPLISHED BOOK ARTIST JOINS WAC STAFF



**Katie Christensen**

**K**atie Christensen is a Wyoming native, born and raised in Encampment. Her formative years were spent in the outdoors, learning about plants and birds, rocks and trees, and soaking up the summer sun and winter snows. These

experiences would later contribute to current studio work that is based in abstraction. at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology. This sparked an interest in artist communities and residency programs. Returning to Laramie after the internship, Katie was employed by Coal Creek Coffee Company, and learned the art of coffee roasting and tasting, and managing a small business, all the while moonlighting as a practicing professional artist. During this time, she participated in many regional, national and international print exchanges, juried and non-juried exhibitions, including the group exhibition, Touchstone Laramie.

experiences would later contribute to current studio work that is based in abstraction.

Katie pursued education at Northwest College in Powell and continued on to receive her baccalaureate of fine art with an emphasis in printmaking from the University of Wyoming. Upon graduating from UW, Katie was honored with one of the first post-baccalaureate positions offered by the university Art Department. During this time she was invited by international critic and scholar, Alicia Candiani, to work in the artist's Buenos Aires print shop and studio. At once, she was bitten by the 'travel bug' and fell in love with experiencing other cultures and landscapes and has since traveled to Mexico, Costa Rica and India. After finishing a second term as post-bac in Laramie, she moved to the Oregon coast where the fresh water of the Salmon River meets both the ocean and mountains, and interned

Honoring her need to make art a more central part of her life, Katie heard the call of graduate school and she moved to the flatlands of Northwest Ohio in 2009 to pursue a Master of Fine Arts. While in Bowling Green, Katie worked with artists such as Audrey Neffenegger, Stanka Kordic and Crystal Wagner. She was awarded the Katzner Award and Palmer Travel Grant from the Toledo Museum of Art to travel to Anderson Ranch in Snowmass Village, Colorado. In 2010, she also participated in the University of Wyoming Art Museum's Summer Teaching Institute as a visiting artist. Upon graduation, she was awarded Graduate Student of the Year from Bowling Green State University, nominated by her peers and faculty committee.

While finishing her thesis work, Katie was offered and accepted the position of executive director of



the yet-to-be-formed Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts. After meeting with the founders and board of directors, Katie returned to her home in the Platte Valley and took their vision to thriving reality in a short period of time.

Providing valuable time and space to visual artists, performing artists, writers and composers from coast to coast and around the globe, became a passion. With this program, she saw the benefit of arts education in alternative venues for people of all ages, from the very young to the very old and everyone in between.

Continuing her fine art practice as a maker of artist books and large- and small-scale collagraph prints, Katie had a solo exhibition at the Community Fine Art Center in Rock Springs last year. Currently she has an artist book on exhibition at the McDonough Museum of Art in Youngstown, Ohio and, also in 2012, another book at the Janet Turner Print Museum in Chico, California. Katie comes to the Wyoming Arts Council with energy and passion for all disciplines within the Arts. "I look forward to working with the traditional K-12 education partners in Wyoming, in addition to building new partnerships that will offer arts opportunities for life-long learners across our great state."

You can reach Katie by visiting the Wyoming Arts Council office in Cheyenne (located in the Kendrick Building), emailing her at [Katie.christensen@wyo.gov](mailto:Katie.christensen@wyo.gov), or give her a call at 307-777-7109 and introduce yourself.



# GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO NEW WYOMING ARTS COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

Governor Matt Mead has appointed two new members of the Wyoming Arts Council board. They are Stefanie Boster of Cheyenne and Jennifer Lasik of Kemmerer.

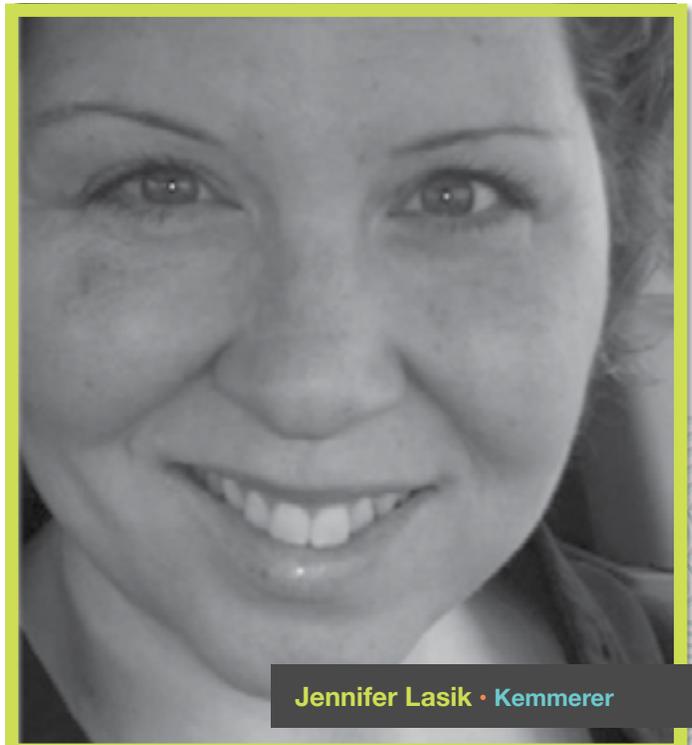
Stefanie Boster is a Casper native who served on the Casper City Council and a number of boards. She is a graduate of the University of Montana Law School and received a tax law degree at Denver University. She had a solo law practice in Casper before moving to Cheyenne two years ago. She learned about the Wyoming Arts Council while a member of Leadership Wyoming with now-retired WAC staff member Marirose Morris, who urged her to apply. She thought it sounded interesting so sent in her application to the governor and was appointed.

Jennifer Lasik is the Director of Cultural Arts and Events for the City of Kemmerer in southwest Wyoming. She is passionate about the impact of the arts on communities and quality of life. A native of Milwaukee, she has a Masters of Public Administration and Nonprofit Management from the University of Wisconsin. Lasik adores cooking and traveling and has just begun her life-long desire to learn to play the cello. She has lived in Kemmerer since 2008 with her husband, Adam, and her daughter, Aislynn.

Please join us in welcoming Stefanie and Jennifer to the WAC board. Albany County residents will have a chance to meet them in person at the next board meeting May 30-31 in Laramie.



Stefanie Boster • Cheyenne



Jennifer Lasik • Kemmerer

# THE WAC CALENDAR

## MAY

13-14 . . . Cultural Trust Fund board meeting (grant review/award), Rock Springs, 307-777-6312

14 . . . . . State Parks and Cultural Resources Commission meeting, Little America, Cheyenne, 307-777-2416

30-31 . . . Wyoming Arts Council board meeting, review and approval of FY2014 grant awards, Laramie 307-777-7742

31 . . . . . Deadline for June Artists Across Wyoming Grants

## JUNE

1-30 . . . Governor's Capitol Art Exhibition, Wyoming State Museum, 307-777-7022

21 . . . . . Governor's Capitol Art Exhibition Purchase Awards reception, 5 p.m., Wyoming State Museum, 307-777-7022

## JULY

1 . . . . . Fiscal Year 2014 begins

## AUGUST

8-9 . . . . . Wyoming Arts Council board meeting, Cody 307-777-7742

For more information, contact the WAC at **307-777-7742** or go to the web site [www.wyomingartscouncil.org](http://www.wyomingartscouncil.org)



## WHY THE WYOMING ARTS COUNCIL?

When creative activity is happening in Wyoming, it creates a significant ripple effect. The economic vitality of an area is stimulated. Galleries, concerts and arts events mean more energy in a community, more tourists, more renovated buildings, and more new businesses. Through music, storytelling and visual art gatherings, people share experiences and ideas. They begin to understand each other in new ways. The arts have a profound effect on Wyoming communities and our state as a whole.





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# GROW CONNECT THRIVE

The Wyoming Arts Council provides resources & leadership to help Wyoming communities grow, connect and thrive through the arts.