

Letter from the President

It is with regret that I report we did not receive the grant funding for building renovations from the Colorado State Historical Society's Fund. This means we will have to endure another winter without an adequate heating system in the Bank Building. However, we are nothing if not persistent. Board Member, Carol Kwiatkowski, after indefatigable energy and frank discussions with State Historical Society personnel, submitted a scaled-back grant application with the Fund on October 1, 2007. This new application also contains a request for funding of a heating system for the Bank Building as well as other needed renovations both inside and out. We expect to hear from the Fund sometime in February, 2008. Carol is also looking into additional funding sources.

In the meantime, Joy and Lynn have prepared a punch list of renovations we'd

like to accomplish without waiting for grants. Already, Don Foster, Roger Bissell and Jeff Parris have resealed the roof of the Curtis building. Thanks guys. We'd also like to further this "can-do" attitude toward insulating and dropping the ceiling in the back of the Bank Building, sealing some air leaks in the Curtis Building, raising the stage, improving the acoustics, and repairing a speaker. We need volunteers and funds to tackle these items. Expect a fund-raising event in December for this effort, but I encourage anyone interested in helping with these projects to contact Joy or Lynn immediately: 527.SAGE (7243).

On September 11, 2007, the Town of Paonia approved our application for an Arts Liquor License that will allow us to serve alcoholic beverages at cultural and artistic performances without having to obtain special events permits each time as we had in the past. This saves us money

in the long run, not to mention wear and tear on our administrative directors. The application must ultimately be approved by the State Department of Revenue, Liquor Enforcement Division. It could be any day, or may be as much as another 90 days before we hear from the State.

I'm pleased to say that, with Joy and Lynn's excellent management, we have some reserves of operating capital built up from recent successful events to help us pay those looming winter heating bills. But operating capital continues to be a priority. Donations of money and volunteer services are needed and always welcomed.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a list of fun and inspiring upcoming events to look forward to. I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of the Blue Sage.

Steve Harper, *President*

News from the Blue Sage

Excerpt from the Merchant Herald article by Don Foster

Harvest Festival Huge

The weekend got rolling with a nicely turned out Chili Cook-Off in its new situation at the town park. Mike Gwinn and musical crew were right there with the Gazebo get-down, Blue Sage volunteers did the site enclosure. Folks liked the new location.

Harvest of Voices

There are a handful of transcendent events each year in the area and the sixth annual Harvest of Voices was clearly one such "don't-miss" part of the Mountain Harvest Festival. This year's edition was pulled together and warmly hosted by Laura Lee Yates who gives us this recap:

This year, donations from this free event benefited the Blue Sage Center for the Arts and the Paonia Public Library's building fund. We added two new types of voices: an original dramatic monologue by Paonia actress/writer Jeanine Devlin and songs from singer/songwriter Ellen Stapenhorst. Another first-time participant, John Mecklin, the editor of High Country News, read from a novel manuscript, and Carol Kwiatkowski offered her first piece ever to a live audience.

Other participants were returning favorites:

Two poets-- Marion Stewart of Paonia and Rita Claggett of Crawford, three more writers from High Country News - associate editor Jonathan Thompson, who treated us to a piece that may or may not have been fiction; contributing editor Michelle Nijhuis, winner of the prestigious



Ellen Stapenhorst

Sullivan Award for scientific journalism in 2006, who presented an essay about hitchhiking; and Diane Sylvain, who gave us a personal essay on turning fifty that was by turns hilarious and inspiring.

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Diane donated the gorgeous pastel artwork she provided for our poster, and at the end of the auction (conducted by Adam Burke with Craig Childs as the Human Gavel). Paul Douglas was the lucky and generous high bidder.

Delphine Cuomo opened with an excerpt about awakening sexuality from her memoir-in-progress; Gusti Granzella Boiani shared a transforming experience on the Grand Mesa; Angus Stocking mused on the inconvenience and joys of bearing an unusual name; and author adventurer Craig Childs riveted the audience with the final piece of the evening, a journal excerpt from his life-threatening first descent of a swollen river in Tibet.

We plan to use the proceeds from the auction as "seed money" for an anthology of writings from past Harvests of Voices and Gardens of Voices as a benefit toward building the new Paonia Library.

Saturday Night Simmer



Seems like everybody came out for the Saturday night music of the Mountain Harvest Festival. There was excellent music at the three venues and an easy buzz of old friends and new acquaintances.

The Wedding

Congratulations to Sweet Sunny South's Bill Powers and Shelly Gray for getting hitched and putting on such an awesome wedding shindig at the Blue Sage. Truly.

The Blue Sage is available for your special event: call Lynn or Joy, 527.7243

Mark Those Calendars!

Tenth Annual Masked Ball

This is always a great time. Perhaps it was this event that inspired the term "valley formal" with its extravagant blend of Halloween costume and eclectic formal attire.

Pastiche, a mystery group, will be putting a continental flair on steaming swing,



rock, funk, and Motown rhythms. Gourmet hors d'oeuvres on the house and local fine wines and brew will be served.

Chaco Gear Swap

A horde of recently washed and mostly well mannered outdoor types always turn out early for this opportunity to get Chaco gear on sale and shoulder their way up to the many tables of other outdoor gear and clothing vendors. Saturday, November 3rd, about 9:00am.

Torch Times Two

Myshkin's Ruby Warblers are coming back from Portland and bringing friends Felina's Arrow to play with.

For folks that haven't seen them, this double bill will open the window on a whole new musical terrain.

Song-meister Myshkin has been called a gypsy-torch-punk chanteuse, but that doesn't quite capture her torchlight on satin steel style, her listen-up lyrics or the rich, multi-rooted music in which they are mounted. Accompanying Myshkin on the upright bass is Sailor, a slender embodiment of punk with a subtle hand on the bass line.

Felina's Arrow is a sultry twilight duo set to break your heart open with song. They are described as excessively dressed, soulful, experimental, theatrical, dark, emotional, harmonic, dulce de leche women in costume and given to occasional operatic interludes.

Folk Icon - Rosalie Sorrels

Rosalie Sorrels; a singer, songwriter and storyteller has been performing for over 50 years. The history, folklore and sentiment contained in her stories and songs are always informative, reflective and entertaining. As a teacher, world traveler

and well-known folk entertainer, her immense repertoire comes from the heart.

Partners is celebrating their 20th Anniversary by presenting Rosalie Sorrels in a benefit concert, Sunday, November 18th at 3:00pm. Tickets are \$15.00 in advance and \$20.00 at the door. VIP tickets available at \$50.00 per person (advance only), include an after concert reception with Rosalie Sorrels plus food and beverages. Tickets available at KVNF and the *Partners* offices in Montrose and Delta or by calling 249.1116 or 874.9627.

Blue Sage Center Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 27th, 8pm

10th Annual Masked Ball. With the swing, rock, funk, motown, mysterious french pastry sounds of Pastiche. \$12 members, \$15 public. Door opens at 7:00.

Saturday, November 3rd, 7:30 pm

The *Western Slope Chamber Music Series* presents Andrew Todd on grand piano. Adults \$12 advance, \$15 door, \$5 students. More info at 241-0741.

Friday, November 16th, 8:00pm

Double Bill - Myshkin's Ruby Warblers gypsy-torch-punk with listen-up lyrics and Felina's Arrow - a sultry twilight duo. \$10 members, \$12 public.

Sunday, November 18th, 3pm

Rosalie Sorrels. Singer, songwriter and storyteller. See above for more info.

November 30th, 3-9pm &

December 1st, 9am-5pm

The Paonia Holiday Art Fair. Great gifts from local artisans at this annual tradition. Spiced cider and entertainment while you shop.

In December - An evening of Dinner and Caberet, fund-raiser for upgrading the Blue Sage facilities. Stay tuned for more details.

December 31st - New Years Eve

Winter Wonderland Extravaganza - A combined dance party with the Paradise Theater. Two hot bands, food, drinks, fun and surprises! 8pm

New Capital Campaign

by Carol Kwiatkowski

The exciting challenge of owning two historic buildings in downtown Paonia has put us on the brink of a new capital campaign. We will soon be launching a fund-raising effort to do some much-needed repair and renovation work on the Curtis Building and the Old Bank Building. This will include the tasks of repainting the front façade of the Curtis Building in historic colors and restoring the wood floor of the Bank Building, currently hidden under some fairly old and ugly carpeting. We will also be doing tuck-pointing and repair of the brick work on the exterior and interior of the two buildings and upgrading the heating system in the Bank Building, so

that the gallery can be open year-round. We have applied for nearly \$70,000 in funding for these tasks from the Colorado Historical Society, which **requires a three-to-one match from the community.**

Work will begin next spring if we receive the grant money we requested. We will also be needing funds for a few other critical renovations of the Blue Sage so stay tuned for a full report on the upcoming capital campaign to support your community arts center!



Earn Blue Sage "VolunTickets" For only 2 hours of your time!

When the Blue Sage got its first broom there was a volunteer there to wield it and through the years there has been a host of willing folks to help support their local center for the arts. Lately we have been noticing a little problem in that, while our volunteers are still most willing, their walkers are hindering concerted effort.

Board members Lori Porter and Carol Kwiatkowski have come up with a plan to entice new volunteers and reinvigorate past volunteers. It works like this: you put in a couple of hours and receive a VolunTicket that gets you in free to most Blue Sage sponsored events.

Do you have a talent or skill to offer the Blue Sage – or perhaps just a little time? The Blue Sage is in need of volunteers of all types, for various tasks, such as:

- Selling tickets/door
- Selling concessions/bartending
- Setup and cleanup
- Recruiting new members
- Writing for local publications
- Assisting with newsletter/mailings
- Building cleaning or maintenance
- Grant writing
- Office support

Would you like to attend Blue Sage Events at little to no cost? For only 2 hours of volunteer time you will receive the Blue Sage "VolunTicket," redeemable for entry to Blue Sage events or transferable to others. Great Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanza gift!

Are you on the Blue Sage Volunteer List? Please consider offering your assistance, supporting your local center for the arts, and at the same time enjoying all we have to offer!

For more information or sign-up call 527.SAGE (7243) or Lori at 527.6826.

Fall classes offered at the Blue Sage

Children's Ballet with Anna
Monday 4-5pm

Belly Dance with Judy
Monday 6pm

African Dance with Lea
Tuesday 5:30-7pm

Story Telling with Tara and Sam
1st Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm

Thai Chi with Bob
Thursday 6-7:30pm

Yoga with Phyllis
Thursday 8:30-9:45am

Real Love discussion group with Hal
Saturday 11am-1pm

Thai Chi with Bob
Sunday 6:30-8:30pm

Children's theatre class starting in January.
Call 527.SAGE for details

VolunTicket



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Thanks to our many Event Sponsors!

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Masked Ball

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Celia Roberts Photography
Lori Porter
Steve Harper, Attorney at Law

And a special **THANKS** to
Andrew Adleman for
maintaining our web site!

Blue Sage Wish List

Digital Projector
Futon Frame
Insulation
Carpenters
Garbage Cans with Lids

Steven K. Harper, P.C.

Attorney At Law
Mediator

248 2nd Street
P.O. Box 2099
Hotchkiss, CO 81419
(970) 872-3173 Phone
(970) 872-3186 Fax



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Joy C Kuhlman
PO Box 1692
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Paonia, CO 81428
970.527.7436
joykumpany@paonia.com

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PO Box 700
228 Grand Avenue
Paonia, CO 81428
bluesage@paonia.com
www.bluesage.org

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