

## Letter from the President

Well, here we are, cresting the wave of summer, most of us probably complaining about the heat as much as we complained about the cold only a few weeks ago. Time to hit the high country for daytime recreation - stick around town for the nights, as summer is always packed with things to do in the North Fork Valley.

June 7th was our Annual Membership Meeting, which was a great time to connect with our most loyal and dedicated supporters (who else would come to a board meeting?). Seriously though, the well-kept secret is that the food is always great, as is the music and camaraderie (all local, mind you!) Many thanks to Ellen Stapenhorst for keeping everyone entertained with her unique style of folk music. Our gratitude also goes out to those who supplied us with great deals on local food: TLC Greenhouse, The Living Farm, Homestead Market and Flying Fork. And you should know that Joy Kuhlman always leads the way making sure that the food at Blue Sage events is as local and as fresh as possible. It makes a difference. Thank you, Joy.

We had a short meeting (usually our board meetings run at least 2+ hours) that included more thank yous. The recent community service workers have been exceptionally helpful painting and doing various jobs fixing up the buildings. Patricia Weller and Jane Schulz were this year's recipients of the Volunteer of the Year award, in recognition of their consistent efforts keeping the gallery humming along and volunteering to fulfill other Blue Sage needs. As always, there is an extremely competitive field for this award... you two should be proud!

Three board positions were up for election this year. The three incumbents: Francois Pretorius, Lori Porter and Helene Enslow all wished to continue in their positions and were re-elected by acclamation. We waved good bye to board member Angus Stocking, now making his way in the big city of San Francisco, and thanked Gene Lorig, who also resigned from the board this spring but remains an enthusiastic supporter of the Blue Sage. That means that there are two board positions open. Our highest needs right now are in fund-raising, facilities maintenance and membership

tracking. If you are interested, call the Blue Sage or contact a board member and get on our agenda for an upcoming meeting. You can come introduce yourself and ask any questions you have. Board members typically put in at least 6 hours a month in board meetings, committee meetings and volunteer work. We are truly a working board. Alternatively, you could just donate gobs of money and probably get elected president if you want (but by gobs of money, I mean gobs).

We ended the meeting with my heartfelt thanks to all our members, board and staff. The Blue Sage would not exist without your constant energy and dedication. To me, the Blue Sage is a big part of why I call this valley home. Apparently, a lot of you agree, because the mini-capital campaign we launched in an effort to repair and spruce up the front of the Curtis Building was a HUGE success. We raised \$1000 in a matter of minutes. Thank you, to everyone who donated. I am so proud to be a part of this community.

Your President,  
Carol Kwiatkowski

## Meet your Newest Blue Sage Board Member

By Leah Morris

When Angus Stocking told the Blue Sage back in March that he was leaving to move to San Francisco, Board members nervously wondered who could fill his shoes on the Lecture Committee. Fortunately, Paonia resident, Kelly Johnson stepped in, offering her time and talents to coordinate the committee and take Angus' place on the Board.



A Colorado native, Kelly has lived in the North Fork Valley for the past three years. Recently married to Carl Johnson, you may know her better by her maiden name, Kelly Ryan. During the school year, her schedule is busy teaching English, Video Production, and Journalism at Delta High School, but Kelly returns full-time to Paonia during the summers. She can often be found mountain biking and running on the trails in the area, but if you have trouble keeping up with her

then track her down roaming around town with her big black fuzzy puppy, Morgan. Kelly also enjoys reading and research and stays up to date with current events, popular media, and the arts; her varied interests make her a great addition to the Blue Sage.

Because she never had a chance to work with Angus and discover his Lecture Committee secrets, Kelly would like to organize a strong committee of knowledgeable community members to work with her to create a dynamic lecture schedule. Please welcome our newest Board member, and offer her your ideas for future lecture possibilities.

## Blue Sage presents Luminescent Orchestrii and Fishtank Ensemble

Romanian gypsy melodies, punk frenzy, salty tangos, hard-rocking klezmer, haunting Balkan harmony, hip-hop beats and Appalachian fiddle, all eaten and spit out by two violins, resophonic guitar, bull-horn harmonica and bass.

The members of the Orchestrii hail from different scenes in New York City, yet come together through their love of Balkan and Gypsy music. Sxip Shirey is an international circus composer, Sarah Alden is an old-time fiddle player, Rima Fand is an experimental theater composer, and Benjy Fox-Rosen is a free-jazz bassist. It is not uncommon to see Rima composing music for a Lorca puppet show, Benjy schlepping his bass to a jazz gig, or Sarah fiddling away at some all-night old-time session.

Since 2002, when the band was formed, the Luminescent Orchestrii has toured the East Coast, England, Scotland, and Germany, and have traveled to Romania, Macedonia, Turkey and Serbia

for inspiration. They most recently returned from Serbia's Trumpet Festival, a 47-year-old festival that takes place in the small town of Guca, where hordes of competing gypsy brass bands take to the streets and restaurants.



The Fishtank Ensemble offers a unique and truly worldly musical experience. From the smokey cafés of Bucharest to the Gypsy caravans of yesterday, this band evokes the spirit of a past age and the sounds of tomorrow.

This lively and unusual group consists of extremely talented musicians mastering their respective instruments: violin, saw,

accordion, shamisen, flamenco guitar, contrabass, percussion and voice. Rumanian folk music forms the bulk of the material with a healthy helping of flamenco, Swedish folk music, klezmer, Gypsy jazz, other folk sources as well as original songs.

Members from each band come together to bring us the best of both on Sunday, July 27th at 8:00pm. Don't miss these incredible musicians perform in the ideal venue at the Blue Sage Center for the Arts. \$12 members, \$15 public.

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## Caji & Salomé

Using their unique blending of voices, Caji's sophisticated guitar expression and Salomé's grooving pandeiro and ukulele, they sing, play and dance to promote a greater understanding of world cultures. They transport the listener to Brazil and beyond with the organic power of acoustic instruments and innovative vocal interpretations. Experience this talented duo on Tuesday, July 15th at 8pm. \$10 members, \$12 public.

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### Blue Sage Board of Directors:

President - Carol Kwiatkowski

Vice President - Position open

Secretary - Leah Morris

Treasurer - Francois Pretorius

Helene Enslow

Don Foster

Lori Porter

Kelly Ryan Johnson

Administrative Director - Joy Kuhlman

Events Coordinator - Lynn Wetherell

### Blue Sage Wish List

Digital projector

Gas stove

Gas grill

## North Fork Valley Writing Contest Summary

Congratulations to the 10 winners of the First Annual Blue Sage North Fork Valley Writing Contest! As many of you know from the packed-house event in mid-May, the reading of these stories was a smashing success. The authors wowed the audience time and time again and had them alternating between tears of sadness and tears of laughter.

Thank you to all who participated. Writers, stay tuned for the Second Annual Blue Sage North Fork Valley Writing Contest, stories will likely be due sometime in February. The rest of you keep your eyes out this fall for publication of the winning stories in an anthology. Here are the names and story titles of the 10 winners.

*Fur Cap Through Time and Space*  
Marion Conger Stewart

50

Diane Sylvain

*A Glimpse of Wendy*  
Mary Bachran

*Opal's Ashes*  
D.J. Palmer

*Graven Image*  
Thomas Willis

*Seeing is Believing*  
Karen Weinant Gallob

*Assisted*  
Steve Harper

*An Angel Shark, a Vasectomy*  
Angus Stocking

*I Miss Their Feet*  
Boone Chambliss

*Religious Experience*  
M. L. Hauze

## Happenings at the Blue Sage Center for the Arts

Excerpts from article by Don Foster

### Short Story Readings Reviewed

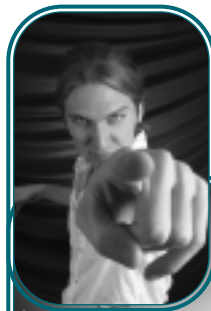
It is always great to see the big hall at the Blue Sage fill up with a noisy expectant crowd. There we all were on Friday, May 16th for the first ever, first annual Blue Sage North Fork Valley Writers' Anthology reading by contest winners, ten folks who prosed and persevered now sat with seeming calm upon the stage to share their work. Carol Kwiatkowski, Blue Sage board president and originator of the event, stood at the back of the hall with all the calm of a parent at their child's first recital, but clearly pleased to feel the gathered energy and the confirmation of supposition.

So yes, there is a wealth of writing talent in reach and ready for a chance to present their work and, again yes, there is a diverse, eager audience wanting to partake of things literary, local and fresh out of the oven.

There is some extra ingredient in listening to the words spoken, particularly when that voice is the author's and every audience member was touched in some way by the evening's readings. The trouble with literary reviews is that they are one person's take on a work and, in reality; we each have our own oblique plane of intersection. Like the conic sections, the shape of our response is unique and particular. That said, I very much appreciated Marylee Hauze's "Religious Experience" for the unadorned honesty of her remembrance, through adolescent eyes, of her mother's 'church shopping' phase. It was wryly humorous and touching.

Boone Chambliss' "I Miss Their Feet" was a discomfiting remembrance of her time working with child refugees following the conflict in Sarajevo. In a world with civil society so much on the edge in so many places, it was sobering to hear of the tragic effect on children of its failure.

At one point in the evening Carol came up on the stage in a big flowered hat and talked about having all the stories published in an anthology in time for the Harvest of Voices in the fall - if only everyone would chip in to make it happen. The hat was passed and barely contained the generosity of the crowd. It was a great night and we look forward to next year's contest.



**Drew DeFour,  
Remember  
that Name**



Drew DeFour, returning for the third time, but not the last, wowed us with his nimble fingers on the baby grand piano and charismatic patter on May 28th. His performance at the piano has always been a mix of extraordinarily passionate music, engaging wit and just a little bit

alligator wrestling. Try to catch him next time he converges.

### Free Food, Free Entertainment

Well, it's actually about promoting the arts through participating in the Blue Sage, but it was a great time and free for members.

We enjoyed great food and great music by Ellen Stapenhorst on June 7th at the Annual Blue Sage Member Barbecue. The meeting followed with updates on what is happening at the Blue Sage followed by a facility walk through. We raised \$1000 to replace the front windows on the Curtis building. Thanks to you all! If you have not renewed your membership, it is not too late. Call 527.7243 now!

### Celebrate Cherry Days with the Blue Sage

By Lori Porter

July 3rd - Thursday is Downtown Days - the Blue Sage will be full of new bargains and antique treasures for the sidewalk sale.

July 4th & 5th - Friday and Saturday - Watch for the Blue Sage Gallery and Gifts booth in Paonia Town Park. We will be offering many of the unique and beautiful gift items from the Gallery, as well as Blue Sage Memberships; new or renewals. Stop by to visit and support your community arts center!

And July 5th - Saturday night, the Blue Sage plugs into the festivities with a teen dance hosted by DJs, Skip and Patty at 7:30. Only \$5. Adults are welcome join in the fun! Child care available upstairs (\$10 for the night). Call 527.7243 to reserve kiddie space.

## Summer Class Schedule

### Tai Chi with Bob

Sunday and Thursday 6:30-8pm

### Yoga with Amy

Tuesday & Friday 9-10:15am

### Yoga with Phyllis

Thursday 8:30-9:45am

## Email or Snail Mail?

We are now offering our quarterly newsletters via email as well as by snail mail to help save money. If you are a member of the Blue Sage and would like to receive email newsletters, please let us know by emailing us at: [bluesage@paonia.com](mailto:bluesage@paonia.com).

## Thank you, Sponsors!

A special thanks to our generous Event Sponsors:

**Opera Colorado** - Paonia State Bank  
Steve & Paula Harper  
Gene & Margo Lorig  
Kate Zachman

**Carl Bernstein** - Gene & Margo Lorig  
Francois Pretorius



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### Create a Meaningful Legacy...

with a simple designation in your will. Talk to your lawyer to plan your estate and leave the Blue Sage a set amount, percentage, or even specific assets. This will provide a charitable estate tax deduction and is an effective way to leave a legacy of community support!



Documenting the life  
and times of the North  
Fork Valley since 1996



Ads: Dana 921-5683 or  
MerchantHerald@aol.com

News: Tom 872-2664 or  
Hotchkiss@aol.com

### Calendar of Events

Thursday, Friday, Saturday July 3-5 - **Cherry Days** at the Blue Sage and the Paonia Town Park.

Thursday, July 3rd is **Downtown Days** and the Blue Sage will have sidewalk sale bargains galore and cherry lemonade to cool your thirst. Come inside for an all-new rummage sale, from 9-4 and the new art show as part of the Paonia Art Walk.

Friday & Saturday - Blue Sage Gallery and Gifts booth at **Cherry Days** in the town park.

Saturday, July 5th is a **Teen Dance with Skip and Patty** at 7:30, only \$5. Adults welcome, too! Child care available upstairs (\$10 for the night), but call 527-SAGE to reserve kiddie space.

Tuesday, July 15th, 8pm - **Salomé and Caji** bring their Brazilian and Portuguese world acoustic music and song to our stage. \$10 members, \$12 public.

Saturday & Sunday, July 19th & 20th Sat. - **The Trillium Marimba Band**. 8pm. These guys are great! If the concert inspires you, come back on Sunday morning for a **Marimba class** from 10-12. Adam Silverstein presenting.

Sunday, July 27, 8pm - **Luminescent Orchestrïi** and the **Fishtank Ensemble** perform their Balkan, Gypsy, Appalachian music. Check this out. \$12 members, \$15 public.



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