



City of Ventura Office of Cultural Affairs

September-October 2011

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Visual artists: The National Forestry Service seeks Christmas tree art by Aug. 31



If you're a California visual artist with a penchant for creating nature, trees and/or holiday motifs, consider entering a special juried art show – and potentially be honored by national leaders in Washington, D.C. But act quickly – deadline is August 31. Details at www.capitolchristmastree2011.org/art.html

Every year since 1970, a Christmas tree has been presented to the United States Congress from land in the U.S. National Forest; the tree is known as "The People's Tree" and is the centerpiece for a celebrated tree-lighting event. This year the tree will be a gift from California. In honor of this occasion, the Stanislaus National Forest will host a statewide, juried art exhibition to select an official artwork to represent the 2011 Capitol Christmas Tree in our nation's capital.

Top prize is the "California Shines" award by the jury panel. The official Capitol Christmas Tree artwork will be displayed throughout California, traveling with the Christmas tree en route to Washington, D.C. Artwork will hang in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service for one year and ultimately become part of the permanent collection at "The Tree Gallery" in Washington, D.C. The winning artist will be honored at Capitol Christmas Tree festivities in California during the month of December, and at the Forest Service Chief's Reception in Washington, D.C. prior to the tree lighting the same month.

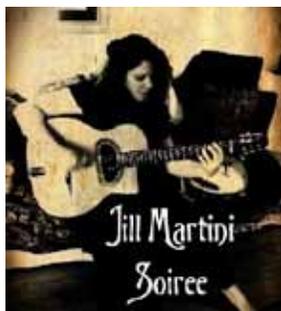
SEPTEMBER SONG

Don't miss these final music and theater performances of the summer!

Final three Music Under the Stars Concerts August 27 & September 3 & 10

Music Under the Stars

Ventura's 7:30 pm Saturday summer concert series at the Olivas Adobe, 4200 Olivas Park Drive, wraps up with three bands: Lisa Haley & the Zydekats (Zydeco) August 27; Rob Rio & the Revolvers (Boogie Woogie) on September 3; and Acadiana (Zydeco) on September 10 (see article on this VEP benefit below). Doors open 6:30 pm. Tickets \$20 at door or call 658-4726.



Jill Martini Soiree brings 1930s Parisian Gypsy jazz to Barranca Vista August 28

The free "Summer Family Concerts in the Park" concludes with a performance by The Jill Martini Soiree at Barranca Vista Park, 7050 Ralston Street, on Sunday August 28, at 4 pm. Patrons are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner, blankets, low back lawn chairs and their families and friends for an afternoon of elegant acoustic-based cocktail swing and gypsy jazz music from pre-WWII Paris—vocal and instrumental standards, swings, tangos, waltzes, bossa novas and romantic ballads ideal for wine sipping, dinner, and dancing on the lawn.

For more information contact: Kathryn Dippong Lawson at 805-654-7552

Rumpelstiltskin September 10

Bring low back lawn chairs, blankets, a picnic and the kids as venerable acting troupe Gypsies in a Trunk concludes another free season of performances for families at Barranca Vista Park, 7050 Ralston St., with the elf who can spin straw into gold, "Rumpelstiltskin" (Sept. 10 at 4 pm).



Fabulous Thunderbirds headline Ventura Hillside Music Festival September 25

The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Blind Boys of Alabama and David Lindley, plus special guests will headline the Ventura Hillside Music Festival, a Ventura Hillside Conservancy benefit on Sunday, September 25, 1-5 pm, at Arroyo Verde Park. Tickets at: Great Pacific Ironworks, Salzer's Records, Simone's Coffee & Tea, Pete's Breakfast House, Spencer Makenzie's Fish Co. or www.venturahillside.org.

Luna Gitana headlines Pier under the Stars October 1

The 18th annual "Pier under the Stars" wine, silent auction and food benefit for the historic Ventura Pier—held on the Beachfront Promenade on Saturday, October 1, from 5 to 8 pm— features the guitar sounds of Luna Gitana and its energetic, world rhythms of Italy, Spain, Argentina, India and the Americas. Tickets \$60/\$100 VIP at 805.648.2075 or visit the Ventura Visitors Center, 101 S. California St (open daily).

Info at www.pierintothefuture.org.



3rd California International Theatre Festival September 8-18



The third annual California International Theatre Festival (CITF) comes to Ventura, Calabasas and downtown Los Angeles venues, September 8-18. Festival Director Joe Peracchio promises an exciting and ambitious menu of performances from Armenia, Iceland/Canada/Scotland, Guatemala, France, Ukraine, Germany, Iran, Japan and the USA including three U.S. premieres and one world premiere: "We tried to find groups that would represent and speak to the culturally diverse landscape that makes up Southern California." Ventura productions include: "Concert Under the Stars" (9/13-14, 7 pm); "¡Gaytino!" (9/13, 8:30 pm & 9/15, 9 pm); and "Scenario..." (9/14, 8:30 pm), all at the Museum of Ventura County, 100 E Main St., in either the museum's new Pavilion or Ventura Plaza courtyard.

"Concert Under the Stars" features Ukrainian singer, musician, actress and composer Marjana Sadowska storytelling and performing indigenous music from East Europe, the Middle East and the world with a message that, the New York Times says, "naturally becomes universal." Dan Guerrero wrote and performs the critically acclaimed "¡Gaytino!" (produced by Center Theatre Group of Los Angeles in 2006) about his life journey through gay and Chicano history from East LA in the 50s to New York's Great White Way in the 60s and 70s and back to Hollywood. Germany's Evoe Performing Artists use fire, water, flour, ping-pong balls, fishing line and a cello to enact "a ridiculous and thoughtful physical comedy about the difficulty of making art" in "Scenario For A Non-Existent, But Possible, Instrumental Actor."

Call 888-712-CITF (2483) or visit www.CITFestival.org for a complete lineup and tickets (\$17-30) of the festival's initial four days of plays in LA, three days in Ventura and the concluding final three days in Calabasas, including the wrap party at the Sagebrush Cantina on 9/18. Multi-Show Passports can also be purchased and group rates are available.

Call To Artists—Paint Ventura on September 9-11

On April 30 Jen Livia and Phyllis Gubins from Red Brick Gallery (315 E. Main St.) launched the first ever "Paint Ventura"—an all-media plein air event featuring 54 local artists creating, teaching and "drawing" a crowd of thousands of people to downtown Ventura. **The second "Paint Ventura" promises expanded activities, including music, performances and book signings over an entire weekend, starting with a "Paint Out and Arty Party" on Friday, Sept. 9, 5-8 pm, free and open to the public.** Twenty artists will begin creating art pieces at the Red Brick Gallery where local restaurants will provide wine and snacks; and several artists have donated works to be raffled to raise money for the Ventura Education Partnership, a non-profit dedicated to arts education in the schools, and for future funding of Paint Ventura.



On Saturday September 10, 11 am-5 pm, the organizers are seeking 100 artists working in any medium to create, sell and teach low-cost and free workshops in painting, drawing, photography and more along Main and California Streets. Interested in participating? Visit www.paintventura.com/participate.html for details. There are free youth workshops at Red Brick Gallery and the public is encouraged to watch the artists at work in the open air and seek out a new creative side of their own. FOX Fine Jewelry (210 E. Main St.) will host an After Party, Saturday, 6-9 pm, and an exhibit of Beatrice Wood prints to celebrate this dynamic local artist (see article below).



The WAV, Working Artists Ventura, is Ventura's new arts community that enhances the local art scene by its sustainable housing and workplace for over 80 artists using a multitude of disciplines. There are painters, sculptors, photographers, musicians, singers, actors, dancers, wood workers, jewelry designers, graphic designers, writers, film makers, assemblage artists and clothing designers; all living and collaborating in the same apartment complex.

WAV studio lofts will be open on September 11th from 1:00 to 5:00 PM to invite visitors to meet the artists and to enjoy viewing visual arts in private studios. **From 5:00 to 7:00 PM there will be a lineup of easy listening music at the WAV Theater Gallery located in the central plaza.** **There will be a lineup of rock bands at the same location from 7:00 to 10:00 PM.** The day promises to immerse visitors in the arts of all types and styles.

Come to the central plaza upon arrival to view an enlarged map that will indicate the studios that will be open, and pick up a free individual studio guide to help direct you on the self-guided studio trail. Periodic guided tour times will be posted on the enlarged map, or call 805.653.1174 to arrange a guided tour at your convenience. Open doors mean open studios, and refreshments will be served in the private studios of most artists. Come and be surrounded by arts and artists from around the world, all in one place; the amazing WAV.

Pick up a free Passport to the WAV raffle card in the plaza to participate in a raffle to win art created by WAV artists. Get 10 artists' signatures on the card and you are eligible to win.

To honor the 10th anniversary of 9/11, WAV will have a Memorial Wall in the Theater/Gallery. We will have some supplies to use to express your feelings or write messages to put on or around the wall.

Visit the WAV official website www.WAVartists.com See photos of the artists on the WAV Artists Page. Download and print a studio guide from the Events Page. The Contact Page shows maps of the WAV location, floor plan of Studios, and the Theater Gallery and Plaza.

Free parking is available in the dirt lot on the corner of Ventura Ave. and Thompson Blvd. Please cross at the light signal. Safe guest drop off at the entrance in the alleyway between Thompson and Santa Clara, just off Ventura Ave.. Handicap access and elevators by alley entrance. WAV is a Leed Certified building with a regulation that requires no smoking within 25 feet of the property.



For more information contact Jen and Phyllis at Red Brick Gallery at 805.643.6400 or info@paintventura.com or visit www.Paint Ventura.com and www.facebook.com/paintventura to view images of the spring event.

Beatrice Wood Exhibit and Paint Ventura After Party September 10



On Saturday, September 10, Fox Fine Jewelry (210 E. Main St.) will host an after party (6-9 pm) of wine and hors d'oeuvres for Paint Ventura (see article above) and an exhibit of the West Coast's largest collection of Beatrice Wood drawings, 55 in all, on display for one day only (10:30 am-9 pm). Ventura County's most widely known artist died in 1998 at 105. The actress and writer became famous for her ceramics and drawings, displayed in major museums around the world. Her life served as the inspiration for the character "Rose" in James Cameron's "Titanic" and she has been the subject of many films, including "Beatrice Wood: The Mama of Dada." See www.beatricewood.com. To contact Fox Fine Jewelry, call Debbie Fox at 805.652.1800 or visit www.foxfinejewelry.com.

Benefit Concert for Children's Arts Education Master Plan September 10

Get ready for an evening of music, dancing, food and fun on Saturday, September 10 at 7:30 pm at the historic Olivas Adobe (4200 Olivas Park Drive) when popular Zydeco band Acadiana plays a concert benefit for the Ventura Unified School District Arts Education Master Plan. Acadiana has appeared several times on the Ellen DeGeneres Show during her Mardi Gras celebrations. The goal of the Plan is to make the arts an integral, sequential, equitable part of every public school student's education. The evening will begin with a special performance by the acclaimed All High School Chorale group "Company."

Tickets are \$25/person, and an optional \$10/table for 4 in reserved area available at the door, online at VEP4VUSD.org or pick up a purchase form from any school site. Box office opens at 6 pm. A catered hot buffet dinner is available at \$15/person by calling Buena Ventura Catering at 650-759 by Friday noon before the concert day. A full beverage bar is available on site. This event is sponsored by Barbara Meister: Barber Automotive Group, Ventura Education Partnership, City of Ventura Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Partnerships, and Thomas F. Golden, M.D.



Buenaventura Art Association celebrates "By the Sea" on September 11



Observe Grandparents Day and the tenth anniversary of 9/11 by attending the Buenaventura Art Association's "By the Sea" festivities that both celebrate the strengths of our community and honor the efforts of its people who pull together to help others in need. Bring your family for a day of fun to The Big Lawn at the Ventura Harbor Village, 1583 Spinnaker Drive, on Sunday, September 11, 10 am-6 pm. Free events include painting your own peace sign and fly it from the lamp posts in a gesture of peace and watching artists demonstrate their talent with live demonstrations. Bid on Silent Auction items throughout the day and buy tickets for a drawing for one piece of art every two hours. At artist participation booths you can work with an artist to create your own art (T-shirts \$3) (Flower pots \$2), enjoy Brophy Brothers, Milano's, Margarita Villa and The Greek at the Harbor's food booths and purchase from artist booths items created by

members of Buenaventura Art Association or the BAA Student Scholarship Fundraiser 2012 Calendar Booth "By the Sea and the Channel Islands." Participating non-profit groups include: Wildlife Experience, Channel Islands National Park, The Turtle Society, Humane Society of Ventura County, Marine Mammal Center, Food Share, Cancer Care Thrift Center and Brain Injury Center. For more info contact: Layla Hallberg, Executive Director, Buenaventura Art Association, at 805.648.1235.

Sylvia White Upcoming Exhibitions begin September 14



Rebecca Rutstein, *Another State of Mind*,
acrylic on canvas 36" x 36"

Rebecca Rutstein

Exhibition Dates: September 14-October 15

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 17, 3-5 pm

Squeak Carnwath

Exhibition Dates: October 26-November 26

Opening Reception and Book Signing: Saturday, October 29 3-5 pm

Visit the website for "[The Art of Being an Artist](#)" monthly drop in sessions for visual artists to discuss networking opportunities, strategies, personal issues related to your work. Donation \$10

Sylvia White Gallery, 1783 E. Main St., Ventura, Gallery Hours: W-S 11-5
ph 805.643.8300 www.ArtAdvice.com

Nominations accepted for 2011 Mayor's Arts Awards until September 16

The City of Ventura, on behalf of Mayor Bill Fulton, welcomes nominations for the seventh annual Mayor's Arts Award until September 16 through forms available online at www.cityofventura.net/mayors_arts_awards. This award recognizes city residents, artists, educators, organizations and business leaders for artistic achievements and contributions they have made to our cultural community in six categories: Arts Patron, Artist in the Community, Creative Entrepreneur, Arts Leader, Arts Educator and Emerging Artist. For more information contact Creative Economy Specialist Eric Wallner at 805.677.3911 or ewallner@cityofventura.net.



Focus on the Masters Saturday Artist Spotlight Series "Neal Barr" September 24



Enjoy close encounters with local artists during this monthly interview series at Brooks Institute Ventura Campus, 5301 N. Ventura Ave. in Ventura, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Audience members MUST arrive by 4:30 pm. On September 24 the spotlight is on Neal Barr, an acknowledged master of fashion photography, whose work has taken him all over the world and been featured in The Museum of

Modern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art and numerous publications ([more at www.NealBarr.com](http://www.NealBarr.com)). Reserve online: \$10 general admission; \$5 students and seniors (65 and older) with I.D.; FREE to FOTM members and students under 18 at www.focusonthemasters.com/spotlight_calendar.html

EVENTS AT THE OLIVAS ADOBE



Marguerite Hardeman centennial exhibit Aug. 28-Oct. 16

Olivas Adobe Historical Interpreters celebrate the centennial of Ventura College instructor, muralist and painter Marguerite Hardeman (1911-1990) with a special exhibit on August 28 (11-3) at the Olivas Adobe. 4200 Olivas Park Dr., when visitors may view 15 of her large murals plus privately owned paintings, learn the history they depict from costumed docents and enjoy refreshments. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Privately owned paintings by the artist will be displayed along with the murals on August 28 and on Saturdays and Sundays in the City of Ventura's newly renovated Olivas Small Adobe at the park through October 16. In addition to the free exhibits, historical tours of the Olivas Adobe are available, as well as a unique gift shop, where tickets for tours can be purchased. For more information and driving

directions, go to www.olivasadobe.org. For more info, contact Gina Reyes at 658.4728 or greyes@cityofventura.net.

Discover "Living History Day" at the Olivas Adobe on September 18 featuring bread from the horno oven & rancho activities

What was California ranch life really like in the 1860s? Find out on Sunday, September 18, from 11 am to 3 pm, while having great family fun as you experience the daily activities of a bygone era at Ventura's historic hacienda—the Olivas Adobe. "The Olivas Adobe's Living History Day is a highly entertaining and educational event that celebrates the historical contribution of the early pioneers who settled Ventura County during the Rancho Period," said Danny Whitaker, coordinator for the Olivas Adobe Historical Interpreters, the all-volunteer docent group organizing this event as well as other year round activities at the Olivas Adobe.

Inside the courtyard, visitors will see a typical day in 1867 on Rancho San Miguel (the land grant name for the Olivas Adobe), enacted by docents in period costumes. Daily rancho events such as spinning, weaving, roping, blacksmithing, and a baking demonstration will give visitors an appreciation of these hardy pioneers. Visitors also may have the opportunity to greet Presidential candidate, Ulysses S. Grant. Local actors/docents Doug Friedlander and Rosalee Calvillo will provide period entertainment. A video tour of the Adobe's interior will be offered in the Exhibit Hall, and Leif Engeswick, master of mechanical musical instruments, will provide accompaniment to greet visitors at the Olivas fountain. Purchase tickets at the door: free for children under 4, \$1 for children under 12 and \$3 for general public. For more information and driving directions go to www.olivasadobe.org. All proceeds go toward the maintenance of the Olivas Adobe.



Ghost Tales at Olivas Adobe October 22-31

Spooky tales of ghosts long rumored to haunt the historic Olivas Adobe will highlight these 9 Halloween tours that focuses on the haunted heritage of this unique landmark between October 22 and 31. Your tour guide, local historian Richard Senate, claims that there may be a possibility of encountering a phantom, and suggests that you may wish to bring a camera or tape recorder to document your experience. Signed "ghost" books written by Richard Senate will be available for purchase for an additional \$5. Tickets for Teen-Adult are \$25. For more information and to register call 658.4726 or visit www.cityofventura.net/eRecreation

Free Kerosene Cal's Spooky Show & Halloween Workshop at Olivas Adobe Oct. 29

The Olivas Adobe will present its annual Halloween celebration with a spooky show & Halloween crafts workshop on Saturday, October 29, at Olivas Adobe Historical Park, 1 pm to 2:30 pm. Admission free. Come costumed is invited but optional. Join Ojai actor Doug "Kerosene Cal" Friedlander as he channels ghostly tales of Rancho San Miguel from the 1850s. "It's a delightful show for children of all ages," says Jerry Leckie, for the Olivas Adobe Historical Interpreters, who sponsor the event. "Doug will have as much fun as the audience while delivering one-liners and loads of laughs." Following Kerosene Cal's spooky stories, docents will present a hands-on crafts workshop where visitors can fashion Halloween items of a spooky and fun nature to take home for the holiday. Costumed guides will be on duty to give full historical tours of the Adobe. The gift shop will offer books about the rancho and gifts for the upcoming season. And, a food bar will be available for those wanting to purchase refreshments. And mark your calendar for the Olivas Adobe free Holiday Candlelight Tours on Sunday, December 11, 5:30-7:30 pm. RSVP required by calling 658-4726.



Focus on the Masters Art Auction for Arts Education a Huge Success!



Kudos to the artists and community leaders who championed the recent Westside ArtWalk! Volunteers armed with brooms and power tools transformed the Erle Stanley Gardner Building into “pop-up gallery” that highlighted the work of Focus on the Masters documented artists, all of whom were invited to participate. The elegant dimensions of the building allowed large works of art by internationally recognized artists Gary Lang, John Nava, Ruth Pastine, Joseph Piasentin, Michael Rohde and Cheryl Ann Thomas to be prominently showcased. They were joined by forty-five other FOTM documented artists who donated valuable art to be auctioned as a benefit for FOTM arts education programs, including Learning To See Youth Outreach and Saturday Artist Spotlight monthly meet-the-artists interviews. Additionally,

photographic portraits of the artists, by FOTM founder Donna Granata, were on display, permitting visitors an opportunity to “put a face” with the art. The weekend culminated with a festive fund raising dinner and live auction.

Ventura and Miami Shine as Innovative Arts Destinations

NEW ORLEANS, LA (22 July 2011) – Ventura, California and Miami, Florida have been selected as the winning destinations for the first ever Arts Destination Marketing Award for their innovative collaboration with local art agencies to market their communities as a travel destination. Selected from nearly 50 entrants, the two winning destinations were announced at the closing general session of the 97th Annual Convention of Destination Marketing Association International (DMAI) in New Orleans.



The collaboration of the Ventura VCB and the City of Ventura Office of Cultural Affairs enables the community to offer a wide range of cultural tourism offerings, including but not limited to, using local Ventura art in visitor promotion, grants funding marketing efforts for local arts organizations, and having a central ticketing office for arts and cultural events. The community also has a deep understanding of the unique economic impact that cultural and arts visitors can have on its destination, and has even completed a study on cultural/arts tourist behavior as compared to its overall visitor base.

“Being a cultural destination is more than just having an arts museum,” reflected Michael D. Gehrisch, President & CEO of DMAI. “One of the most important tasks of a destination marketing organization (DMO) is to thoroughly understand, market, and nurture the programs, activities, and events that give their community a true sense of place. One of the strongest ways to reinforce a destination’s brand is by weaving a community’s cultural-heritage story into its overall community message, effectively developing a truly distinctive locale.”

Awards will be presented to the corresponding local arts agencies at Americans for the Arts’s Arts National Arts Marketing Project Conference, 12-15 November in Louisville, KY USA.

For more information contact: Andrea Cates, Manager of Marketing & Communications at acates@destinationmarketing.org or 202.835.4205.

USEFUL ARTS LINKS

*Have ongoing events, an arts e-newsletter or website you'd like State of the Arts to list?
Email Georgeanne Lees at glees@cityofventura.net with your entries for future issues.*



First Fridays

Each month on First Fridays, 5-9 pm, visual fine art spaces in downtown and midtown Ventura offer art, demonstrations and performances. www.s232036650.onlinehome.us

Rubicon Theatre

Now playing: "Steel Magnolias" through September 18
plus subscribe to the new 2011-12 season at www.rubicontheatre.org



Poetry & Art at the Artists Union Gallery

Art exhibits and Tuesday/Saturday night poetry series at www.venturaartistsunion.org or send an email to ptagga@aol.com with a request to be put on the distribution e-list for Phil Taggart's periodic email calendar of poetry readings in Ventura, the county and beyond.

Get ArtSmart

Office of Cultural Affairs monthly video magazine on the arts. Schedule at www.capstv.org and view shows at www.capstv.org/media.htm



Bell Arts Factory

Gallery, studios and community room at 432 N. Ventura Ave. with youth arts, exhibits and calendar at www.bellartsfactory.com. Call for Artists Album Art Show by September 23 at www.toolroomgallery.com/images/albumart-guidelines.pdf

WAV/ Working Artists Ventura

State-of-the-art community at 175 S. Ventura Ave. offers affordable living and working space for 77 artists from 21 countries who are painters, sculptors, dancers, musicians, writers, actors and filmmakers with Theater/Gallery space for concerts, exhibits and special events. Studio guide (PDF), blog and calendar at www.wavartists.com.

