

The High Desert

PALETTE

Feb. 2022, Vol. 2, No.6

EXCLUSIVE

Artist by Hobby, Pg. 16



GETTYSBURG

Original poem by Neal Donohue, Pg. 22

CAMP AND BAKER

Finding Inspiration, Pg. 6

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WELCOME TO *The High Desert Palette*

Welcome to *The High Desert Palette*! In our first year's nine issues, we brought work from local artists to these pages to share – from painters to blacksmiths; writers to culinary artists; photographers to musicians – and we've barely made a dent in the list of talented creatives in the area.

Art is meant to be shared: every page will share something intriguing and creative, and every issue is something that you can share with others after you've read it.

You can share with us your knowledge about more artists and creatives, so that our future issues will bring their work to the fore and for writers, share your writing in these pages.

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Feb., 2022
Vol. 2 No. 6

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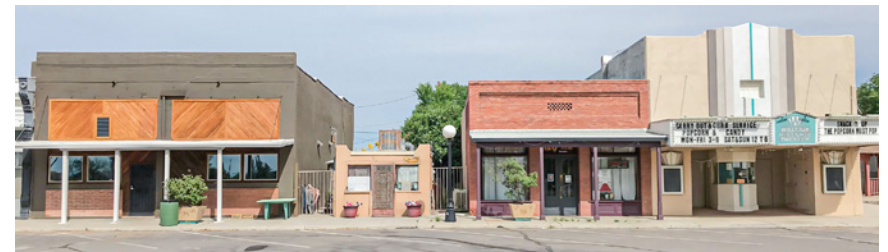


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Jerry Sunderland

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CENTER OF ARTS AND HERITAGE COURTYARD

The Center of Arts and Heritage project is well underway! We were pleased to open our new courtyard during the 85th anniversary of the Willcox Theater!





CAMP & BAKER

Finding Inspiration

By Peter Spitzer

Carolyn Camp and Joe Baker are a duo of many talents. Pulling from the sounds of jazz, blues, ballads, western country, and a healthy dose of Appalachian music, their music is a unique blend that pays tribute to their own inspiration. It sounds like a surefire recipe of success, but by talking with Carolyn we learn how unlikely this outcome was at one point.

A Long Break

Like many of the artists we interview, Carolyn Camp's start in music came early. For her, through playing violin in the third grade.

In her own words, "My big sister played and in my futile attempt to be as cool as her, I chose it too."

Carolyn even played in the Phoenix Symphonette through grade school but things took a turn from the usual. She took a break. A long break. Stopping completely at 12 years old, Carolyn didn't get back into music till her 40's. Though this time she had much more of a goal than to just be as cool as her big sister, "I picked it back up and wanted to play fiddle music. I wasn't certain what kind of fiddle music I wanted to play. I had never heard Appalachian old-time music before, but I remembered liking the music on the Andy Griffith Show and The Beverly Hillbillies when I was a kid."

Persistence

While diving back into music Carolyn was searching for

inspiration, "I found a CD of Beverly Hillbillies music but it didn't really move me, so I kept searching. I started taking fiddle lessons from David Kaemmer in Tucson once a week. He introduced me to a lot of styles, none of which really resonated with me.

At some point, I met a musician who mentioned a movie called Sprout Wings and Fly about a beloved North Carolina fiddler named Tommy Jarrell. I got that movie, and when the opening song came on, I knew I had found it, the music that struck the chord in me. From then on, I searched for more of it, and did everything I could to learn how to play it. I went to a fiddle workshop in West Virginia later that year and really became hooked."

One aspect of the music that Carolyn found special was simply the social side. "The music we play is the music folks used to sit on their porches and play together. They would gather after a hard day's work and

share music for joy, for comfort, and for fun. We still have jams with friends in that same old fashioned way, learning tunes from one another, keeping the tradition of sharing the music alive. It also is a real blend of all the cultures that were present in Appalachia in the early days."

Finding Baker

After both spending time in separate bands for a while

"The music we play is the music folks used to sit on their porches and play together. They would gather after a hard day's work and share music for joy, for comfort, and for fun. We still have jams with friends in that same old fashioned way, learning tunes from one another, keeping the tradition of sharing the music alive."

Carolyn Camp and Joe Baker met in 2016, "We had mutual friends, and he reached out to me when he was moving back to Phoenix after many years in Portland. He was interested in old-time music and square dances. My band, Pick & Holler, was playing some square dances around Phoenix at that time."

After getting together, working up some songs, and playing at a square dance, things fell into place for Camp and Baker. "Joe plays a lot of early jazz, blues, ballads, and country western stuff in his

solo act, and I play mostly the Appalachian string band stuff with Pick & Holler.

We just kind of merge whatever works best into our duo. The duo also gives me a chance to sing some songs that might not fit as well in my band's setting, I really like having the opportunity with Joe to work up some of those songs."

Staying With It

So what's next for Camp and Baker? "Joe Baker and I will just

keep playing, and learning new songs and looking for more opportunities to bring our love of this old music to other people."

// Practice a lot; even the musicians you think just have talent had to work and practice hard to be as good as they are."

Ending off, Carolyn Camp had some special advice for aspiring musicians regardless of former experience, and time investment.

"Practice a lot; even the musicians you think just have talent had to work and practice hard to be as good as they are. Also, just play and do what you love, and believe in yourself.



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First Run Movies

Catch first run movies at our historic theater any day of the week with today's latest in comfort and digital technology!

Daily



Jam Session

Join a group for adult musicians to meet and "jam" together for the purpose of entertainment and proficiency.

Feb. 15th



Camp and Baker

Appreciate music inspired by the string bands of old Appalachia and the early stars of country music!

Feb. 18th

Paint Night

Paint your own masterpiece under the instruction of our talented instructor, Cori Aten!



Feb. 19th

Smartmaker

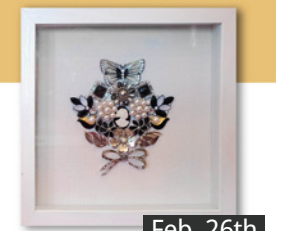
Join us with the Arizona Science Center in The Palace of Art and Theater for squid dissections!



Feb. 25th

Shadowbox Jewelry

Learn how to make a shadow box for jewelry like the one pictured to the right with Kathleen Johnston!



Feb. 26th

Kids Art Club

Have a creative kid? Maybe a kid that would be interested in artistic activities? Well this free art club is for them!



Mar. 4th

DID YOU KNOW?

Valentines Day Trivia

By Josh Allred

You probably know valentines day as a day celebrating love by means of card and candy, but here are some things you may not have known about the annual holiday.



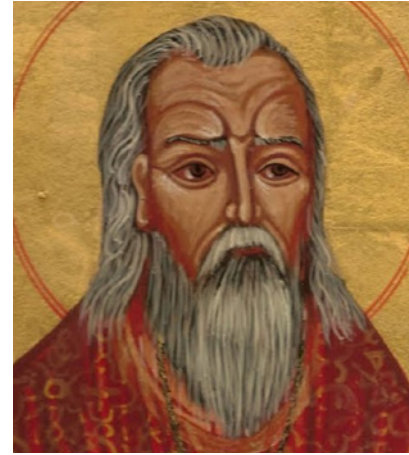
"I Do."

What better way to celebrate love than to observe it with marriage? The Philippines takes this sentiment seriously, celebrating the holiday by hosting mass civil weddings in various public locations on Valentines day.



Letters to Juliet

In the 1930s Ettore Solimani became known as the first "Juliet's secretary" when he began responding to love letters left at Juliet's proposed grave. Years later this sentimental exchange has turned into a tradition with an office of volunteers under the name of Juliet Club dedicated to responding to the thousands of letters addressed to Juliet in Verona, Italy annually.



"Letter-Writers"

Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries "Letter-Writers" served the purpose of helping people know the appropriate language of communication between varying occupations and class. Be it for social satire, or practical advice, this trend did not omit the art of writing a valentine. Richardson's "Valentine Writer" teaches us the art of the proposition, the compliance, and the rejection.



Box of Chocolate

Richard Cadbury, son of Cadbury founder John Cadbury, was the man behind heart shaped boxes of chocolate, creating the first for 1861 Valentines day. Today more than 36 million heart shaped boxes of chocolates are sold annually.



St. Valentines

Very little is known about the holidays namesake, St. Valentine. So little, that in 1969 the Catholic church discontinued liturgical veneration of the saint. Despite this, many legends circulate of a St. Valentine. Including one where he, despite a law forbidding marriage in Rome to promote military campaign, was beheaded after he was discovered conducting marriages in secret.

2021-2022 SEASON OF LIVE EVENTS.

The 2021-2022 Season of Live Events is here! Prepare for classic country, fantastic guitar, finger-pickin', and fiddling-and so much more!



Cindy Rae

Enjoy the classic country sounds of Willcox' own Cindy Rae in a solo act with her Dad's Gibson guitar

Sep. 17th



Igor the Jazz Cowboy

Enjoy the "Jazz Cowboy" and his story songs that cover the U.S. borderlands from the Deep South to the Wild West.

Oct. 15th



The Manhattan Dolls

Tap your feet to a swing-style female vocal trio with the sound of The Andrews Sisters!

Nov. 19th



Sahnas Brothers

Enjoy the beautifully blended sounds of Greek culture and classical Spanish guitar that is the Sahnas Brothers!

Dec. 17th

'HEDY! The Life and Inventions of Hedy Lamarr'

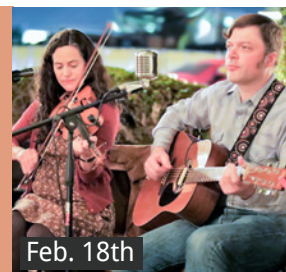
See the one woman wonder, Heather Massie, perform 'HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr'!



Jan 29th

Carolyn Camp and Joe Baker

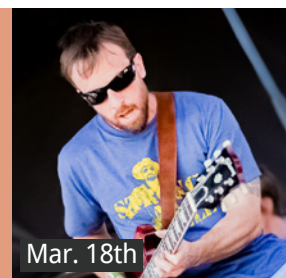
Appreciate music inspired by the string bands of old Appalachia and the early stars of country music!



Feb. 18th

J Scott Howard

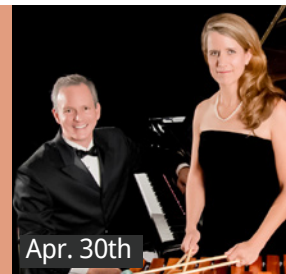
Enjoy riveting renditions of tunes ranging from Motown hits to Texas Troubadour classics.



Mar. 18th

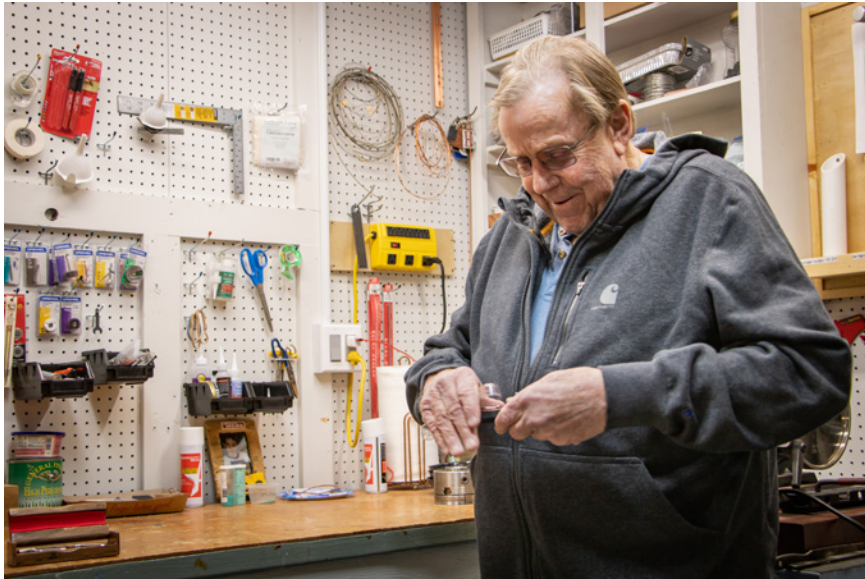
Sticks and Tones

Embark on a voyage of heart and mind with this duo's performances of classical, flamenco, jazz, ragtime, and world music



Apr. 30th

Learn more about our performers and their performances on our website at willcoxtheater.com and facebook page @willcoxtheaterandarts! Tickets are available for purchase on our website! Get yours today!



JERRY SUNDERLAND

Artist by Hobby
By Gayle Berry

SOLD! That's one word that describes Jerry Sunderland's turned wood bowls. He is known for donating his creations to local fund-raisers, including the Red Carpet Shindig which supports Willcox Theater and Arts, Inc., Boots and Bling which supports Northern Cochise Community Hospital, and the Elks Lodge. "I don't sell anything. I donate them," Jerry told us.

Every bowl that comes off Jerry's lathe is unique - in the type of wood, the shape, size,

inclusions, and finish. And each one experiences a number of steps from original wood to finished bowl.

Wood to Finished Bowl

"Wood is very dry in Arizona," explains Jerry. Much of the wood he uses has voids or cracks that he first fills with a two-part epoxy. Copper powder or other materials can be mixed in at this stage to add interest to the finished bowl.

Finding likely pieces of wood is part of the challenge. One time Jerry was driving down Haskell Ave and saw a stump on the curb. Driving around the block to check again, he saw a stump about knee-high with a big outcropping of burl, which is rare. "I asked how much for it, and they said go ahead and take



it, otherwise it'll go to the dump. Their son used to sit on it to watch the Rex Allen Day Parade."

"A burl is like a growth," Jerry explained. "Once I got 5 burls for \$5 a piece at a yard sale. They're absolutely beautiful. One of them was auctioned at the Red Carpet Shindig for \$2,200 last year." He plans to put another of the burls in a pressure tank and inject it with epoxy. "Otherwise," he says, "they're so fragile they'll disintegrate when they get spinning on the lathe."

One of the hardest things to do is to come up with different

designs. "You've got round, but how do you keep shaping them?" The internet is a great tool with all kinds of ideas. A small 8-10" bowl takes probably 8 hours to get to shape, then comes sanding, and if copper or turquoise bits are added they have to be filed and sanded as well. Different types of finishes, from flat to high polish or plain Danish oil, can be used, with several coats and 24-hour drying time for each one.

Jerry started turning pens before he got into bowls. He has also done seam rippers and bottle stoppers. He turns pens on a smaller lathe, and the tools are smaller, but the turning process is the same. He also builds

boxes for the pens, often out of oak or pistachio, for a complete package.

Both pens and bowls are sanded on the lathe after the shape is complete. He is completing a vacuum system for his shop, but right now, an open garage door and Mother

Nature's breezes keep the shop clear of sawdust.

"With wood turning, it's a machine in motion; you're working it while it's turning,"

// With wood turning, it's a machine in motion; you're working it while it's turning... You don't know when you start if it's going to be a success or a failure."

Jerry explains. "You don't know when you start if it's going to be a success or a failure. You don't know what it's going to be."

Hobby and Craft

Jerry has always liked woodworking, and he started woodturning when he was in high school. It didn't become an established hobby until he retired and took some woodworking classes at Eastern Arizona College.

Jerry still goes to EAC twice a week. He says it's a bunch of old duffers who get together, do

wood turning, and have a ball. There aren't many younger students because the cost of materials is high.

How to get started? "Take a class or find somebody to teach you. There's a young guy here who wants to learn how to turn, and I told him I would teach him." Jerry also plans to get his grandson started.




"I do it as a hobby and I donate it. I've had opportunities to sell my work, but I want to be able to do it when I want to do it. I don't want to make this a job."

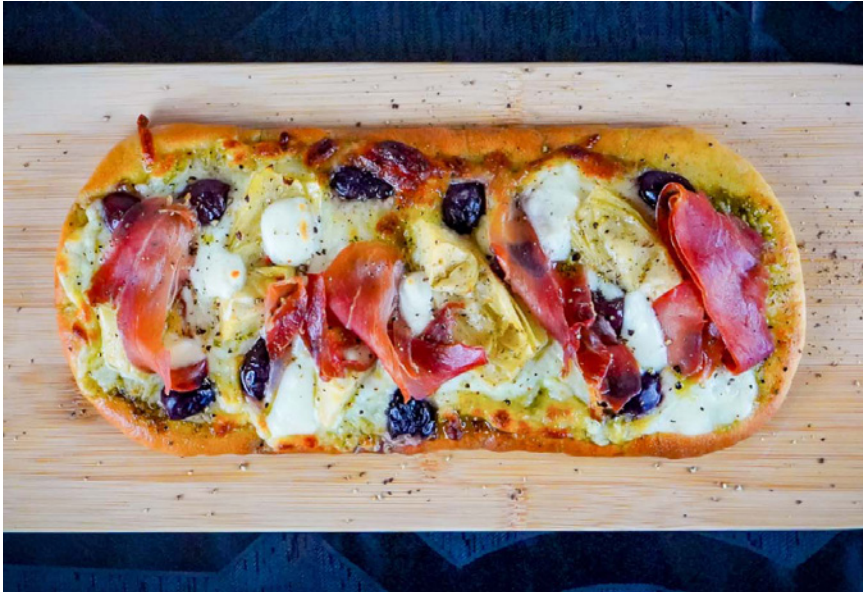
“ I do it as a hobby and I donate it. I've had opportunities to sell my work, but I want to be able to do it when I want to do it.



ART LOOK

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As a Vietnam Veteran, my return to America left me disheartened. Two friends are on the Vietnam Wall in Washington D.C. with the exact date of their demise. It shocked me. Turbulent years would follow until I coincidentally found myself driving on the Pennsylvania turnpike suddenly seeing a notice of The Gettysburg Memorial five miles off the road. I quickly left and arrived at 8 in the morning. That day I traveled through the Gettysburg battlefield until five that evening. I stood exactly where Gen. Robert E. Lee sat on his horse guiding that lost cause. My soul transformed as I sensed I shared the sacrifice of that battle and so many people who fought other wars to make men free. I knew that I was a part of a much larger landscape that created our country. My poem "Gettysburg" won several national awards and remains the reflection of my search for meaning in a fallen world. I hope it can help others.

-Neal Donohue

GETTYSBURG

By Neal Donohue

Great Gettysburg,
I stood there, far atop of Cemetery Ridge
where ninety thousand, blue-trousered soldiers
broke Pickett's Charge and crushed the South!

Gettysburg.
I was there the night the Union boys sharpened long bayonets on black cannons,
spitting that black thick tobacco into the amber flames of their campfire.
I sat beside General Meade in his solitary tent preparing for war.
Good General Meade. Lonely General Meade. Deadly as a cobra,
crouching over map, calculating the cost of victory.

Gettysburg!
I heard cries as bullets broke the bones of Blue and Gray,
as death leapt furiously from head to head,
crowning its victims in wreaths of lead.
I heard the rifles cracking, whipping, blasting;
sulfuriating the air with the stench of hell.

Forty thousand dead. Just three days and forty thousand dead!
Gray and Blue breaking bayonets, bleeding, and bowing
gracelessly into unmarked graves.
While silently under glare of lamp quiet Meade rubs his red sore eyes
and removes another gray pin from his map!

And Lee? Gallant General, Robert E. Lee, poised and straight
upon his gray steed, Traveler, watches as ill-clothed Southern boys
topple like dominoes in the red, wet fields of Gettysburg.

Great Gettysburg!
Cascading bodies, wave upon wave, washed away by that great Blue Sea
that shreds its way through bayonet and bullet. While bitter--oh so very bitter
run the tears of General Lee at Gettysburg.

(continued on the next page)

Gettysburg?

How hollow is its ring, as I weep above that graveyard.
And with fire in my eyes, I spy that tall, black-bearded Yankee
Stride across the scarred, stilled, battlefield.

Then standing upon Cemetery Ridge
with stove pipe hat tucked neatly beneath his arm,
he points his calloused finger and swears the Republic will not bend,
will not remain half-slave...half-free!

There, finally I see the dust of one hundred years of slavery
fall from my eyes at Gettysburg...
Bright, glorious Gettysburg!
I heard the the chains breaking as America sang.

So, now, where cannons once volleyed only red poppies blow
in the warm summer breeze of dawn,
while green slumbering meadows hide their secret of sacrifice
A time to fight,
A time to be free,
A time to be at Gettysburg.



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The High Desert Palette welcomes contributions that highlight creativity and creative people in Southeastern Arizona. We seek to explore the creative impulse, showcase creative product and inspire creatives in all fields. Original contributions in artistic and/or creative fields and articles or feature interviews with the people who create them will be accepted. Let us know of creative individuals we might highlight in future issues.

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