

Greetings!

Whether you have enjoyed Monday's Strawberry Moon or are anticipating the Summer Solstice on Friday, late June marks a special moment in Nevada County's calendar year.

A glorious spring saw us wrapping up a year's worth of rigorous surveying, and publishing our first countywide report on Arts & Economic Prosperity. We share our **key findings** in this month's newsletter.

We also share with you - hot off the press

- news of **seven distinct Nevada County arts organizations** who successfully applied for state funding for the year to come, and we plant a seed about community grant writing workshops to be held later in the year.

This month's **Editor's Choice** highlights seven nationally acclaimed poets who will read this coming Friday in Grass Valley, while our special feature, **Artists of Nevada County**, sees us in dialogue with visual artist Ron Kenedi.

At this time of year, summer festivals are kicking off - and we look to **Music in the Mountain's** fabulous line-up of events during the week to come, as well as the return of InConcert Sierra's **Musical Mondays** at Madelyn Helling Library. We also throw a light on **two special events in downtown Grass Valley** - The Great Race, featuring over 120 vintage road racers, and the ongoing Thursday Night Markets - neither of which should be missed.

Finally, we remind artists of the **free resources** Nevada County Arts Council provides, and we highlight **eight events** across the county, from Nevada City Winery's Artist of the Month, to ASIF's latest exhibit, to Truckee's celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad, to what's on at LeeAnn Brook Fine Art, to our I AM HERE group exhibition at BriarPatch - and more.

Enjoy our June newsletter!

Until soon,



Eliza Tudor
Executive Director



Click on the image above to learn more about poetry stars returning to Nevada County with Community of Writers this Friday.

Nevada County hits the mark as California Arts Council announces grantees for 2019-20!

During June, California Arts Council announced its approval of grants to seven Nevada County organizations, awarding them \$317,583 in five program categories:

- [Arts for the Schools](#) - Jump StArts - \$20,385
- [Community of Writers](#) - Arts and Public Media - \$8,024
- [Music in the Mountains](#) - Arts Education Exposure - \$14,400
- [Nevada County Arts Council](#) - Jump StArts - \$23,814; and Artists in Communities - \$16,200;
- [Nevada City Film Festival](#) in partnership with [Nevada County Arts Council](#) - Local Impact - \$18,000
- [Trails and Vistas](#) - Creative California Communities - \$66,760
- [Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District](#), in partnership with [Nevada County Arts Council](#) and [UC Berkeley's Sagehen Creek Field Station](#) - Creative California Communities - \$150,000



Click on the image above to learn more about California Arts Council's grant programs.

We, and several Nevada County organizations, await news of other California Arts Council grants, and these will be voted on by the Council on June 25. Meanwhile, the total amount of 2018-19 funds awarded statewide by the California Arts Council is projected to be \$24,508,541, the highest investment amount since the 2000-01 fiscal year.

Read California Arts Council's full announcement [here](#) - and look out for Nevada County Arts Council's July newsletter in which we will share in more depth what locally awarded grants will mean for Nevada County for the year to come.

Come fall, Nevada County Arts Council will be scheduling grant writing workshops for community organizations committed to cultural programming. **Please let us know you are interested in attending, either as an individual or alongside members of your team, by participating in [this brief survey](#).**

What IS the Economic Impact of Arts and Culture in Nevada County?

Key findings of our Arts & Economic Prosperity provide evidence that our arts and culture sector is a significant industry - one that generates \$46.9 million in total economic activity.

This spending - \$25.7 million by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and an additional \$21.2 million in event-related spending by their audiences - supports 869 full-time equivalent jobs, generates \$20.9 million in household income to local residents, and delivers \$5.1 million in local and state government revenue.

This economic impact study sends a strong signal that when we support the arts, we not only enhance our quality of life, but we also invest in Nevada County's economic well-being.

What's the public response so far?

Feedback suggests most people are unsurprised. With Americans for the Arts as our study partner, the report lays out rigorous methodology that defies cynicism, along with heavyweight national partners such as Georgia Institute of Technology economists and customized input-output models for Nevada County. Other partners include:

- U.S. Conference of Mayors and National League of Cities
- International City/County Management Association
- Conference Board and Committee encouraging Corporate Philanthropy
- Council on Foundations and Independent Sector are partners
- Destinations International and National Alliance of community Economic Development Associations

Public Art on Truckee's Priority List

Meanwhile, in Eastern Nevada County, Truckee is taking the news seriously. Enjoy Sierra Sun's coverage of the Town's response, and news of the development of its first ever **Public Art Master Plan**, and the Town's creation of a fund in next year's budget specifically for the arts.



Click on the image above to read all about



Click on the image above to read the report in its entirety.

"This is something that we've been working on and has been on the list of things to do for many years," Nick Martin, administrative analyst for Truckee, said of the master plan. "It will be a guide for the creation of public art."

Last week, Truckee Chamber co-hosted a special Truckee Cultural District themed **Good Morning Truckee** event, in partnership with Nevada County Arts Council, Truckee Arts Alliance, Truckee Public Art Commission and the Town of Truckee.

Other opportunities to learn more

County Economic Resource Council, one of the funders of our report, and - on July 23 - will be presenting key findings to the Board of Supervisors at one of its regular public meetings at the Rood Center in Nevada City.

Meanwhile, our board of directors has committed to a tour of Nevada County's service organizations and will be glad to present to any larger group wishing to learn more about the economic impact of cultural tourism or culture as an economic driver more broadly.

Please [contact us by email](#) if interested.

[Read the Full Report](#)

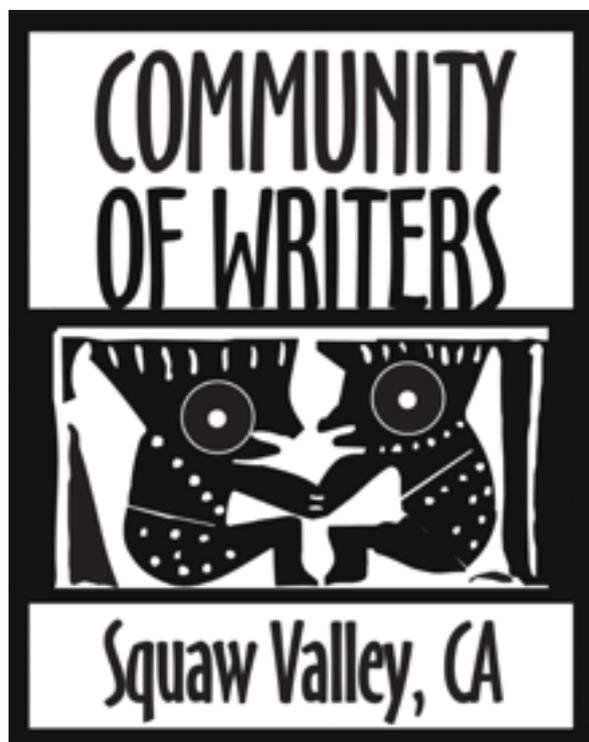


Editor's Choice: Cool respite and a fabulous line-up of nationally known poets at Saint Joseph's Cultural Center in Grass Valley

Friday, June 21, 2019

**Doors Open at 6pm
Reading and Everything Else begins at 7pm**

Acclaimed poets Forrest Gander, Robert Hass, Brenda Hillman, David Tomas Martinez, Jane Miller, Sharon Olds, and Gregory Pardlo will read this coming Friday in the cool of a well air-conditioned St. Joseph's Cultural Center.



This gathering of the tribe - all staff poets from this year's Community of Writers' Summer Poetry Workshop in Squaw Valley - will raise money for the Poetry Program's much needed financial aid initiative and scholarships for the next generation of seriously good poets who might not otherwise be able to afford their residency.

Come for a reading, signing, and reception with these eminent poets. Buy their books before and after the reading, and enjoy St. Joseph's air conditioning!

Tickets

General Admission: \$25 advance/\$30 at the door
Students: \$12 advance/\$15 at the door for students (with current student ID)

Premium Seats (first 2 rows): \$45

Groups (10 or more purchased at the same time): \$20/ticket

**** Advance Ticket Sales end at 10:00 AM on June 21 ****



Image: Ron Kenedi, *Self Portrait with Buckets*

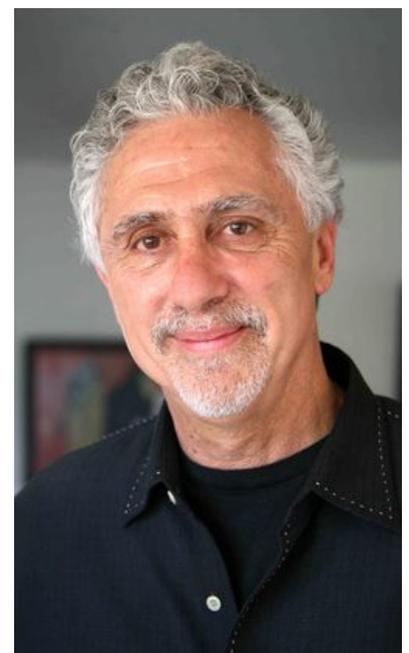
Artists of Nevada County - Ron Kenedi

Ron Kenedi's world feels large, deep, connected, and honest. He makes no apologies and he speaks up. Yet he is open and ready for conversation - what a pleasure it was to ask Ron these few questions.

Ron, tell us about your art form and medium.

Though oil painting on both linen and cotton canvas has been my main focus for the last twelve years, I have also used water color, ink on paper, stone lithography, pastel and some mixed media, as well as drawing with graphite and charcoal.

Some people call my work political, but I prefer to call it "commentary," as I try to tell a story that has a personal meaning to the viewer. I call my style "figurative expressionist."



At what age did your love for your medium manifest, and how old were you when you

realized you had talent?

When young, I would visit MOMA and other New York galleries, and having exposure to art has been a strong influence on my life and work. I can't remember a time that I wasn't drawing. In the beginning I used any material close at hand. Some of my first canvases were ceiling tiles that I found in a vacant lot near our apartment in Queens, N.Y. Slowly, as a teenager, I began to feel like my artwork was worthy of notice.



Vacation on Mars

make adjustments and view it under different light. Now the painting develops the story, sometimes changing it.

Signing, varnishing, wiring, and sometimes framing, completes the process. I often ask other artists how they know when a work is finished. The most common answer is: "The work lets me know." I concur.

During this process the story changes, and when people see my work they develop their own stories about it. This is one reason I love making art.

What is the art project or piece you are most proud of?

Usually, the answer is "my latest work". But in 2018 I was really happy with my painting "Night Crossing". This work has won awards in two out of town gallery contests.

What do you love best about our arts community?

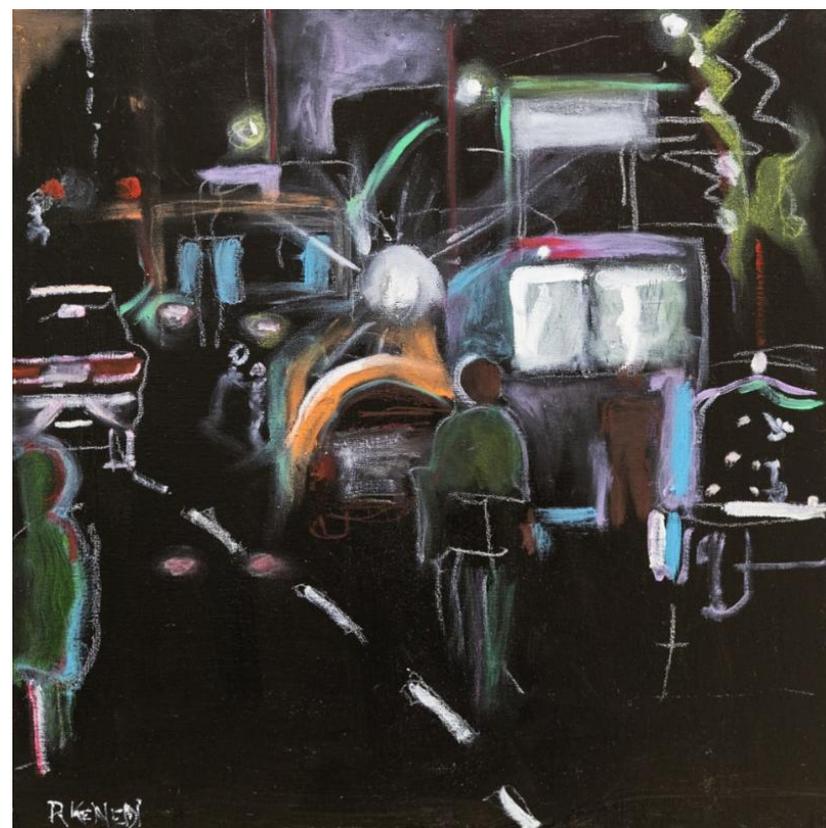
In Nevada County, unlike other centers of creativity, it isn't the visual cues of the surroundings that stimulate the art but the people and supportive milieu that ignite the art. Artists bring life stories, inspirations and talents to turn these visions into unique and beautiful works of art. Nevada County attracts amazing artistic talent. It is not the place that inspires the works of art but the lives that are drawn to this nurturing and freedom-loving environment.

What is your creative process?

My creative process begins and ends with a story. Something inspires me, and I begin "mind painting" - painting without brush or canvas. I think it was Renoir who said when you build your studio, be sure to add a couch and spend time *thinking* about the work.

I usually paint an undercoat, and, lately, this layer has become brighter and stronger. Then I sketch with brush and a thin layer of color, after which I meditate on what colors will enhance the story. Once my palette is decided, the painting begins.

I use bushes, cloth, sandpaper, palette knives and fingers. I don't wear gloves and like to push the paint into the canvas with my hands. I visit the work at different times (sometimes in the middle of the night) to



Monk in the Road



Bordering on Insanity

completing her second graphic novel. Her illustrations are her paintings and drawings have been shown throughout the county in both commercial and community venues.

What is your current or next art venture?

I now have a relationship with a wonderful gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico - Hat Ranch Gallery, owned and operated by Sara West. During late June I will be there for three days of events and meetings with potential buyers. I am very excited!

See Ron Kenedi's website [HERE](#)
Contact Ron [HERE](#)

Name two Nevada County artists whose work you admire, and share why this is.

I admire many, but two stand out. Jacquie Bellon and Jennifer Rain Crosby. Both of these women have amazing classic abilities and have produced compelling and beautiful works. Ms. Bellon's work though rarely seen in our county, is lovely, reality based painting and drawing. Her figurative drawings are timeless. She has taught figure drawing for many years on the San Juan Ridge (full disclosure - she and I actually started these together.)

I have known Jennifer Rain Crosby since she was a girl. She has always had tremendous artistic ability and I have a watercolor hanging in my home that she painted when she was twelve years old. She is the consummate artist, working daily on her craft and now focusing on



Broken Man

Two events in Grass Valley not to be missed - Culture in its many forms

Opportunities for Artists

InConcert Sierra's Musical Mondays return to the Outdoor Amphitheater at Madelyn Helling Library

Musical Mondays are free weekly concerts, offered as part of Madelyn Helling Library's Summer Reading Program.

Acts during the seven-week series include Veridian String Trio, Western Songbirds, Brass Valley 5, WindJammers, Papa Oom Papa, and more.

By now, we all know that music provides both a balm and a stimulus - and that its impacts on brain health are phenomenal.

Neither is it any secret that music is key in childhood development skills such as

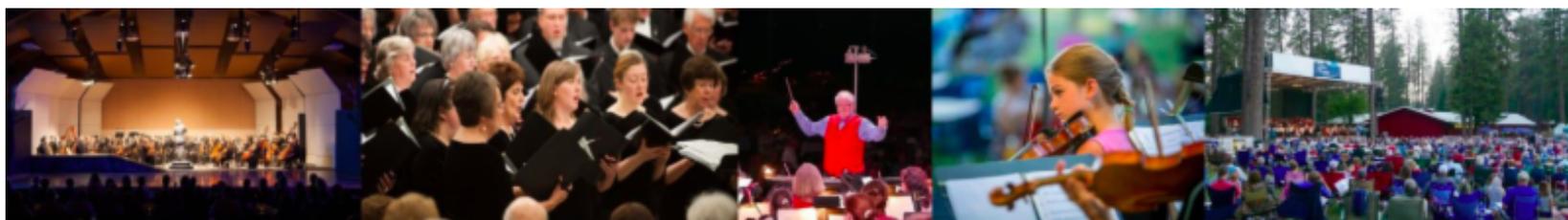
intellect, social-emotional, motor and language, and this is the underlying foundation of the three-year collaboration between the Library and InConcert Sierra.

Musical Mondays feature local and regional musicians highlighting a variety of instruments and sound for people of all ages to enjoy. The program is free to the public.

Click [HERE](#) for a complete list of performances. The public is encouraged to bring a chair or blanket!



[Learn more about Musical Mondays](#)



SummerFest has begun!

Join Music in the Mountains for two weeks of great classical music, discussions and concerts. We take pleasure in sharing here a snippet of SummerFest's key dates:

- June 23 at 6pm - **Garden Party** at Dunham Estate
- June 24 at 5pm - **Brass Concert - Prelude Discussion** at Peace Lutheran Church
- June 25 at 6.30pm for 8pm - **Brass, Brats & Brews Concert** at Pine Three State at the Fairgrounds
- June 27 at 6.30pm - **Carmina Burana - Prelude Discussion** at Amaral Center at the Fairgrounds
- June 27 at 7.30pm - **Carmina Burana Concert** at Amaral Center at the Fairgrounds
- June 28 at time TBD - **Music Academy Master Class** at Amaral Center at the Fairgrounds
- June 29 at 7.30pm - **Magical Moments - Prelude Discussion** at Amaral Center at the Fairgrounds
- June 29 at 7.30pm - **Magical Moments Concert** at Amaral Center at the Fairgrounds
- June 30 at 3pm - **Beethoven, Bruch & Amaryn** at Amaral Center at the Fairgrounds

- June 30 at 5.30pm - **Artists Gala Reception** at Amaral Center at the Fairgrounds
- July 3 at 6.30pm for 8pm - **Patriotic Pops - Happy Birthday USA! Concert** - Outdoors at the Fairgrounds

Click [HERE](#)
for more information
Click [HERE](#)
to buy your tickets

A Monthly Reminder for our Arts Community!

A reminder to all our artists and arts organizations of these great resources:

- Become a member of Nevada County Arts Council [here!](#)
- Then create an artist profile [here](#)
- Post your events at our Community Arts Calendar [here](#)
- Send us your Call to Artists info and we'll put it [here](#)
- For our visual arts community, make sure you take advantage of our Annual Nevada County Visual Artist & Gallery Guide [here](#)
- Interested in co-hosting an Artist Gathering with us? Email us [here](#)
- Get involved with Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District and Truckee Cultural District - let us know you are interested [here!](#)



You can find out more about *Amee Chapman - The Big Finish* by clicking on the image above.

Upcoming Arts Events in Nevada County

- click on the pictures for more information -



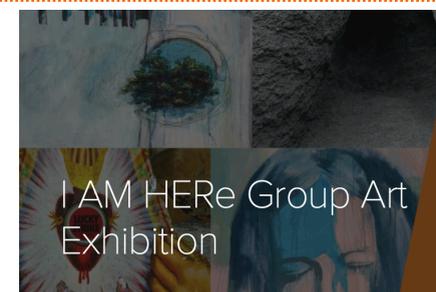
The Center For The Arts Presents *Subtle Divination* by artist Claire Pupo at the Plaza Gallery until July 12



Truckee Roundhouse presents regular classes for makers in the making at the Truckee Tahoe Airport throughout June and July.



ASIF invites you to the Opening Reception of a new exhibition by painter, sculptor & printmaker Richard Downs on Friday, June 21 from 5-8pm. Come, too, for an Art Talk, Live Music, Food & Wine.



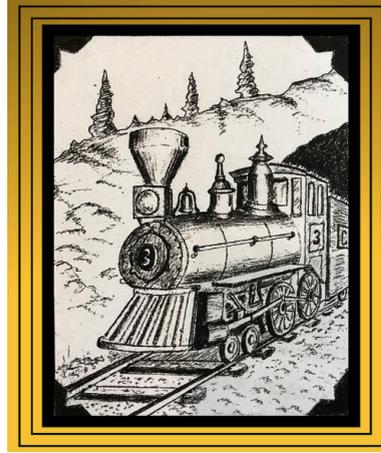
Nevada County Arts Council's I AM HERe initiative presents a group exhibition from its collaborating artists. Thirteen outstanding women artists reflect on their experiences of living in a rural community as it relates to their individual sense of belonging.



LeeAnn Brook Fine Art presents notable Bay Area artist Carol Dalton's *A Moment in Earth's Time*, as she explores the rich textures and colors of earth's environment.



Nevada City Winery presents Heather deViveiros with new pieces of nature-inspired works in acrylic and iridescent paints and mixed media through June.



Truckee is celebrating 150 years of the Transcontinental Railroad and its impact on the Donner Summit and Truckee Area.



Plan ahead for the Nevada City Film Festival and the City of Nevada City's Movies under the Pines - an outdoor cinema experience for the entire family at Pioneer Park.

You can find a full listing of Nevada County's arts events [here](#).

Become a Member

Nevada County Arts Council | info@nevadacountyarts.org | 530.278.5155

Connect with us!

