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Welcome to Culture Connection

Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District's newsletter featuring the stories and people of our community



Music in the Mountains SummerFest

For more than thirty-seven years, Music in the Mountains SummerFest has been one of Northern California's premier summer concert series. Summerfest features exciting outdoor performances and sophisticated chamber concerts demonstrating that classical music, performed by a world-class orchestra and chorus, can transform lives and communities.

Summerfest begins with The Young Composers Project Concert on June 15th at 7pm at Peace Lutheran Church in Grass Valley, and wraps with the popular grand finale Patriotic Pops on July 3rd at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. This thrilling final program features the MIM Chorus along with their 65-piece Festival Orchestra performing a collection of some of the greatest patriotic songs ever written.

The two-week program explores great classical music through a variety of concerts, discussions and events. For a complete schedule visit [Music in the Mountains Summerfest](#).

Photo: Music in the Mountains at the Nevada County Fairgrounds

Photo Credit: the Union - Kial James

[Purchase Tickets](#)



Movies Under the Pines

The Nevada City Film Festival (NCFF) presents Movies Under the Pines, an outdoor cinema experience for the entire family at the Pioneer Park Bandshell in Nevada City. This year's films are:

- Saturday, June 15th: "Raiders of the Lost Ark"
- Saturday, July 27th: "What About Bob?"
- Friday, August 30th: Best of the Fest of the 19th Annual Nevada City Film Festival

Before each screening NCFF curates a special pre-show that includes local filmmakers works, movie trivia with fun festival prizes, and other events specific to each screening. Beer, wine, popcorn, soft drinks, and ice cream available for purchase and outside food and non-alcoholic drinks are allowed. Blankets and low back chairs are suggested.

Gates open at 7:00pm for picnicking, films begin at Sunset, which is generally between 8 and 8:30pm. Tickets are \$7/General Admission, \$5/Children 12 & Under, and \$20/Family of 4. Tickets can be purchased online and will also be available at the gate.

[Purchase Tickets](#)



2019 Poetry Benefit Reading

On Friday, June 21st, at 7pm, acclaimed poets Forest Gander, Robert Hass, Brenda Hillman, David Tomas Martinez, Jane Miller, Sharon Olds, and Gregory Pardlo will read from their poetry at the [St. Joseph's Cultural Center](#). All staff poets from this year's [Community of Writers' Summer Poetry Workshop](#) in Squaw Valley, this extraordinary group includes four Pulitzer Prize winners, a recipient of the Griffin International Prize, a recipient of the Wallace Award for Poetry, a former U. S. Poet Laureate, a National Book Award winner, and a recipient of the Pushcart Prize.

This event will include a reading, signing and reception with the poets and their books will be available for purchase before and after the reading. The emcee for the event is Community of Writers Poetry Alum Maxima Kahn. The event is a fundraiser for the Community of Writers' Poetry Program's financial aid and scholarships. Doors open at 6pm and the reading begins at 7pm.

[Purchase Tickets](#)



Grass Valley Thursday Night Market

The Grass Valley Thursday Night Market begins on June 27th and runs every Thursday evening from 5:30pm - 9pm through August 1st. (There is no event on Thursday, July 4th). In addition to the certified Farmer's Market, the event includes arts, crafts, food vendors, a beer and wine garden, street performers and a free Summer Concert Series. The bands for this year are:

- June 27th: Jessica Rose Band
- July 11th: Catfish
- July 18th: Sgt. Funky
- July 25th: Love Train
- August 1st: Public Safety Band

This heritage event in the heart of the Gold Country brings the local and regional community to Grass Valley to walk, browse, shop and meet friends and neighbors in a wonderfully historic and colorful downtown.

For more information, visit [Thursday Night Market](#).

Photo: Grass Valley Thursday Night Market on East Main Street, Grass Valley

Photo Credit: Nevada County Grown



The Great Race in Grass Valley

The Great Race is a 2,000 mile endurance rally for vintage cars. 2019 is the fourth year Nevada County Habitat for Humanity joins forces with veteran local racers Bill and Carolyn Croker in their 1936 Packard as they race from Riverside, CA to Tacoma, WA.

Sponsored by [Grass Valley Downtown Association](#), the Great Race is coming through Grass Valley for its lunch stop from 11am to 4pm. Locals will have an opportunity to watch the cars come into town and to see them parked along Mill and Main Streets before they are off to the next stop. Four local teams are participating in the race - so come to support them for the win as well!

You can also support [Nevada County Habitat for Humanity](#) by becoming a member of Team Habitat and making a pledge. You will receive daily updates from the road on team progress, stories, photos, and reports on funds raised from miles achieved along the way and you'll have an opportunity to celebrate with the team at the end of the race.

[Make a Pledge](#)



Business Spotlight: **Kial James/Nevada City Scenics**

Kial James is the photographer behind [Nevada City Scenics](#). What began as an online Facebook page has evolved to offer prints, calendars, cards and other items in his [Online Store](#). Nevada City Scenics also offers drone flyovers, seasonal activities and events, classes, guided tours, photowalks and more.

"I aim to shoot picturesque scenes of downtown, small towns, surrounding areas and as you'll see, much more. I love to capture the heart and soul of this small town in Northern California. My muse is the queen herself, the Yuba River. I take inspiration and solace from her, in return, I showcase her incredible beauty to the world for all to see our little slice of heaven and home" says Kial. His photographs have been featured in a number of publications including Outside Magazine, Forbes, and NBC Bay Area.

Kial's work is available in his [Online Gallery](#) and he has gallery hours by appointment.

In addition to his photography work, Kial builds websites and offers design and marketing services (over 20 years of experience) and you can view a complete menu of services at [KialJ.com](#).



Artists' Spotlight: **Maxima Kahn**

Maxima Kahn is always creating. A writer of poetry, essays and fiction, her work has been published in *The Louisville Review*, *Entropy*, *Citron Review*, *Sweet*, *Poem*, and *Wisconsin Review*, amongst others, and has been featured on the blogs *Tiny Buddha*, *Positively Positive*. She has twice been nominated for Best of the Net and was a finalist for the *Atlanta Review* poetry contest. Her first full-length book of poems, *Fierce Aria*, is due out early next year.

As a dancer, she creates and performs with the improvisational dance-theater-music troupe, *Shadow Cabinet* and has also taught *Contact Improvisation* for many years. As a musician, she is an award-winning composer and avant-garde violinist, and occasionally performs as part of the duo *Sawbones* with multi-instrumentalist *Randy McKean*.

She is also a passionate champion of other artists and has taught creative writing and poetry at UC Davis through their extension program. She currently teaches and works with artists of all kinds, showing them how to unleash their creativity and unique gifts and

realize their life dreams through her own business. You can read her blog and learn about her classes and creative life coaching at [BrilliantPlayground](#).

Maxima's next creative writing workshop series, Freedom to Write, begins on June 20. She plans to offer one-day workshops this summer and a new series of The Artist's Way in September. To learn about upcoming classes, sign up for her newsletter [here](#). You can also get an intimate insider view of Maxima's own creative journey and process as well as her poems and other creations at [Patreon.com/maximakahn](#).

Photo: Maxima Kahn

Photo Credit: Jerianne Van Dijk



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