

# Artist depicts songbirds in Sisters

By Jodi Schneider McNamee  
Correspondent

Sisters music and art enthusiasts gathered for the official unveiling of the annual Sisters Folk Festival poster on Tuesday evening, March 3, at The Open Door wine bar and bistro.

The unveiling featured original festival poster artwork by Dennis McGregor. Last year he wowed folks with his 2014 poster that spotlighted a hipster mule deer buck sporting a harmonica.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Sisters Folk Festival (SFF) and the 15th year that McGregor has been commissioned to paint original artwork for the annual SFF poster image that attracts thousands of people to the three-day music festival.

Usually The Open Door is closed on Tuesdays, but beginning in February Clearwater Gallery owners Dan and Julia Rickards have offered a new program, Dine for a Cause, to help local nonprofits. Each month a different nonprofit organization will be featured and receive 10 percent of the gross receipts for every Tuesday of the month, and this month the nonprofit is Sisters Folk Festival.

Musicians Brad Tisdell and McGregor provided music while folks mingled among friends anticipating the unveiling of the poster.

Around 5 p.m. the 2015 SFF poster was revealed, and folks couldn't have been more thrilled when they gazed upon 10 beautifully depicted songbirds from around the country singing their hearts out into a vintage microphone, while some of the birds hung onto the ponderosa pine branches that are indigenous to Sisters County.

"I painted 10 songbirds and two wings each to represent the 20 years for Sisters



BY JODI SCHNEIDER MCNAMEE, COURTESY SISTERS FOLK FESTIVAL

Songbirds flock to the Sisters Folk Festival each year.

Folk Festival," McGregor said. "I had a lot of fun painting the buck for last year's poster and you all loved it. So this year was a challenge of how to top that buck, and I did my best."

This year Dennis McGregor has also painted poster images for the 40th annual Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show and the 75th annual Sisters Rodeo (see related story, page 9).

"Dennis does a lot more than paint poster images for Sisters Folk Festival, he helps book the talent and he has helped create our image. Between the logos and My Own Two Hands, a lot of work has gone into it with his intellectual creativity, his painting, and his music," Tisdell said.

McGregor's original painting, "Songbirds," is for

sale and on display at Sisters Gallery & Frame Shop on Hood Avenue.

For more information about this year's festival lineup for September 11-13, 2015, visit [www.sistersfolkfestival.org](http://www.sistersfolkfestival.org).

# Hear Isata's story at Sisters Library

When Jason and Becki Sibley adopted 8-year-old Isata, they had no idea that her birth family was alive and well and living in Sierra Leone. The Sibleys, told by the adoption agency that Isata was orphaned as a result of the civil war in Sierra Leone, adopted and brought her to the U.S. in 2002. In the fall of 2012 Isata's birth family reached out to her on Facebook and in early 2013 she and Becki traveled to Sierra Leone to reconnect.

Hear Isata's story at the Sisters Library on Saturday, March 14, at 2 p.m. The program is free and open to the public and is part of the Know Africa series throughout the month of March.

The journey to Sierra Leone to reunite with her birth family was a physical and emotional journey.

"Many of my questions about myself were answered," says Isata.

Becki describes the adoption process as a logistical nightmare; the system complicated and antiquated.

"As careful as we were, the adoption was fraudulent," she says, with both the birth family and the Sibleys being



PHOTO PROVIDED

Isata's story is on tap at Sisters Library.

misled by the agency. "They did not understand the concept of adoption but simply thought this was a form of boarding school, and that Isata would always legally be their daughter, and we understood Isata to be an orphan."

Currently a senior at Redmond High School, Isata is a confident and caring young person. She is active on her school's track team and holds a part-time job. She is preparing for life after high school and contemplating college.

For more information about this or other library programs, visit [www.deschuteslibrary.org](http://www.deschuteslibrary.org).

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