

Bay Avenue Gallery hits a high five

Ocean Park studio, gallery celebrates five years in business

OCEAN PARK, Wash. — April marks Bay Avenue Gallery's fifth anniversary. The gallery, located at 1406 Bay Ave., will celebrate this achievement Friday and Saturday, April 3 and 4. There will be a new exhibition of artwork, artists' demonstrations, a special guest, Taylor Marye-Baker the creator of Art for Kids, and a reception.

For the past five years, Bay Avenue Gallery has worked to support local art and artists. Today the gallery represents about 50 hand-picked local artists and the studio is busy five or six days each week.

The gallery owner, Sue Raymond, has been with the gallery from the beginning.

She says that the gallery now is so much more than when it began.

The anniversary gives artists and visitors a chance to celebrate and have fun. In the past, the gallery has celebrated its new location, new studio, and now its growing garden space. This year, Bay Avenue Gallery added several new mosaics that are now surrounded by plants and grass. Studio regulars have made ceramic flowers to brighten even dark days. Garden décor is a specialty this year. The studio offers a do-it-yourself art experience. The studio is fully equipped for ceramics but also hosts painting, drawing and mosaic classes.

To celebrate its fifth anniversary, Bay Avenue Gallery presents an exhibition by Marilyn Casey. Casey was a longtime resident of the peninsula and beloved artist. At 91, she now lives closer to family. The gallery has collected many of her artworks from past years and will honor her contribution to the local art scene. Her work will be on display April 3 to 17.

The public is invited to the anniversary celebration and the special reception from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 3.

Two special guests will join the celebration. During the Friday reception, Taylor Marye-Baker will be present. As the creator of Art for

Kids, she has been working with children for over 28 years as an entertainer and artist. Marye-Baker received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in commercial art from Ringling School of Art and Design. Taylor designed and created hand-painted clothing, costumes, jewelry, theatrical backdrops and painted the faces of thousands in Manhattan. She has been living in Switzerland since 1991.

Betty Lu Krause will demonstrate her art from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 4. Krause is a painter and storyteller whose work as a naturalist is a muse for her painting. Her work is filled with a bold use of color that evokes feelings of mystery, depth and freedom.

For more information, call the gallery at 360-665-5200.



Submitted photo

Mosaics like this one are featured in Bay Avenue Gallery's new garden space.



Submitted photo

A painting by Betty Lu Krause, who will demonstrate her art from 1 to 4 p.m. April 4 at Bay Avenue Gallery.



Submitted photo

Bay Avenue Gallery celebrates its fifth year of business this April.

Arts: Get lit

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and his novels are anchored in the Northwest. "There is a little bit of magical realism in some of his work," says Brooks, pointing specifically to "The Highest Tide," a young boy's coming-of-age tale.

Then there is Pearl, a Seattle librarian and the only non-fiction writer of the bunch. She is also, perhaps, the biggest star. "Nancy is the only person I know in

the literary field who has their own action figure," says Brooks. "She is, of course, a very famous librarian who has written four volumes of 'Book Lust,'" a critical, curated reading list.

"She's our speaker on Saturday night," Brooks adds, "and she'll offer an entirely different view about books and writing than the writers will."

A star in his own right, Brooks has known Pearl since the mid 1980s — around the time he moved to Cannon Beach. He made many such connections while touring to

promote his own books, as well as working with the Maui Writers' Conference for over a decade. That conference, as well as growing his rolodex, showed Brooks the limitations of a festival whose attendees numbered in the thousands. The Maui Writers' Conference ended in 2009.

Around that time, Mike Morgan, then mayor of Cannon Beach, wondered why his arts-centric city, while so full of other festivals, had none celebrating literature. Morgan turned to the Brooks and Valerie Ryan, who

owned Cannon Beach Book Company.

Along with logistical support from the Tolovana Arts Colony, Ryan and the Brooks used their extensive contacts to book authors for the inaugural Get Lit in 2012. Ryan passed away last May, but the event still bears her imprint.

"Val Ryan always wanted us to ask Jim Lynch, and I met him finally at a speaking engagement at the Washington Library Association," says Brooks. "It was sort of a small thing, but something that we felt

that was kind of important to give her some satisfaction at the end, that she was able to contribute one more person to the cause."

The next step for Get Lit, Brooks says, is to become more financially independent by selling a few more tickets — but only a few.

"We've had great writ-

ers," says Brooks, proudly. "We've had first-class, best-selling writers, and award-winning writers every year. The opportunities for people to come and meet them have probably been better than at any conference in the country because we're small — we're not big."



Submitted photo

Best-selling author Gail Tsukiyama has produced six novels, including "The Street of a Thousand Blossoms."



Submitted photo by Grace Lynch

"Truth like the Sun," Jim Lynch's third novel set in the Pacific Northwest, was picked by New York Times reviewer Janet Maslin as one of her 10 favorite books of 2012.



Submitted photo

New York Times bestselling author Terry Brooks helps organize and host Get Lit at the Beach.

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