

# Keeping arts and culture alive

## Clatsop County Cultural Coalition awards grants to eight nonprofits

By ERICK BENGEL  
The Daily Astorian

Lovers of the arts often face an agonizing trade-off when they move from big cities to smaller, more remote towns, like those along the Oregon Coast: They lose the smog and noise and congestion, yes, but they may also lose the abundant opportunities to enjoy and engage in the arts.

That's what happened to Cindy Flood in her younger years when she moved from a Los Angeles suburb to southern Oregon.

Flood — now the founder and president of the Peninsula Association of Performing Artists in Ocean Park, Washington — told her story at the annual Clatsop County Cultural Coalition Awards Ceremony, held Thursday evening at the Liberty Theater.

The coalition, part of the Oregon Cultural Trust, awarded a total of \$10,595 in grant funding to eight nonprofit organizations that enhance the culture, enrich the humanities and preserve the heritage of the county.

Hosted by coalition co-chairwoman Charlene Larsen, the evening began

with Flood's speech on how to keep the arts alive — especially in places where arts may already be hard to come by — and continued with Astoria High School's Port City Singers, who sang Christmas carols conducted by teacher Matt Pierce.

Flood reminded attendees that, although it is easy to take the coast's rich cultural offerings for granted, it could have turned out very differently if certain people hadn't resolved to create them.

If Flood was "going to have my cake and eat it, too — if I was going to have the beauty of creation around me and live in a very pristine environment," then she would have to see to it herself, she discovered.

Because the arts can't survive on their own. "It was up to me," she said. "I had to make it happen."

The coalition's grantees make the arts and culture happen here, and because they do, North Coast residents — somewhat removed from the cultural cornucopia of a metropolis — are less likely to feel shortchanged.

### Grantees

- Little Ballet Theatre,



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The Port City Singers perform during the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition awards ceremony at the Liberty Theater Thursday.

Inc. received \$2,000 for the North Coast Dance Camp. The check, accepted by board members Gloria Van de Hey and Catherine Anderson, will go toward guest instructor fees for dancers to present the summer dance camp.

- North Coast Chorale received \$2,000 for May performances of Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace." The check, accepted by chorale representative Phyllis Taylor, will go toward

the orchestral accompaniment.

- Seaside Museum & Historical Society received \$2,000 for the preservation and enhancement of the Seaside Museum & Butterfield Cottage. The check, accepted by board president Steve Wright, will go toward the prep work, painting and supplies needed to refurbish the exterior of the museum.

- Knappa School District received \$1,600 for a Scandinavian mural project. The

check, accepted by Leila Collier, principal of Hilda Lahti Elementary School, will go toward supplies for shop and art students to design and complete a mural backdrop to be displayed at the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival.

- Astoria High School received \$800 for the Astoria High School Literary Review.

The check, accepted by teacher and author Matt Love, will go toward the printing costs for 250 copies of a bound student literary project that showcases student work: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, illustration and art.

- Partners for the PAC (Pacific Arts Center) received \$750 for a live theater performance of Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot." The check, accepted by co-chair Constance Waisanen, will go toward the play's production costs.

- Clatsop Care Memory Community received \$750 for a show called "Music for the Spirit." The check, accepted by administrator Mindy Stokes, will go toward six concerts of live music for residents of the facility.

- Maritime Archaeological Society received \$695 for the Maritime Cultural Heritage ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) Project. The check, accepted by Jennifer Kozik, the secretary and grant writer, will go toward matching funds to purchase the vehicle, which will document underwater artifacts testifying to the region's cultural heritage in the Columbia River and coastal waters.

## Lawmakers work to protect Newport Coast Guard post

### Copter base had been targeted for closure

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

U.S. Coast Guard air stations in Newport and in Charleston, South Carolina, would be protected for another two years under a bill moving through Congress.

Oregon and South Carolina lawmakers had won a one-year reprieve for the air stations after the Coast Guard targeted the posts last year for closure because of budget constraints.

The new legislation, which authorizes Coast Guard funding levels for two years, passed the U.S. House on Thursday and heads to the U.S. Senate.

"It is impossible to overstate how critical having search and rescue helicopters nearby is to Oregon's fishing industry, coastal visitors and residents," said U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, the ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure overseeing the Coast Guard, in a release Thursday. "Today, we were successful in securing language in the Coast Guard Authorization Act that will keep this critical air station — which handles half the emergency calls on the central Oregon Coast — open and serving the Coast for at least another two years."

The Newport base has been under threat of closure as the Coast Guard tries to save money. The agency has argued it can meet its national standard of two-hour rescue times using helicopters from Air Station North Bend to the south and Air Station Astoria to the north.

Oregon's congressional delegation helped pass legislation last year that kept the Newport and Charleston bases open until

January. The Coast Guard was not immediately available for comment Thursday.

### Growing importance

Newport is home to the largest grossing commercial fishing fleet in Oregon, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific Operations Center, Oregon State University research personnel and a large recreational fishery.

The potential closure of the air station has faced stiff opposition from locals and politicians, who argue the base provides critical rescue coverage.

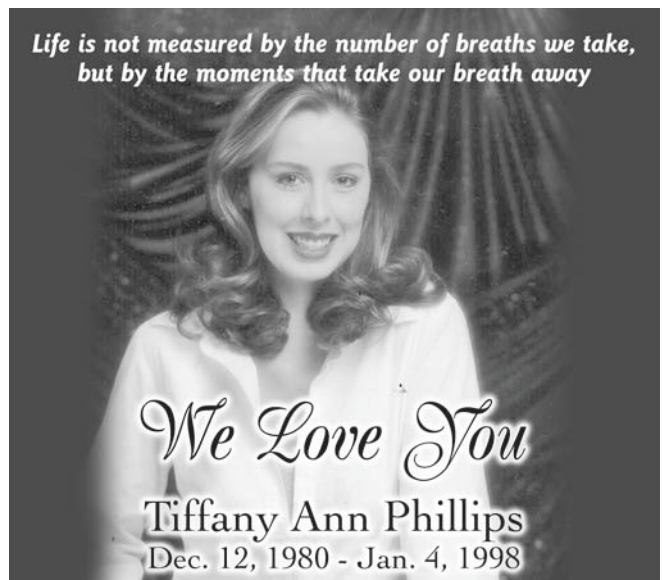
"Search and rescue isn't passé," said Jennifer Stevenson, president of the Newport Fishermen's Wives, which lobbied for the creation of the station and had sued to block its closure. "This is important to everyone in our community."

### Hard to close

The legislation would place several requirements on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security before closing any air stations after Jan. 1, 2018, including plans to ensure adequate public safety protection

and standard emergency response times to coastal communities.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, said lawmakers "fought hard to preserve this crucial part of the coastal safety net and are relieved Congress won't risk Oregonians' lives at the start of the dangerous winter season and beyond."



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- Mike and Sandi Sheets

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**JANET MARLENE ESKOLA TAYLOR**  
FEBRUARY 21, 1934-NOVEMBER 30, 2015

Janet Marlene Eskola Taylor was born in Astoria, Oregon on February 21, 1934 to Aili Johanna Kankkonen and John Niemi. Her mother named her after two movie stars of the time - Janet Gaynor and Marlene Dietrich. She was known as Marlene her entire life, except to the U.S. government! Her parents divorced when she was young and since her mother had to work to support her two daughters, Marlene remembered spending much time with Aili's many brothers and sisters. When Aili married Charles L. Eskola, a local insurance agent, he adopted Marlene and she became Janet Marlene Eskola.

Marlene attended Capt. Robert Gray Grade School and Astoria High School (now Clatsop Community College). She was a straight A student through all 12 grades and was a voracious reader for the majority of her life. She was a good educational example to her two daughters. Marlene was editor of her high school paper and also won a writing award in 8th grade. She kept copies of all the newspapers she edited and the medal she won among her things and considered them treasured memories.

In addition to being a good student, Marlene was also a good friend. Marlene remained friends with many of her grade school and high school classmates her entire life and helped with her Class of '52 reunions until her death. She was proud of the Class of '52 and all that its members accomplished over the years, including the establishment of the Class of '52 scholarship awarded at Astoria High School.

Marlene planned to attend the University of Oregon Journalism School, but love intervened. Marlene met and married Richard E. Green when he was stationed at Tongue Point Naval Base in 1952. They became proud parents of Debra Lee in 1953, ChrisLynn in 1954 and Joni Wynne in 1957. Debra died in 1953. After living a time in Wyoming, Richard and Marlene divorced. Marlene returned to Astoria with her girls and soon after, met and married Gordon Lee Taylor, also stationed at Tongue Point Naval Base, in 1960. They remained married until his death in 1977. Marlene worked and raised the family while Gordon served his country in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Conflict. She was mother, father and family breadwinner during those years and she never forgot a holiday or a birthday and made time to attend important school functions to support her daughters -- she was a working mother in an era where very few women worked and she did a great job wherever she worked. She was definitely a force to be reckoned with! Marlene was a bookkeeper and worked over the years at Pillsbury in Astoria and Los Angeles, the Glen Flora Country Club in Waukegan, IL and the payroll department at Harrah's, Reno until Gordon's death. She then became owner and operator of Bob's Radio and TV in Sparks NV and ran it very successfully. She was Zenith's only female dealer at the time. When she sold the business to move to Oregon it was on her terms and at her price...she was an amazing businesswoman!

Gordon's career led his family from Astoria to Southern California to the Great Lakes area and finally to Reno where Gordon retired in 1972. He and Marlene bought the TV repair store and they set down roots. After Gordon's death, Marlene made one final move -- back to Astoria in 1981. ChrisLynn followed in 1982 and Joni in 2004.

Marlene stayed busy during her latter Astoria years -- she was an Astoria Anchor member, worked with the Regatta Association, worked as a Columbia Memorial Hospital volunteer for 20 years, helped proofread the Clatsop County Historical Society Cumtux and spent several summers volunteering at the Star of the Sea rummage sale. She also helped organize the Class of '52 reunions and wrote a comprehensive Kankkonen family tree that was distributed to all of her family members. Marlene was especially proud of her Finnish heritage and she passed that fierce Finn pride to her daughters.

As she slowed down physically, her mind never did -- she read two newspapers daily, did crossword and sudoku puzzles and watched news shows, documentaries and plenty of movies and dramas. She loved to visit with family whenever they came to town and the "cousin's lunches" were a highlight in her life as were visits from her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Marlene left us -- peacefully and without pain -- on Monday, November 30, 2015 after a short illness. Those of us who knew her and saw the rainbow that morning know without a doubt that it was her pathway to her husband, Gordon; her parents, Charles and Aili; her firstborn, Debra; and her brother and sister, Virginia Lee and Raymond Eskola.

Marlene did not want a funeral, so she was placed with her parents on Friday, December 11, 2015 at 11:00 am at Ocean View Cemetery. Charitable contributions may be made in Marlene's name to either the Clatsop County Historical Society or the Columbia Memorial Hospital Foundation.

Mom -- you will forever be missed by those you left here on earth...your daughters, grand-daughters and great-grandchildren honor you and will love you always.

ChrisLynn Taylor  
Tanya McClinton  
Alyssa McClinton  
Brian McCollister

Joni Taylor Marcks  
Stephanie Zakrzewski  
Sarah McClinton  
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