

AVA welcomes new residency writers

ASTORIA — Michael and Momo Meow are the Astoria Visual Arts North Coast Writer's Retreat's newest writers-in-residence. The four-month residency runs through April 30.

The Meow team has been working on an illustrated fantasy/science fiction novel for several years. "The novel shows how technology can hypnotize us," says Michael Meow, "and the harm that can be caused when we neglect those around us." The story follows Daisy, a girl whose parents abandon her for a virtual world.

"It is very exciting work," said AVA Board President Lisa Smith. "Michael and Momo hope their residency will result in completion of the book and, soon after, acceptance by a publisher. We will be keeping fingers crossed for them. In the meantime, we're planning a reading from the novel, with



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A portrait of Michael and Momo Meow.

an exhibition of some of its illustrations, for early spring."

AVA's North Coast Writer's Retreat writer-in-residence program offers local and visiting writers an opportunity to launch new endeavors, revise works in progress, or conclude longstanding projects. The program seeks to provide writers with writing time and space in an idyllic setting. AVA's PierLoft

Studio, at the base of 11th Street, features panoramic views of downtown Astoria and the Columbia River.

AVA W-i-R is designed to encourage the creative, intellectual and personal growth of both emerging and established writers. A public reading of a sample of their work by the selected writers before the end of their W-i-R session is a requirement of the residency. All writers are eligible; however, the residency does not include overnight accommodations, and out-of-town writers must make arrangements on their own.

For more information, visit: <http://www.astoriavisualarts.org/north-coast-writers-retreat.html>

Astoria Visual Arts was founded in 1989 as a nonprofit membership organization to enhance, strengthen and promote the arts in the greater Astoria area.

Join a community country dance

Bar-K Buckaroos lead the way
Feb. 28 at AAMC

ASTORIA — Western swing band The Bar-K Buckaroos will once again provide the tunes for a Community Country Western Swing Dance at the Astoria Arts and Movement Center.

The dance is set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28 at the center, 342 10th St.

Admission is \$6 per person, \$10 per couple and \$2 for students with ID at the door.

The price of admission includes a one-hour introductory dance lesson with dance instructor Jen Miller beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The band will take the stage from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. For further ticket info, contact Brad Griswold at 360-951-9593.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Bar-K Buckaroos will play county Western music for a community dance Feb. 28.

The Bar-K Buckaroos will play traditional Western swing dance music in the style of Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys. The band is made up of North Coast musicians, featuring Brad Griswold on rhythm guitar, Dave Quinton on bass, Richard Thomasian on lead guitar, Tom Peake on drums and John Orr on pedal steel.

Collectively these musicians have played in such local bands as The Floating Glass Balls, The Bond Street Blues Band, The Swingcats, Acoustica World Music and Ma'Barley.

Together they bring their love of bluegrass, country, jazz, blues and reggae to form a great evening of Western swing and '20s- to '40s-era swing music.

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