

Oyster Crackers make music, feed the hungry

Feb. 9 concert will benefit peninsula food bank

By **PATRICK WEBB**
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Bette Lu Krause has a perfect answer when asked about why she loves making music.

“I think singing in harmony is the highest human endeavor,” she said.

It’s a view shared by all three members of the Oyster Crackers, a group formed more than a year ago combining the talents of Krause, Christl Mack and Rita Smith.

“I agree,” said Mack, who emigrated to the U.S. from Germany in 1978. “Singing in harmony

with others is personally one of the highlights of my life.”

The group will perform in concert 2 p.m. Feb. 9 at the River City Playhouse in Ilwaco, Wash. The event will benefit the Ocean Park, Wash., Food Bank. Admission is by cash donation; the performers hope people will also bring nonperishable food items to donate.

Smith spends a lot of her time in the playhouse, a former American Legion Hall that is the home-base theater for Peninsula Players, one of the Long Beach area’s two year-round theater troupes.

As a director and performer, the stage is familiar territory; Krause

has appeared in a couple of the group’s musicals there, too.

Smith scheduled the benefit concert to take place before jumping into directing the troupe’s latest musical, “HMS Pinafore,” which opens at the end of March.

The trio are all vocalists who have performed with the Bayside Singers choral group on the Long Beach Peninsula.

They discovered they shared a common delight in Rory Block’s “Heather’s Song” — about the wish for young to repay the care they have received from their now elderly kinfolk. They especially enjoy the interpretation by the Misty River Band, a country/bluegrass women’s group from Oregon, which includes a mother and daughter in its quartet.

They also draw on inspiration from the Wailin’ Jennys, a Canada-based women’s trio.

“When Christl and Bette asked me to join them, I don’t think we ever thought we would come as far as we have come, where now people ask us to perform,” Smith said.

Since they united, they have performed at a house concert hosted by North Peninsula writer Sydney Stevens and at the Peninsula Performing Arts Center. Their 2019 schedule includes a fall appearance for Stevens, as well as the Empty Bowls community fundraiser in April and a session during the summer vespers series at the historic Oysterville Church.

The performance Feb. 9 will

feature two musical sets, with an opportunity for the audience to enjoy coffee and dessert at intermission.

Bluegrass, blues, Celtic and other styles will be featured. A large portion of the repertoire will be a capella, with the remainder accompanied by guitars, violin, mandolin, harmonica and even a penny whistle.

Smith and fellow musicians hope those attending have as much fun as they do. “Even when we are together in the car, we will start singing some of our songs,” she said.

Mack echoed the sentiment.

“We enjoy each other’s company, and we have such fun,” she said. “We end a lot of our songs simply laughing.” **CW**

Treasure the Beach Cleanup is a real pick-me-up

SEASIDE — The first Saturday of every month, rain or shine, there is an organized beach cleanup between 9-11 a.m. with the Seaside Aquarium, city of Seaside, Seaside Downtown Development Association, Inn at Seashore and Solve.

Sign in for the Treasure the Beach Cleanup in at The Seashore Inn on the Beach, 60 N. Prom. Get

your bag, and when done, drop it by trash receptacle along the Prom.

This will be 14th year of Treasure the Beach. Did you know a single cigarette butt can take up to years to decompose? Or that it takes 450 years for a plastic bottle to decompose?

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-

tion, once in the water, plastic never fully biodegrades but breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces eventually being dubbed a “microplastic.”

How can you help?

Reduce, reuse, and recycle. By cleaning the beach you are helping to remove trash before it enters or re-enters the ocean saving countless lives in the marine environment.

Au Naturel: ‘The Nude in the 21st Century’

ASTORIA — The 13th annual international juried exhibit Au Naturel: The Nude in the 21st Century will be on display through March 14 at Clatsop Community College’s Royal Nebeker Art Gallery, 1799 Lexington Ave.

A community reception is at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, and this year’s juror will be present to give a brief gallery talk.

Awards to be announced at the reception include cash prizes, purchase awards, a special exhibit award to be held during the 2019 — 2020 exhibition season, and a select number of workshop awards. This reception is free and open to the public.

A special post-reception gathering will be held at the Inferno Lounge, located at 77 11th Street immediately following the reception. Gallery hours are from 9 a.m. — 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturdays from 11 a.m. — 4 p.m. The gallery is open on Sundays and holidays by appointment only.



Submitted photo
“The Photographer” by Henk Pander
of Portland.

Gallery visitors are invited to cast their vote for their favorite piece in the show during the exhibit. The ballots will be tallied at the close of the exhibition and the winner of the “People’s Choice Award” will be announced.

This year, more than 400 images were submitted for consideration by artists from 24 states plus the District of Columbia, as well as international submissions from Canada, France, Italy, and Taiwan.

The 2019 exhibit will include 43 works of art by 32 artists from 11 states plus Canada.

Ashley Stull Meyers, a writer, editor, and curator, was the juror for this exhibit. She has curated

exhibitions and public programming for a diverse set of arts institutions along the West Coast. She will give a talk at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8 in the gallery.

For more information about all artists, visit the Au Naturel website at www.aunaturelart.com and navigate to the 2019 Au Naturel online gallery.

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