

Continued from Page 8

Riverwalk. Participants are encouraged to bring an instrument to play as the trolley travels the riverfront. At noon, Bridgewater Bistro will host a luncheon accompanied by live music. Finally, both nights of the event will close with a 7 p.m. concert, followed by a late night jam at Astoria Riverwalk Inn.

Workshops, featuring topics like tuning, timing and alternative chords, among others, will be led by seasoned musicians throughout each morning and afternoon. Musicians who will lead workshops and play at the gathering include Myshkin Warbler, Jean Mann, Tyler Jackson, Matt Weiner, John Lawlor and Alison Helzer.

Each night's performance will feature a different set of musicians, according to Tenor Guitar Foundation board member Mary Ann Ylipelto. "If you want to hear everybody, you've got to come both nights," she said.

The gathering's primary focus is on the tenor guitar, though other stringed instruments, such as banjos and ukuleles, are welcome at the jam. Additionally, some workshops will focus specifically on the ukulele and harmonica, along with other topics in songwriting and improvisation. "We've got these amazing people who are so talented, you just can't believe it," Ylipelto said.

This unique North Coast gathering is the work of Mark Josephs, founder of both the Tenor Guitar Foundation and the event. The first Tenor Guitar Gathering, small and spread between various venues, was held in 2009. Organizers later moved the festival to the performing arts center in 2019, aiming to hold most activities and programs in a single location.

Josephs passed away in 2016, but his sister Donna continues to serve as a board member. Ylipelto, who joined the board in



LEFT: Jean Mann plays along as she rides the Astoria Riverfront Trolley. RIGHT: Bassist Matt Weiner will offer a workshop on playing the double bass at this year's Tenor Guitar Gathering. BELOW: Musician John Lawlor will host a workshop focused on simple alternative chords.

2019, was a longtime attendee. Originally, it was the jam sessions that drew her in. "I enjoy that kind of camaraderie more than anything on Earth," she said. "I'd rather sit and sing and play with people than anything else I can think of."

The sessions are an open space, with no formalities or featured musicians to be seen. Everyone is welcome to call out a tune and participate. Even when professional guitarists join the jams in between their workshops, they are happy to play along with the group.

Ylipelto believes that sense of musical collaboration makes these true jam sessions. "To me," she said, singing, playing



and making music "is the bringing together of the best of the best qualities of the human spirit."

Like the jam sessions, the event's trolley ride welcomes all to join in.

"If you play ukulele or banjo or whatever,

Tenor Guitar Gathering

Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts, 588 16th St., Astoria

Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

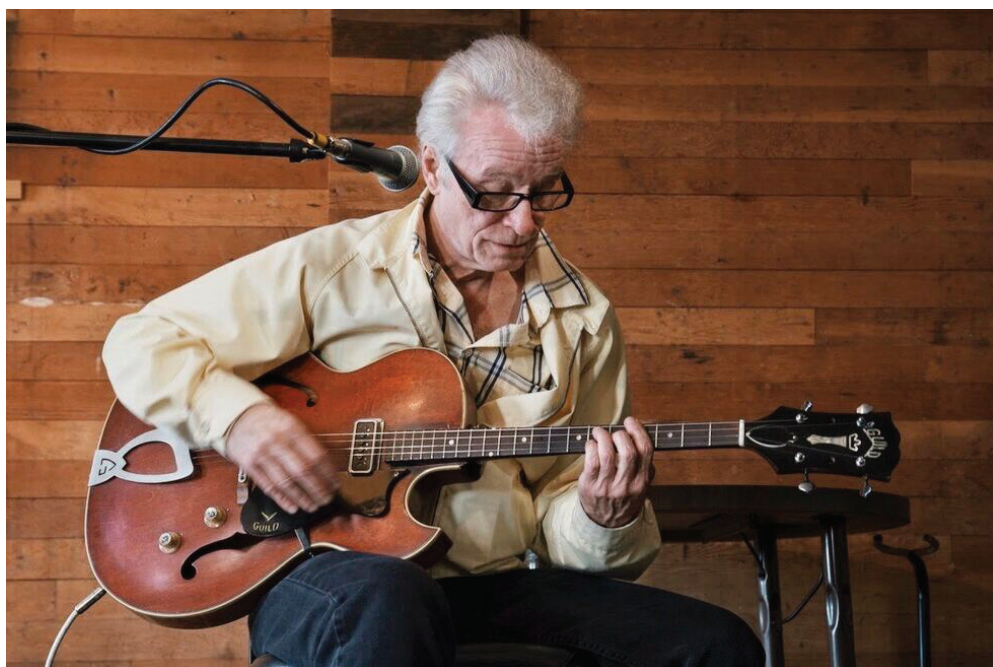
Jam sessions are free and open to the public. Admission for each workshop and/or concert is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Tickets for the Bridgewater Bistro luncheon are \$30 each.

www.tenorguitargathering.info

'I ENJOY THAT KIND OF CAMARADERIE MORE THAN ANYTHING ON EARTH. I'D RATHER SIT AND SING AND PLAY WITH PEOPLE THAN ANYTHING ELSE I CAN THINK OF.'

Mary Ann Ylipelto, Tenor Guitar Foundation board member

you should come and jam with us," Ylipelto said, excited to drum up local participation. "I want to see everybody singing and everybody playing because music is about the last thing we've got that's going to keep us sane in this world."



ORIGINAL FINE ART

on the waterfront • port of ilwaco, wa
marie-powell.com • 360-244-0800


marie
POWELL
GALLERY