

Little Dickens miniature show announces juror

Backstreet Gallery is honored to announce Mary Colgan-Bennetts as the juror for the Little Dickens juried miniature show held annually in December.

Artists from the community are invited to create their small works in 2D and 3D that will be submitted this month.

A long-time resident of Florence, Colgan-Bennetts is also a strong advocate of the arts. She has worked at the Siuslaw Library since 1997 as the Circulation Manager. She outlined the library's involvement in the art community as a presenter at the 2015 Oregon Library Association conference.

Colgan-Bennetts has conceived of and implemented such programs as demArts that took place last month.

She is also the liaison to the Art Committee. Each month a different display of community art lining the lobby walls of



COURTESY PHOTO

Florence artist Mary Colgan-Bennetts will judge the annual Little Dickens miniature show at Backstreet Gallery.

the library.

November is "Hang It All," the show that hangs behind her in the photograph. She has assisted in over 200 art hangings.

Colgan-Bennetts says as far back as early childhood, when she lay on the grass with her mother watching the clouds drift overhead, she has been interested in the design

aspect of nature. She went on to win her first art award at age seven. Some of her early crafting began with her grandmother who created "upside down dolls" and assemblages before they became popular.

She studied watercolor under the tutelage of Ruth Armitage in Portland. She went on to become a photographer, watercolorist, paper artist and digital artist.

She has also worked in pottery, display and collage.

After retirement she plans to explore new media.

If interested in submitting a piece for the Little Dickens miniature show, applications are available online at www.backstreetgallery.org or at Backstreet Gallery, 1421 Bay St., open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The deadline is Nov. 24.

The winners will be awarded a show at the gallery in April, 2016.

Nichols art featured at Old Town Coffee

November features award-winning artist Karen Nichols at Old Town Coffee and Gallery, 125 1/2 Bay St.

This exhibit focuses on her unique torn-paper three-dimensional works.

Nichols has been drawing or painting since her paper doll days. She enjoys a variety of media, including watercolor, oils, acrylic, pen and ink, graphite and writing.

Oils and her signature paper painting collage are her favorite arts.

Also a novelist, she just finished her fourth novel, "Triumph Over Fear."

She is a member of the watercolor Society of Oregon,



COURTESY PHOTO

Karen Nichols' art is featured at Old Town Coffee and Gallery this month.

a Backstreet Gallery artist and was a FRAA (Florence Regional Arts Alliance) board member.

Festival of Trees, Santa at Events Center Nov. 28

Get in the holiday spirit during the Florence Festival of Trees on Saturday, Nov. 28.

The event will begin from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Florence Events Center.

The trees will be on display for everyone's viewing pleasure. A new addition this year are holiday wreaths.

Come enjoy the festive atmosphere, purchase a Holiday wreath and visit

Santa. Trees will be sold Sunday, Nov. 29, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the Gala of Giving, a semi-formal ticketed event.

Tickets available at TR Hunter or State Farm Insurance. Seating is limited.

All wreaths and trees have been decorated and donated by local businesses, groups or families, with all proceeds going to support the Oregon Coast Military Museum.

Empty Bowls celebrates 20 years of helping hungry

Buy an empty, handmade ceramic bowl created by an local artists and, in the process, help someone who may otherwise go hungry for the holidays.

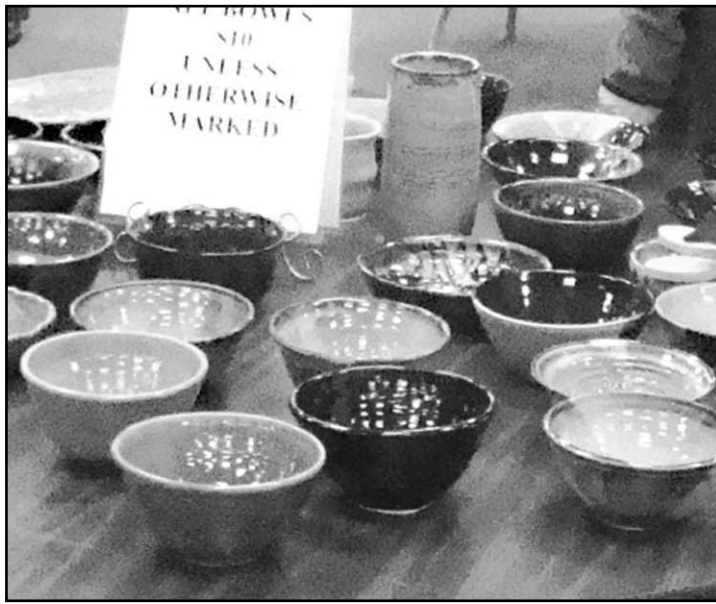
That's been the idea behind the Empty Bowls event, now celebrating its 20th year.

This year's event hopes to offer more than 700 handmade ceramic bowls to the public created by many local artists with the purchase price of \$10 each, with smaller bowls available at \$5 each.

Each bowl will be accompanied by a coupon redeemable for one cup of the "soup of the day" at a participating restaurant during the month of December.

Along with local Florence artists from throughout the area, more than 75 Siuslaw High School students will be involved in the production of handmade ceramic bowls.

Through the Empty Bowls



COURTESY PHOTO

More than 700 handmade bowls will be available for purchase over the course of this year's three-day Empty Bowls event, which raises money to help feed the community's hungry.

event, ceramics students are not only learning how to create handcrafted ceramic bowls, they are also learning how to

give back to their community in a unique way.

This project has helped raise their awareness of the needs of

others and how all might assist in meeting those needs.

A silent auction is also available for attendants to participate in.

The 20th Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser will be held Friday, Dec. 4, through Sunday, Dec. 6, with all proceeds to benefit Florence Food Share.

Admission is free.

For the second year, the Siuslaw High School Culinary Class will join forces with Empty Bowls, with culinary students providing refreshments for the Artists Reception and the Empty Bowls Fundraiser.

Under the direction of instructor Kyle Lewis, students will be creating delicious snacks for Empty Bowls attendees.

So come purchase a one-of-a-kind piece of art that is beautiful to look at, functional and will help the needy.

Community Chorus concert to include special guests

The Community Chorus of Florence Oregon will host a number of special guest appearances at its Sunday, Dec. 13, Christmas Concert.

Between sections of the Appalachian Winter cantata, the choir and special guests will entertain with familiar Christmas songs.

Coming from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Eugene, the Intrada Bell Choir directed by Donna Snyder will present two selections. This six-person bell choir will play "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "I Saw Three

Ships."

Florence's own jazz combo, the Flotones, will perform several selections, including chorus favorite, "Snowfall."

Elise Arnold will direct the Siuslaw Children's Choir composed of local third- to sixth-grade children. They will perform several folk and Christmas songs.

There will also be a group of six instrumentalists providing accompaniment for the concert. The band will include Nancy Ash (violin), Chris Campbell (cello), Linda Yoder (mandolin), Greg Wood (guitar),

Barbara Bublari (flute) and Johanna Bonisteel (piano).

Co-directors for the concert are Dr. Paul Guthmuller and Elise Arnold.

Crystal Farnsworth will be narrator and Johanna Bonisteel will provide piano accompaniment.

The concert will take place on Dec. 13 at the Florence Event Center at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available now. Cost is \$10 for adults; children can attend free.

Call 541-997-1994 for tickets and more information, or visit the Community Chorus

online at www.communitychorusflorenceor.org.

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