

# FRAA to offer ongoing 'Writers on the River' workshops

FLORENCE — Get ready for another year of exciting literary events at the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) with "Writers on the River."

The monthly creative writing program will feature inspiring workshops for writers of all levels and genres Jan. 16, Feb. 20 and March 19, at the FRAA Art Center, 120 Maple St. in Old Town.

The fun begins on Saturday, Jan. 16, from 10 a.m. to noon, with the "2016 Writing Boot Camp." An experiential immersion into the craft and discipline of

creative writing, the workshop will help writers: Define their writing goals and projects for the New Year; remove the wall blocking the writer within; invigorate their prose with tools to fuel their creativity; get back in the flow and stay there; Turbocharge their words with simple revision tips

Workshops fill up quickly, so pre-registration is suggested. Cost is \$20 for FRAA members or \$25 for nonmembers, payable at the door.

Writers on the River also provides an

ongoing group open to all writers seeking the time, space and support for their writing.

Register by calling 541-708-2120 or email [CJReditor@gmail.com](mailto:CJReditor@gmail.com).

Classes will be taught by award-winning writer, editor, journalist and columnist Catherine J. Rourke, who brings more than 30 years' staff experience at daily newspapers, national magazines and major publishers.

Educated at the City University of New York, Oxford University and the Walter

Cronkite School of Journalism, she has served as a contractual book editor and jacket cover copywriter for Amazon and Random House, in both print and digital formats.

The former New Yorker now resides in Florence where she is writing a memoir about her adventures as an investigative reporter titled "And Forgive Us Our Press Passes."

For more information about FRAA, call 541-999-0859 or visit [www.fraaoregon.org](http://www.fraaoregon.org).

## Music

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Edwards scored a massive Top 5 hit with the catchy and defiant protest song "Sunshine (Go Away Today)" in 1971.

Ten additional local, regional, and nationally-known artists, five each day, will fill the stage with a series of concerts beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

These include Crow and the Canyon, Cabin Fever NW, John Craigie, Ian McFeron, True North, Bob Haworth, and the popular contemporary folk music duo Pretty Gritty. Siuslaw High School graduate Billy Jones, an up-and-coming singer; and singer/songwriter Molly Hardin, round-out the line-up.

The Friday (8:30 to 11:30 p.m.) and Saturday (9 p.m. to midnight) no-host public jam sessions at Pier Point Inn return this year too.

### Festival 'transports' students through centuries of immigration

For the 14th year in a row, the Friends of the Florence Events Center's Winter Music Festival Kids' Concert turns the FEC's auditorium into a good old-fashioned, raise-the-roof, kid-friendly hootenanny.

Florence mayor Joe Henry will serve as host and emcee to nearly 900 school children on Thursday, Jan. 14.

As part of the annual two-day, 12-band extravaganza that is the Florence Winter Music Festival, students in first through fifth grade from Florence, Mapleton and Reedsport will be transported back in by time the performances of The Trail Band, an Oregon-based eight-piece ensemble that features songs from the various ethnic and cultural groups who have settled over the centuries in what is now Oregon.

"I first heard The Trail Band in 2000 during a concert at the FEC and thought, 'We've got to get our local school kids in to hear this, and give them a top-quality educational concert in a real theater,'" says Pearson.

The two performances, each for more than 450 kids, are by invitation only to students, teachers, and their official chaperones.

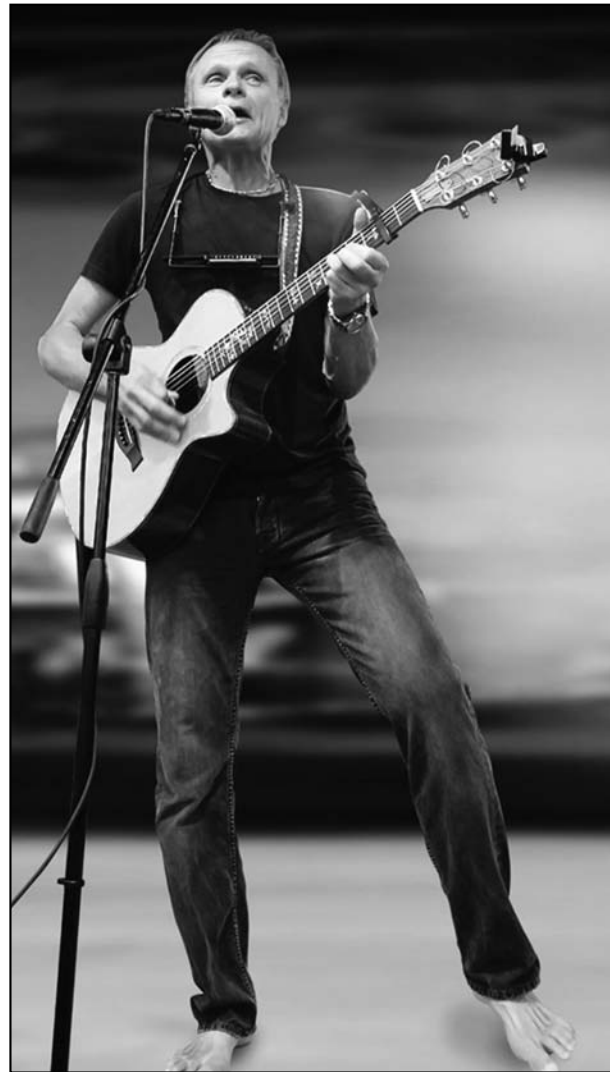
Pearson said the concerts provide a chance for each child to feel special and valued for their participation and effort while belonging to a larger, significant, school-wide event.

"These students are not only hearing lively tunes, they are happily absorbing history, folklore, rhythms, and ideas from cultures all over the world," says Pearson. "All the singing, clapping, and laughing to traditional folk songs serve to enrich learning.

Combined with songs from other countries and watching examples of native Umatilla and Yakima tribes' ceremonial dress and dance, students get an integrated cultural and art experience they wouldn't otherwise receive. It has a contagious, exponential effect on learning."

Pearson said the cooperation of the teachers is what transports the Kids Concerts beyond a simple music experience.

"Teachers prepare students for the concert by investing classroom time in reading song lyrics, map study, research on peoples and populations, doing related art projects, and more," explains Pearson. "Every teacher receives a CD of The Trail Band's music for classroom use. For example, Deb



COURTESY PHOTO

**Jonathan Edwards is a singer-songwriter in a league with James Taylor, Carole King and Jim Croce, and delivers songs of passion, insight and humor.**

Dietrich, Siuslaw Elementary's music teacher, incorporates the music into her classroom curriculum; and Lynn Anderson's Siuslaw Indian Education students will perform the Intertribal Happy Dance on stage with The Trail Band."

In addition, the Friends of the FEC pays for a music teacher to travel to Mapleton to teach the music in a formal setting. In the integrated process, every student has a chance to create a piece of art which will then decorate the auditorium walls.

A full weekend pass is \$45 and includes Saturday and Sunday day passes for all concerts, and admission to the Jonathan Edwards and Shook Twins concert.

Individual passes for Saturday's or Sunday's daytime concerts that begin at 11 a.m. are \$12.50 for each day.

Individual tickets for the Shook Twins and Jonathan Edwards concert are \$28.

More information, including concert schedules, artist profiles, and ticket prices for the Winter Music Festival, are available through [WinterMusicFestival.org](http://WinterMusicFestival.org).

Event sponsors and underwriters include: Nan Osbon, Art and Jean Koning (Terrace Homes), Grocery Outlet, The River House Inn and The Old Town Inn, Driftwood Shores, Pier Point Inn, Waterfront Depot, the City of Florence, SEacoast Entertainment Association board members, the Oregon Community Foundation, the Mapleton Community Foundation, the Kiwanis Club of Florence, Ladies of the Elks, Trillium Community Health Plan,

Coast Radio KCST/KCFM, the Siuslaw News, Oregon Coast Magazine, Eugene radio stations KLCC and KRVM, Maire Testa, Frank and Florence Williams, and in memory of Art and Ann Rule.

Also, special thanks go to the Siuslaw, Mapleton and Reedsport schools.