

Experience 'Love Gone Bad' at FRAA's poetry, song fest

FLORENCE — Original songs or spoken word poetry will be the focus of the "Love Gone Bad, You Done Me Wrong" Poetry and Song Fest, taking place on Saturday, Feb. 20, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) Art Center, 120 Maple St.

Prizes will be offered for first, second and third place as determined by the audience, and a special recognition prize for "most pathetic, saddest loser in love" will be decided by three judges.

A 60-minute massage by Katie Brauns, gift certificate to Spice Restaurant and other prizes have been donated by local businesses. Tickets can be purchased at the FRAA Art Center for \$10 and any ticket holder can sign up to perform an original song or poem. Refreshments including "whine in a glass," "cookie crumbs," and leftovers from Valentine's Day will be served.

Sally Wantz, the hostess for the event, promises to be irreverent, sarcastic and

funny. Sympathy and hugs will be offered to the heart-broken.

Bettie Egerton, chairperson for this event, says, "If you are happily in love, it would be best if you didn't show up, but if your heart has been stomped on and broken into a thousand little pieces, we would love to have you join us in this fun-filled event. We will have Kleenex!"

Sponsors for this event include: Old Town Inn, Riverhouse Inn, NW Inspection Services and Organic Pest Control. All profits from this event support "Give Youth a Voice," teaching teens to tell their story and express their emotions through spoken word poetry.

The two leaders of the teen program, Noah Schultz and Stephen Fowler, will perform some of their spoken word poetry and give a brief presentation on how poetry transformed their lives.

For more information, go to www.fraaoregon.org, or call Bettie at 503-910-3625.

Fisher's Flowers announces new art show 'Elements'

ROSEBURG — Fisher's Flowers and Fine Art has announced its upcoming art show "Elements: Ocean + Valley," which brings together the work of four artists — two from the Umpqua Valley area and two from the southern Oregon coast — now through March.

Holly Wilson Werner from Roseburg and Jon Leach from Winston join Pat Snyder from Coos Bay and Susan Lehman from Bandon. All four artists work primarily with abstract imagery somewhat based upon elements found in nature — both here on the coast and inland, rural as well as urban.

Werner, former owner of Fishers Flowers and Fine Art in Roseburg, bases most of her pastel and acrylic paintings upon floral elements. Leach, originally from Seattle, has been primarily an abstract painter most of his art career.

Leach shows his non-objective art work both nationally and throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Both Werner and Leach exhibited their collaborative work at the Coos Art Museum this past year.

Snyder, known throughout this area for his art as well as for teaching, has shown his landscape-based acrylics, collages, prints, and oils at the Coos Art Museum, Lane Community College and at Second Street Gallery in Bandon.

Lehman, originally from California, also shows her abstract acrylic collages and seascapes locally through the Second Street Gallery in Bandon as well as the Mindpower Gallery in Reedsport.

Fisher's Flowers and Fine Art is at 638 West Harrison St. in Roseburg.

Call 541-672-6621 for more information.

CROW

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lots of old-fashioned hard work from the CROW parents, volunteers and production team. We are so incredibly grateful to everyone who has helped us get to this point. But we still have miles to go before we sleep," Heard added.

In Spring of 2015, CROW temporarily secured its new home through the help of an infusion of immediate funds from an anonymous investor. The hitch? The funds must be repaid in full with a period of one year to 18 months.

CROW still has to raise nearly \$220,000 to repay the investor, plus additional funds to finish renovations so that they are able to open their doors to area youth.

In addition to concentrated fundraising efforts, CROW has been actively pursuing large grants from major foundations throughout the United States.

"We have hired an incredible grant writer to help with our efforts, and are truly blessed by this individual's talent and propensity for writing eloquent grants," says Heard.

But there's still another hitch. Many of the large foundations prefer to see community "matching funds," before they will commit to providing the kind of capital that CROW desperately needs.

"Simply put, the foundations must be shown that this project is vital, sustainable and that the community embraces it," said Heard.

CROW has big plans for the new facility, which will house ongoing classes in dance, voice, theater and scenic artistry, as well as protect the organization's sets, costumes and props. With the addition of its own space, CROW plans to continue its ongoing community outreach in even more ways, through more involvement in local schools, more scholarships for summer camps, a senior living center mentorship program, and "anti-bullying" and "literacy building" theatrical programs targeting students of various grade levels.

Last year's "Share Your Heart" was sold out well in advance, so it is best to reserve tickets early. Single tickets are \$40 for adults and \$25 for youth (ages 12 and under). A full table of eight can also be purchased for \$300 and CROW encourages local businesses to sponsor a table and bring some friends and colleagues. Tickets include wine (adults only) and hot hors d'oeuvres.

Doors will open at 6 pm, and the event begins at 6:30 p.m. To reserve seats, call the FEC at 541-997-1994, or visit www.eventcenter.org. For more information about CROW, go to crowkids.com or contact Melanie Heard at 541-999-8641.

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