Banners for Main Street, Sunol

By Lynn Kozma

Welcome to the Sunol Art Gallery! Well, it’s not an official art gallery but Tom Harland was inspired to curate local artists’ paintings on the lamp posts along Main Street in Sunol. For the first show, he coordinated with the art teacher at Sunol Glen School and held a competition for the painted canvas banners. For the second show, Tom contacted the Niles Canyon Artisans with the idea to create a “unifying style by emulating the impressionist style” in each banner for the project. Kate Graham, one of the artists who participated in this project, suggested a theme of local wildlife. Tom thought the wildlife theme was “interesting because it allowed the artist to think of subject matter they might not have otherwise considered”.

Contributing artists for this show were Kathy Zunino (fox painting), Connie DeGrange (Gauguin inspired farm scene), Stephen Barklarie (train through the hills) and Simone Archer (Degas inspired dressing woman). Sharon Stanton painted the Van Gogh inspired painting. When asked about her selection of subject matter, she said, “I chose to do a copy of his Starry Night painting because it’s one of the most recognizable and most copied of Van Gogh’s works. Van Gogh also did a painting called Crows over a Wheat Field. By adding the crows into the starry night painting; I paid tribute to two of Van Gogh’s work and also included local wildlife.” Lynn Kozma painted the banner of hummingbirds. According to Lynn, “I chose a hummingbird feeding her chick. I have always enjoyed the aerial acrobatics of the hummingbirds in my yard and this image reminded me of the Mary Cassatt painting “Louise feeding her child”. Tom Harland selected the kingfisher as his subject, inspired by the birds that nested in the creek near his home. And Kate Graham selected the Steelhead Trout as her

SAGE 1st Annual Harvest Festival

By Lynn Kozma

Here in California’s wine country, when someone says “Harvest Festival” the first thing that comes to mind is grape harvesting. SAGE (Sustainable Agriculture Education) brought the term back to its “roots” with the First Annual Ag Park Harvest Festival held on their fields adjacent to the Willis Polk Water Temple in Sunol on October 6th. The event featured tours of the various farms on the premises as well as a number of good old fashioned family fun! The event also included children’s activities such as an opportunity to meet chickens, make corn husk dolls, and face painting. And what autumn agricultural festival would be complete without a pick-your-own pumpkin? Niles Canyon Artisans participated with a triple canopy booth as well as a booth dedicated to Kathleen Elliott’s organic olive oil. As always, the artisans showed very well with displays that highlighted the works of about a dozen members. Visitors could view and

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Reflections on Summer Shows

By Conover Smith

The summer months for the Niles Canyon Artisans were a flurry of shows and gatherings. As a group we’ve explored several of the opportunities to participate as a group, and as individuals. The shows at the Pacific Locomotive Association train runs helped us to layout and share display spaces, and gave us a chance to test the waters of their events. Bev Patterson, one of the organizers of the train shows, said these outdoor gallery events were wonderful “It was great to see how receptive people were to the art.”

One local Sunolian, Dirk Christiansen, who owns the Studio Seven art gallery in Pleasanton has put together a very nice art show on the first Wednesday street faire evenings. Our members displayed at several of these shows, and because it is only a 3 hour show, have had moderate to light success selling, and most agreed that it is a valuable addition to our schedule. We displayed as many as seven artisans’ works, in a 10’ x 20’ space, and the half hour set up and take down honed our skills at getting in and out in a hurry; always a good thing. These larger events in which the artisans shared space and showed as a group brought up the whole notion of community, and the value it represents. I personally have made more friends this summer than in any three month time in my life. We’ve worked together, helped each other and created some really nice displays.

I think the Artisans are playing an important part in developing that sense of community, a process that only can occur when folks get involved.

CHAT ROOM: Simone Archer

An artist never knows when their creativity will resonate with others. In the spring of 2004, Simone was commissioned to illustrate a list of 100 things special to Livermore in a design for the “Wine Country Wall”. After the art commission approved her panoramic illustration, the fabrication process began. Small areas of the total design were painstakingly replicated in handmade ceramic tiles they were completed and pieced together like a puzzle; each tile a unique shape. This experience inspired Simone to design and fabricate new handmade tile murals which are now in private homes, majestically hanging above fireplaces, in kitchens,
Harvest Festival

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purchase handmade glass, jewelry, paintings, photography, ceramics, and textiles. In addition to the artisans, a number of community groups were represented with information booths. These included San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), Sunol Repertory Theatre, Little Brown Church of Sunol, and Sunol CERT. East Bay Regional Parks District also brought their portable museum van with a 19-year old gopher snake that people could handle (with care) as well as several animal skins of local wildlife. Food and drinks were also available in the form of tastings provided by New Leaf Market and Whole Foods Market as well as a fabulously delicious Mexican food truck. Fenestra Winery was on hand pouring a tasting of some of their new releases. SFPUC kindly provided chilled water for free to the public. The event was attended by approximately 1000 visitors. Its inaugural success ensures that this will truly be the first festival of many years to come!

Banners

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subject. According to Kate, “I selected the steelhead trout because they once flourished in the Sunol creeks and are hopefully returning to this beautiful landscape, I thought this would be a nice subject. Claude Monet was the inspiration for painting my banner. He was known as the” father of Impressionism.” He loved to paint water scenes. He used “dabbing” brushstrokes and he painted reflections on the water.” What’s next? According to Tom, “I think of the street light polls along Main Street as a gallery and have been happy to curate the 1st two shows of artwork but am looking for a couple of people to help curate this project moving forward. Any takers? An idea for the next gallery showing. I would like to talk to the art department at Foothill High School to see if they may be interested in a competition similar to the one held at Sunol Glen for the first show. If they are interested, I’d like to work with them over the winter and hang the new works in the early spring.” “One aspect that was so much fun about the banner project is that it was like participating in a Flashmob! Early on Sunday morning we gathered with the completed banners and a ladder and a hung them before most residents awoke”, added artist Connie DeGrange.

This project also prompted several of the participating artists to consider other possible public art projects. Ideas included a fiber art project, a mural project, a project that incorporates historical references to add an additional layer of depth to the art are being considered, and even a (plywood) cow decorating contest. Stay tuned and keep your eyes open for possible future public art displays in and around Sunol!

CHAT

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and gardens. Themes vary from local scenes to images from her European travels.

Simone standing in front of the center section of the “Wine Country Wall”. Located on J Street in downtown Livermore, her mural was completed in 2006 and stands 11 feet tall and 45 feet wide.

“I’m looking for a couple of people to help curate.”

Banners by Tom Harland, Connie DeGrange, and Sharon Stanton.

“An artist never knows when their creativity will resonate with others.”
In the summer of 2012, artists of Sunol and Niles formed the Niles Canyon Artisans, an association of artists from the greater Niles Canyon area. The goals of the Niles Canyon Artisans are to promote and develop local arts and crafts, to encourage greater communication and collaboration among local artisans, and to provide opportunities for the community to enjoy local arts and crafts through shows and studio tours.

The membership of Niles Canyon Artisans includes artists from Sunol and Niles and surrounding communities. All of the arts and crafts are produced by hand by the member artist.

Calendar of Events

**October**

Oct 25 Halloween Party

**December**

Dec 7-8 Holiday in the Vinyards

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Olive Oil

Seeking a unique experience?
Join the festivities at Hillcrest Ranch Sunol
Fall Crafts Fair as well!

Open House Events on Saturdays

September 28

Events run from approximately 10:30 am - 2:30 pm and feature the following activities

January - October

- Pressing olive branches, Small Mill Demonstration
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil Tasting & Complimentary Baked Good
- Self-guided Tour of Harvest, Orchard, Sensory Food Trail
- Lunch for guests or bring picnic lunch

December 8, 9, 10, December 14, 15, 16, 17

During the harvest season, both olive picking and olive pressing are additional activities.