



## *Wayang and the Shadowmaster*

# Film Festival to Showcase Exotic Shadow Puppet Theater

By Chris Calder

An art form that blends ancient Hindu texts and satire worthy of Jon Stewart. A mingling of the barest materials – light, shadow, wood, paper – with the most daring cinematic techniques. This is wayang, as shadowmaster Larry Reed will perform it during the 3rd Annual Mendocino Film Festival in May.

Puppets, made to come alive as shadows, are the players in wayang. But at the center of the performance is the dalang, or shadowmaster, a figure who pushes our concept of art in potent and unfamiliar directions.

“In Indonesian culture,” says wayang expert Sean Smith, “the dalang is greatly respected in his community... The rods of at least 20 wayang figures are manipulated as the dalang chants or sings his narration. He is accompanied by an orchestra of four metal-keyed instruments that sound like fairies (the gamelan orchestra). The dalang cues the orchestra with his feet while he improvises a complex network of intrigues from a simple plot. He must be able to produce a different voice for each character as well as to physically endure an all-evening performance. He is a master storyteller, a philosopher, a poet, an actor, and a teacher. It is said that the dalang is the greatest educator of the people.”

Over the past thirty-five years, wayang master Larry Reed has made an international reputation by blending his art with storytelling traditions from around the world. While avant-garde, wayang is community oriented and particularly fun for kids. Shadowlight’s Mendocino performance will add the attraction of a stage viewable back and front, so audience members can watch Reed at work.

“Seeing how other people think about things is a way of

experiencing your own humanity,” says Reed. “Our performances provide a bridge between one ancient culture and another.”

While the art form is exotic and ancient, it evokes the experience of modern cinema. In a teaching manual Reed co-authored, he describes his experience of wayang as “the original screenplay, thousands of years old.”

In the spirit of honoring the arts in all its forms, the

Mendocino Film Festival is proud to offer this special presentation. A special exhibit of puppets will be featured at the Mendocino Art Center during the month of May. The event is funded by a grant from the Community Foundation of Mendocino County Arts for Our Future Program.

The Mendocino Film Festival also presents a special category of “Films on the Arts” that brings to the festival the life and work of outstanding artists, dancers and musicians. The Festival’s presenting sponsors this year are Spiritual Cinema Circle and Earth Cinema Circle, specialized DVD membership clubs.

*For more information about the Mendocino Film Festival, May 29-June 1, 2008, please visit [www.mendocinofilmfestival.org](http://www.mendocinofilmfestival.org).*



# Black Bart in Mendocino County

by Bruce Levene

If you had met him in San Francisco between 1875 and 1883, Charles Boles would have claimed he was a mining man. He was, in fact, a failed gold miner, but as Black Bart he became the most prolific stagecoach robber in American history and a legend in California and the West. During his career Charles Boles held up 29 stagecoaches (20 more than any other highwayman), but twelve lines of poetry made him a chapter rather than a footnote in California history.

At the site of his 4th robbery, in Sonoma County in 1877, under a rock on a tree stump, this message was scribbled on a Wells Fargo waybill:

*I've labored long and hard for bread  
For honor and for riches  
But on my corns too long you've tread  
You fine haired Sons of Bitches*

Black Bart, the Po8

A year later, after his 5th robbery in Butte County, he left these lines inside a broken express box:

*here I lay me down to sleep  
to wait the coming morrow  
perhaps success perhaps defeat  
and everlasting sorrow.  
Let come what will, I'll try it on,  
My condition can't be worse,  
But if there's money in the box,  
It's munny in my purse.*

Black Bart the Po8

When Boles was captured in 1883 (the result of a tell-tale laundry mark—Fxo7—on a "dirty, torn white silk crepe handkerchief"—the first time this clue appears in detective literature), he wouldn't explain the poetry, but he did say that the alias was adopted from an 1871 proto-science-fiction thriller titled *The Case of Summerfield*, containing a character named Black Bart.

Charles Boles, alias C.E. Bolton, alias T.Z. Spalding, alias Black Bart the Po8, was 46 years old when he held up his first stagecoach near Copperopolis in Calaveras County in July, 1875. That netted him about \$250, just equal to the reward set for him after the robbery. Until his last holdup, again in

Calaveras, in November, 1883, he became the very model of the classic gentleman highwayman.

He was said to read the Bible and Shakespeare, did not swear, smoke, drink or 'take opium.' He never fired a shot in any of the robberies and it is doubtful that his double-barrelled shotgun was ever loaded. He never robbed passengers and tried not to frighten the ladies. He usually said "please" to the stage drivers.

Born in England, raised in New York state, Boles was a good student with perfect penmanship. He married, fathered three children, was a farmer, and perhaps a teacher. It was a quiet, ordinary life, until 1862 when he enlisted in the Union Army. Boles fought with distinction in 17 major Civil War battles, was wounded three times and advanced from private to First Sergeant. After the war he went west and his wife and children never saw him again.

Black Bart's field of operations ranged over 350 miles in ten counties in northern California and one in southern Oregon. To travel from San Francisco to the locations of the holdups involved patience beyond our comprehension. No bridges spanned San Francisco Bay or the Golden Gate. He would have crossed on ferries or ridden river boats to Stockton or Sacramento.

To rob a stage in Mendocino County, Bart would have boarded the San Francisco & North Pacific Railroad at Sausalito and traveled to the railroad's terminus at Cloverdale. Only stages went further north.

Inland the Central Pacific's tracks ended at Redding, in Shasta County. Bart committed eleven robberies north of Redding and traveled as far as Jacksonville, Oregon, a distance of 177 miles in a cramped, dusty California and Oregon Coast Overland Stage, for 34 hours with changes of horses at 17 stage stops!

The best stagecoaches, the 'Concords,' seated nine passengers inside, one person next to the driver and up to a dozen in 'dickey' seats (depending on the bulk of luggage and freight boxes) on the coach's top. Two boots in the front and rear stored passenger's luggage and leather mail sacks. Beneath the driver's seat was the locked express or 'treasure box,' containing ship-



ments of gold, gold dust, cash, and small valuables. Stages were pulled by four or six horses and the teams changed every 10 or so miles.

Black Bart committed four robberies in Mendocino County. In his first venture to that rich timber and farming country, in October, 1878, he held up two stages in two days. He must have heard that October was sheep-shearing season, when Wells Fargo handled large amounts of cash to pay shearers and to buy wool.

The Cloverdale and Arcata stage had come south after stops at Cahto, Laytonville and Willits, and was about 10 miles from Ukiah. The coach plodded around a bend near Forsyth Creek where the road sharply curved, a location perfectly situated for a bandit's purpose. Approaching stages could not see the boulder until they were on top of it, but a man hidden behind the rock could survey the road for at least a mile in both directions.

Waiting for the stage Bart munched apples. Then he abandoned his unique touch of darting in front of the lead horse, instead shouted at driver Alec Fowler, who had slowed his team to a crawl coming around the sharp curve, to "Throw down the box."

Fowler knew he was caught. He couldn't get the horses up to speed soon enough to avoid being shot at, nor could he



shoot through the granite boulder. He dropped his own short-barreled shotgun, brought the stage to a halt, wound the lines around the brake lever, then lifted the weighty express box out from under his seat. Bart demanded the mail sack as well, yelled at Fowler, "Now drive like hell!" and Fowler complied. Sheep season or not, Bart netted only \$40 and a gold watch for his troubles.

Ace tracker Sheriff Jim Moore immediately investigated the case, followed Bart for 60 miles on horseback, but lost him in the rough country along the Eel River.

The rock near Forsyth Creek was blasted away, covered over, or pushed down into a canyon in the late 1940s when the State Highway Department straightened out curves on Highway 101. In 1955 a new section of highway was put through over Ridgewood Summit, passing by an even larger rock, now incorrectly called Black Bart Rock.

The highwayman possessed superior endurance in hiking cross-country over difficult terrain. By the following day he had eluded the posse and was 20 miles due east. The road

from Round Valley and Covelo to Ukiah, once a main thoroughfare in Mendocino County, connected the Indian settlement and cattle town with the county seat. Nat Waltrip drove his stage through Eden Valley and Hearst, then halted overnight at Scott's Valley House. Next morning the coach continued to Potter Valley. Near the junction with a wagon road that went east to Lake County, Bart struck again. He "had amused himself eating peaches, the pits of which were found at the tree from which he stepped behind."

James Hume, the Wells Fargo detective credited with Bart's final capture, had come up to Ukiah on the report of the first robbery; the next day he rode on horseback to the scene of the second. He tracked Bart east, following his trail over scrub-laden foothills to Colusa County, where the trail went cold. Bart had disappeared, hiking more than 70 miles in 48 hours.

In January, 1882, after a four-year hiatus from Mendocino County, Bart struck again. Harry Forse was driving his empty stage north from Cloverdale towards Hopland. Near the tollhouse a man stood in the road with his coat turned inside out. A white cloth drawn over his head showed only two holes for his eyes. The robber raised his rifle, demanding that Forse halt and step down from the stage. While Bart held the horses, Forse threw out the treasure boxes and mail sacks. Then Bart ordered the driver to "git" and he "got."

Forse whipped up his horses and gave the alarm at the tollhouse. Men armed with guns quickly went in pursuit. Messages were telegraphed to Ukiah, Hopland and Cloverdale and sheriff's posses left immediately. Searchers were on the spot within an hour. Bart had broken open the boxes, taken the coin and made off into the hills. The regular mail sacks of letters were later recovered. He had obtained \$300 from the Wells Fargo box. The posse followed Bart's tracks as far as Kelseyville, on Clear Lake, where the trail ended.

On an unseasonably cold June morning that same year Bart returned for his last Mendocino County adventure. The stage left Willitsville at 2:30 a.m. heading for Ukiah. Five miles south on the stage road driver Tom Forse (brother of Harry Forse) was halted by the familiar hooded figure. The only passenger was Hiram Willits, Willitsville's postmaster and former Mendocino County Supervisor. A posse recovered the broken express box and slit mail sacks, but couldn't find the robber's escape route. Bart made \$300 from his efforts.

Black Bart was finally captured in 1883 and sent to San Quentin. After his release from prison in 1888, he disappeared and was never seen nor heard from again. For more than a hundred years his disappearance and demise have been an unsolved historical mystery.

—This article was based on *Black Bart—The True Story of The West's Most Famous Stagecoach Robber* by William Collins & Bruce Levene © 1992.

# New Instructors At MAC This Spring And Summer

The education department coordinators at the Mendocino Art Center are ever vigilant for new instructors bringing a new slant, a new technique or process to their field. Each schedule of classes brings a fresh list of workshop topics and teachers. So break out of the “junior college syndrome” (the same classes always taught by the same instructors), and try something new at the Mendocino Art Center. Here is a sampling of new instructors coming to MAC during the next three months:

## CERAMICS

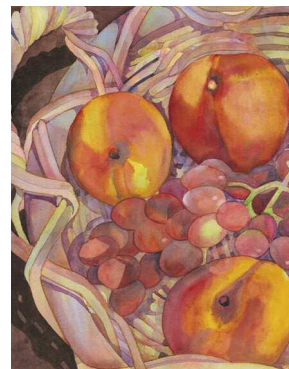
ERNESTO HERNANDEZ OLMOS – “Create Ceramic Instruments” (April 12 – 13). Ernesto is from Oaxaca, Mexico and was formally educated in the arts at the university in Oaxaca. He is a multi-faceted artist who works in many media, including painting, sculpture, music and dance. He contemporizes the traditional music forms from Oaxaca in addition to creating his own com-



positions, and makes musical instruments based on Meso-American designs, including flutes, drums and whistles fashioned from wood, clay, gourds, and bones. His music group Xagua performs for diverse groups across North America using reproductions of traditional instruments from Mesoamerican cultures. His art conveys cultural messages, and he is an inspired painter working in oil, acrylic and pastels.

## FINE ARTS

ANNE BROOKE – “Drawing: A Return to the Power of Seeing” (May 17 – 18) and “Watercolor Basics: Develop Your Own Style” (May 24 – 26). Anne Brooke has a degree in art and is a member of the Watercolor Society of Oregon. She is well-known for her drawing skill and vibrant use of color. She enjoys painting landscapes, still lifes and figures and has done many commissions, most of which also include her calligraphy. She uses a limited palette and works always from a secure drawing. [www.brookewatercolor.com](http://www.brookewatercolor.com)



DAN HELLER – “Photo Business Seminar” (June 26) and “Perfecting Travel Photography” (June 27 – 29). Dan Heller is a freelance photographer from Marin County. He started out like anybody else: taking pictures while on vacation. That led into his photography business: he shoots on assignment for companies in the travel industry, sells fine art prints, licenses stock photography to the commercial trade, and is an industry analyst and consultant for the stock photography trade. He has published several books on the business of photography. [www.danheller.com](http://www.danheller.com)

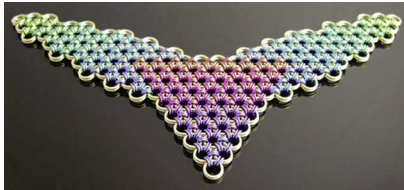


## JEWELRY

EDITH SOMMER – “Meet the Press” (April 4 – 6). Edith has been working in precious metals for over 40 years. She is largely self-taught but has studied with some very famous jewelers, including Bob Ebendorf, Ellen Broker, and Charles LaLoma. While precious metals and semi-precious stones are often incorporated into her work, they are secondary to the design of metal. She brings new dimensions to the uses of silver, gold, and copper, with unusual patterns and manipulations from ancient and modern technologies. She makes small boxes, unusual serving spoons and wearable art. Many of her designs are inspired by forms found in nature, and from ethnic patterns found on her many trips abroad. [www.galleryhouse2.com](http://www.galleryhouse2.com)



SPIDER – “Chainmail Jewelry” (May 16 – 18). Spider has always made things with her hands, starting at age 8 with a quilt. She got hooked on chainmail watching her mother work as a seamstress at a Renaissance Faire, but didn’t connect chainmail and jewelry until 1997. She was working as an engineer and computer geek when she first learned to make chainmail, and quickly realized that her passion lay not in technology, but art. Today she spends her time discovering new and beautiful ways to weave metal. [www.spiderchain.com](http://www.spiderchain.com)



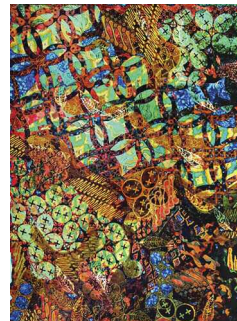
## SCULPTURE

CHRISTALENE LOREN – “Extreme Paper Mache” (April 18 – 20). Christalene sculpts in a variety of media, including cement, bronze, and paper mache. She developed her technique for extreme paper mache while designing and constructing sets and props for feature films and video productions. She is currently working on a series of monumental sculptures at the future Psi Keep Center for the Arts in Lake County. Her sculptures are all in a fantasy mode. Christalene is also teaching two summer sculpture workshops for the Art Center. [www.dragonmaker.com](http://www.dragonmaker.com)



## TEXTILES

AGUS ISMOYO and NIA FLIAM – “Batik – The Old and the New” (June 28 – July 2). ISNIA stands for the collaborative husband and wife team of Agus Ismoyo (Indonesian) and Nia Fliam (American). In 1985 they established the batik studio Brahma Tirta Sari in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, where they produce contemporary textiles. Ismoyo comes from a family whose ancestors produced batik for the royal court of Surakarta in Central Java. Fliam was born in the US, studied at the Pratt Institute in New York, then went to Indonesia in 1983 to study batik and has lived there ever since. In 1994 Nia and Agus began an intensive collaboration with Aboriginal women artists from the central Australian desert, and during a two year period they produced 20 large batik wall hangings that are part of several permanent collections. According to James Bennett, curator of Asian Art at the Art Gallery of South Australia, “their international exhibition record and representation in major collections is testimony to their being among the most significant textiles practitioners of our times.” [www.theislandgallery.net](http://www.theislandgallery.net)



# APRIL, MAY AND JUNE WORKSHOPS

## YOUNG ARTISTS

**FAMILY MOSAICS**  
Margaret Paul  
June 25, 26, 28, 29

## ADULT WORKSHOPS

### GENERAL INTEREST

**CREATING A JOY-FILLED BODY**  
Cari Corbet-Owen  
May 17 – 18

### CERAMICS

**PINCH-n-PULL**  
Scott Parady  
April 5 – 6

**CREATE CERAMIC INSTRUMENTS**  
Ernesto Hernandez-Olmos  
April 12 – 13

**CLAY FORMS AS TOOLS**  
Susan Clusener  
April 19 – 20

**FIGURES IN PAPERCLAY**  
Gregg Jabs  
May 3 – 4

**CREATIVE EXTRUDING**  
William Shinn



May  
10  
–  
11

**CUT LOOSE WITH CLAY**  
Melanie Knox  
May 17 – 18

**WOOD-FIRE SEDUCTION**  
Nicholas Schwartz  
May 24 – 26

**PAPERCLAY ENCOUNTER**  
Chris Rodi  
June 4 – 8



**CLAY, CREATIVITY & BEYOND**  
Richard Garriott-Stejskal  
June 11 – 15

**IMAGE TRANSFER TECHNIQUES**  
Paul Wandless  
June 18 – 22



**OBJECTS & IDEAS**  
Sally Brogden  
June 25 – 29

### COMPUTER ARTS

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DIGITAL CAMERA**  
Larry Wagner  
April 5

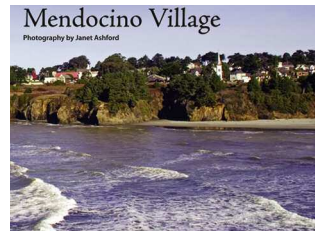
**DAZZLING TECHNIQUES WITH PHOTOSHOP**  
Janet Davis  
April 19 – 20

**DREAMWEAVING I: BEGINNING WEBSITE DESIGN**  
Molly Dwyer  
April 26 – 27

**DREAMWEAVING II: INTERMEDIATE WEBSITE DESIGN**  
Molly Dwyer  
May 3 – 4

**CREATING A UNIQUE BOOK**  
Janet Ashford  
May 17 - 18

**CREATE YOUR OWN BOOK USING ON-DEMAND PUBLISHING**  
Janet Ashford  
June 18 – 22



### FINE ARTS

**MANDALAS: PORTALS TO CREATIVITY**  
Susan St. Thomas  
April 5 – 6

**LET'S PAINT WATERCOLOR**  
Mariko Irie  
April 5 – 6



**CREATING SERIGRAPHS**  
Michael Guerriero  
April 12 – 13

**OIL PAINTING WITH ERIN DERTNER**  
Erin Dertner  
April 12 – 13

**LOOSEN UP WITH BOB BURRIDGE**  
Bob Burridge  
April 16 – 20



**FROM THE SOURCE**  
Cynthia Schildhauer  
April 19 – 20

**WATERCOLOR PAINTING USING THE WHITE OF YOUR PAPER**  
Patricia Osborne  
April 26 – 27

**SKETCH 4 FUN**  
Joanie Marlow  
April 26 – 27

**THE ART OF ENCAUSTIC**  
Patricia Seggebruch  
May 2 – 4

**WATERCOLOR AND MORE**  
Karen Bowers  
May 3 – 4

**ZEN PAINTING**  
Andy Kay  
May 3 – 4

**WOW, THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS COLOR!**  
Nancy Collins  
May 10 – 11

**BY THE KOI POND IN WATERCOLOR**  
Patricia Osborne  
May 17 – 18

**DRAWING: A RETURN TO THE POWER OF SEEING**  
Anne Brooke  
May 17 – 18

# AT THE MENDOCINO ART CENTER

## **WATERCOLOR BASICS DEVELOP YOUR OWN STYLE**

Anne Brooke  
May 24 – 26

## **LANDSCAPE PAINTING WITH A KNIFE**

Hope Stevenson  
May 24 – 26

## **OPEN-SECRET**

Marci Easterbrook  
June 16 – 20

## **EXPERIMENTAL WATERMEDIA AND COLLAGE**

Sue Siskin  
June 18 – 20

## **SQUASH THE CRITIC, PRAISE THE PROCESS**

Lauren Mantecón  
June 21 – 22

## **PHOTO BUSINESS SEMINAR**

Dan Heller  
June 26

## **PERFECTING TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY**

Dan Heller  
June 27 – 29



## **MONOPRINTING**

Karen Cox and  
Cayen Robertson  
June 28 – 29

## **JEWELRY**

### **MEET THE PRESS**

Edith Sommer  
April 4 – 6

### **RETHINKING THE CHAIN**

Nancy Hamilton  
April 18 – 20

## **RAISING: FINESSING A BOWL FROM SHEET METAL**

Linda Weiss  
April 25 – 27



## **CHAINMAIL JEWELRY**

Spider

May 16 – 18

## **CASTING WITH CONFIDENCE**

Marirose Jelichich  
May 24 – 26

## **WORKING WITH ARGENTIUM STERLING**

Ronda Coryell  
June 4 – 8

## **CLOISSONNÉ BASICS**

Marge Stewart  
June 13 – 15

## **PRIMAL TECH ROCK ART**

Dana Driver  
June 18 – 22

## **SCULPTURE**

### **EXTREME PAPER MACHE**

Christalene Loren  
April 18 – 20

### **THE FIGURE ACCORDING TO ST. SOPHIA**

Sophia Sutherland  
May 3 – 4

### **BEGINNING BLACKSMITHING**

Gert Rasmussen  
May 10 – 11

### **INTRODUCTION TO WELDING**

Carla Hall  
May 17 – 18

## **CEMENT GARDEN ART**

Sue Brown  
May 24

## **CARVING IN CAST STONE**

Judith Greenleaf  
May 31 – June 1

## **WELDING FOR WOMEN**

Richard Yaski  
June 2 – 6



## **PRACTICAL WELDING SAFETY**

Richard Yaski  
June 2 or July 7

## **FIGURATIVE STONE CARVING**

John Fisher  
June 11 – 15

## **TEXTILES**

### **GETTING EDGE-Y WITH YOUR RUGS**

Martha Stanley  
April 5 – 6

### **FELT INSPIRATIONS**

Fiona Wright  
April 12 – 13

### **FABRIC PAINTING AND PRINTING WITH SETACOLOR**

April Sproule  
April 19 – 20



## **FINE FELTING**

Carin Engen  
April 26 – 27

## **REVERSE APPLIQUE WITH FELTED FABRICS**

Jean Cacicedo  
May 10 – 11

## **SHIBORI: UNUSUAL STITCHES & ADVANCED WRAPPING**

Ana Lisa Hedstrom  
May 16 – 18

## **BEGINNING & ADVANCED NAVAJO WEAVING**

Sarah Natani  
June 9 – 13

## **OPEN TWINED WHOLE SHOOT BASKETRY**

Carol Hart  
June 21 – 22

## **ROZOME**

Betsy Sterling Benjamin  
June 21 – 27



## **BATIK – THE OLD AND THE NEW**

Agus Ismoyo and  
Nia Fliam  
June 28 – July 2

Visit our website at  
[www.MendocinoArtCenter.org](http://www.MendocinoArtCenter.org)  
for complete descriptions of  
these workshops. April and May  
workshops are listed under  
"Spring" and June workshops  
appear under "Summer."  
Catalogs also mailed  
on request.  
707 937-5818

# Inland Mendocino County

## Hopland • Ukiah • Willits

Mendocino County's inland valleys, and the towns that inhabit them, are essentially river-born. The original "owners" of this diverse and beautiful landscape included the Pomo peoples who occupied the valleys and foothills along the Russian River from its sources north and east of Ukiah to its mouth near present-day Jenner. Today, the river is still vital to the way of life (different from that of the native people's, and continually evolving) brought to the area by European and American settlers over 150 years ago.

Two of those early settlers, Grace Carpenter and her husband, John Hudson, took a particularly enlightened interest in the lives of their Pomo neighbors. The Hudson's craftsman style home and a rare collection of Grace's paintings, as well as a fine assortment of Pomo art and artifacts, are on display at the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah.

Most of today's travelers enter inland Mendocino County via Highway 101. From the south, the highway follows the Russian River through oak-dotted hill country, past monolithic Squaw Rock and into tranquil Sanel Valley. Although the valley's hop vines were pulled up decades ago in favor of pear trees and, later, grape vines, agriculture still dominates the area. It's only town, Hopland, is home to such local and tourist favorites as Brutocao Winery, Hopland Brewery and the renowned Solar Living Center.

Ten miles north of Hopland, at the crest of Burke Hill, the highway affords a panoramic view of the Ukiah Valley, with the Russian



River meandering through its center. Vineyards and orchards crowd the river's banks. Ukiah, the County seat, nestles at the foot of the western hills, halfway up the valley. To the northeast, in the distance, can be seen the rugged Yollo Bolly range, whose highest

peaks, Hull Mountain, Snow Mountain and Mount Sanhedrin, are crowned with snow throughout winter and early spring.

Ukiah is the County's largest incorporated city and serves as its banking, commercial and local government center. Ukiah boasts an extensive older neighborhood of charming homes and tree-shaded residential streets, as well as an attractive, thriving downtown filled with art galleries, bookstores, craft and gift shops, clothing boutiques, bakeries and a number of fine restaurants. Schat's Bakery, on Perkins Street, across from the Courthouse, is a local favorite. Also downtown are such excellent dining places as Patrona (lunch and dinner) and Oco Time (Japanese cuisine). The 18-hole Ukiah Municipal Golf



Course is located against the hills on the west side of town, adjacent to Todd Grove City Park, where the popular "Concerts in the Park" series is held each summer.

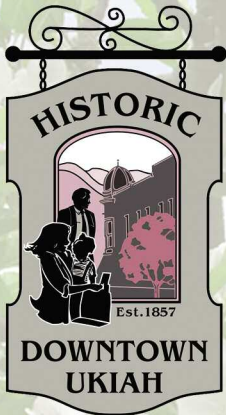
North of Ukiah is the rocky, wooded slope of Laughlin Ridge, which once provided convenient "cover" for the notorious stage robber, Black Bart. Today, four-lane Highway 101 soars over the crest, at 101's highest point in California, past Ridgewood Ranch – home of legendary race horse Seabiscuit – and down into Little Lake Valley and the town of Willits.

The lives and times of Seabiscuit, Black Bart and other colorful elements of Mendocino County's rich history are fascinatingly displayed at the Mendocino County Museum on Commercial Street. Willits, "Gateway to the Redwoods," is also home to the fabulous Skunk Train, with excursions through the redwood forest to Fort Bragg, and Frontier Days, featuring the oldest continuously held rodeo in California.

Continuing north from Willits, you'll encounter the incomparable redwoods, and the steep, deep canyon of the Eel River's South Fork. A drive east from Highway 101, beginning at Longvale, will take you along the Eel's Main and Middle forks to picturesque Round Valley and the Eel's headwaters high up in the Yollo Bollys.







# More Than Just A Pretty Place

The downtown area is warm and inviting where you can shop and dine amongst majestic scenery and friendly people. Visitors will find everything from antiques and galleries to fine cuisine and local wine.

## SPRING SPECIAL EVENTS:

Pastels on the Plaza – local artists create sidewalk art, Saturday, May 17.

Taste of Downtown Friday, June 20 - Join the fun, enjoy the bounty of Mendocino County. Taste dozens of world-renowned local wines, microbrews, brandies, and more while strolling through historic downtown.

Visit [www.Ukiahmainstreetprogram.com](http://www.Ukiahmainstreetprogram.com) for more spring time events

## WALLS

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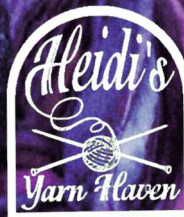


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# Art in a Small Town. . . An invitation to Willits

By Jay Gordon

The Willits Center for the Arts is nestled in a tree-shrouded area just around the corner from the north end of Main Street in downtown Willits. The tall windows invite you to peek inside at the vibrant exhibits of local artists that change every month. Willits, like every other community in



Upstairs at the Willits Center for the Arts

Mendocino County, always has a “bumper crop” of talented artists and craftspeople.

The opening of the new exhibit at the beginning of each month always features a catered celebration with great food and live entertainment. Any sale of art must be negotiated off the premises directly with the artist since the building is owned by the City of Willits. This is an atmosphere for savoring art, not for selling it. That is saved for the annual Art Show & Auction from mid-February to mid-March.

Your visit, whether for the opening celebration or throughout the month, is always free. The operation is supported by donations and the most important power resource any thriving community has: volunteers.



Recent Latino Exhibit

Each new exhibit has a focus. At times, they feature artists under 20 years of age, mixed media sculpture, photography, pottery, drawings, paintings -- the gamut of all the visual arts will appear sometime during the year. Their website provides a schedule of upcoming events: [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org).

Construction is underway to renovate the venerable building the Center has occupied at 71 E. Commercial St. since 1999. When completed, there will be two art galleries and a classroom downstairs. The sprawling upstairs will soon be available for community activities – with particular emphasis on projects for the youth of Willits. They expect to host workshops, theatrical rehearsals, and recitals. The directors of the Willits Cultural Arts Commission are receptive to suggestions.

*The Willits Center for the Arts is open Thursdays and Fridays, 4-7 p.m. On Saturdays and Sundays you may visit from noon - 3 p.m. For more information, in addition to their website, volunteers are available to take your call at 707-459-1726.*

A recent exhibit



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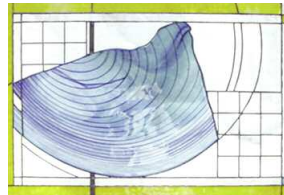
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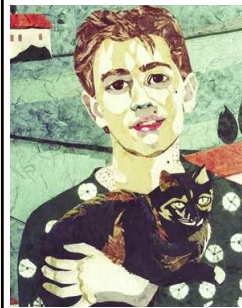


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To have your Art listed in the Gallery of Artists in our  
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# MAPA — ARTS FOR THE PARKS!

For the past several months, MAPA (Mendocino Area Parks Association) has been sponsoring a contest to solicit artwork in all media that best represents the beauty of the area's state parks. Now the artwork selected is ready for a juried art auction and a traveling show. All proceeds from the auction will benefit the educational programs of MAPA, including their nature talks/walks for children, Junior Ranger and Campfire programs.

The "Walk on the Wild Side" auction and banquet will be held on Saturday, April 19th at Pentecost Hall in Fort Bragg. Some of the coast's finest chefs and caterers will prepare the banquet, featuring wild food such as abalone, boar, crab, mushrooms, and other delicacies. Participants will be treated to fine wine and music, and have the opportunity to bid on the superb artwork that was submitted to MAPA.

After the Wild Side Auction, the winning artworks will become a traveling show, on exhibit in several locations throughout the county through October. The Mendocino Art Center is proud to host this exhibit for the month of May and part of June.

