

Creative Showcase

Monthly gallery event features work by local artists

By **Jeanie Senior**

Second Thursdays in downtown Goldendale are all about art.

Art is the showcase complemented by wine tasting, appetizers, music and socializing once a month at the Golden Art Gallery's artist receptions.

On June 10, about 50 people visited the gallery and met fiber artists Sandra Choate, Janice Christiansen and Sarah Cardo, the month's featured exhibitors.

LeRoy Schoot poured samples of chardonnay, orange Muscat, sangiovese and cabernet sauvignon from Waving Tree Winery and offered appetizers donated by Mike Kitchen of Windy Ridge Cafe. Star Meichtry, who with Annette Ruckert owns Moonrise Jewelry, played the guitar.

Second Thursday began about two years ago as a chance for people to meet

artists whose work is featured. Wine tasting was added later.

"It's just kind of grown," Sandra says, Cindy Bluemel, whose custom framing and art supply store is in a corner of the gallery, agrees.

"The last couple of years it's blossomed," she says.

There is a group of regulars who keep track of Second Thursday and enjoy the wine tasting and the socializing.

Others in the community, Cindy says, "are still unaware of these events and what we're doing"

The nonprofit gallery opened in 2003. It is run as a cooperative by the Golden Arts Guild, whose members pay dues and share chores at the gallery, which is open Tuesday through Saturday.

The fine arts and crafts displayed at the gallery are approved by a jury. Exhibitors pay a 20-percent commission when their work sells.

Cindy is the gallery's education director. Classes offered include a weekly open studio for children, taught by Cindy and Margaret Burkhart, both former art teachers.

"I know a lot of great art projects," says Cindy, who taught art at the grade school level in Vancouver public schools and "Homeschool

August Events

- ▶ A Golden Art Gallery fundraiser will be August 7 at the Goldendale Senior Center, 115 E. Main St. Tickets for the dinner and art auction are available at the gallery, 103 E. Main St.
- ▶ The August 12 Second Thursday exhibit will feature Native American art and flute music. Reception hours are 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- ▶ Learn more about the gallery at www.thegoldenartgallery.com.

Science—Nature Studies," which teamed drawing with plant studies.

Artist Joan Crice recently taught a class in scratchboard art, and Charlotte Van Zant-King is the instructor in a Clay and Pottery class, offered July 28-29 and August 4-5.

Cindy is hopeful a theater and drama workshop in July will prompt formation of a local theater group.

"I think this town needs a community theater," she says. "We don't have a movie theater, there's hardly any stages in town. Everybody turns out for high school plays, but other than that, there's nothing. I think it would add to the town."

The art guild's membership is a mix of longtime residents and others who have moved to the area more recently.

In the past few years, several artists have opened studios in downtown Goldendale, including painter Charlotte Van Zant-King; Pat Farrer, who does glass etching, paintings and jewelry; and ceramic artist Scott Gray.

Sandra, weaver Beth Poirier and fiber artist Betty Long-Schlieff share a studio on Main Street. ■



Arlene Larison of Goldendale with a group of her paintings at Golden Art Gallery.



Clockwise from top, fiber artist Sandra Choate with her Joan of Arc triptych.

Joan Crice studies one of her scratchboard paintings.

Two of Sandra's whimsical mermaids.

Janis Powers displays a beaded bracelet she made.

Sarah Cardo of Kuchi Cabaret models the top she designed and sewed.

