

Spring 2022

ARTS/99

The publication of Arts and Culture El Dorado

**A NEW CHAPTER
FOR THE BOOKERY**

**EMPOWERING
POTENTIAL**

**HONORING BILL ROBY:
A PASSION FOR SERVICE**

**COSUMNES CULTURE AND WATERWAYS:
STEWARDS OF LAND AND RIVER**

THIS ISSUE

THE SAME RIVER



Dear Reader,

Rivers, both literal and figurative, wend their way through the stories in this issue. Even more noticeable than rivers is the theme of change within continuity, movement inside structure; flux and flow within the banks of history and heritage. An old adage bobs to the surface: You never step in the same river twice.

Floating down the river of our Spring issue: The Bookery, still a bastion of cozy, readerly bliss, has been given a new chapter to match its new managers; the inaugural year of Arts and Culture El Dorado's Young Artist Awards empowered a nascent creative class in El Dorado County that might one day match the impact and influence of the beloved community members for whom the awards were named, and to whom they were dedicated; Cosumnes Culture and Waterways, which supports and preserves the culture of the El Dorado Band of Miwok Indians, will soon receive the formal rights to a tract of riparian land that was once their home; and Bill Roby, who will receive the 2022 Carpenter Award, continues to guide the civic raft through the fast-flowing waters of the El Dorado County community.

Altogether, these stories are a snapshot of a community in motion: everchanging, yet becoming more itself. This issue invites us to step into the river of our community—once, twice, and always—to see for ourselves all the ways that it changes and all the ways it stays the same.

Thank you for your support.



ARTS/99

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A New Chapter for the Bookery

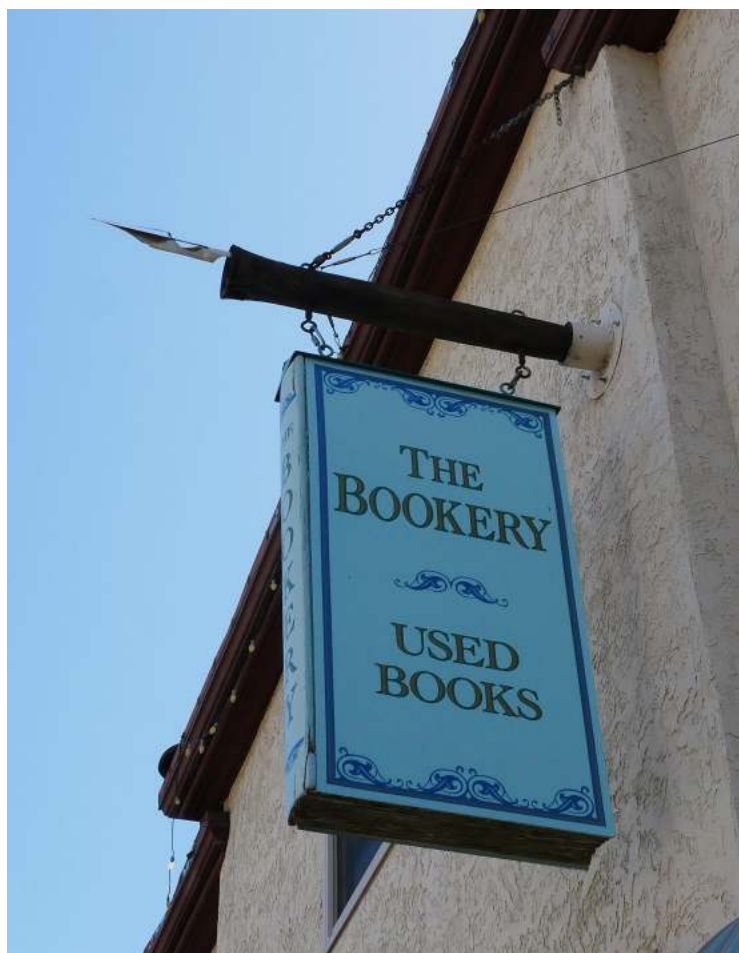
Placerville's beloved Main Street bookstore, The Bookery, is adding a new chapter to its four decades-long story. The used bookstore, housed in a small storefront belying its labyrinthine depths, has new management and new offerings for El Dorado County booklovers.

Six months ago, longtime employee Darin Coelho Spring and his wife Heather Beatty Spring bought half of the business and took on a more active role managing the bookstore, along with Darin's business partner, Nancy Dunk, who has owned and worked at The Bookery since she bought it in the 1980s. Darin, a lover of all things analog, is well-positioned to lead The Bookery into the future without sacrificing the quaint, brick-and-mortar charms that have made the store an iconic presence on Main Street. His vision for The Bookery is informed by his abiding love for browsing: "Whenever I go on vacation, I just can't wait to go to bookstores or record stores. It's just the atmosphere when you walk in: there's cool music playing, and nice people there, and books everywhere."

In an era of online shopping and Amazon e-books, Darin wants to go against the grain. "I love that old-fashioned experience of non-internet-based buying, where the people who help you are experts or booklovers," he says. "They can recommend things, and you can find books you've never even heard of before." Part of that old-fashioned experience is the superior curation found in a bookstore run by bibliophiles, and Darin and Heather have begun adding new offerings to their well-curated inventory. They have also begun selling used vinyl records, and they plan to continue expanding their collection. To promote The Bookery's new chapter, they have started selling branded merchandise, including t-shirts, sweatshirts, and bookbags. Something that Darin is especially excited about is the "youthful exuberance" he's seen in response to the addition of books aimed at young people, including manga. "Young people are like, 'oh, they have this kind of stuff too?'"

The Bookery is also evolving in areas other than inventory. Darin and Heather have started creating a small event space in the back area of shop, which was recently used for the first time during a celebration of Indie Bookstore Day at The Bookery. In the future, they plan to use the event space for poetry readings, author talks, and even literary trivia nights. Further down the line, Darin hopes to add a music store inside The Bookery and run a small press out of the bookstore—potentially with a literal, old-fashioned printing press.

With The Bookery catching the community's attention with new books, vinyl records, and upcoming events, positive feedback is already pouring in. But for Darin, the emphasis is still on the old-fashioned, analog business of bookselling: "Books have always been like magical objects for me... I've always been really drawn to them. That's what I'm trying to put out into the world."



Empowering Potential

In 2019 and 2020, El Dorado County lost four beloved members of its community: Richard H. Bush, Lanny Langston, Joey Cattone, and Jane Van Camp. In their memory, and as a way of celebrating their impact and their legacies, Arts and Culture El Dorado created the Young Artist Awards, which will honor juniors and seniors at El Dorado



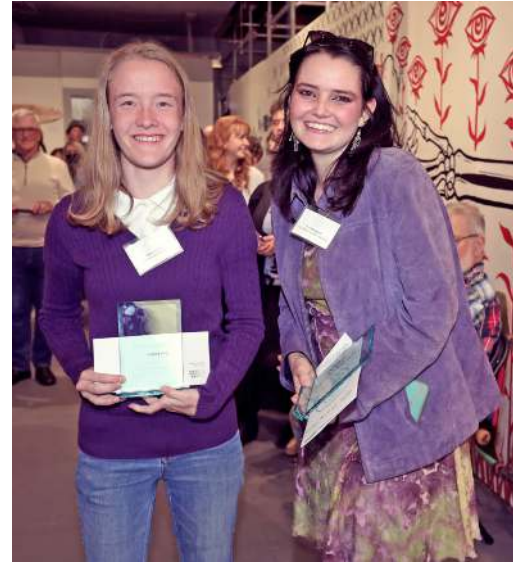
Peter Wolfe with Kelsi Havercroft, Lanny Langston Award for Theater.
Photo: Shelly Thorene

County high schools in four categories: Music, Theatre, Visual Art, and Nature-inspired Art. The recipients of these awards also receive \$500.

The Young Artist Awards are not necessarily intended to reward a body of artistic achievements; rather, they are meant to recognize the inspiring potential and exceptional promise of budding young artists in El Dorado County. To this end, Arts and Culture El Dorado solicited nominations directly from teachers. Being acquainted not just with the students' existing work, but also with their character, aspirations, and abilities, teachers were well-positioned to assess and articulate the worthiness of the students they nominated. The families of our four bright lights then acted as the judges for each award, selecting one student to receive the award—or they would have, if not for a surprise during the selection process: the Bush family and the Cattone family selected not one but two students for their prize, and generously provided the funds to honor the additional recipient.

To celebrate the inaugural year of this program, a reception for the families, students, and nominating teachers was held at Arts and Culture El Dorado's Confidence Firehouse Gallery on Friday, April 22.

Peter Wolfe, Lanny Langston's longtime friend and Imagination Theater co-founder, represented the Langston family at the reception, and awarded the 2022 Lanny Langston Award for Theater to Kelsi Havercroft, a senior at Union Mine High School. Kelsi, nominated by Drama teacher Heather Freer, was the 2022 El Dorado County Poetry Out Loud champion, the assistant director of *Grease* at Imagination Theatre, and the lead actor in several high school productions.



Dae Larkin and Liv Haugrud, Joey Cattone Award for Visual Art. Photo: Shelly Thorene

Dan Cattone awarded the 2022 Joey Cattone Award for Visual Art to Dae Larkin, a senior at Oak Ridge High School, and Liv Haugrud, a senior at Ponderosa High School. Dae, nominated by Art teacher Michelle Kite, explores themes of propaganda in her art and aspires to be an animator, helping young people deal with stress through interactive art. Liv, nominated by Art teacher Jennifer Schrock, has demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities,



Brooke Morgan and Alissa Thuesen, Richard H. Bush Award for Music. Photo: Shelly Thorene

passion, and creativity over the four years she has studied Studio Art at Ponderosa.

Paul and Maggie Bush, joined by Leslie Bush, awarded the 2022 Richard H. Bush Award for Music to Alissa Thuesen, a senior at Ponderosa, and to Brooke Morgan, a junior at Ponderosa. Alissa, nominated by Music teacher Taylor Sabado, is a standout trumpet player who plans to become a music educator. Brooke, also nominated by Taylor Sabado, was the drum major of Ponderosa's marching band and plans to continue pursuing music in college.

The 2022 Jane Van Camp Award for Nature-Inspired Art was awarded to Chloe Gautschi, a senior at El Dorado High School. Chloe, nominated by Art teacher Brigid Bourque, is a nature lover and gifted sculptor, whose animal-themed pottery beautifully

reflected the spirit of the Jane Van Camp Award. In a statement, Jamie Van Camp congratulated Chloe and said, "Your work inspired us... You are truly the perfect fit for this award."

An annual program, the Young Artist Awards will continue to celebrate the great promise of younger generations and honor the lives and legacies of the "bright lights" who came before them.



*Chloe Gautschi,
Jane Van Camp Award for
Nature-Inspired Art.
Photo: Shelly Thorene*



Dae Larkin receiving the Joey Cattone Award for Visual Art. Photo: Shelly Thorene



Richard H. Bush

In 1973, Richard established Madroña Vineyards. He was passionate about the arts in all forms and was a longtime supporter of the arts in El Dorado County.



Joey Cattone

A prolific self-taught artist, Joey worked in many artistic mediums and her work is held in private and public collections. Joey was a dedicated community supporter of the arts.



Lanny Langston

Lanny co-founded Imagination Theater, where he was a mentor and helped foster a love of theater in others. He acted in and directed many productions throughout his life.



Jane Van Camp

A profound lover of the arts, Jane also had an entrepreneurial spirit. Her award-winning work includes poems, sketches, photographs, paintings, and nature films.

Honoring Bill Roby: A Passion for Service

Bill Roby, the Executive Director of El Dorado Community Foundation, local philanthropist, patron of the arts, community leader, and gardener extraordinaire, will receive the 2022 Carpenter Award on June 2. The Carpenter Award, which is presented on an annual basis by Arts and Culture El Dorado, recognizes extraordinary commitment to the community. That Bill should be honored with the award is fitting, as Normadene Carpenter—the namesake and inaugural recipient of the award—has long been an inspiration to him. “Normadene didn’t take no for an answer. She was a powerhouse. I am a huge admirer of her,” he tells me. “If you don’t have a dream, how can it come true? Normadene always dreamed.”

Before Bill was making dreams come true for El Dorado County residents and non-profits, he was living in San Francisco with his husband, Jim Norris, working at a non-profit focused on drug and alcohol rehabilitation, and yearning for enough land to stable horses. He and Jim took a day trip to El Dorado County, where Bill’s grandparents had lived when he was growing up, and happened to see a sign for an open house. Soon after, they had a house in El Dorado County—and horses on their property.



Photo by Dante Fontana © Style Magazine

Bill started out at the El Dorado Community Foundation as the Program Manager, but when the Executive Director stepped down shortly after his arrival, he was appointed Interim Director by the Board. “I told them, ‘If you’re going to make me Director, I’m going to lead.’ And I did. They offered me the job a few months later,” Bill recalls. During his tenure, Bill and the Community Foundation have altered the philanthropic landscape of El Dorado County and improved the lives of countless

residents, working most recently at the forefront of relief efforts in the wake of the devastating Caldor Fire. Of his many indelible contributions to the El Dorado County community, Bill feels especially proud to have worked with Katy Peek and other community members to launch Women’s Fund El Dorado, which inspired the creation of similar giving circles throughout the county.

Bill’s philanthropic spirit and love for the arts share a common origin: his parents. While Bill was raised in California, his parents were raised in the South, and came from “generational poverty,” he tells me. The majority of his male relatives on both his mom’s and his dad’s side were coal miners. “It was a very tough life for them. When they came to California, when I was two years old, and created a whole new life for themselves and for their family, my parents never forgot that sense of gratitude... That sense

of giving was instilled in us from a very young age.” His parents also encouraged him and his siblings to explore the cultural offerings of San Francisco: While his parents picnicked in Golden Gate Park, Bill’s siblings would go to the aquarium, and Bill would go to the de Young Museum. “My parents were very big on us exploring... That was my first exposure to art. And then it just grew and grew, from sculpture to painting to music, and always my parents encouraging that. It was not unusual for me to be 12 years old listening to Beethoven.” Does he still make art? “Philanthropy is my art now,” he laughs.

Bill and the Community Foundation encourage growth in El Dorado County, but with growth can come growing pains. “Community is a river. It has obstacles, it has currents, it has rapids... The Community Foundation is an entity that sits within the community commons, and tries to be as neutral as possible, to help navigate the current of change that we’re in.” For his own part, he wants to embody the same principles: “I want to navigate those difficult waters by being the voice of reason. We can become very passionate about things we believe

in, but in that passion, blinders can get put on.” As the county evolves, Bill wants to see the non-profit sector achieve an even greater level of excellence, and he wants to continue cultivating a philanthropic environment in which non-profits are able to access the resources they need. “If we want our non-profits to excel, we have to be able to fund them... I think the motto should be, ‘Excellence is expensive. Let’s support excellence.’”

When Arts and Culture El Dorado honors Bill Roby on Thursday, June 2, at David Girard Vineyards, he will be celebrated by a community whose excellence he has tirelessly supported ever since coming to El Dorado County. As the community expresses its gratitude to Bill Roby, Bill will continue to return the favor. “I’m very fortunate to live a life of gratitude,” he says.

**For more information about the
2022 Carpenter Award, visit
ArtsAndCultureElDorado.org/benefit-2022**

2022
Normadene Carpenter Award
Honoring
BILL ROBY

Thursday, June 2, 2022
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

David Girard Vineyards
741 Cold Springs Road, Placerville



Cosumnes Culture and WaterWays: Stewards of Land and River

In 2020, as part of the California Arts Council's CARES program, Arts and Culture El Dorado awarded a grant of \$6,315 to Cosumnes Culture and Waterways to sustain their operations during the challenging conditions created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In El Dorado County, we are defined as much by our rivers as by the gold that was discovered in them. Our river systems are overlaid with dense networks of ownership, from the claims of the Gold Rush era to the interlocking management and control of public land by state, federal, and non-profit agencies. On the North Fork of the Cosumnes River, a 320-acre plot of land is subject to a different kind of rightful ownership: an ancestral claim to the land, which was once the home of indigenous people. The American River Conservancy, which currently holds the title to the property, will be participating in the international Landback Movement by transferring the title to a Native organization, Cosumnes Culture and Waterways.

For Kimberly Petree, the Executive Director of CCAWW, the land transfer will be a homecoming. "My grandmother was born on the Cosumnes, in the old way," Kimberly tells me. "My ancestors have been here for thousands and thousands of years." The chair of the El Dorado Band of Miwok Indians, Kimberly experienced a cultural awakening in her teenage years when she began attending the Indian Education Center in El Dorado. She was surprised by the familiarity of the traditional practices she learned. "I knew I was native, but I didn't know what that really meant... When I got to that Ed Center, I felt like I was home." Kimberly went on to become a

council member, storyteller, and culture keeper for her tribe.

A longtime volunteer and collaborator with the American River Conservancy, Kimberly was well-positioned to take the lead when ARC obtained a piece of land called Ladies Valley on the North Fork of the Cosumnes River, which ARC understood to be a traditional Miwok site. Kimberly toured the site with Alan Ehrgott, the Executive Director of ARC at the time, and felt an immediate connection to the land. "It was very spiritual, almost like a holy site... It's a beautiful thing to go out to the land and recognize that you belong there. Those trees and animals are our relatives," she explains. Soon after her initial visit, Kimberly began the process of creating CCAWW, and eventually undertook the stewardship of Ladies Valley.



Kimberly Petree, Executive Director of CCAWW



CCAWW straddles the line between cultural and environmental conservation, uniting the ethos of the Landback Movement and a focus on Miwok heritage with an emphasis on ecological restoration and preservation. In addition to basic upkeep of the land, they partner with the Cosumnes Coalition to take water samples and maintain the ecological integrity of the Cosumnes River, which is one of the only undammed rivers in the Sierra Nevada and an important watershed for salmon and other species. They also make use of the site for traditional Miwok ceremonies, cultural and historic instruction for the public, field trips for local high school students, and other cultural and artistic programming. This synthesis of culture and the environment is personified by Kimberly herself, who speaks just as fluently about the science of salmon runs and marine nitrogen as she does about Miwok creation stories

and indigenous architecture, weaving the seemingly distinct strands of culture and the environment into a unified whole: “Creator made us out of the earth to be stewards for the land,” Kimberly says.

ARC will soon transfer the title for Ladies Valley to CCAWW. “It’s so beautiful to see your work come to fruition, and for indigenous people to have a place, a home,” Kimberly says, referring to the transfer of the title. When CCAWW takes full ownership of the land, the scope of their activities in Ladies Valley will also expand. Kimberly plans to create a living cultural heritage site, with neighboring tribes building traditional bark houses on the site. The tribes would maintain those bark houses over generations, giving local indigenous people a tangible vessel of cultural identity for years to come. She also wants to continue restoring and protecting the ecosystem, in part by propagating native plants and weeding out invasive species. Possibilities for educational programming abound, and Kimberly wants to “plant the seeds of stewardship” in future generations.

Just as the Ed Center was a newfound home and a site of cultural awakening for Kimberly, Ladies Valley, under the stewardship of CCAWW, will serve as the epicenter of a cultural revival for local indigenous people. Ladies Valley will be unique, though, in that it won’t be a “newfound” home: it will be a home restored and rediscovered, returned to the care of its original inhabitants.

Ladies Valley Landback Fundraiser

Sponsored by American River Conservancy and Cosumnes Culture and Waterways

Saturday, October 22, 2022

**Wakamatsu Farm
941 Cold Springs Road
Placerville, CA 95667**

The event will include Native American music, storytelling, a nature-inspired fine art auction, light refreshments, and local wines.

For more information visit www.ccaww.org

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THURSDAY - SUNDAY 11 AM - 4 PM



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Wendy Thomas



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Arts and Culture El Dorado's mission to promote, connect, and empower arts and culture throughout the county is achieved by targeted programs and services, a vibrant gallery exhibition series, and a focus on initiatives which support and sustain the cultural life of the region.