GRASS VALLEY NEVADA CITY
CULTURAL DISTRICT
CULTURE CONNECTION

Welcome to Culture Connection

Grass Valley Nevada City Cultural District's newsletter, featuring the events, stories, and people of our community.

Monthly Creatives Meetup

Thursday, September 11th, 5:00 - 7:00pm

Wild Eye Pub
535 Mill Street, Grass Valley

The September Creatives Meetup takes place at Wild Eye Pub in Grass Valley, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Bring your ideas, your questions, and your creative energy. We'll share a brief update on what's happening in the arts, discuss upcoming events, and exchange stories on the horizon.

Don't worry about what to bring—we'll provide the space, the conversation, and the connection. Whether you're a seasoned creative or just curious about what's happening in the arts, you're welcome here. Bring a friend, share your work, or just come to listen and learn. Everyone is welcome.

Mark your calendars for this monthly gathering—it's a great way to stay connected with the vibrant creative community in Grass Valley and Nevada City.

Call for Art Entries Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Curtis Stone Gallery, September 20

Our Wild & Scenic Film Festival, in collaboration with the **Nevada County Arts Council**, invites artists to submit work for a juried exhibition inspired by the **Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival, February 19-26, 2026**.

Artists are invited to explore themes of connection, resilience, and the natural world, and the meaning of sustainment. Selected artists will be notified by September 20, and their work will be displayed beginning September 21 in the lobby of Nevocinema. The featured artwork will be displayed throughout the festival and beyond.

Contact with questions: Curtis Stone Gallery in Grass Valley - Nevada City Cultural District artwork, Nevocinema, Nevada County Arts Council, and Wild & Scenic Film Festival are all organizations that have been supporting the arts in our community for many years. Artists appreciate the environment an opportunity provides to show their work and connect with the community. Curtis Stone Gallery is one such place.

Find out more through our Artsmap page.

Never Come Down

Friday, September 8
7:00pm - 11:59pm

The Brown House
12 Brunswick Road, Grass Valley, Nevada City

Never Come Down tribute band presents a dynamic blend of classic and contemporary rock, featuring songs from artists such as Foreigner, Journey, Def Leppard, and Stone Temple Pilots. Never Come Down is a tribute band that specializes in recreating the sound and energy of these iconic rock bands, including Foreigner, Journey, Def Leppard, Stone Temple Pilots, Foo Fighters, Trucks and Trees Group.

Opening Reception - Jean Pettigrew Whelan

Friday, September 6, 5:00 - 8:00pm

6507 Hill Gates Maryland Road, Grass Valley

Opening reception for Jean Pettigrew Whelan's show, "Wild Spaces and Objects of Affection" at Nevada County Arts Council's Art Gallery in Grass Valley. The show will include wine, refreshments and a meet and greet with the artist. The show runs from September 6 through October 25.

Artwork shown will be through September 25th.

Entitled Wild Lives Wild Death, the show includes a large collection of paintings, drawings, and photos of wildlife and other creatures and plantlife, seeking the beauty that is in all things, even those that are dying. The show is a meditation on the interconnectedness of all things. Artist Jean Pettigrew Whelan's work has been shown in the Bay Area, Sacramento, and Grass Valley for many years. Her work is held in many private collections.

Jean Pettigrew Whelan (see cover) is the Co-Founder of the Nevada County Arts Council, Founding Member of the Grass Valley Council of Garage, a 1994 and an 1995 U.S. Planning Grant Recipient, Co-Founder of the Grass Valley Art Walk, Co-Founder of the Nevada County Arts Council Art Gallery, Co-Founder of the Nevada County Arts Council Poetry Collective. For more information, see Whelan's website at jeanpettigrewwhelan.com.

Artists Gretchen Kerr and Jean Pettigrew Whelan will be on hand to discuss their work, and to answer questions about their "Wild Spaces and Objects of Affection" show, which will be on display at the Nevada County Arts Council Art Gallery in Grass Valley from September 6 through October 25. The show will include a large collection of paintings, drawings, and photos of wildlife and other creatures and plantlife, seeking the beauty that is in all things, even those that are dying. The show is a meditation on the interconnectedness of all things. Artist Jean Pettigrew Whelan's work has been shown in the Bay Area, Sacramento, and Grass Valley for many years. Her work is held in many private collections. For more information, see Whelan's website at jeanpettigrewwhelan.com.

Gretchen Kerr's work is an exploration of human connection, the natural world, and the interplay of impermanence and permanence. Her work has been shown in Sacramento, Grass Valley, and Nevada City for many years. Her work is held in many private collections. For more information, see Kerr's website at gretchenkerr.com.

You will be aware of sacred space, related to the Whelan as "intimate spaces and objects of affection", but also the sense of connection to the natural world and the universal, the ecological, the spiritual, the sacred. Gretchen's work is a meditation on the interconnectedness of all things, and the spiritual figurative units are meant to be a reflection of the sacred in everyday life. Gretchen's creation claim to identify her work as sculpture, albeit, little pieces through art, at the same time, she considers herself a painter.

Gretchen's work is a meditation on the interconnectedness of all things, and the spiritual figurative units are meant to be a reflection of the sacred in everyday life, and spiritually.

Door Creek Music Festival

September 5-7th, 10:00 - 10:00 pm

Pioneer Park, 217 Nevada Street, Nevada City, CA

The Nevada County Cultural District is pleased to partner with Door Creek Music Festival, September 5-7th, 2025.

Tickets: $25 in advance, $30 at the door.

Kids 12 and under are free when accompanied by a ticket holder.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Patrons are encouraged to bring their own chairs. Alcohol, outside beverages or food are not allowed. Pets are not allowed, except for service animals.

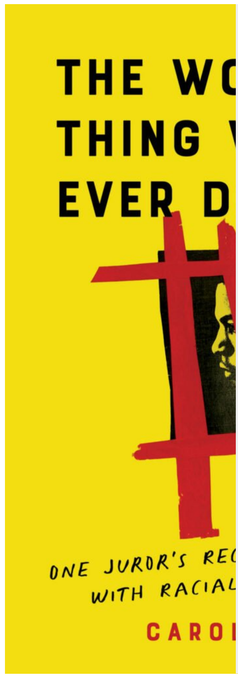
Door Creek Music Festival is a family-friendly, all-ages event. Guests are encouraged to bring their own chairs, sunscreen, snacks, sunshine, and a positive attitude. Alcohol, outside beverages, and pets are not allowed.

The High and The Mighty Bella Vista Woods

Fun as long as the sun remembers. The high has been high, and the mighty have been mighty, since the day the sun rose and gave up on pretend. Sun's out, it's on! Joyful, connected breaks, rock, Cross Fit hardcore, and forever-friendly vibes. Bella Vista Woods is back for a sunny, high-energy, mighty-good time.

Front Gate, The longest singing song in country life, Bella Vista Woods, Hillbilly Hollywood, Bella Vista Woods, Hillbilly Hollywood, Bella Vista Woods, Hillbilly Hollywood

The celestial bodies above decreed that the trajectories of Grass Valley's own Chambers Project and Leighton would mysteriously collude. Join in a revelatory art exhibit truly fit for these glorious end times we find ourselves soaking in right now. *Every Other Thing,* a collection of work by Oakland artist Leighton Kelly is not to be missed!



Book Signing and Reading with Local Author - Carol Menaker

Saturday, September 9
2:00 - 3:00pm

The Bookseller
107 Mill Street, Grass Valley

Join Carol Menaker for a reading from and conversation about her memoir *The Worst Thing We've Ever Done: One Juror's Reckoning with Racial Injustice.*

The memoir, published by She Writes Press in April of this year, tells the story of Menaker's 21-day jury sequestration in the Philadelphia murder trial of Frederick Muhammed Burton, a young Black revolutionary charged with the murders of two white prison wardens. Forty years after her jury service, Menaker revisited the experience, only to learn that she was too young, too naive, and too white to have passed judgement on a man whose shoes she never could have walked in. Mr. Burton remains in a Pennsylvania prison. He is 76 years old.

Marya Stark - Weightless Album Release Concert

Saturday, September 16
Doors: 7pm | Show: 8pm

The Center for the Arts
314 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

Step into a realm of feminine enchantment and immerse yourself in the surreal and ethereal musical journey of Marya Stark. Be ready to be transported to a world of fairy folk and mythology.

Tickets: General Admission

ART MOVES MOUNTAINS
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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