

Gathering Gazette

Volume 6, Issue 2



BARN DANCE

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Editor—Ival Secrest

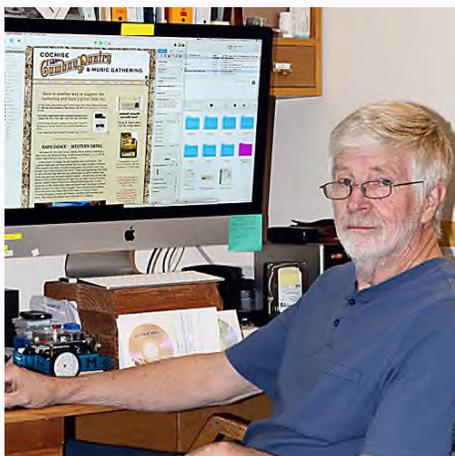
The 2018 Gathering is just two weeks away and everything is falling into place with volunteers busy tying up loose ends. Don't you think it's amazing that volunteers are able to arrange and produce this event with the monetary support of sponsors and the cooperation of Buena High School.

All cultures strive to pass on their heritage to succeeding generations though whatever means they have and the Western way of life is no different. The Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering is doing that through the Western Heritage and Schools Outreach Program and the Co-Chairs have written an article for this newsletter that provides some insight into the program.

We have some good quality entertainment for the 2018 Gathering and the Artist's Liaison article gives you a peek into the entertainment planned for your enjoyment. Most entertainment is passive in that those who buy tickets sit and listen but this year we are added something different with a Barn Dance where the ticket buyers can participate if they desire but it is not required. Go figure, Barn Dance is the theme for the 2018 Gathering. Just imagine you are in a barn when you walk into the gym on Saturday afternoon to participate in the Barn Dance. The entertainment will be provided by Syd Masters and the Swing Riders. See <https://www.cowboypoets.com/barn-dance.html> for more detail.

I refer you to our website—<https://www.cowboypoets.com/> for more information about the Gathering.

Volunteers: Remember to RSVP for the Volunteer Party by January 22, 2018 to Delane Whorley 406-431-7829.



Website Manager—Mark Hanna

Hi All,

I hope everyone likes this years website. We have switched to yet another web design software and hosting service (yuc, more to learn) it seems to be working without a hitch.

Hopefully by the time you are reading this, our website store will be open for business. If all items are not for sale, don't worry, we will be adding more merchandise as fast as we can. We have never had a store before, its a big project and a bit of a learning curve here too, but we're getting there. If you haven't visited the store yet, check it our here:

<https://www.cowboypoets.com/Store.html>

**SOCIAL
EVENTS**

Social Events Co-Chairs

Debbie Laszok and Delane Whorley



Sunday Jan 28, 2018 **Volunteer RECEPTION**

1-3 PM The Columbian Hall Desserts Only ~

RSVP By Jan 22, 2018 to Debbie Laszok 520-227-9580 or debbie.laszok@gmail.com or Delane Whorley 406-431-7829.

Thursday Feb 1, 2018 Entertainment at **Horned Toad**

6:00pm - 9:00pm 526 W Fry Blvd Toy's Eggroll Food Truck will be on hand for food purchase. **Open to the public.**

Friday and Saturday **Jam Sessions** after the evening performance will be at **Garden Place Suites.**

Cowboy Breakfast on Sunday Feb 4, 2018 at the Columbian - 8:30am coffee 9:00am Breakfast. George will be MC and Delane Whorley will be point of contact 406-431-7829 as Debbie Laszok will be out of town on the Jan 28, 2018 and will return on Jan 30, 2018. **RSVP NLT Jan 26, 2018** to Debbie Laszok 520-227-9580 or debbie.laszok@gmail.com or Delane Whorley 406-431-7829. You will have received a letter if you are eligible to attend this event.



Peter Wev—Treasurer

BARN DANCE – WESTERN SWING

The theme for the 2018 Cochise Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering is Barn Dance and Western Swing. The two are closely related because Western Swing is one of the most popular type of music played at a Barn Dance. Barn Dance, like Western Swing, has become part of the Western Tradition.

A Barn Dance is a happy, fun get together where folks dance. The tradition dates back over five hundred years in many European countries. When people from these countries immigrated to the United States they brought their natives dances with them. These social gatherings were held in barns because they were the only places large enough to handle a big crowd and also have the room needed to dance. A *Barn Raising* usual ended with a festive night with a Barn Dance. Initially folks did only the dances native to their countries of origin such as Gallic Irish and Scottish dances, English Country dances and Flemish Wedding dances. As the population of the United States grew and moved west, the music to which people moved to at a Barn Dance changed. These became square dances, Texas line dances and many others now done to a variety of music including Bluegrass, Country and Western, Western Swing, Southern Rock and even pop music.

With the widespread growth of radio in the 1920s there were a number of radio stations which developed Barn Dance programs which featured country and western music. These included WLS National Barn Dance Show, WRVS Old Dominion Barn Dance, the Louisiana Hayride, WWVA Jamboree in Wheeling West Virginia, the Renfro Valley Barn Dance in Kentucky, the Tennessee Jamboree. Ozark Jamboree and Saturday Night Country Show. On April 24, 1924, George Hay initiated the National Barn Dance show in Chicago featuring old time fiddling. The show moved to Nashville eighteen months later launching the WSM Barn Dance which evolved into the Grand Ole Opry which is credited with spreading country throughout the country. The Opry has long featured the Grand Ole Opry Square Dancers and regularly includes clogging groups. Clogging is a fast tempo, toe and heel tapping dance done to lively fiddling country music.

Western Swing is uniquely American dance music, often with an up-tempo beat. It arose in the 1930s, merging the influences of cowboy style, Hillbilly music, and Big Band jazz. The two pioneering Western Swing groups were Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys, and Milton Brown and the Musical Brownies. Bob Wills and Milton Brown in 1930 formed

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the first Western Swing band called the Light Crust Doughboys (named after the sponsor of its radio show, Light Crust Flour). To the usual instruments used by country groups of a guitar or two and fiddle, they added amplification of the guitars, a steel and bass guitar and then a banjo, piano and later a saxophone and drum. Their music was energized and animated. Western Swing Bands became hugely in the 1930s and 1940 to 1945 in the southwest, particularly California. Its influence is evident in the music of modern country and western legends such as Merle Haggard, Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson. Bob Wills' classic "New San Antonio Rose" is considered the icon of Western Swing. The group most closely associated with Western Swing is Asleep At The Wheel which plays in the Bob Wills tradition.

Barn Dancing in Arizona

The Arizona Barn Dance is an annual affair held in Mesa and organized by *WeMakeHistory* (www.wemakehistory.com). We Make History "...is a 501©3 devoted to bringing history to life...". All of its other activities are reenactments such as the Tucson Liberty Festival to be held January 12, 2018 and the Phoenix Liberty Festival to be held February 8th and 9th, 2018. These Festivals are designed to be educational addressing - "What is Liberty?" The Arizona Barn Dance isn't a reenactment but rather an opportunity for "folks to put the 'hoe down', cease work and pressures and enjoy time together in a light and wholesome environment".



Artist Housing Co-Chairs

Jane Chambers and Carolyn Yuetter



The Housing Committee is responsible for finding housing at local people's homes for the artists performing at the Cochise County Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering. This outreach of the community makes for a special relationship between the host families and the artists. Friendships have blossomed through the years. The committee is always looking for members of the Sierra Vista Community that are interested in becoming host families. Please let me know if you are interested in becoming a Host Family.

Jane Chambers
janechambers@msn.com



Artist Liaison Co-Chairs Gene & Sharon Raymond

Well, the 26th Anniversary Gathering is almost here, and it is going to be a **great one!** *Our Featured and Participating Artists are now "all rounded up". We have 18 Featured performers for our Headline Stage shows on February 2d, 3d, and 4th at Buena High School. We will have many of your favorite artists such as Joyce Woodson, Doc Mehl, Floyd Beard, and Doris Daley. We also have some new and returning artists invited especially for our theme of "Barn Dance". Carolyn Martin, Patty Clayton, 3 Trails West, and the Hanson Family are sure to "get your boots a'scoting" with their western swing music. In addition, we have an outstanding group of 23 Participating Artists, both returning and new, who will be performing during the Saturday daytime sessions on the 3d, also at Buena High School. Check them all out on the Gathering website: www.cowboypoets.com.*



Since the theme of our 26th Gathering is "Barn Dance", we figured we probably ought to *have an actual Barn Dance. So young and old alike are invited to a hodown, I mean Barn Dance, to "stomp the boards" to the music of Syd Masters and the Swing Riders. The fun begins Saturday, February 3rd, 2018 at 4:30 to 6 PM in the Buena High School Gym. The cost is only \$5 Per Person at the Door or admission is free with a ticket for our Saturday Headline Performance.*

So start spreading the word to your "pards" and neighbors; it's never too early to start "rounding up all the strays" to get the "biggest herd" we can for our "Swingin'" 26th Gathering! Tickets for can be purchased online at the Gathering website www.cowboypoets.com or at Spur Western Wear, Safeway, and the Oscar Yrun Community Center in Sierra Vista.



Western Heritage and Schools Outreach

Program Co-Chairs—

David Walker and Eileen Ahearn



The Western Heritage Schools Outreach Program team has been very busy. In November we hosted the student poetry judging and selected 26 student winners. Kudos to the wonderful judges who dedicated their time, energy and smarts to judging the 500 plus poems were submitted to our Western Heritage Student Poetry Contest. In addition to our regular fabulous WHSOP volunteers (David, Sue, Byron, Sally, Marty, Jerry, Steve and Eileen), our judges included Gerald Bessler, Pam Collins, Marjorie Conroy, Jim Dalglish, Patricia Dillingham, Midge Grieshop, Fran Knowles, Helen and Tom Lehr, Elizabeth Patten, and Joan Strom. The poems this year covered a wide range of subjects to include this year's theme of Barn Dance and were from schools throughout the Cochise County. Our Educator of the Year, Sue Shepard, is from Ash Creek Elementary School. As the principal for a small rural school she has been actively supporting our Western Heritage program since we actively pushed eastward into Sulphur Springs Valley and her school has had multiple poetry winners. Check out our [website](#) for a full listing of all the winners and their schools.

Activities with the student poetry winners included the CowPie Party on Jan 6th, and the upcoming rehearsals on Jan 25th with the actual Gathering, February 2-4, 2018. Three students will recite their poems at each of the Headliner performances and all the student winners will recite their poems on Saturday, Feb 3rd from 10AM to noon. We encourage you to come listen to, enjoy and be amazed at the talents of our student winners.

If you would like to volunteer in support of the WHSO Program there is still time. We need volunteers during the Gathering to sell raffle tickets for our quilts. Last year we raised \$1300 raffling our two quilts. This year we again have made two quilts (see pictures on our website) and will raffle them off to raise funds to reimburse travel for all student winners who participate in WHSOP activities and reside more than 20 miles from Sierra Vista. As in past years, our goal is to raise at least \$1000, so please come volunteer to help us sell raffle tickets and/or come buy your

Saturday Lunch



Lunch will be served in the Buena Cafeteria for \$10 by Buena staff. The menu consists of pulled BBQ pork sandwiches, ranch beans, potato salad, chips, and peach cobbler with a choice a choice of pink lemonade or ice tea.

The Buena High School Band supporters will have their concession stand open for drinks, snacks and probably hot dogs.



Venues Pam Collins and Ival Secret Co-Chairs



June and Norm Osten were the Venue Co-Chairs for several years and they knew the process like the back of their hand. June has been doing it since Norm's passing a few years ago and was unavailable for the 2018 Gathering because of other commitments and responsibilities. We are newbies getting on board just a couple months before the Gathering and we want to apologize now should there be any recognizable glitches. That said, please bring your complaints and suggestions to us when you notice them such that we can take appropriate action.

Our scope of responsibility includes (1) Placing the signs along the highways and streets directing people to the Gathering at Buena High School in coordination with the city of Sierra Vista. (2) Coordination with Buena in decorating the stage in the auditorium, decorations and signage to the various rooms and hallways for the Saturday during the day, and the Saturday lunch. (3) Providing refreshments in the Green Room for the artists and taking care of their needs as appropriate. (4) Asking businesses and government facilities to display one of our banners. These banners used to hang on street lights a few weeks before the Gathering but the mountings were changed and that tradition came to an end. (5) Collecting all the decorations after the Sunday performance such that Buena will be back to normal on Monday morning and collecting the signs that we had placed along the highways and streets.