Show Chime
January 2022
FROM TRISTEN VAIL
AMP BOARD MEMBER

January 2022
I am so thankful to be a part of the Anacortes Music Project family and to spend my time with those who I love the most. This group of people are some of the best I’ve ever met, full of ideas and talent, making things happen. What they have done to expand the music scene on Fidalgo Island is nothing short of incredible. It’s just what this town has always needed.

The events that Anacortes Music Project put on give everyone a chance to come together, regardless of age or political opinions or anything else that might otherwise separate groups of locals, and allow us all to enjoy our common love for music. Who doesn’t love live music with a view of the ocean with a beer in hand? It doesn’t get much better than this.

We are all very lucky to be here on this tiny rock, surrounded by good people.

T. Vail
An Interview with January Cover Artist Sue Roberts

Hailing from Guemes Island, ceramic artist Sue Roberts is a mainstay in the Anacortes art community. On our cover this month we have a piece from her Mass Distraction series titled “Communication.” We spoke with Sue about her life as an artist and teacher.

Describe a typical day in the studio.

My studio is a couple houses away from where I live, so I usually spend the early morning at the house getting computer/paper work out of the way before I head up to the studio to work. I tend to be more productive in the morning, so I try to be at my studio by 8:30am- 9am. When I am working on a series of clay sculptures, I like to have a couple pieces going at once. That way if the clay is too wet to sculpt on the first piece, I can work on the other piece while I wait for the clay on the first piece to set up. When I’m working with a deadline, I’ll spend most of the day focused in the studio until around 3:30-4pm. If my schedule is loose, I may spend the day in the studio working on ideas for projects, loading kilns and planning out demos for classes. Either way, I go to the studio everyday no matter what. It’s my touchstone for trying to stay centered.

Your work includes a lot of social commentary, has this always been a part of your art?

Humor and social commentary have always been a big part of my work. As a little kid, I would sneak into my older brother’s room when he was gone and pour through his stack of Mad magazines. I loved the edgy, irreverent humor of Mad, and studied the details and different drawing styles of each of the contributing cartoonists. I’d spend hours drawing and trying to come up with my own characters. By the end of high school I thought I was going to have a career as a cartoonist/animator, but a ceramics class in college moved me into a very different direction. I ended up pursuing a career as a self-employed fine artist, which, translated means I’ve done a lot of different things throughout my career as an artist!

How has your practice changed over time?

When I graduated from college I did a little teaching at an art school in Florida, but was mainly focused on being a full time self-employed studio artist. That meant I learned how to do a lot of different creative things, from making and selling jewelry, ceramics and metalwork at art shows to independent contractor building exhibits for Universal Studios in Florida. It’s been over 35 years of self-employment, and every decade I seem to re-invent what I do in order to be able to continue my art practice. Keeps me on my toes and I am rarely bored!

What do you consider your biggest artistic achievement or accomplishment?

Being able to be a self-employed artist throughout my career, supporting myself with what I love to do most. Making things and using my hands. Living a very creative life that I had envisioned from an early age.

How does teaching and having students in your studio affect the work you make yourself?

Teaching art forces me to verbalize my ideas and improve my knowledge of techniques and ideas so I can pass them along to the student. In exchange, it gives one an understanding of the time and effort that goes into creating something handmade, often a greater appreciation of something that is handmade. If you could only use one color for the rest of your artistic career, which would you choose and why?

I would choose black. It can be loud or quietly dramatic, while emphasizing the beauty of the form and the different tones and textures it can create.

Where can people follow you, see your work, or purchase your art?

www.suerobertssculpture.com

New Releases

From Creampuff Cowboys: Red Bird

From Art Peterson of Guemes Island we have a beautiful new album by Creampuff Cowboys. The songs “Red Bird” and “Merle Slept Here” were inspired by Art’s mother’s Kentucky hill country music and family stories. Others by experiences living in the Texas Hill country or sailing on the Salish Sea. The great Julie Miller wrote “Broken Things”.

Released in 2021
Torrey Smith, long time band mate and amazing guitarist played various instruments. Great thanks to Nich Wilbur at the Unknown for sound recording, mix and mastering. Appreciation to Clyde for production assistance and encouraging me to release Red Bird to fly away into the wide world. The beautiful cover art is the work of Dre Gordon, an amazing graphic artist living on Guemes.

From Dead Zones: Self Made Sorrow

Self Made Sorrow is an alternative grunge fusion. The album is the result of a two-year writing process that began in late 2019. The album encompasses rock roots to present and embrace feelings of loneliness and struggles with addiction.

Released in December 2021
Composition: Dominic and Henry Ermi
Lyrics: Marisa Claridge
Album Artwork: Henry Rolph

Dominic Ermi on electric guitar, Henry Ermi on drums, Marisa Claridge on bass and vocals

About ten years ago I was starting to feel a little isolated living on an island, so began offering art classes/workshops at my studio as a way to get to know more people in this area. Teaching in this community has been a wonderful experience. I found teaching classes has pushed and expanded my work in ways I didn't know were possible. Teaching art forces me to verbalize my ideas and improve my knowledge of techniques and ideas so I can pass them along to the student. In exchange, it gives one an understanding of the time and effort that goes into creating something handmade, often a greater appreciation of something that is handmade. If you could only use one color for the rest of your artistic career, which would you choose and why?

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Rockin’ Yule Bizarre 2021

Photos and captions by Liam Poor and Will McCracken of Burn the Box

Clockwise from left:
Soundman, rockstar, and local legend Doug Cassidy bursting with holiday cheer.
A Rockin’ crowd for a Rockin’ Yule Bizarre!
From teachers to rock stars, Carole Leander and Tina Franulovich-Martin head the band Turn and Talk.
The master emcee, Todd “Claus” Young, at work.

Clockwise from left:
Derek Eisel and Bobbi Jo Blessings bless our stage with some eclectic Christmas hits. Muppet’s Christmas Carol anyone? (P.S. The elf suit is homemade!)
Anacortes’ own Pearl Tottenham plays irresistible indie pop jams.
A festive crowd watches the outstanding Bobbi Jo Blessing work some holiday magic.
Tuscan Harper rocks what was undoubtedly one of the best looks off the night. Christmas tree hair?!
Live Music Calendar
January 2022

Tuesday, January 4
6:00 PM
Farmstrong Brewing Co.
Zach Michaud
Local Troubadour
All Ages

Wednesday, January 5
6:00 PM
Rockfish Grill
The Colonel
Rock
All Ages

Thursday, January 6
6:30 PM
Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent
21+

Friday, January 7
7:00 PM
McIntyre Hall
The Moanin’ Frogs
Community Band
All Ages

Tuesday, January 8
6:00 PM
Rockfish Grill
Randy Weeks
Country
All Ages

Saturday, January 8
6:00 PM
Rockfish Grill
Conrad Gruener
Americana
All Ages

Thursday, January 13
6:00 PM
Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent
21+

Friday, January 14
7:00 PM
Croatian Cultural Club
Jillon Stappels Dupree
Harpsichordist
All Ages

Tuesday, January 11
6:00 PM
Farmstrong Brewing Co.
Brittany Collins
Soulful Americana
All Ages

Wednesday, January 12
6:00 PM
Rockfish Grill
Conrad Gruener
Americana
All Ages

Saturday, January 22
6:00 PM
Brown Lantern
Power House
Blues/Rock
All Ages

Thursday, January 29
6:00 PM
Brown Lantern
Red House
Soul/Funk
All Ages

Brown Lantern
The Dolts
Rock
21+

Sunday, January 30
1:30 PM
McIntyre Hall
Skagit Symphony
Family Concert: All Aboard
Kid Friendly
All Ages

Tuesday, January 18
6:00 PM
Farmstrong Brewing Co.
Chris Eger
Blues
All Ages

Wednesday, January 19
6:00 PM
Anacortes Eagles #249
Marcia Kester
Current to Classic
21+

Thursday, January 20
8:30 PM
Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent
21+

Artwork by Luuk Honey.
AMP and many other nonprofits in our beloved town depend on the kindness and generosity of our neighbors and friends. One of those generous neighbors is the Barrett Community Caring Project. These fine folks underwrite many local youth and art related programs in Anacortes and help our community organizations make amazing projects happen. We recently spoke to Pat Barrett and Mary Staley at BCCP about their charitable work.

For those in the community who are unaware, tell us about Barrett Financial.

Barrett Financial is a fiduciary fee based financial planning firm helping both families and small businesses navigate investment, debt, tax, estate planning and other financial challenges. We care about the people and understand that finances are just tools. It’s the people we work with that make it fun and rewarding.

How did the Barrett Community Caring Project get started?

For most of our time since 1993, we have supported various community causes. Several years ago, Mary and I decided to create the Community Caring Project to not only continue to underwrite community causes we believe in but to encourage others to do the same with our matching funds challenges.

IN RECRUITING DONORS TO CONTRIBUTE MATCHING FUNDS, DO YOU HAVE ANY STORIES THAT WOULD HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT THAT GIVING HAS?

This past year, we made a significant underwriting challenge to the Skagit County Boys and Girls Clubs to match dollar for dollar to a specific amount. With the hard work of Ian Faley at B&G, they more than tripled our challenge funding and gained the support of several other individuals and businesses to also establish matching funding. It is the case of… a good example is multiplied many times.

ARE THERE ANY PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS YOU’D LIKE TO RECOGNIZE, WHO CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR SUCCESS?

At the risk of not mentioning so many, as there are so many, Boys and Girls Clubs work hard to provide help and caring to so many young people in the Valley. We as a community are so blessed to have them and we encourage all to support their great work. Our BFL clients and our staff also support the many causes of the Caring Project.

HOW WOULD YOU ADVISE NEW DONORS TO ENGAGE WITH YOU?

We help organizations grow resources. They need only come to us with their idea and vision. From there, if it makes sense and falls into our values wheel-house, we would likely begin a relationship of support. Our focus is local and youth. Anything to do with helping all youth in our community is of a benefit.

THANK YOU FOR BEING OUR SPONSOR. WHAT CAUSED YOU TO SELECT AMP AS A BENEFICIARY?

Oh, let’s be honest, not only do we both believe in the value of live homegrown music but most of The Enthusiasts and Ebb Slack and Flood are family of some sort. Come to a Thanksgiving someday and you’d understand. We have seen their growth and vision over the years as an organization and the community of Anacortes is blessed to have them as a key component.

Mount Vernon High School Mariachi Teacher to March in 2022 Rose Parade®

Ramon Rivera band director for the Mount Vernon School District Mount Vernon, WA will join band directors from across the country on January 1 in the annual Pasadena Tournament of Roses® Rose Parade. A custom-designed animated float will lead a “marching band of band directors” up to 300 strong from across the country. The Michael D. Sewell Memorial Foundation, based in Pickerington, Ohio, is the sponsoring organization behind the project.

The parade entry will convey the theme, “America’s band directors: We teach music. We teach life.” The extraordinary dedication and accomplishments of band directors are well known to their students, to parents and to school teachers and administrators. Students’ lives in particular are positively changed by a motivational leader who taught, inspired and mentored them.

Mr. Rivera is currently the Mariachi Director of the Mount Vernon School District Mariachi program with over 200 students district wide. “This is always been a dream to March in the Rose Parade , it truly is an honor to represent Washington State in this Parade.”

Complete details on the project are available on the Saluting America’s Band Directors website, BandDirectorSalute.org.
Untitled
from Rhizomes—poems to read, knead, and seed
by Karl Blau

Let’s bring everything down a notch
See what we may see
I felt poor when I couldn’t even find the door
Let alone The Sun and the sea

And now my back is to the house
And I’m givin’ her all she’s got
What is the point of feelin’ no pain?
Must be all in my brain
When I catch the rains
When I catch the rains

When I catch the rains it pours down on me
When I catch the rains
When I read the rains

I’ve got every cup, bowl, saucer and shoe
Out on the lawn if but only for the morning dew
When it rains it pours—hey! come again
When I catch the rains it pours down on me
When I catch the rains
When I catch the rains

Water on the brain, it’s like a stain
Catching up with me, my body starts to strain
Strange to see a desert flower
Worth more than your standard hour
Gather all of sons and daughters
Time to round up all these waters
When I catch the rains it pours down on me

And down on you
Down on you, too

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**Not in Our Town?**

“Racism doesn’t happen here.” This is something many of us have heard throughout our schools, homes, and cities in the U.S. —including Anacortes. During the 2020 George Floyd uprising, Anacortes activists were hit with this phrase to the point where it became akin to a slogan.

“Why do you need to protest? We don’t need that here. Anacortes is not and has never been racist.” To be fair to that opposition, there wasn’t great evidence to debunk this argument the research simply hasn’t been done. But how could racism not be part of the foundation of a town that is 89% white?

So we did the research. In 2020 and 2021, members of the Anacortes Anti-Racism Cooperative and community volunteers researched and compiled recorded acts of racism throughout the Anacortes history. All of this became much easier to do with the digitization of Anacortes Americans from the 1890s to the present. We found articles that recorded outright racially motivated acts of violence and more subtle forms of exclusion. What came out of these findings is an incomplete timeline, cataloging the mistakes of our ancestors and the shadows of racism that still exist in our community — even if we would rather avert our eyes.

The purpose of this project is not for it to be an attack or a shaming of our town. Instead, we hope that it can lay the groundwork for more research, conversation, and plans about how that still exist in our community.

Pick up a free copy of the zine at The Business or Pelican Bay books or find the PDF through the QR code.

To learn more about the anti-racism cooperative or to become involved, visit the Facebook page and send a message: @anacortesarc

Stay tuned for future community programs and discussions around this research project!
**Chime Chat with Cherry**

_In the tradition of the great personal advice column, Show Chime presents Chime Chat with Cherry. Cherry doesn’t just dish out advice, she peers deeply into your soul to find the answers within you. She also specializes in naming bands, boats, and babies. Write to Cherry at theshowchime@gmail.com._

**DEAR CHERRY:**

Help! I’m in a serious music rut. Any suggestions for new things to listen to in the new year? —Stuck in a Rut

**DEAR RUT:**

Well, this cursed pandemic has turned everything on its head, so my suggestion is to figure out what the polar opposite of what you usually listen to. Like Yanni? Norwegian Death Metal. Like Americana folk? Now you like bagpipes. Singer/songwriter genre? Now you like polka.

**HI CHERRY:**

My hipster brother has given me a vinyl LP for Christmas every year for the past five years. At what point should I tell him that I don’t ever intend to own a record player? —Boring Brother

**DEAR BROTHER:**

Have you seen that craft project where you use LPs and a warm oven to make bowls? Turn those LPs into some hipster tableware! Then when next Christmas rolls around, BAM! Gift your brother an LP bowl. Now, the sight of his beloved Lumineers first pressing turned knick knack might make him cry, but he definitely won’t gift you any more LPs.

**DEAR UNMUSICAL:**

I don’t ever intend to own a record player? For Christmas every year for the past five years. At what point should I tell him that I don’t ever intend to own a record player? —Inherently Unmusical

**DEAR CHERRY:**

In order to improve my poor mental state, brought on by the past two years of relentless uncertainty, my therapist has suggested I learn to play a musical instrument. This would be laughable, if I wasn’t in any mood to laugh. I am lacking any musical talent whatsoever. Can you suggest a foolproof yet soothing and uplifting instrument for me to start with? —Inherently Unmusical

**DEAR UNMUSICAL:**

Have you met my friend the banjo? I find it to be the least annoying instrument to hear when played badly. It makes a satisfying twangly sound whether played competently or not. Also, there should be more badass banjo players in the world. And yes, the AMP Instrument Lending Library has a banjo you can borrow.

**Share the Local Music Love!**

**Call for Contributors**

Show Chime is looking for volunteer contributors to help us cover the local music scene. Cover one show or become a regular contributor. Contact us at theshowchime@gmail.com to start the conversation.

**Get in Touch!**

Want your music projects or shows mentioned in the Show Chime? Want to submit a piece of art or an article? Have ideas for Show Chime you’d like to share? Show Chime only happens because of people like you. We would love to hear from you!

**Anacortes Music Channel**

Do you know about the Anacortes Music Channel? One great pool of Anacortes music just churning away—24/7! Tune in day and night at anacortesmusicproject.org.

**Call for Band Bios**

The AMP archive of Bands, Venues, Shows, Compilations, Events, and Players is just getting started! We are compiling photos, videos, and music, along with details of each artist/band. We need help from the community to build out this amazing resource. If you want to have your band included, just fill out our Archive Questionnaire!

**Represent!**

Here at AMP we have big plans for the future. In addition to the promotion, publication, and distribution of the SHOW CHIME music calendar, AMP is committed to creating events that feature local musicians, developing a scholarship and mentoring program, continuing the development and collection of archives past and present, and shaping exciting visions for the future, such as a physical space for our community’s very own radio station and music space. Your support amplifies the music and musicians of Anacortes.

**GO TO ANACORTESMUSICPROJECT.ORG AND CLICK ON THE SPONSORSHIP BUTTON.**

**Become an Amplifier!**

Becoming a monthly donor is easy, you can scan this code with your phone and choose the amount you would like to contribute to AMP each month. Your donation helps us pay our musicians and artists, fund our events and festivals, offer AMP music camps, and move into an amazing new venue space for all to enjoy.

**Stay in Anacortes**

Coming to Anacortes for a show? Stay the night! Check out the range of options at Anacortes.org/stay

**Thank You!**

Thank you to everyone who came out to Yule Bizarre and to our sponsors who made it so amazing. Special thank you this month to our Yule Bizarre Raffle Sponsors: Village Pizza, The Business, Salt and Vine, Ace Hardware, Barrett Financial, and Schaffner Pharmacy. Thank you to our monthly donors: Jessica Redman, Brenda Treadwell, Jenn White, Carrie Velin, Lisa Jackson, and Jensen Lovelett! Thank you to our sponsoring businesses: Mugsy at The Red Snapper, Hal and Sheryl at The Brown Lantern, Nick and Carolyn at Bikespot, Mark and Willie at Guemes Island General Store, Clay Christofferson at Farmstrong Brewing Company, Rick Star at Rockfish Bar and Grill, Barrett Community Caring Project, and the good folks at the Anacortes Food Coop. Thank you Manieri board, Chris Terrell, and Keith Eyer at How It Works. Thank you to Laurie Racicot for editing and design. This January issue of Show Chime was printed by How It Works and made possible by a grant from the Anacortes Public Library Manieri Endowment. Getting the Show Chime to you each month is a community effort! This issue was written, edited, printed, distributed, and probably read on the traditional lands of Samish, Skagit, Swinomish, and Puget Sound Salish people.

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