



THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL
FILM
FESTIVAL IN
THE WORLD



FLIC Exceeds Expectations GPCF Grant Boosts Winter Economy

The success of a film festival can be reflected in the numbers. Flathead Lake International Cinemafest (FLIC) held in Polson January 24-26, exceeded all expectations in online sales, attendance, numbers of films screened, and the number of filmmakers and crew members in attendance.

Thirteen filmmakers, four producers, four actors and one screenwriter attended from Las Vegas, Utah, San Diego, Calif., South Dakota and Canada, mingled with film lovers during the three-day festival.

"I don't want to leave," Greg Benoit, a filmmaker from Las Vegas, said. Greg said he would be back next year - a familiar statement heard from several film makers.

"This is a beautiful town and the staff and audiences are great," said filmmaker Stevan Turk, from Carlsbad, California. "I've been to other film festivals and you can tell that this festival is well organized, and the friendliness of the people is genuine."

The festival's mission is to provide makers of all film genres a venue through which they enrich themselves and their audiences by engaging with film. Eighty films, from two-minute shorts to feature length, from 16 different countries including 41 world premieres, filled the weekend.

Works from two local filmmakers in attendance were viewed. Kicking off the

event was Polson native Brooke Pepion Swaney's acclaimed film, "OK Breathe Auralee." Eureka's Gary Henderson's short film, "Ruby's Doll," received a Best Short Honorable Mention Award. It was a trailer for The Ruby Rescue Doll Project, created to increase awareness of human trafficking.

Jeff Chiba Stearns from Vancouver, B.C., has graced FLIC for two years. The Canadian animator provided FLIC with an Animated Film Program and Workshop that filled two theaters at Showboat Cinemas.

"It says a lot that this festival, in its second year, needed to open a second theater," Jeff said. "That is a true testament to how the festival is being run."

The festival ended with a closing ceremony where "Best Of" awards were presented. The "Best Of" award winners were:

- The People's Choice: "Dakota 38," a moving story of personal healing and reconciliation. Its depicts a group of Native American Indians taking a 330-mile journey on horseback to commemorate the hanging of 38 Indians in the largest mass public execution in America's history. The powerful story can be viewed on YouTube.
- Best FLIC Jr.: "Evolution"
- Best Actress: Brynn Samms, "88 Miles to Moscow"
- Best Actor: Cullen Moss, "The Heroes of Arvine Place"



Guests at FLIC's Opening Night Party Tribute to the "Great Gatsby" included, Left to right (Front) Linda Greenwood, Toni Young, Stephanie Clement, (Middle) Gerry Browning, Lucy McCrumb, (Back) Cheryl Thomas, Valerie Lindstrom and Rosemary Ekstrom.

- Best Director: Karen Glienke "88 Miles to Moscow"
- Best Animation: "Home Sweet Home"
- Best Short: "88 Miles to Moscow"
- Best Documentary: "Dakota 38"
- Best Feature Length: "Heroes of Arvine Place"

GPCF is proud to have played a part in the successful introduction of a winter film festival in Polson. Information about FLIC can be viewed at www.flicpolson.com.

Treasurer's Corner

Donor Advised Fund or Directed Gift?

How can you have involvement in the use of your gift? It's easy! GPCF has two options for your consideration:

Donor Advised Funds - You can have ongoing involvement in the use of your gift. You work with our staff identifying ways to use dollars from the Donor Advised Fund you establish to address the needs and causes you care about most. This is one of the most flexible giving options because you can use your fund to respond to changing charitable needs and interests in the community on a yearly basis.

Directed Gift - You can direct your gift to specific nonprofit organizations or purpose. This is usually a one-time disbursement within 12 months of the gift.

Please do not hesitate to contact John Cowan at 406-883-4198 for more information about these giving options to benefit the greater Polson community while keeping you involved.

North Lake County Public Library Adds Five "Book Nooks" To Polson Community

Thanks in part to the Greater Polson Community Foundation, the library's Book Nooks are now an established sight around town. A 2012 grant made it possible to place them at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center (Western Montana Clinic), the Tribal Health Clinic, Beacon Tire and the Wash N Go, where they have all been enthusiastically received.

Now, because of an additional GPCF grant in 2013, five new nooks are in place at Les Schwab Tires, the Mission Valley Aquatic Center, Polson Bay Laundry, Community Bank and the oncology department at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center.

Each Book Nook consists of a comfortable hardwood rocking chair and an eye-catching bookshelf filled with lightly used books for all ages. Attached signs urge users to "Take Time to Read," and explain that readers may enjoy the books for the moment, or take them home to keep. Library staff member Jerry Walker restocks the shelves bi-monthly.

The grants have provided North Lake County Public Library with exceptional



A "Book Nook" at the Wash N Go.

outreach opportunities. Book Nooks not only spread literacy, but also attract library non-users, encourage families to read together, provide public awareness about the benefits of libraries and offer a great use for the many used books that come into the library.

*Marilyn Trospen, Library Director
North Lake County Public Library District*

Foundation Has New Downtown Digs

Because of a donor's generosity, the Greater Polson Community Foundation now has its own office on the lower level of the Salish Building at 110 Main Street. The office space in the recently remodeled building is freshly painted and newly carpeted. Two anonymous donors are equipping it with desks and a large conference table.

This will be the headquarters for GPCF where our financial and donor records will be kept, directors can meet for regular board meetings, and volunteers and any part-time staff can do the work of the GPCF. In the future, it may also become the space where other committees and non-profit organizations can convene their meetings.

President Penny Jarecki said, "Our board of directors is absolutely thrilled to have this opportunity to have an office right on Polson's Main Street. Not only is it convenient and will help us become more effective, it also makes GPCF more visible in the community. All of this is possible because of generous donors. We are extremely grateful for their support and encouragement."

■ Home Is Where Your Heart Is: Mildred Weber Hanson Gives Foundation Legacy Gift

What does “home” mean to you? Is it simply the place where you hang your hat? Or does the bond with a particular place and its people make the “this is home” feeling hard to shake, no matter how long you are away?

In the shadow of the regal Mission Mountains, along the rocky shores of Flathead Lake, one can find joy, peace, solace and acceptance. For many people, that intimate connection is enough to make Polson “home.” For most, the feeling is only enhanced by the kind-hearted people they meet along the way.

Mildred Weber Hanson, wife of late Willett F. Weber (Bill) and later, J. Hilbert Hanson, passed away in October, leaving behind a generous gift for the Greater Polson Community Foundation. Her donation will go a long way in supporting a permanent endowment for the Polson area.

Mildred was born in the Midwest, but moved to Polson in 1959 with her first husband, Willett F. Weber (Bill), a retired mechanical engineer and officer in the Naval Reserve. After Bill’s death in 1979, Mildred went to work at the law office

of Jean Turnage and C. B. McNeil. She married longtime friend J. Hilbert Hanson on Oct. 20, 2002 in Sequim, Wash., and lived there until 2012 when he passed away.

“After Hib’s death, she returned to her beloved Montana, where each day she marveled at the ever-changing beauty of Flathead Lake,” her obituary read.

A thoughtful, dignified and gentle person, Mildred loved to read and work in her yard. She had great appreciation for the English language and the written word.

“She’s lived in some of the most beautiful places in the world, but she chose to come back to Polson,” GPCF President Penny Jarecki said. “It shows the importance of a community in a person’s life.”

It shows, as well, the importance of giving back in a meaningful way. Her gift, among other things, will allow the foundation to double the amount of grants it currently awards.

In 2013, the foundation gave to noteworthy projects like the Boys and Girls Club, CASA and Mission Valley Aquatics. Over the



Mildred Weber Hanson.

years, more than 35 local non-profits have benefitted from philanthropy through the GPCF.

According to Cathy Cooney, Program Director with the Montana Community Foundation, Mildred’s gift is one of the largest endowments she’s heard of in this state.

“The Greater Polson Community Foundation is here to stay,” Jarecki said of the foundation, which was established in the fall of 2008.

■ Heart & Soul Project Nears Completion

Polson Heart & Soul volunteers and coordinators are working hard to wrap up their project after an extensive two-year process canvassing the Greater Polson area asking its residents what they value in their community. The project was extended by two months and will now officially end on March 31. A plan is being developed for transitioning the information and resources from the Heart & Soul project to Envision Polson!, which is also under the direction of the Greater Polson Community Foundation. The transition plan will be presented to the GPCF, City of Polson and the Orton Family Foundation (the grant provider) in March. The plan implementation will include involving many organizations throughout the Polson community in determining and ultimately carrying out actions that honor our community’s shared values and common vision.

Before the project transitions, however, a community-wide “Action Summit & Winter Carnival” will take place at Polson High School on Sunday, March 16 from 2-4pm. A video that visually encompasses the project and reveals the final Polson value statements will be presented. Those in the community who remember the

PHS Winter Carnival from years gone by will be thrilled to attend because Heart & Soul is bringing back a glimpse of that traditional carnival at this event. “So many people commented that the Winter Carnival is a favorite memory of living in Polson, or told us that they wish it would be brought back,” said Darlis Smith, one of the coordinators of the Polson Heart & Soul project. “That made it an easy choice when we got together to decide how to have a celebratory ending to the project. We’re hoping for a large and enthusiastic crowd at the Action Summit & Winter Carnival on March 16th, and we’re guaranteeing a fun time for all.”

By spring 2014, a publication featuring stories, photographs, and results of the Polson Heart & Soul Project will be available. Neighborhood summaries can now be viewed at www.polsonheartandsoul.org.

The Heart & Soul staff would like to thank everyone who volunteered and all of the community members who participated in this project, and especially the GPCF for sponsoring this huge undertaking.





Greater Polson
Community
Foundation

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Newsletter Design: Daniel P. Smith/double entendre design, inc.

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Important Dates To Remember

May 21

Luncheon For Non-Profits

A May 21 luncheon will be held at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for representatives of non-profit organizations, to review and explain the GPCF granting process and to discuss the importance of legacy giving to all non-profits.

June 30

GPCF Grant Application Due Date

The deadline for the 2014 grants is Monday, June 30. The grant application form is available on the GPCF website: www.greater-polsoncommunityfoundation.org.

August 16

Viva Polson!

The GPCF annual "Passion for Polson" event will be held Saturday evening, August 16, 2014. It will be the best party of the summer. Be sure and mark the date on your calendar now!