

## Juggling, Music, and Magic Swing into Homer, June 29 - July 5



### The New Old Time Chautauqua

“Be Mary” Tour 2019

Press Release

<http://www.chautauqua.org/>

**Dates:** Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> – Friday July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Location:** Homer, AK

*The New Old Time Chautauqua’s 2019 “Be Mary” Tour was made possible with funding by Rasmuson Foundation through the Harper Arts Touring Fund, and is administered by the Alaska State Council on the Arts.*

#### About the Tour

This June, 57 members of the troupe The New Old Time Chautauqua will be embarking on a three-week-long tour of Southcentral Alaska, including Talkeetna, Anchorage, Seward, and Homer, sponsored in part by the Northern Culture Exchange. This multi-generational troupe of artists, performers, educators, and musicians travels together every summer, bringing live performances, free workshops, and community service to small towns across America. Their week of Homer events is coordinated with three local arts organizations: Pier One Theatre, Bunnell Street Arts Center, and Homer Council on the Arts.

The "Be Mary" tour will celebrate the life and legacy of longtime Alaskan Mary Langham, an artist, circus founder and educator, mother, teacher, doctor, writer, Chautauqua Tour Organizer, and just an all-around joyfully dynamic person. Over the course of decades of summers, Mary has taught countless youth and adults circus skills, artistry, and the value of collaborating in a community.

Mary raised four kids in a dry cabin in Talkeetna, while practicing medicine and cultivating a vibrant arts community, including as a founding member of the Green Light Circus. **The tour starts in Talkeetna with a week-long celebration of Mary Langham, and ends with a week in Homer, where she was a vibrant organizer, writer, performer and producer in her last 15 years of life!**

Eight members of her family, including three of her children, a grandchild, and her husband, will be part of this journey.

We aim to delight, educate, amaze, and provoke the imaginations of adults and children alike. With the intention of inspiring creativity and supporting community, our traveling troupe partners with local organizations and service groups to present Chautauqua events.

In Alaska, we will be bringing this joy to prisons, homeless and at-risk populations, indigenous communities, adults with disabilities, nursing homes, Mary Langham's friends and family, and the general public - of all ages and stripes.

### **The Big Vaudeville Variety Show at The SPARC**

Our big Vaudeville Variety Show will take place **Thursday July 4, 8:00pm** after the 4th of July Parade.

- Advance tickets: \$15 for adults / \$10 for children / \$45 for families of 4.
- At the door: \$20 adults / \$12 children / \$50 for families of 4.
- Tickets are available in advance at: [www.homerart.org](http://www.homerart.org) and at the Homer Bookstore.
- **Bring blankets and low-profile camping chairs to sit in (we have a limited number of folding chairs).**

In Homer, The New Old Time Chautauqua will be partnering with **Homer Council on the Arts, Pier One Theatre, and Bunnell Street Arts Center** to present a show in the SPARC on Thursday, July 4th, 2019, at 8:00pm. This knock-ye-socks off vaudeville extravaganza will come at the end of **a week of community activities**, offering an evening of entertainment and delight for the whole family after the Homer 4th of July Parade. The show will include juggling, acrobatics, dancing, aerials, magic, mime, live music, and more - and will feature locally and internationally-acclaimed artists!

**The Flying Karamazov Brothers** will wow you with their hilarious juggling and cheap theatrics; **The Langham Family** will clown from their heart, local Anchorage vaudevillian **Fiona Rose** will charm you with her potent lyricism and twinkle toes; hula hooper extraordinaire **Vanessa Vortex** will impress you with her coordination and grace; **Phina and Sophie Pipia** perform a hilarious tandem sister act on their sousaphones; also in the program- even more juggling, magic, acrobatics, and belly-laughs!

Throughout the show, enjoy the rousing live music and zany wisecracks by the **Fighting Instruments of Karma Marching Chamber Band/Orchestra**, who play music ranging from marches and sambas to New Orleans Jazz.

### **Honoring Mary Langham**

Tuesday, July 2nd will be **a day dedicated to honoring Mary Langham** and her work as a playwright, actress, volunteer, and producer at **Pier One Theatre**. All events will take place on the Homer Spit!

The day will culminate in **a show honoring Mary Langham and her works** at 7:30pm in Pier One Theater put on by Mary's friends and colleagues in the Homer acting and writing community, featuring works by Mary Langham herself. The event will be a pass-the-hat affair, with donations benefitting Pier One and the New Old Time Chautauqua.

There will be a **parade starting at 2:30pm** down the spit from The Seafarer's Memorial to Pier One. Anyone is welcome to join our parade! Bring a costume, a noisemaker, some props, a friend - or just your wonderful self!

Then, we will be offering **free workshops** from **3:30pm to 5:30pm**. Workshops are open to all ages and skill levels; participants can attend for all or part. (Please read more about the workshops below).

Prior to **the show of Mary Langham's works**, Chautauqua will host a **community potluck** starting at **6:00pm**. Bring a dish to share, a friend, a musical instrument, and a joke! The community is invited to mix and mingle with the vaudevillian visitors and friends of Mary Langham.

### **Free Community Events in Homer**

On July 3rd, we will put on an hour-long lunchtime show at **Homer Senior Citizens, Inc.** at **12:30pm**, open to seniors and the general public.

Following this, we will be offering free workshops at **Karen Hornaday Park**, with talks at **The Pratt Museum** from **2:30 - 4:30pm** on the Doctrine of Discovery and Alaska Healing Oils (please See workshops section for more details). Workshops are open to all ages and skill levels; participants can attend for all or part. Please read more about the workshops in the section below.

That same evening, on **July 3rd**, we will join local talent to perform in Sally Oberstein's **First Wednesday Spectacle** starting at **8:00pm** at **Alice's Champagne Palace**.

### **Music Show**

Our band, the Fighting Instruments of Karma, will be putting on a surround-sound musical experience at **Alice's Champagne Palace** at **8:30pm on Sunday, June 30th**. We will play marches, sambas, and New Orleans Jazz. This music show will also feature our singer-songwriters, which include local favorite Tyler Langham of Animal Eyes; Anchorage locals Fiona Rose, French Jessica, and Betsy Ure, Phina and Sophie Pipia of Port Townsend, Harmony Lyrics from Bellingham, and Kym "Momazon" Trippsmith.

### **Community Service in Homer**

While in Homer, Chautauqua will be repainting the exterior of the Pier One Theatre to make it nice and bright!

On the morning of the **4th of July**, Chautauquans will be out en masse with local volunteers as their guides, weeding flower pots, cleaning up trailheads led by the **Pioneer Avenue Task Force** and **Bunnell Street Arts Center**, and will help Homer Council on the Arts declutter, all in preparation for the big 4th of July parade and Chautauqua's final hurrah in Homer!

## Workshops

We are offering over 20 workshops on tour. Workshops are open to all ages and skill levels. We will offer a collection of the following workshops below for free during our workshops sessions. Which workshops are offered will depend on the needs of the community and who is present on tour and available to teach a workshop.

### Circus Arts/Physical Movement

- **Acrobatics - Shawn Kellogg and Sadie Ledonna** - all ages! Learn to leap tall buildings in a single bound!
- **Circus Movement for Littles** - Meghan Holtan - Circus movement for kids aged 2-5
- **Defying Gravity: An Introduction to Clowning** - Kristin Crowley - The world looks different when you are wearing a nose, and so do you!
- **Hula-Hoop Revolution** - Learn to hula hoop with Harmony Lyrics and friends
- **Juggling** - balls, clubs, scarves - taught by a consortium of Chautauquans
- **Mime** - learn to interact with invisible worlds.
- **Slackline** - an all-ages balancing game!

### Music, Games, and Crafts

- **Bracelet's Be Friends** - craft friendship bracelets and make friends!
- **Facepainting** - get pretty!
- **Fool's Proof** - improvisational games that will get your mind moving and your heart racing!
- **Hand Whistling** - learn to make music with your own two hands!
- **"The Paper Orchestra"** - be a part of something bigger and stranger than yourself
- **Song Swap** - sing along to familiar folk tunes - lyrics provided!
- **Uke Can Do It** - learn a few chords on the ukulele - open to all skill levels.
- **Yoga** - stretch out and relax or challenge your balance. Breathe.

### Informational

- **Alaska Healing Oils** - taught by Donna McKay a Tlingit/Haida elder -for teens and adults
- **Basic Life Saving Skills** - Iris Cook- teens and adults
- **Ayurveda Self-Care Essentials: Loving Your Watershed** - By Kym Trippsmith - teens and adults
- **CPR** - By Jorjann Plimmer, registered nurse. Learn to save lives with your own two hands - all ages welcome
- **The Doctrine of Discovery** - By Paul Magid - a history of imperialism - teens and adults
- **The Fitted Sheet - Know When to Fold 'Em** - By Paul Magid - How to fold the fitted sheet - all ages

## What is a Chautauqua?

Chautauqua was a cultural and social movement that started in the 1870s and flourished until the mid-1920s. Hundreds of touring Circuit Chautauquas presented lectures, dance, music, drama, and other forms of cultural enrichment. This popular form of live entertainment faded during the economic challenges of the Great Depression as radio broadcasts and motion pictures became mainstream.

The New Old Time Chautauqua was founded in 1981 by the Flying Karamazov Brothers, Patch Adams, and Faith Petric. Inspired by the traveling Chautauquas of the early 20th century, Chautauqua aims to be a catalyst for strengthening communities and elevating lives through laughter, inspiration, and learning. For the past 36 years, the dedicated group of performers and educators have volunteered their summer months to bring high quality live entertainment and arts education to communities throughout the United States; visiting rural communities, Native American reservations, schools, prisons, youth correctional facilities, assisted living facilities, and hospitals.

The organization has brought joy and entertainment to communities throughout California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, Alaska and British Columbia, and post-Katrina New Orleans.

**Please use the following language in any written publication to properly thank the Rasmuson Foundation and the Alaska State Council on the Arts.**

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**Please use the following logos whenever including printed images to properly thank the Rasmuson Foundation and the Alaska State Council on the Arts:**

<https://education.alaska.gov/aksca/logos.html>

**For more information, please contact the folks below. Chautauquans are available to be interviewed!**

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2019 Tour Organizer,

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You will find high-resolution photos for the purpose of promoting Chautauqua [here](#) (<http://chautauqua.org/press.html>) and [here](#).