

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Juggling, Music, and Magic Swing into Seward, June 24-28



The New Old Time Chautauqua

“Be Mary” Tour 2019

Press Release

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

Dates: Tuesday June 24th – Friday June 28th, 2019

Location: Seward, Alaska

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.

We aim to delight, educate, amaze, and provoke the imagination 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 Seward High School Theater

The New Old Time Chautauqua will be partnering with **Seward PTA**, **Seward Public Radio**, and **The Seward Arts Council** to present a 2-hour vaudeville variety show in the Seward High School Theater on Friday, June 28th, 2019, at 7:00pm.

This knock-ye-socks off circus extravaganza offers an evening of entertainment and delight for the whole family - juggling, acrobatics, dancing, aerials, magic, mime, live music, and more - and will feature locally and internationally-acclaimed talent.

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-laugh!

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.

Purchase your tickets in advance for a discount! \$15 for adults / \$13 Seward Arts Council Members / \$10 for kids! Buy online at <https://sewardcircus.brownpapertickets.org> .

At the door, tickets will cost \$18 for adults, \$15 for SAC members, and \$10 for kids!

Free Community Events in Seward

Chautauqua will put short “teasers shows” on the mornings of June 27th and June 28th in the **Seward Boat Harbor** and in front of the **Alaska Sealife Center**. Keep your eyes peeled for a marching band and 7-foot-tall Godfrey Daniels!

We will be collaborating with **Seward PTA** and **Seward Public Radio** to offer **FREE Workshops** at **Seward High School** on Thursday, June 27th. Workshops are open to all ages and skill levels; participants can attend for all or part. **We are offering over 20 workshops on our tour, though not all will be present at all locations.** Please read more about the workshops at the below.

That same day, on June 27th, following the workshops, we will congregate at the Seward Boat Harbor at 6:00pm for a short teaser show, then parade down 4th avenue to **Temple Studios**. Anyone is welcome to join our parade! Bring a costume, a noisemaker, some props, a friend - or just your wonderful self!

At **Temple Studios**, we will hold a community potluck starting at 7:00pm. 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. This community potluck will also be a singer-songwriter showcase where locals will be invited to play their original music alongside Chautauquan songwriters. Just show up!

Our band, the Fighting Instruments of Karma, will be putting on a surround-sound musical experience at **Yukon Bar** at 10:00pm on Friday, June 28th. They will play marches, sambas, and New Orleans Jazz. This music show will also feature our singer-songwriters, including Anchorage Tyler Langham of perennial local favorite Animal Eyes; locals Fiona Rose, French Jessica, and Betsy Ure; Phina and Sophie Pipa of Port Townsend; Harmony Lyrics from Bellingham; and Kym “Momazon” Trippsmith, among others.

Community Service in Seward

We will be visiting **Spring Creek** twice during our visit, and will present two free vaudeville variety shows on Wednesday, June 26th, to maximize our reach in the population.

On Friday, the day of the High School Theater Show, we are planning on returning to Spring Creek to teach workshops and assist the inmates in their gardening and peony farming. We are hoping to also connect with local gardeners who are interested in sharing their skills alongside Chautauquans and the inmates. Specific troupe members will partner with specific clubs and groups existing within Spring Creek.

In addition, we will visit **Providence Mountain Haven Nursing Home** on Thursday, June 27th, to perform for the elders for a lunchtime show.

Celebrating Mary Langham

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.

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.

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!

Fiona Worcester

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413-884-2359 (cell) ← Her number is not local, **but she lives in Anchorage!**

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