

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Juggling, Music, and Magic Swing into Talkeetna, June 12-19



The New Old Time Chautauqua

“Be Mary” Tour 2019

Press Release

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

Dates: Wednesday June 12th – Wednesday June 19th, 2019

Location: Talkeetna, 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 / Celebrating Mary Langham

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.

The New Old Time Chautauqua's Tour starts in Talkeetna, finishing up a week long celebration of Mary Langham and all the work she has done to bring circus to life in the hearts of Talkeetna for almost 30 years! Mary raised four kids in a dry cabin in Talkeetna, while practicing medicine and cultivating a vibrant arts community.

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. She also was a founding member of the Green Light Circus, and over the course of decades of summers, taught youth in Talkeetna circus skills, artistry, and the value of collaborating in a community. Eight members of her family, including three of her children, a grandchild, and her husband, will be part of this journey.

In Alaska, we will be bringing our unique set of programming 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 Sheldon Community Arts Hangar

The New Old Time Chautauqua will be partnering with **Denali Arts Council** to present two shows in the Sheldon Community Arts Hangar on Monday, June 17th, 2019, at 7:00pm and Tuesday, June 18th, at 7:00pm. This knock-ye-socks off vaudeville extravaganza offers an evening of entertainment and delight for the whole family - juggling, acrobatics, aerials, dancing, magic, mime, live music, and more - and will feature locally and internationally-acclaimed talent.

Tickets will be \$15 for adults / \$10 for kids & DAC members.

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; movement artist **Matthew “Poki” McCorkle** plays with invisible worlds and very real fire; **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.

Free Community Events in Talkeetna

On Tuesday June 18th, The New Old Time Chautauqua will be offering **FREE** workshops from 2:00pm-4:00pm at Talkeetna Park, ranging from circus skills, to slackline, to Tlingit/Haida medicinal healing, to mime, to learning the ukulele. For more information on the 21 workshops offered this summer, please read below!

We will congregate around 6:30pm downtown for a parade to the final big show. Anyone is welcome to join our parade! Bring a costume, a noisemaker, some props, a friend - or just your wonderful self!

Band Show!

Our band, the Fighting Instruments of Karma, will be putting on a surround-sound experience at **The Fairview Inn** on Saturday, June 15th at 8:00pm. The marching band will play marches, sambas, and New Orleans Jazz. This music show will also feature our singer-songwriters, which include homegrown Tyler Langham of Animal Eyes and Anchorage locals Fiona Rose, French Jessica, and Betsy Ure, Phina and Sophie Pipia of Port Townsend, as well as Harmony Lyrics from Bellingham, and Kym “Momazon” Trippsmith.

Community Service in Talkeetna

We will be volunteering to help with Talkeetna's community youth **Green Light Circus**, of which Mary was a founding member, supporting them in their shows by being a part of their parade. We will be partnering with the playground to do some matanance as well as creative projects. And helping out our wonderful hosts NSI and DAC on projects.

More on 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

- **Circus Movement for Littles** - Meghan Holtan - Circus movement for kids aged 2-5
- **Defying Gravity: An Introduction to Clowning** - Kristin Crowley
- **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 balance game!

Music, Games, and Crafts

- **Bracelet's Be Friends** - friendship bracelets!
- **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"** -
- **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
- **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
- **First Aid** - By Zoe Iris - teens and adults

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

Nate Wheeler

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