

Montana Playwrights Network

Proudly Presents

THE

QUEEN CITY ROUNDUP

OF

COWBOY POETS, PLAYWRIGHTS, & STORYTELLERS

Workshops at Helena College:

**1115 North Roberts St.
Room 102: Downstairs by main entrance.**

**Workshops daily
12:15 pm - 5:00 pm**

Details on page 4

April 26 & 27, 2019



**EVENING PERFORMANCES
AT**

Helena High Little Theatre

**1300 Billings Avenue
(Across the street, west of Helena College)**

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 PM

April 26

Raisin' A Ruckus

Details on page 5

April 27

***Fabulous Cowboy Poets*
&
*Judy & the Divine Bovines***

Details on page 6

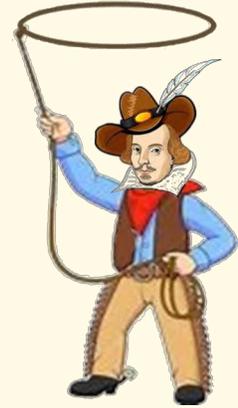


Pamela Mencher
MPN President

Montana Playwrights Network
Presents the

QUEEN CITY ROUNDUP
OF
COWBOY POETS, PLAYWRIGHTS & STORYTELLERS

APRIL 26 & 27, 2019



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the first ever Queen City Roundup for Cowboy Poets, Playwrights and Storytellers! Offered by the Montana Playwrights Network (MPN), a nonprofit organization incorporated in Montana, this unique event represents the combined efforts of many dedicated volunteers, sponsors, MPN members, poets, playwrights, writers, actors, schools, businesses, and the public. We have put together two days of inspiring and practical workshops focused on writing cowboy poetry, playwriting tips, and public performance as well as distinctly different and very entertaining evening performances for your enjoyment. I look forward to meeting you at the Queen City Roundup!

Special Thanks and Recognition are extended to the following individuals and organizations for their help in creating the Queen City Roundup:

Janice Jamruszka-Wilson
Gwen Petersen
Ange Furlong
Mike & Barbara Willis

Pearl Allen
Scott Cromwell
KCAP 950
Jane Ogle

Robert Holter
Julie Burrows
Eagles Lodge: Aerie 16
Helena High School Thespians

Margaret Wilhelm
Jordan Mencher

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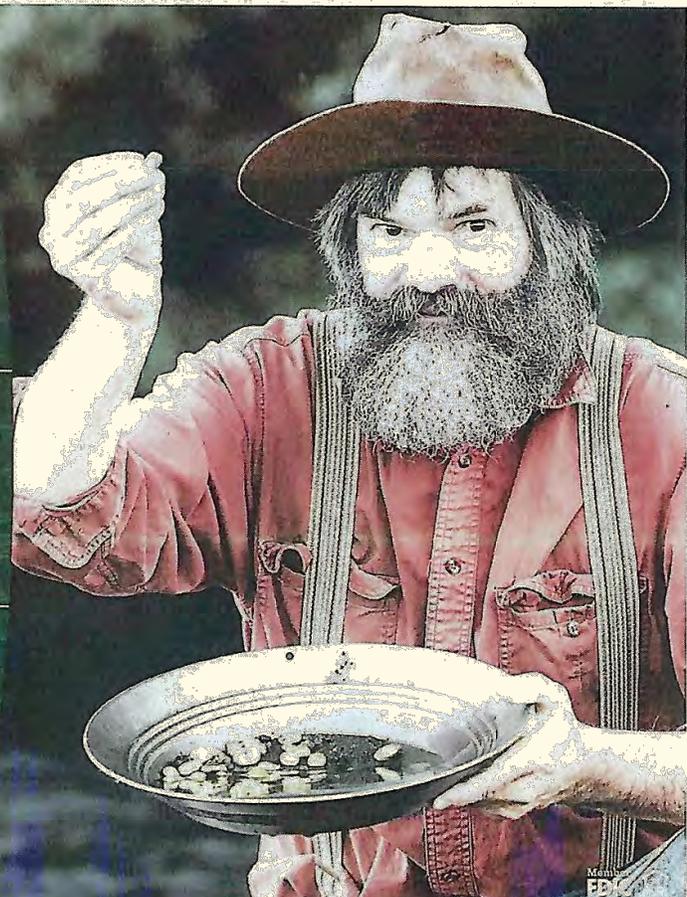
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Queen City Roundup Workshops and Presenters

Conference Check-in: noon

April 26: 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm: Workshop I: Marrying Playwriting & Cowboy Poetry

This unique workshop explores the similarities and differences between playwriting and cowboy poetry. **Presenters, Pamela Mencher and Gwen Petersen** will highlight key concepts in how stories are told through these mediums as well as guide participants through exercises designed to bring the two together in a single work.

Bio for Gwen Petersen is on page 6; Pamela Mencher on page 9.

April 26: 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm: Workshop II: Cowboy Poetry, What to Write & How to Write It

Presenters, Margaret Wilhelm and Jim Hamilton will provide some tips on how to focus on the audience and content of cowboy poetry. They will also offer additional tips on how to avoid some common pitfalls in getting those ideas written.

Bios for Margaret Wilhelm and Jim Hamilton are on page 6.

April 26: 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm: Workshop III: How to Perform Your Writing in a Public Setting

Presenter, Terri Atwood will lead a discussion of presenting stories effectively in a public performance. She'll guide participants through practical exercises exploring oral interpretive skills to enhance your natural voice and also practical tips in working with microphones, space constraints and more.



Terri Vasecka Atwood grew up in the Air Force and graduated from high school in Havre, Montana. She joined the Air Force herself and was one of the first women admitted into American Forces Radio and Television Services in 1972. She served during the Viet Nam war in Thailand as a radio DJ. After the service she spent 20 years in radio and TV broadcasting around the state of Montana until she decided to get her teaching degree; and then taught Jr. High in Clancy for 16 years. She has a BA in History with a minor in Theatre and a Masters in History. She is currently an Adjunct History/Theatre faculty at Helena College. She makes her home in Clancy.

April 27: 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm: Workshop IV: Rhyme and Meter in Cowboy Poetry

Presenter, Gwen Petersen will discuss the background and history of Cowboy Poetry and specifics of meter, rhyme and rhythm used in the form. She'll also provide a book list and handouts, as well as lead participants through several exercises. She invites you to bring your poems to the session to share.

April 27: 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm: Workshop V: Oral Traditions in Indian Country

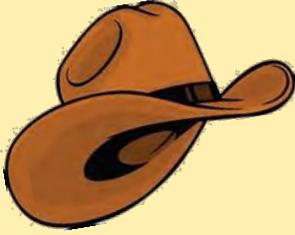
This session will share background information regarding traditional beliefs and value systems and how those were passed on through the oral tradition. **Mike Jetty** will provide tribal specific examples of how this method of transmitting cultural knowledge through stories and songs still plays an important role in how individuals and communities maintain and revitalize cultural and language.



Mike Jetty is an enrolled member of the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation and a Turtle Mountain Chippewa descendant. Mike is currently working at the Montana Office of Public Instruction as an Indian Education Specialist. He has been working with Indian Education issues for the past 28 years and has teaching experience at both the K-12 and University level. He has a B.S. in History Education, a Master's in School Administration and an Education Specialist Degree. In 2008, Mike was honored to be chosen as the Indian Educator of the Year by the Montana Indian Education Association. Since 2004 he has provided over 200 Indian Education workshops for over 4000 educators. In addition, he has made connections with Indian educators from across the U.S. and has been invited to give keynotes for the following states: CA, ID, MI, ND, NM, NV, OK, SD, and WY. Mike resides in Helena with his wife Laura and daughters Rosie and Sapphire.

April 27: 3:30 pm: OPEN MIC SESSION

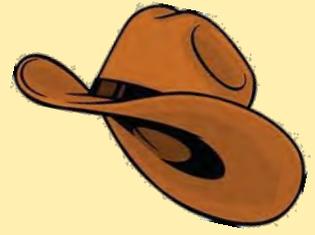
Attendees will perform their own original works during this session.



RAISIN' A RUCKUS

APRIL 26, 2019

7:30 PM



Act One

The Haunted Mine at Lonesome Place

A Western Comedy

By

Pamela Jamruszka Mencher

With Music & Lyrics

By

Jordan R. Mencher

Cast

(In order of Appearance)

Storekeeper's Wife (Stage Directions/Narrator)...	Kara Steab
Wanderin' Sal.....	Sue Faulk
Betsy Primer.....	Auriana Kent
Duke Von Bad Face.....	Austyn Brown
Sheriff Marshall Starr.....	Christopher Duffey
Lucy Tart.....	Beatrice Pujol
Pyrite Pete.....	Robert Holter

The action of the play takes place outside, and then inside the mine.

There is one ten minute intermission.

Act Two

Roy's Day

A short story by Susan Gunn, and performed by John Hosking

Western Fiddler

Sapphire Jetty

Charlie Russell Windshield, Why I Stopped Riding Horses

Poems by Jay Kettering, and performed by John Hosking

Stories From the Powwow Trail

Mike Jetty

Bios of the authors, cast, featured performers and production staff on pages 7, 8, 9

FABULOUS COWBOY POETS & JUDY AND THE DIVINE BOVINES

Original poetry presented by the authors, with comedy and music by the Divine Bovines

APRIL 27, 2019 AT 7:30 PM



Jim Hamilton is a lifetime rancher on the east slope of the Wolf Mountains in south-east Montana. He's been married to Marge for a long time and has three grown children. Jim's poetry is about what he knows: ranching and the cowboy way of life. He strives for authenticity and is highly flattered if a real cowboy or rancher tells him, "I could sure see that happening when you told about it." Most of his poetry is humorous, but he has several serious ones that he likes to present in the right setting. Jim has written and recited poetry for thirty years or more, and performed in venues throughout Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, and for the last ten or so years, at several gatherings in Alberta and Saskatchewan. In April, 2016, Jim was awarded first place in the poetry division in the Cowboy Idol competition at the Columbia River Cowboy Gathering in Kennewick, WA. Jim has recorded three CD's and is starting to work on another.



Gwen Petersen is the author of several books including *How to be Elderly: A User's Guide*, *The Ranch Woman's Manual* and others that chronicle the humorous struggles of life on a ranch as well as a longtime columnist and whimsical poet. She is the founder of the Montana Poetry Gathering in Big Timber and in the mid-1980s was chosen as one of the first poets from Montana to perform at Nevada's first cowboy poetry gathering in Elko, and reappeared there many times over the next two decades. Gwen also appeared as a guest on *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson* in 1986. Since 2000, she founded *Poetry Wintercamp*, an event that developed budding poets and folklore in the spoken word. Gwen also stays active by taking fiddle and guitar lessons and continues to fill the weeks and months with writing.



Margaret Wilhelm lives in White Sulphur Springs where she and her husband raised black angus cattle and two daughters. Her poetry is not traditional cowboy poetry, although she gets her inspiration from happenings on the ranch, neighbors' ranches and human observation. Margaret recently was seen as a featured performer at the Miles City Cowboy Poetry Gathering 2019 in February, and in December, 2018, was a headliner at Jorgensen's Inn Community Center in Helena. She believes people should laugh more, particularly at themselves.



Judy Williams, from near Toston, Montana, writes, records and performs songs that tell about the daily adventures of cows on their Montana ranch. Judy and husband, Tom, raise cattle and hay on the ranch established by his grandfather in the late 1880's. Judy is a life-time musician/entertainer who sings, plays bass guitar, rhythm guitar and keyboard. She has recorded four Divine Bovine CDs as well as 3 "not cow related" music CDs. She produces variety shows, plays dance music, runs a home-based printing business and enjoys life.

Together, these gals have more fun than should be legal. They have traveled throughout Montana and parts of Canada to entertain. Crossing the border into Canada has provided them with many fun stories of their "international travels".



Carla Ahern, from Townsend, Montana, adds to the live performances and is credited with putting the "Divine" in The Divine Bovines. Carla is a sales representative for M&F Western, traveling throughout the Northwest. Having spent her life riding good horses, she and her husband, Jim, are valued help when it comes to moving cows. Carla's harmony and antics are invaluable to The Divine Bovines.

Raisin' A Ruckus
Authors, Performers, Production Staff Bios
In Order of Appearance

Kara Steab (Storekeeper's Wife/Stage Directions/Narrator/Understudy)

Kara is a Senior at Helena High School and has been involved in theatre since her first play, *Annie*, at age seven. However, her love for theatre wasn't rekindled until she began high-school. Next year, Kara plans to attend the University of Utah for Civil and Environmental Engineering, pursuing her other joy.



Sue Faulk (Wanderin' Sal)

After retiring in May from teaching in Florida, Sue relishes in discovering the treasures of Helena missed during her high school years (CHS '78). Her debut in theater was playing Deborah in *A Bad Play* with the MT Playwrights Network "Montana Tales & Other Stories" last fall. Bitten by "the bug", she's back.



Auriana (Ari) Kent (Betsy Primer)

Ari is a senior at Helena High School where she studies primarily theatre, automotive technology, and advanced Spanish. In her free time, she's often engaged in a rehearsal, a shooting competition, working on a project for one of the many clubs she represents, or off dancing somewhere.



Austyn Brown (Duke Von Bad Face)

Austyn is excited to be back doing shows after a year long hiatus! He's currently in the works of writing a musical of his own! He would also like to thank all the people who have supported him in his endeavors of living his dream of performing on the stage!



Bios continued on next page.



**IMPLANTS
AND PERIO**

(406) 449-2900 (406) 782-7200

3275 Colonial Drive 25 Discovery Dr.
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Raisin' A Ruckus

Authors, Performers, Production Staff Bios

(Continued from Page 7)

Christopher Duffey (Sheriff Marshall Starr)



Christopher is a seventeen-year-old senior at Helena High School and has been involved with theater for 4 years as both a tech and an actor in various shows. He plans to pursue theater as his career through the University of Montana.

Beatrice Pujol (Lucy Tart)



Beatrice is a senior at Capital High School. Her debut on stage was as Yente, the Matchmaker in *Fiddler on the Roof* last year. She will be attending the University of Hawaii this fall and intends to major in Marine Biology and minor in Theatre.

Robert Holter (Pyrite Pete)



Mr. Holter has a 54 year history in the theater, and graduated from MSU in theatre with a physics and music minor in 1981. During his career, Mr. Holter worked with many artists, including Victor Borge, Ray Charles, and was part of the first National Tour of *Godspell*, as well as produced hundreds of local and school shows. He has earned screen credit in several full length, short films, and PBS shows including Meet Christopher Parkening and Amazing Grace and Chuck. Mr. Holter remains active in USITT, IATSE, and crews shows for the Helena Civic Center and Helena Middle School.

John Hosking (Roy's Day, Charlie Russell Windshield, Why I Stopped Riding Horses)



John graduated from MSU in 1974 with a Theatre degree in Acting and was a member of the Hillberry Graduate Repertory in Detroit at Wayne State University. He then worked professionally with ACT Seattle; at the Virginia City Opera House and with Shakespeare in the Parks Montana. John cofounded the Vigilante Theatre Co. in Montana, and toured the region for 33 years. He has recently played Willy Lohman in *Death of a Salesman* in Bozeman. He hopes you will keep an eye out for an album of his own original songs, which is to be available soon.)

Sapphire Ferguson Jetty (Fiddler)



Sapphire is a descendant of the Dakota and Chippewa tribes. She plays violin in the Helena High School Orchestra, has taken private lessons for several years and has attended 2 Montana Fiddle Camps. She enjoys learning and playing fiddle tunes from a variety of cultural traditions and she can be seen playing at the Helena Farmers Market during the summer. Sapphire also participates in powwows as a Jingle Dress dancer.

Mike Jetty (Stories From the Powwow Trail) Mike's bio and photo are located on page 4.

Julie Burrows (Stage Manager, Sound Operator, Understudy)

Julie remembers as a kid going to melodrama, music, and story performances in the Placer Hotel put on by then newly-formed GrandStreet Theatre. She is happy to help pass this fun tradition started by her parents Sharon and Jerry Burrows, to her daughter Clare Jose, and grandson, Terrence.

Bios continued on next page.

Raisin' A Ruckus

Authors, Performers, Production Staff Bios

(Continued from Page 8)

Susan Gunn (Author of *Roy's Day*)

Susan is a mother, daughter, sister. Susan had a long career teaching children with autism and other disabilities in the Helena School District. Now she works for a program that helps parents of children with disabilities. In her spare time she writes mysteries.

Jay Kettering (Author of *Charlie Russell Windshield, Why I Stopped Riding Horses*)

A native Montanan living in Missoula, Jay's radio series, *Notes From The Huntley Project*, was produced by Montana Public Radio. To date, he has written four plays for the Montana Repertory Theatre's Educational Outreach Tour, including *Raised in the Saddle: The Phantasmagorical Journey of a Future Rodeo Queen* in 2017.

Pamela Jamruszka Mencher (Playwright, Director, Producer)

Pamela returns to Big Sky Country after working as a college professor and arts advocate in Colorado. She is an actor, director, producer, costume designer and playwright, with twenty-eight of her plays performed throughout the United States. Pamela has received many awards recognizing her playwriting, teaching and professional theatre careers. Since returning to Montana, she has taught at Helena College and offers workshops in playwriting throughout the state. She resides in Montana City with husband, Jordan, and serves as the President of the Montana Playwrights Network.

Jordan R. Mencher (Composer, Musician, Music Director)

Jordan is producing director of the Roving Stage Theatre Company, which he co-founded with his wife, Pamela, in 1985. Having previously spent 24 years as a microbiologist in what now seems like a far-off galaxy, he finally shed his lab coat and for the past 30+ years has enjoyed his new roles as actor, director, playwright, composer/lyricist, and poet.



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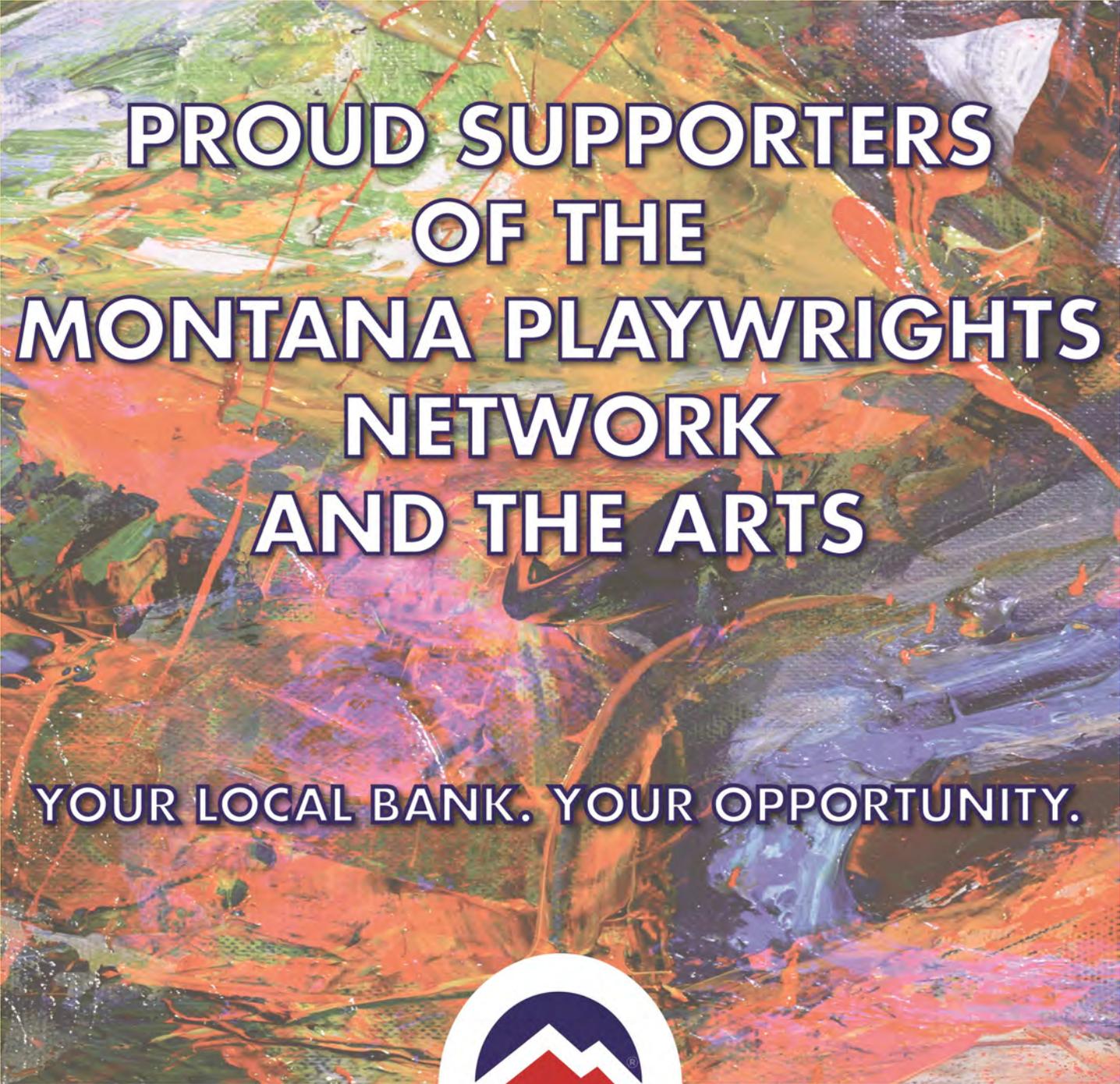
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The Montana Playwrights Network (MPN) isn't just for playwrights!

Stories touch everyone's lives, they're found in every profession and activity and are present in human societies worldwide. It's important that people know what story is and how it affects what they do, think or feel. MPN's goal is to help you explore and develop vital skills in creating and telling stories, and as a means of building communities across Montana.

MPN offers a communication network, training opportunities, publication, and performance events for playwrights, storytellers, writers, educators, theatre producers, directors, actors, the general public, performing arts entities and other institutions.



**Help us create the
Helena Avenue Theatre!**



MPN is constructing this new performing arts and events facility to house its activities and to also make it available as an incubator for individuals and organizations to rehearse and present theatre productions, recitals, music concerts, speakers, meetings, conferences, workshops, classes, receptions, unique fund-raisers, and other special offerings for the Helena community.

MPN needs your help to complete this space that benefits Helena's performing artists, businesses and residents. If you are able to join us in this endeavor, MPN accepts contributions in any amount to apply toward facility costs, and greatly appreciates any assistance you may be able to offer. Donations are tax-deductible.

For more information, please contact us at montanaplaywrights@gmail.com, or call 406-235-0353. Or, access our website at www.MontanaPlaywrights.org and click on the donate button for an online donation. To send a check, mail it to Montana Playwrights Network, PMB 2052, 1 Jackson Creek Road, Clancy, MT, 59634.