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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

“Third Thursday Family Arts Night” Celebrates Women’s Her-Story Month on Thursday, March 16, 2006

Kids and families should plan now to attend the Humboldt Arts Council’s ***Third Thursday Family Arts Night!*** Thursday, March 16, 2005, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Morris Graves Museum of Art. This Thursday’s presenters will include ***Myths and Lore of Triumphant Women*** with Sylvia White from 6:00 to 6:20pm and the ***Poetry of Maya Angelou*** from 6:40-7:00 in the Performance Rotunda, ***Music Teacher’s Association*** mini-recitals from talented students from 6:20 to 6:40 and 7:20-7:40 in the Performance Rotunda, ***Irish Step*** from 6:45-7:15 in the Performance Rotunda, ***Georgia O’Keefe Watercolors*** with Kelly Bonsall from 6-8 in the Youth Classroom and displays and brochures from ***the local Redwood Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild*** along with ***Arts and Crafts for St. Patrick’s Day and YAM, Youth Art Month*** in the Thonson Gallery all evening.

March is the annual celebration of ***National Women’s History Month***, a time to honor the achievements and contributions of women. To address the absence of information about women in America’s schools, the National Women’s History Project led a movement to have Congress designate a celebration to recognize women’s historic achievements. The goal was to ensure that information about the myriad ways women have changed America would be part of our children’s education. In 1980, President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation calling on the American people to remember the contributions of women. By 1987, fourteen governors had declared March as Women’s History Month, and that same year, Congress and the President followed by declaring March as National Women’s History Month. This year’s theme, ***Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams***, honors the spirit of possibility and hope set in motion by generations of women in their creation of communities and their encouragement of dreams.

March is also ***Youth Art Month***. Youth Art Month, or YAM, was created in 1961 by ACMI (Art & Creative Materials Institute), a non-profit association of art and craft materials manufacturers, in cooperation with the NAEA as an annual observance to emphasize the value of art education for all children and to encourage support for quality school art programs. Art education develops self-esteem, appreciation of the work of others, self-expression, cooperation with others, and critical thinking skills, skills vital to the success of our future leaders --- our children.

Come and listen to the ***Myths and Lore of Triumphant Women*** from Dr. Sylvia White. White presently teaches Early Childhood Education courses at College of the Redwoods. She has taught courses in Storytelling at San Jose City College, the University of California at Santa Cruz Extension, and at College of the Redwoods. She has also taught a wide variety of courses in ECE Departments in many community colleges and universities in Santa Clara and San Diego Counties as well as directing a variety of programs for teachers, caregivers, and children. Sylvia became an “active” storyteller” in 1998. Since then, she has told stories at meetings of the Southbay Storytellers, Peninsula Story Guild, the North Coast Storytellers, and at various festivals, community and private events. Her repertoire includes stories for listeners of all ages. She tells traditional folk tales and fairy tales from many cultures, as well as personal stories. For more information contact Sylvia White at seesaw1@cox.net.

The Music Teacher’s Association will be conducting 2-20 minute piano recitals. Guests will enjoy these well-practiced performers. The Music Teachers Association of California is among the most highly respected professional music teacher associations in the nation. To belong, teachers must have the college degree in music or its equivalent. The Humboldt Chapter offers programs, master classes and recitals during the year. In addition, students of member teachers also can participate in state-wide programs such as the Certificate of Merit program, Composers Today, the state concerto competition and opportunities to play at the State Convention. For more information contact Felicia Oldfather at felicio@cox.net.

Irish Step will be lead by Shelly Fugate from 6:45-7:15 in the Performance Rotunda. The Irish Company Dancers are students from the Studio of Dance Arts in Eureka. Through the Studio’s affiliation with Yeates Academy of Irish Dance in Portland, Oregon, they all attend Irish dance competitions. They will demonstrate their latest steps, in both soft and hard

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of North Coast arts and to bringing this legacy fully into community life.*

shoes, including reels, jigs, hornpipes and both traditional and non-traditional set dances.

Displays and brochures from *the local Redwood Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild* will be available all evening in the Thonson Gallery. *The Piano Technicians Guild* will be displaying piano action models and providing information about how a piano works along with many other interesting facts. The Piano Technicians Guild, the official organization of the Registered Piano Technician, is the world's premier source of expertise in piano service and technology. Based in Kansas City, KS, the PTG has over 4100 members throughout the United States, Canada and around the world. The mission of the Piano Technicians Guild is to promote the highest possible standards of piano service by providing members with opportunities for professional development, by recognizing technical competence through examinations, and by advancing the interests of its members. For more information contact Carmen Gentile at (707) 441-1017.

The Humboldt Arts Council would like to recognize our Third Thursday Family Arts Night Underwriters: AG Edwards, Citigroup, Living Education and Arts Foundation, McLean Foundation, Sidney Stern Memorial Trust, Umpqua Bank, and US Bank. Thank you for all of your support!

Family Arts Night is every third Thursday of the month. To be a presenter or for more information about Family Arts Night contact Rebecca Froehlich at (707) 442-0278, ext. 201. The Morris Graves Museum of Art is located at 636 F St., Eureka, Ca.