

Shawano County Arts Council Inc.
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Shawano County Arts Council
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In order to serve you better and provide additional entertainment during the year, the SCAC asks you fill out this form and return it either by e-mail or regular mail.

The money we save using e-mail will be added to the budget for new ways to better use your Mielke Arts Center. E-mail will allow us to increase the amount of information we can provide you. What can we do to make the newsletter more informative to you?

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Shawano County Arts Council

News Letter

Promoting the arts in the greater Shawano area • December 2010 • www.shawanoarts.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tom Suttner



I was sitting at my computer and watching the winds blow, the trees quake, my neighbors leaves blowing into my yard, losing at solitaire and wondering how I would clean up all this mess, when an

e-mail popped up from Norm, which said "Don't forget your article deadline is fast approaching". It's not due till November!! Oh, this is November already.

What does the future hold? Let's see. We received some grants this year and along with our expansion savings account, we have almost enough to start on the final design process and the issuance of the specification package. I was recently notified the Shawano County Board approved a grant of \$30,000 to be applied to the expansion. This money came from monies set aside for various types of grants. We are working with the County with a target of starting next year. We still need to raise \$30,000 in the next 6 months. Pledge forms will be available at all performances over the next year, at the Chamber of Commerce Offices, Beans and Books as well as the City Hall and County Clerk's office. The original building was built with the support of the Mielke Family Foundation, Shawano County, the local business infrastructure and our own local civic clubs. I will be contacting all of them for assistance in the expansion project. We will be adding an atrium type entrance, larger dressing rooms and an expanded sales area to support outside activities. If our efforts are successful and we raise the additional funds, we will be able to assure handicapped access to all the outdoor stages as well as upgrading our sound system. We would also like to plan on replacing our staging and seating platforms with some lighter and more versatile height adjust-

able types. Think about us this Christmas. Remember, all donations or gifts to the SCAC are tax deductible and deeply appreciated.

The SCAC is losing one of its most staunch members after an extended period on the ship as well as managing the helm for a number of years. Linda Blohowiak has announced her retirement from the Board after her present term ends in January. Linda has been on the SCAC for a number of years and was its President over a period of growth. When I took over, she gave me the most orderly set of files I have had since I retired. Linda, you have all our sincere thanks for your efforts in the past on the Board and your guidance during some difficult periods. However, all is not lost!!! Linda will continue to work on the Committee for the Folk Music Festival, a task she has been involved in for many years. We look forward to her continuing support.

What else is out there in the future? More diversification? We are pleased to announce Aida as a production this next summer. Aida is based on an opera written by Giuseppe Verdi. This adaptation was written as a musical stage production with music by Elton John and was based on the children's storybook version of the opera. It begins in a modern day environment, but reaches back into the days of ancient Egypt. It is a love story and a sad story of betrayal and lost love. Aida played all over the world and is currently playing in Chicago. The performance in Shawano will require a cast of 30 local performers and will be accompanied by a pit orchestra of 12 members. Dan Terrio, a Bowler native, will direct. We are extremely fortunate to have our musical direction and choreography assistance being provided by people who have worked on the production in various theaters of the Midwest. Kari Devine will be the music director and pit conductor. Choreography will

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Christmas Sing Along

Christmas at the Mielke: Classics, Contemporary and Carols. The 2nd annual sing along features area soloists and chorus with the audience joining in on favorites of the season. Three performances will be held at the Mielke Center for the Arts on Thursday December 2, Friday, December 3 and Sunday December 5. The weekday performances begin at 7PM and the Sunday show starts at 2 PM. Doors open one hour before the shows. No reservations are necessary and no admission will be charged. A free will offering will be donated to SAFPARC (Shawano Area Food Pantry), and Happily Ever After No Kill Pet Shelter.

The program will include traditional carols, current favorites and new treatments of classic holiday songs. Readings and recitations of holiday literature are included. Local performers will showcase their funny side in several selections. The cast includes some familiar faces from the Box In the Wood Theatre Guild troupe and new people as well. Performers range in age from 8 months to over 80. The production script is written by Mary-Beth Kuester and her sister Kay Kuester Doran. Mary-Beth Kuester is the director, Miriam Nelson is the musical director and Janet McCauley is the accompanist. Chris Dahlke is the lighting and technical director. Mary Madsen is house manager. Cookies and cider will be served prior to the program.

Making their Mielke stage debuts are Tom Suttner, Joyous Bowen, Lincoln Zillmer, Tyler Sawall and his concertina, Kari Devine, Tanya and Tyler Tautges who are part of the II Edition Band and Miriam Nelson. Mielke veterans who will appear include Ann Van Grinsven, Cheryl Folkerts, Sandra Wehmeyer, Emil Kriewaldt, Nathaniel Madsen, Goeff Madsen. Denise Riley, Jody Zillmer, Kay Kuester Doran, Dan Terrio, Sterling Van Straten and Pastor John Eyer.

Plan to join the Box In the Wood Theatre Guild and make this a holiday tradition.

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COMMENTS

Become a member of The Shawano County Arts Council. Your membership helps support the arts in the greater Shawano area. You will be kept up to date on all our events and have a vote at the annual meeting held in January.

Membership Form

Single \$20 Student \$10

Family \$25 Senior \$15

Business \$50 Art Organization \$20

I would like to donate \$ _____

I do not wish to have my name printed

President's Report

be under the direction of Ryan Klassa and Jamie Gajewski. To accommodate the anticipated patronage the show will be staged for up to 300 at a showing. A new sound system will support the production. More will come out later announcing casting tryouts, dates, set and costume assistance and other ways of becoming involved in production.

We have established our Community Christmas shows as an annual event. We are looking into booking traveling troupes in the theater during the void periods. How about a dinner show? Let us know your ideas and feelings. I recently talked to Nancy Smith at the Chamber of Commerce about the promotion of arts throughout Shawano Country. More on this later. Many of our performances are completely sold out.

Join us at the annual meeting on January 13th at 7:00 in the lower level of the Courthouse. We will be electing 5 representatives to sit on the Shawano County Arts Council Board.

Guild Elects New Board Members and Officers

Ann Van Grinsven, President



At the Annual Meeting of the Box in the Wood Theatre Guild on Nov. 1, 2010, elections and appointments were on the agenda.

Ann Van Grinsven, who stepped in when Kimberly Brei resigned as President, was appointed by the membership to serve the remaining term until November, 2011. The offices of Treasurer and Vice President were up for election. Amy Steenbock, who volunteered to fill resigning Diane Vollendorf's position as Treasurer until the election, was officially elected by the membership for a two year term. Dan Terrio was elected to the Vice Presidency. New members on the Board of Directors were Tom Webster, Amy Steenbock and Dan Terrio for the class of 2013. The president appointed Chris Dalke to fill the unexpired term of Jeff Vollendorf as a class of 2011 director and Don Everts to fill the unexpired term of Kimberly Brei as class of 2012 director.

Tom Webster was appointed by the president to be Production Advisory Chair for 2011. His committee will be Sandra Wehmeyer, Don Everts, Mary Beth Kuester, and Don Klose, also for a

one year term.

Mary Beth Kuester will be directing "Christmas at the Mielke: Classics, Contemporary and Carols" on Dec. 2, 3 and 5, at 7pm Thurs. and Fri. evenings and 2pm Sunday matinee. Janet McCauley will be the accompanist. Audience participation expected! A freewill donation is asked to support the Shawano Area Food Pantry & Resource Center and Happily Ever After No Kill Pet Shelter. What a great way to start the holiday season, by giving to charity and singing the songs we love! No reservations are needed for this performance.

The spring theatre offering at the Mielke is not set as of this date, but the 2011 calendar is expected to be filled by December. Our summer show, Elton John and Tim Rice's "Aida" is predicted to be a wonderful production, directed by Dan Terrio, with musical director, Kari Devine. We will have a live pit orchestra accompanying the singers and dancers. Look forward to an exciting summer show in July, 2011!

Cheryl Jones Ritter will direct the fall show, "Out of Sight...Out of Murder", a dramedy...which means there will be mystery and comedy! It involves a mystery writer, an elusive killer, a will indicating a fortune somewhere...and all solved with romance, suspense and cosmic wit. This all happens in October, 2011.

Shawano Folk Music Festival

Dori Jerger

It's November, and the 2011 Shawano Folk Music Festival, August 12-14, is only nine months away. It may sound like a long time, but the Festival Planning Committee is already working furiously. Nine months can fly by pretty quickly.

The committee's task right now is selecting the performers to make the Festival's 33rd year the best one ever. We're looking at artists who've been Festival favorites over the years and at artists who've never been to Shawano. We're looking at solo performers, duos, trios and bands; at singers, songwriters, traditionalists, instrumentalists and storytellers. We're listening to bluegrass, classical, Native American, Cajun, Celtic, American folk and music from Africa, South America, Europe, Asia, the Balkans and the Caribbean.

We watch dance, and explore artisans and crafters. We're looking at artists who are known worldwide, and artists who are still relatively unknown.

That's a lot of music to listen to, and we'll juggle, sift, shift and shuffle the list of more than 100 artists until we end up with the small group of performers who'll make the 2011 Festival a memorable event.



We've chosen the first of those performers. Mustard's Retreat (Dave Tamulevich and Michael Hough) will join us at Mielke Park in August. They come from Ann Arbor, MI, but they wrote some of their favorite songs right here in Shawano. The Don Morman Family Band will make its first appearance at a Festival Evening Concert. Don, from Chicago, is our 2011 Honorary Co-Director.

If you enjoy the Festival as much as we do, there are several ways you can get involved right now. You can join the Festival Planning Committee (we meet monthly) and help shape the Festival. If you'd like to consider sponsoring a performer we can't afford without support, we'll be happy to discuss options with you. If you've got bookkeeping or accounting skills, think about serving as the Festival Treasurer (this is, of course, a volunteer position). If you'd like to help out in August, let us know – it takes a lot of busy hands to make the Festival a success.

We'd love to hear from you. Contact us at shawanofestival@hotmail.com. Or call one of the 2011 Festival Co-Directors: Dori Jerger (715-850-1244) or Karen Vermillion (715-524-2864). If you send an email address, we'll keep you updated on Festival news, and you'll be among the first to know as performers are added to the 2011 roster. Keep in touch.

WRITER'S CORNER

THE BIG BEAUTY

By John J. Mutter, Jr.

My uncle Clarence used to take his little dog for a walk every morning along the streets of South Milwaukee where he resided. One morning he noticed that someone had set out an unabridged dictionary to go to landfill. He picked up the 19-pound book and carried it to his home. This was no easy task for a seventy-year-old man, who was also tending to his dog on a leash.

Several years later my uncle gave the dictionary to me, because he knew I was a writer. Upon examining, I found it to be a 1934 Webster's New International 2nd Edition. This 3,606 page publication was printed in 1943, the year I was born. There's more to it than just words, it contains a multitude of other useful information such as extensive U. S. and World history events and even photos of all our presidents and their signatures, prior to 1943.

Once, while amidst a story I was writing, I needed to study the word, trichotillomania, which is a disorder of pulling one's hair out. My three other dictionaries, that are about 20 years apart, did not carry the word. It was very rewarding to see the word in my Big Beauty!

This reference book is five and three quarters inches thick without the reddish brown cover, and when the book is closed the pages on top and bottom have an artistic design on them, somewhat like the look of spalted wood.

I own a computer and I know I could go online to find out the definition and correct spelling of just about any word. But hauling out the Big Beauty to find a word is fun, because I cherish this book. It's probably the largest book ever published for household use. But how many people have an unabridged dictionary in their home? Does having a reference book of this size mean that a person is wealthy? Not at all, but it's special to me because my world is all about words, and it's a gift from my uncle Clarence who saved it from sure destruction.

Looking at the Big Beauty I see knowledge, wisdom, education and understanding. So in some respects, I guess being the owner of an unabridged dictionary makes me a rich man. Now, if I can only find a place where it's not in my way!

John Mutter, Jr., is the author of two books. His email address is jjmutter@athenet.net.

Shawano County Arts Council

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Christmas at the Mielke
Holiday Music & Sing Along
December 2, 3 & 5, 2010

2011 EVENTS

Characters
Music and audience interaction play
March 31 - April 3, 7 - 10

Night at the Wax Museum
Wolf River Homeschoolers Musical
May 12, 13, 14 & 15

Aida
Elton John's & Tim Rice's Musical
July 14 - 17, 20 - 24

43rd Arts & Craft Fair
Sunday July 31st • 10am to 4pm

33rd Shawano Folk Music Festival
August 12, 13 & 14
shawanofestival.com

Out of Sight...Out of Murder
A Mystery Comedy by Fred Carmicael
Oct 6-9, 13-16

Christmas at the Mielke
Holiday Music & Sing Along
December 1, 2 & 4

THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

A BIG thank you to the following supporters for their new or renewed membership and/or donations:

Members

Darlene Pesch, Campbellsport, WI
Bill & Elaine Letter, Black Creek, WI

Donors

George J. Vellella, Sr., Cecil, WI
– in memory of Ann E. Vellella

Your support is vital for the continued operations of the Arts Council and its member groups. Ticket sales alone do not cover our expenses. Therefore, we really appreciate our members and donors.

The Shawano County Arts Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations will be acknowledged and are tax deductible. If you would like to help support the Mielke Arts Center and the work of the Shawano County Arts Council, we would be extremely grateful for your financial support.



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