

Shawano County Arts Council Inc.  
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Shawano County Arts Council  
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## Mail or e-mail?

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?

Please comment if desired.

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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

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## Shawano County Arts Council

# News Letter

Promoting the arts in the greater Shawano area • March 2011 • www.shawanoarts.com

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tom Suttner, President SCAC



The Mielke Arts Center is going through some growing pains this year. Our theater support area is much too small and we need to expand. I have mentioned in past letters we are planning to start the expansion this year. Last Christmas was the first time I personally experienced the problems backstage. The dressing rooms are about 6' deep and 20' long. A counter for makeup spans the entire length of the room. Along the other wall are hooks for hanging costumes, and a few folding chairs for sitting. Imagine if your station is at the rear of the room and the door is at the other end. Each dressing room has a rest room about 4'x3'. These dressing rooms have to handle the entire cast, at times numbering 50.

As those of you who have attended productions know, our lobby gets crowded. Our attendance is slowly rising, we want to offer a variety of shows from other sources, and we would like to honor those special supporters of the Arts Center. To accomplish all this, we're expanding the lobby. The new lobby will honor those who contributed to the Expansion Project, display artwork, and include a pictorial history of the Mielke Arts Center.

The backstage waiting area (the Green Room) will also be expanded and upgraded. This space is used by performing artists waiting for their turn on stage, for food service during the music festival, for meetings and for some rehearsals.

We have drawn up preliminary designs of the expansion project, and

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### "Raise the Roof" of the Mielke Arts Center

Anne Katz, executive director of Arts Wisconsin, will speak at a dinner sponsored by the Shawano County Arts Council (SCAC) on Thurs. March 24 at the Shawano County Park Pavilion. The event will focus attention on the planned expansion of the Mielke Arts Center. Community leaders and others interested in supporting the arts locally are invited to attend.

Arts Wisconsin is Wisconsin's non-profit statewide community arts action, service and development organization. Its mission is to nurture, serve, promote and speak up for the arts

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### Characters

Don Everts, Writer and Co-Director, Characters

This spring the Box in the Woods Theatre Guild has given me the opportunity to direct and produce an original script entitled "Characters." This is an exciting and wonderful opportunity, for which I am very grateful.

The concept is that the director has invited people to come and share their story with the audience. These "characters" or groups of "characters" are ordinary people that, like each of us, have a unique or some might say strange perspective on life. The audience might recognize someone they know or someone that is a part of who they are.

I began writing bits and pieces of the characters over the last 15 years, keeping notes thinking that one day I would find time to put all the pieces together to form one production. When a slot became available for the spring production at the Mielke I decided the time might be right to put all the pieces together.

Each of the "characters," of course,

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### Exciting season ahead at the Mielke...

Ann Van Grinsven - Pres. Box in the Wood Theatre Guild



The theater is humming...literally. The cast is learning new songs to complement their roles in the upcoming play/musical "Characters". This original stage-

play is written and directed by Fr. Don Everts of Green Bay, who has directed and acted in past Box in the Wood Theatre Guild productions. His co-director is Mary Madsen, with assistant directors Cindy Hackbarth and Sandra Wehmeyer. Accompanist is Debbie Welch, Miriam Nelson is vocal director, and the choreographer is Nathan Falk. Chris Dalke is the light & sound tech. Cast members are: Ralph Beversdorf, Jessica Buettner, Julie Church, Will Church, Sarah Clark, Shannon Doherty, Cheryl Folkerts, Dave Hackbarth, Mariah Hinnefeld, Emil Kriewaldt, Geoff Madsen, Mary Madsen, Nathaniel Madsen, Miriam Nelson, Jenny Lynn Pecor, Denise Riley, Germaine Schwaller, Kayla Sorlie, Ann Van Grinsven, Sandra Wehmeyer. Choir members/promoters: Chris Anderson, Nancy and Greg Powless, Jamie Schulze.

Most of the cast are portraying more than one character and joining in the chorus. Musical numbers will include choreography as well, so there's a lot of preparation for "Characters". It will all be worth it when the show opens on March 31st. Other show dates are April 1, 2, 3 and 7, 8, 9, 10. Eve. performances at 7pm and Sunday matinees at 2pm. "Aida" auditions are Thurs., April 28th

Continued on page 2

## 2011 Art & Craft Fair

Cheryl Folkerts

It's that time of year again. All the Art Fair applications have been delivered, and some entries have already come back. Several former exhibitors sent theirs early, using the information and blank on the website. The website is a big help and saves postage too!

2011 may be a challenging year for setting up because of upcoming construction plans, but I'm assured that all will turn out well, and we'll get lots of help.

I've notified all my arts and craft vendors of the plans and some have called to say they will try to be flexible in their selection of booth sites. I know we have the room for all the usual exhibitors and more. We will have to be creative arranging the sites so that all the booths get equal exposure to customers.

The food and office areas may have to wait to be placed till we know more about the traffic flow pattern in July. That is what the Arts are all about, new opportunities to be creative.

Anyone interested in helping with the Fair call 715-745-6222 or email wind-fall@frontiernet.net

## 33rd Annual Shawano Folk Music Festival

Dori Jerger, Co-Director, 2011 Festival

2011 is shaping up to be a great year for the Festival. August 12 - 14, Mielke Park and Arts Center will fill with music, crafts and dance.

*Leahy's Luck* (Tom, Brian and Evan Leahy, Randal Harrison, and Stas Venglevski) brings Celtic music from Milwaukee in their first Festival appearance. *Indigie Femme*, an international duo from New Mexico and New Zealand, come for their first time here. *Chris Kokesh* is another first-timer, and an award-winning songwriter from Portland OR. Ann Arbor's *Mustard's Retreat* brings seafaring music in a long-overdue return to the Fest. *AJ Srubas and Eddie Biebel* (Green Bay and Milwaukee) bring old-time roots music; it's their first time on our stage together. *Mark Dvorak* (Chicago) will grace our stages once more. *The Don Morman Family Band* (Chicago) makes its first Evening Concert appearance. *Macyn Taylor*, a 17 year old fingerstyle guitar virtuoso from Milwaukee, will join us for daytime programs. It's quite a lineup so far, and we're not done yet.

The Buckskinners' Rendezvous will be

back, weather permitting. Crafters will be share their skills with us. And this year, the Wisconsin DNR will bring their Traveling Aquarium to the Festival, full of native fish from the Shawano area.

If you'd like to be a part of the Festival, please email us at shawanofestival@hotmail.com, or call the 2011 co-directors, Dori Jerger at 715-850-1244, or Karen Vermillion at 715-524-2864.

**President's Report** *continued*  
are excited about the plans. We've set up a committee to explore other types of entertainment to make full use of the expanded Mielke Arts Center.

We are kicking off this fund raising campaign with a dinner on March 24th. I am appealing to all arts lovers to attend the "Raise the Roof" dinner, and consider a donation to the Expansion Project. I hope to see you at the dinner and I or any SCAC Board member will be happy to talk with you. If you would like to donate labor or materials, feel free to phone me at 715-526-6502 or email me at tgfsuttner@frontiernet.net. I'll gladly meet with you.

**"Raise the Roof"** *continued*  
in Wisconsin and all of its communities. Katz, of Madison, is a nationally recognized speaker and trainer. She has worked with arts organizations in Madison and across the country, including the Madison Civic Center, Madison Committee for the Arts, Madison Repertory Theatre, O'Neill Theatre Center in Waterford, CT, The Big Apple Circus, New Dramatists, Inc., and The Feld Ballet in NYC. She is a graduate of Brandeis University with a B.A. degree in Theater Arts and studied drama at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, England. She's received numerous awards for her arts advocacy work, and in 2009 was named as one of the 25 most powerful arts advocates in the US.

In addition to Katz, the program will include statements from the Mielke family, donors of the land and initial Arts Center building. This is the second major expansion of the facility, and the Mielke Family Foundation is once again supporting the expansion. The program will also include a preview of the planned expansion, along with a look at the history of the Mielke Arts Center and commentary on local arts.

Annual events at the Mielke Arts Center include productions of the Box in the Wood Theatre Guild, the Shawano

Arts and Crafts Fair, the Shawano Folk Music Festival and other arts activities. This building expansion will ease the way to additional arts programming throughout the year.

Reservations for the dinner can be made by calling the Mielke Arts Center Reservation line at 715-526-2525 or sending a check, payable to SCAC, for \$25 per person or \$200 for a table for eight to Box 213, Shawano WI 54166. The event begins with cocktails at 5:30 and dinner served at 6:30 PM.

**Characters** *continued*  
contain bits and pieces of my life. Each is part of who I've become over the years. The production, which opens on Thursday, March 31, also includes songs from the ages. The music completes the evening and enables the audience to have a well rounded experience.

When you come to the show, (and it is my sincere hope that you will come to the show) take note of the set. It was designed to place the audience as part of the room. The audience is very much a part of the show. The décor symbolizes the different characters that we meet on our journey and the different characters the audience will meet that evening.

Remember to mark your calendars for the first two weekends of April. The show opens March 31, and runs April 1, 2, and 3 and has a second weekend run on April 7, 8, 9 and 10. The evening will be an adventure! Don't miss it!

**Mielke Season** *continued*  
6:00 - 9pm and Sat. April 30th 10:30am-6pm at the First Presbyterian Church Multipurpose Room, 100 Presbyterian Street in Shawano. Auditions include a brief choreography assessment (wear shoes suitable for dancing) and voice audition. A two minute musical selection should be prepared to showcase voice (no songs from "Aida"). Callbacks will be notified by phone. That session will be Sunday, May 1st. Contact director Dan Terrio at dan.terrio@gmail.com or leave a message at 715-526-2525. Show dates are July 14 -17 and 20 - 24.

The Wolf River Homeschoolers bring "Night at the Wax Museum" to the Mielke Arts Center May 12 - 15. Family entertainment with a cast of talented kids, directed by Cheryl Jones-Ritter.

The fall mystery play is "Out of Sight-Out of Murder", also directed by Cheryl Jones-Ritter, on Oct. 6-9 and 13-16.

## WRITER'S CORNER

### Going In Circles

By Wendy Goerl

It's funny how sometimes your mind can be knocked off a track, and hard as you try, you can't seem to get back on it. And other times you end up coming 'round full circle without even trying.

Take writing and drawing, for example. You see, I've been developing my painting skills this past year, painting local landscapes from my photo sketches with a group of painters I learned of, oddly enough, at one of our monthly writers' meetings. I've also been trying to improve my rendering of the human figure in general and facial expressions in particular by filling sketchbooks with charcoal student copies of "master paintings" from the animated series *Gundam Wing*. After all, all I have to do is hit "pause" and they'll hold their pose—mid-leap, half-awake, whip-cracked against their seatbelts—for as long as I like, the puzzle of converting from three-dimensional image to two-dimensional line and form has already been solved, and they never complain the end result doesn't do them justice.

A lot of times, I'll be enthralled with the fact that the result is recognizable and I haven't mysteriously changed scale somewhere. A lot of times I'll be frustrated because the guy in my sketch ends up in a slightly different position than the original; a slight difference in the angle of a line can inadvertently raise the head, or change an expression of horrified shock to slightly revolted surprise. And then I'm torn between wanting to draw a better, more accurate picture; and believing that my impatience to have been done with this one, and having the next one done, will probably make the next one worse.

So I close the DVD player on my laptop, and even though several documents in various stages of completion are only a few finger-wiggles away, the fingers just don't want to change gears from line-and-form to word-wrangling. I open this file or that, and somehow, the words just won't be prodded down my hands to the keyboard. I end up closing the file unmodified, instead reading a bit of an ebook or scrolling through my music library trying to find something to match my mood. Putting words on paper, physical or digital, seems to be inversely proportional to putting lines and fields of color on paper.

And when I finally manage to get myself in gear and cover a page with words, what comes out?

Full circle.

Wendy Goerl is a member of the Shawano Writers' Guild.

## Shawano County Arts Council

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### 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, 3 & 4

*"This activity is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts."*



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#### 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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### Mielke Arts Center

For Information & Reservations call 715-526-2525 (leave message)