

The Arts



The Fulton County Arts Council is funded in part by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is in the air and we are filled with anticipation of good things to come. We extend thanks to those of you who have renewed their memberships for this year. Included in this issue is another membership form as a reminder and invitation for your consideration. Your support is important and appreciated.

The organization continues to grow and we presently have 12 officers and board members. In January we welcomed Crystal Hardesty of Canton, and Joan Johnson-Blackwell of Lewistown to the board of directors. Crystal Hardesty is employed by the Fulton County Health Department and is an avid photographer. Joan Johnson-Blackwell is well known around Fulton County for her many years of dedicated public service to several organizations. We thank Crystal and Joan for their willing-

ness to serve. There are still three board member positions available. Anyone interested in serving as a board member should contact one of the officers. As always, members are welcome to attend Arts Council Board meetings.

We are happy to announce that the Arts Council website has been completely redesigned and is now up and running. Visit the site at fultoncountyartscouncil.com to see our new look. The site has many features including downloadable entry forms for shows and membership. Hosting for the site was provided by the Illinois State Museum. Check back often for updates and new additions.

The Fulton County Arts Council is proud to announce that it was the recipient of a \$500 operating support grant from the Illinois Arts Council again this



Fulton County Arts Council Treasurer Steve Endsley (left) presents first place award to Bill Whitehouse for his winning entry 'Emiquon Woody' in the annual Membership Art Show.

year. We extend our thanks to the IAC for their continued support of the arts in Fulton County.

Join us for the exciting year that we have planned. We hope you will continue to support The Arts in Fulton County by renewing your membership and participating in this year's events.

Kelvin Sampson

Board Meeting Schedule

- May 8, 2007
- July 10, 2007
- September 11, 2007
- November 13, 2007

The Fulton County Arts Council meets at 6:30 p.m. at Graham Hospital. Members are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Officers for 2007

- President - Kelvin Sampson
- Vice President - Stephan Love
- Secretary - Paula Helle
- Treasurer - Steve Endsley

Board Members

- Dennis Crawford
- Marnie Eskridge
- Crystal Hardesty
- Sharron Harkless
- Joan Johnson-Blackwell
- Cynthia Richter
- Bill Whitehouse (Gallery Coordinator)
- Max Latimer (Advisor)

EDGAR LEE MASTERS DAY EVENTS

Edgar Lee Masters Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 2nd in Lewistown. Masters, who grew up in Lewistown, is most known for his "Spoon River Anthology" which was published in 1915. Festivities planned for the 18th annual celebration

include old-fashioned window displays with antiques related to local businesses, a parade, antique tractor and auto shows, music in the gazebo, a vocal talent show, "Spoon River Anthology" recitations at Oak Hill Cemetery and an Oak Hill Poetry

contest. The poetry contest will be sponsored in part by a grant from the F.C.A.C. and the Illinois Arts Council. Poetry contest rules are available at the Lewistown City Building, all Fulton County schools, or by sending a self-addressed,

stamped envelope to: Oak Hill Poetry Contest, P.O. Box 308, Lewistown, IL 61542. For more information regarding any of these events call (309) 547-4300 or (309) 547-3282.

GALLERY NEWS

The 2006 Annual Membership Show closed on January 9, 2007. Although participation was low, the 10 entries consisted of several media including paintings, photographs, digital art, ceramics, and woodcarving.

The winner of the student/amateur division was Amanda Sampson of Ellisville for her digital artwork titled "roses". In the semi-professional category, first place went to Canton resident Bill Whitehouse for his woodcarving titled "Emiquon Woody". Second place was awarded to Crystal Hardesty, also of Canton, for her photograph "Native American". There were no entries in the professional category.

Between January 24th and March 13th the Fulton County Arts Council hosted the show "Impressions of Emiquon" a series of watercolor paintings and drawings by Nancy A. Jones of Macomb. In 2005, Nancy was involved with the Emiquon Corps of Discovery Project. Emiquon is the Nature Conservancy's wetland restoration project located near Dickson Mounds Museum and Havana.

The Emiquon Corps of Discovery is a group of 45 volunteers who have engaged with Emiquon in ways that go beyond the scientific documentation of the wetland restoration. They are writers, artists and photographers who commit their time and talents to documenting, in very personal ways, the restoration experience at Emiquon. Nancy successfully captures beauty hidden in the seemingly mundane scenes of fields, drainage ditches, trees, and flowering plants. Nancy's work challenges the viewer to look and also see the beauty in all that surrounds us. The Fulton County Arts Council entertains suggestions for shows by individual artists. Anyone interested in providing a show for the gallery or curio cabinets should contact the Fulton County Arts Council.

Upcoming Shows

Annual Theme Art Show "Bygone Days" . . . Check in: May 8, 2007, 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. at Graham Hospital Atrium. Entries must adhere to the theme of "Bygone Days". This show is open to most mediums except photography. All



Watercolor painting by Nancy A. Jones from the *Perspectives of Emiquon* Exhibit that was on view in the gallery between January 24th and March 13th of this year.

entries must be framed and have a sturdy wire type hanger on the back with screw eyes at least 3/16 inch. Three dimensional objects must be small enough to be displayed in the gallery curio cases.

Art of Photography Show . . . Check in: July 10, 2007, 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. at the Graham Hospital Atrium Gallery. Open to digital and traditional photography. Entries must have an image size of at least 8x10 inches and be no larger than 36 inches image size in length or width. Entries must be framed and have a sturdy wire type hanger on the back with screw eyes at least 3/16 inch.

ARTS ALLIANCE OF FULTON COUNTY

The breadth of arts talent in Fulton County is immense and many area organizations exist to present that talent to our community. However, these organizations face challenges in volunteer manpower, budget concerns, audience retention, and marketing. Spoon River College recognizes these challenges and dreams of bringing together representatives from these organizations to begin discussing ways to maintain, enhance, and promote the arts in Fulton County.

The Department of Community Education of Spoon River College has received a grant to explore the formation of an arts alliance in Fulton County. The project is being made possible, in part, by a grant from the RLI Insurance Company Corporate Contributions Fund and The Louise Flora Howard Memorial Fund of the Community Foundation of Central Illinois.

Objectives of the project include (1) bringing together representatives from existing Fulton County arts organizations to discuss collaboration and cooperation to enhance the visual and performing arts; (2) planning and implementing joint activities and events to increase community exposure and opportunities; (3) planning and implementing arts education classes, workshops, and seminars for the community; and (4) creating a collaborative arts calendar and database of volunteers and patrons. Carol Davis of Spoon River College serves as the facilitator for the project.

Beginning in January a series of monthly meetings have been held. Our first meeting consisted mostly of introductions and descriptions of events and activities of each of the organizations represented. We all truly appreciated the opportunity to hear of all the wonderful visual and performing arts activi-

ties available in Fulton County. It truly proved that the arts are alive in the Fulton County area. Our first steps toward greater cooperation and collaboration will both strengthen us as individual entities and unite us in a common cause – to promote the arts and affect the economy of our region.

The February meeting explored marketing strategies employed by the various organizations. Together we looked at several local websites and determined after some discussion that a joint website would be most beneficial to us. The joint website would include an interactive calendar of events, access to all our organizations' brochures, flyers, press releases and newsletters in downloadable format, and links to each of the individual organizations' websites (or contact information if there is no existing website). We also had good discussion regarding joint marketing. One suggestion was to collectively sponsor

an arts calendar in the local print media.

During the March meeting a strategy for joint marketing of our organizations was outlined. Spoon River College has \$500 in funds to get the ball rolling by publishing a monthly column in the Canton Daily Ledger and the Fulton County Democrat, and a series of radio ads on WBYS. The goal is to provide a continuous and familiar format for our community members to know about all of the arts events in the area each

month in one column or hear all of the events grouped together on the radio. Through these efforts the community will begin to see that the arts are alive and well in the area.

After reviewing several websites at our second meeting and seeing what "wonders" have been done with the Arts Council site, it was decided that the Fulton County Arts Council should be the umbrella under which the other organizations should connect. The Arts Council will be provided assistance

through a \$600 sub-grant from SRC to enhance the site to include information about the Arts Alliance and, most importantly, serve as a central place to find information about Fulton County's arts organizations and events.

The Fulton County Arts Council is represented by President Kelvin Sampson and Treasurer Steve Endsley. We are very excited about this project and look forward to future meetings of the Arts Alliance.

FULTON COUNTY PLAYHOUSE 2007 SEASON

The season will begin with the show "Noises Off" directed by Phyllis Vandermeer. "Noises Off" was written by Michael Frayn. This wonderful Broadway smash hit is "a farce about farce", taking the clichés of the genre and shaking them inventively through a series of kaleidoscopic patterns. Called the funniest farce ever written, "Noises Off" returned to Broadway with a cast that included Patti LuPone and Peter Gallagher for the 2002 season and sent reviewers searching for new

accolades to the hilarious. You've always seen what happens on stage but wait until you see what happens backstage during a performance – and where is Sheldon? "Noises Off" will run June 8 – 10 and 15 – 17.

This year's children's show will be "How to Eat Like a Child" directed by Sue LaFary. "How to Eat Like a Child" was written by Delia Ephron, John Forster and Judith Kahan. This musical romp through the joys and sorrows of being a child is hilarious. Children give 23 lessons in such subjects as how to beg for a dog, how to torture your sister, how to act after being sent to your room and how to laugh hysterically. The pace is fast, the tone subversive and the recognition instant. "How to Eat Like a Child" will run June 28 – 30 and July 1st.

The children's show will be followed by Rodgers and Hammerstein II "A Grand

Night for Singing" directed by Tammy Hamilton. A Grand Night for Singing opened the 1994 Broadway season with flair and distinction, wildly enthusiastic notes and a Tony nomination for Best Musical. Rodgers & Hammerstein probably never imagined "Shall We

Dance?" as a comic pas de deux for a towering beauty and her diminutive admirer, nor did they suspect that one day a lovelorn young lad might pose the musical question "How Do You Solve A Problem

Like Maria?" But that's precisely the kind of invention lavished upon this new revue. "A Grand Night for Singing" will be presented July 13 – 15 and 19 – 22.

The last show of the season will be "Beyond a Joke" written by Derek Benfield. "Beyond a Joke" will be directed by Kevin Mercer. This will be Kevin Mercer's directing debut. In "Beyond a Joke" Jane and Andrew's pleasant country house is accident-prone. Six people have already died there in unfortunate and embarrassing accidents. When daughter Sally's young man Geoff arrives for the weekend unaware of the house's reputation, he mistakenly deduces from conversational confusion that the deaths were due to sinister circumstances. A body is discovered in the cupboard and a visiting vicar passes peacefully away in the garden just as Geoff's parents call unexpectedly. Jane

and her sister in law persuade Andrew to keep up appearances by hiding evidence, which involves trundling around with bodies in wheelbarrows. Geoff is nearly convinced that he is mistaken, unaware that one of the bodies has been mistakenly stowed in the trunk of his parent's car. Performance dates for "Beyond a Joke" are August 10 – 12 and 17 – 19.

The season is filled with comedy and great music. Season tickets are available by calling the Fulton County Playhouse Ticket Office at (309) 647-6032. Season tickets are \$25.00 each and cover "Noises Off", "A Grand Night for Singing" and "Beyond a Joke". There is an additional charge for the children's show. The Playhouse seating chart can be viewed at www.fultoncountyplayhouse.com.

Please contact The Fulton County Playhouse Box Office for reservations at 309-647-6032.



Mary Ellen Carver Exhibit
 Mary Ellen Carver was the featured artist at the Picture This Gallery in Peoria Heights, Illinois between March 2 and April 14. Carver's Planet Earth Series (watercolor on Yupo) were exhibited. An artist's reception was held on March 2.

THE ARTS IN ELLISVILLE

March was a busy month for the Village of Ellisville and H.E.R.O. (Historic Ellisville Restoration Organization). On March 11th H.E.R.O. sponsored its first-ever toy show, which included 12 exhibitors of antique toys in the lower level of the Ellisville Opera House. Out on the street, an antique tractor display drew a great deal of interest as well. The event was a success and plans are in the works for the 2nd annual event.

For some, March may have "gone out like a lion", but those who made it to Ellisville on the 31st enjoyed the annual "Sassafras Festival". People picked up their sassafras-smoked hams, stayed for a ham and bean lunch and tapped their toes to the blue-grass sounds of Ellisville's own "Tracey Family Band", followed by Cantonite Carolyn Heikes' hammered dulcimer along with Paul

Hamilton from Avon on acoustic guitar.

H.E.R.O. is busily preparing for its Opera House summer concert series, kicking off with a concert by Fulton County favorite Chris Vallillo on Saturday, May 26th at 7:30 P.M. This concert is part of the Illinois Humanities Council Road Scholars program.

The high school-aged Spoon River Rascals, under the direction of Paula Helle will present "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" June 22nd- June 24th.

On Saturday, July 14th H.E.R.O. will be sponsoring a "Takin' It To The Streets" Block Party featuring summer food favorites, kids games, cake walks and a street dance.

September 8th H.E.R.O. and the F.C.A.C.

will be sponsoring an authentic silent movie festival in the historic Opera House. Live piano accompaniment will be played by Ellisville native, Paula Helle. During intermission there will be "Silent Screen Star Look-A-Like" contest open to all ages.



The original curtain still adorns the stage at the Ellisville Opera House. The building is on the National Register of Historic Sites.

MUSEUM CELEBRATES AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC

The Illinois State Museum - Dickson Mounds is pleased to announce that from June 24 through August 4, 2007, the site will be the West-Central Illinois venue for the traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibition: *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music*. This visually stimulating exhibition offers the public a hands-on interpretive experience that traces the origins of diverse American folk music traditions. Museum visitors will gain insights into the evolution of spiritual and gospel music, various types of ethnic music from Native American flute songs to



New Orleans Zydeco, bluegrass, jazz, blues, country, and more. In conjunction with this exhibition Dickson Mounds will also display a collection of Native American and African musical instruments from the permanent collections of the Illinois State Museum.

To enhance the learning potential of this exhibition the museum will also host a summer-long series of public programs that address various aspects of American Roots Music. These programs, which will include workshops, concerts, demonstrations, and oral history interviews, will be de-

signed to engage audiences in personally enriching ways, increase familiarity with instrument construction, sound-making abilities, and playing techniques, as well as insights into how cultures have influenced music, how music influences cultures, and various ways in which cultures perceive or utilize music. Programs will be made possible through partnerships with individuals representing area arts councils, historical and genealogical societies, artists, churches, cultural institutions.

For further information about roots music programming at Dickson Mounds Museum check out the museum Website at <http://museum.state.il.us/ismsites/dickson/>

DICKSON MOUNDS HONORS EAGLE DAYS ART AND POETRY CONTEST WINNERS

On January 28th winners of the 7th annual Eagle Days Art and Poetry Contest were honored in a ceremony held at Dickson Mounds. In celebration of Havana Bald Eagle Days first through twelfth grade students from Mason and Fulton counties applied their knowledge and

artistic talents to create poetry and two-dimensional art. A total of 74 art and 47 poetry entries were submitted.

The contest was sponsored by the Nature Conservancy, Illinois River National Wildlife Refuges, Havana Public Library District, Dickson Mounds Museum, Ma-

son and Fulton County Arts Councils and the Illinois Arts Council. Winning entries were displayed at "The Perch" in Havana during the Havana Bald Eagle Days Festival.

ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2007 - 2012

The IAC will be working over the next five years to educate a growing number of people in the state as to the value of the arts and the role art and creativity can play in strengthening and educating Illinois communities.

The values and objectives the Council has enumerated will ensure that our children have opportunities to participate in quality arts activities in their schools or in other community arts programs. Artists will be recognized for their contributions to the state's rich and diverse artistic legacy and that strength "will be added to Illinois' creative economy".

Under the new direction for 2007-2012, the IAC will shift from merely making art accessible to actively engaging Illinoisans of all ages and abilities in arts and culture, especially children.

Supporting strategies will address among other issues, the day to day challenges facing artists, arts educators, and community arts organizations, while creating new opportunities for the arts and cultural community in the global marketplace.

Dates and places are currently being scheduled to present and discuss the new strategic directions throughout the state at each of the Public Listening

Tour areas. More information will be provided on the IAC website as soon as plans are finalized.



LAKEVIEW MUSEUM ANNOUNCES ART EXHIBITS

Things Are Not What They Seem To Be

Trompe L'Oeil: The Art of Illusion, a playful and intriguing exhibit of 65 paintings by 14 contemporary artists, is on view at Lakeview Museum from March 17 to May 13, 2007. Even after one discovers the illusions, the painters' ability to fool, if just for a moment, is impressive. Each work is a technical and aesthetic success in every way.

French for "fool the eye," *trompe l'oeil* is a type of painting dating back to classical Greek and Roman antiquity. *Trompe l'oeil* gained great popularity in late 19th century America in simple still-life paintings of ordinary objects like postage stamps, money, letters, and musical instruments—flat items that could be depicted in a shallow space without suggesting actual depth.

Artists showing works in this exhibit are members of the *Trompe L'Oeil Society of Artists*, founded in 2001 by Larry Charles and Don Clapper to perpetuate this type of artwork and to educate art

lovers about it through exhibits, programs and publications. *Trompe L'Oeil: The Art of Illusion* is a special selection of paintings that will amaze and delight visitors of all ages.

Highlights of the Ellis Collection of Anna Pottery *April 21 through November 12, 2007*

"Those ingenious gentlemen of Anna Pottery, Messrs. C. and W. Kirkpatrick, are forever getting up something new."



So wrote a reporter in 1878 in the "Little Egypt" area of southern Illinois. The distinguished Messrs. - Cornwall (1814-1890) and Wallace (1828-1896) - came from a family with a long

history of passion for pottery. The brothers' pottery in Anna produced utilitarian wares for home and commercial use that differed little from other Illinois stoneware factories such as the Peoria Pottery. However, it was the many eccentric and humorous novelty items they made as a sideline that assured the business a reputation in its own day and have sustained the interest of schol-

ars and collectors in recent years. These include several distinctive types of jugs, flasks and mugs, many with political and provocative phrases incised into the clay bodies.

Best known are the snake jugs, which reflect Wallace Kirkpatrick's fascination with snakes. Typically fashioned as whisky containers, the bottles seethe with snakes and intemperate men. These jugs have confounded recent scholars attempting to discern their political context. While traditionally the jugs have been seen as evidence of the brothers' support of the Temperance movement, some scholars have proclaimed they mean the exact opposite - that the brothers were simply poking good-natured fun at teetotalers.

This exhibition is drawn entirely from the collection of Richard Ellis, a noted expert on Illinois stoneware. He has amassed the largest private collection of Kirkpatrick Pottery, and many of the items featured have never been exhibited publicly.

For more information contact Lakeview Museum at 309-686-7000 or go to www.lakeview-museum.org/exhibits/

LOCAL ARTS NEWS

In the Decoy Gallery:
The Carvings of John W. Hyatt

March 1 through July 15, 2007

Born in 1891, John W. Hyatt grew up on the outskirts of Pekin, Illinois. Like most boys, he spent his time wandering through the timber near his home, always on the lookout for natural treasures such as arrowheads and glimpses of wild animals. He knew the Pekin and Spring Lake areas intimately.

Hyatt used this perceptive ability to carve wildlife of all kinds in wood. Perhaps unique among Illinois River carvers, Hyatt much preferred fishing to hunting and produced very few working decoys. His usual subjects instead ranged from fish and wildfowl to songbirds, owls and even dogs and rattlesnakes. Hyatt usually worked in miniature. Grandson Larry Hyatt remembers his grandfather always busy carving something. Hyatt was familiar with oil paints, but his wife, Goldie, actually painted all of his carvings.

By the time of his death in 1964, Hyatt had sold or given away several hundred carvings throughout the area. Today, these are treasured reminders of an observant, creative spirit.

For more information contact Lakeview Museum at 309-686-7000 or go to www.lakeview-museum.org.

Junction City Art Fair:

The Peoria Art Guild partners with the Junction City Shopping Center for a second year to present this juried fair showcasing artists from Central Illinois (within a 100 miles radius). New this year is the Young Artists Show. The Fair is from June 2 10:00 am – 5:00 pm and June 3 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Please call (309) 637-2787 or email us at art-fair@peoriaartguild.org for more information.

Polymorphous Chocolate Studio 07 Exhibit

An exhibition of work created by Carl Sandburg College art students, opening reception on April 13, 5 – 7 p.m., at the Galesburg Civic Art Center, 114 E. Main St. Art Center. Exhibit will be on view from April 13 through May 12. Gallery hours are 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Call 309-342-7145 for more information.



A view of last year's Buchanan Center for the Arts Town & Country Art Show.

39th Annual Town & Country Art Show – Buchanan Center for the Arts

Exhibit of art created by students, kindergarten through high school, from Warren, Henderson and Mercer counties. Over 800 works will be on view at the Buchanan Center for the Arts, 64 Public Square, in Monmouth. Center hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. Closed on Sunday and Monday. Call 309-734-3033 for more information.

 The Art of Illinois
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