

# The Arts



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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall is upon us and the trees are beginning to show their color, signaling the end of their season. The Fulton County Arts Council has also completed another season with the completion of the 2007 fiscal year on August 31. Our summer events were a great success and we are at work planning next year's shows and events. Our partnerships continue to grow and the grants provided by the Arts Council this year have provided much needed assistance to several area organizations who share the goal of bringing the arts to Fulton County.

As many of you may know, annual funding for the Illinois Arts Council was drastically cut this year by seven million dollars. The Fulton County Arts Council applies to the Illinois Arts Council annually for a general operating support grant. This small grant allows the Arts Council to provide additional programs, events, and re-grant funds. Although the budget and grant awards of the Illinois Arts Council remain unsure,

the Fulton County Arts Council's fiscal year 2008 grant application was approved, providing that there are no more cuts in the Illinois Arts Council funding. We thank the Illinois Arts Council for their continued support.

Arts Council membership this year remains strong and is slightly higher than last year. Our efforts to increase the visibility of the Arts Council through partnerships, programs and events, grants, press releases, website, and newsletters are working. The newsletter is especially important since this is our main vehicle to keep Arts Council members informed on our activities and other local events of interest.

I am especially pleased that the organization is now stable with several active members who provided dedicated service as board members. However, we could still use additional members on the Board of Directors. Anyone interested in serving as a board member should contact one of the officers.



Art of Photography Show Professional Division Winner 'Copano Bay Sunset' by Sharron Harkless

As always, members are welcome to attend Arts Council Board meetings without becoming an officer.

Information on the Arts Alliance of Fulton County has now been added to the Fulton County Arts Council website. The major feature of this addition is an arts calendar that provides a place for participating arts related organizations in Fulton County to post all their events in one place. Visit [www.fultoncountyartscouncil.com](http://www.fultoncountyartscouncil.com) to see the changes.

We thank you for your continued support!

Kelvin Sampson

### Board Meeting Schedule

- November 13, 2007
- January 8, 2008
- March 11, 2008
- May 13, 2008

*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)

## FULTON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

On November 13, 2007 you are invited to attend the Fulton County Arts Council Annual Meeting

to be held in the first floor conference room at Graham Hospital at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will consist

of a short business meeting, introduction of FCAC officers, and a "State of the Arts Council" presen-

tation by President Kelvin Sampson. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

## GALLERY NEWS

### Art of Photography Show

The Fulton County Arts Council's Art of Photography show was on view between July 10 and September 11. This show boasted an impressive group of photographs produced by 14 area photographers. Winning entries for the show in the Amateur/Student division were: First Place, Becky Whitehouse, Busy Bee; Second Place, Sarah Whitehouse, Vivid Woody; Third Place, Barb Kittell, Ring Around the Posie. In the Semi-Professional division the winners were: First Place, Jessie Hibbs, Touch of Death; Second Place, Crystal Hardesty, Sugar and Spice; Third Place, Bill Whitehouse, Snack Time. In the Professional division: First Place, Sharron Harkless, Copano Bay Sunset.

### The Clothesline Project

The Fulton-Mason Crisis Service (FMCS) will be observing Domestic Violence Awareness Month by sponsoring and co-sponsoring several events during the month of October. FMCS, in conjunction with the Fulton County Arts Council, invites the public to visit the Atrium

Gallery at Graham Hospital during the month of October and the Mason District Hospital during the month of October to view a display



of T-shirts created by survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The shirts offer poems, pictures, and other descriptions of the violence and feelings experienced by survivors of domestic abuse. The displays will teach how the Clothesline Project originated, what each color symbolizes, and more about the pain and healing experienced by survivors and their children.

### Also in the Gallery

Also in the Fulton County Arts Council Gallery curio cabinets is an exhibit of Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive memorabilia. This display was provided by Joan Johnson-Blackwell of Lewistown who has been involved with the Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive Associates for many years. This year the drive celebrates their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We thank Joan for her



dedicated service to the Spoon River Drive as well as the many other local organizations including the FCAC.

### Upcoming Shows:

#### Annual Membership Show

Entries from Fulton County Arts Council members for the Annual Membership Show will be accepted on November 13, 2007, at the Graham Hospital Atrium Gallery between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. All mediums and subjects accepted. This show will be on view between November 13 and January 8, 2008.

Entry size for flat work, including frame, should not be smaller than 8 x 10 inches and larger than 36 inches 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.

Three dimensional works, small enough to fit in the gallery curio cabinets, will also be accepted. Shows are open to Student/Amateur, Semi-Professional, and Professional artists. Awards will be given in these three categories. There is a limit of two entries per show. For more information on entry rules and to download an entry form please visit [fultoncountyartsCouncil.com/entry.html](http://fultoncountyartsCouncil.com/entry.html).

## ART IN THE PARK



On Saturday September 1, the Fulton County Arts Council's "Art in the Park" children's program was held at the Dickson Mounds Museum picnic shelter. Thirty three children from Fulton, Knox, McDonough, and Mason Counties attended. Several Arts Council members provided a series of Native American theme

art and craft activities. These included corn husk dolls, cattail duck decoys, face painting with natural pigments, body ornamentation and turtle shell rattles. Delicious cookies and drinks were served and the program was enjoyed by all.

## SILENT FILM FESTIVAL

On Saturday September 8, the Historic Ellisville Restoration Organization (H.E.R.O.) and the Fulton County Arts Council presented a silent film festival which featured the original 1925 release *The Gold Rush*, written by and starring film legend Charlie Chaplin. Enhancing the experience, live piano accompaniment was masterfully provided by Paula Helle. Fulton County Arts Council President Kelvin Sampson introduced the film which was viewed by nearly 60 people. Refreshments were served by HERO.

The film was enjoyed by all who attended. However, the evening was especially significant for one gentleman from Havana, Illinois who shared that "this was the first motion picture he ever saw at the age of ten, eighty-two years ago in the state of Washington". When he read about the silent film festival in the newspaper he was determined to attend, no matter what. He pleased to have the opportunity to see the film for the second time and relive part of his boyhood.



The restored Ellisville Opera House provided a perfect setting for the showing of Charlie Chaplin's classic film "The Gold Rush".

### HICKORY RIDGE COFFEEHOUSE

Dickson Mounds Museum presents performances by noted folk musicians on the third Saturday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Hosted by singer-songwriter Chris Vallillo. Admission: \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children. For more information call the museum at 309-547-3721.

**November 17 - Bob Bovee & Gail Heil** – One of the most popular and distinguished acts returns with excellent renditions of both kinds of music; old time Country and Western! Bob and Gail charm their audiences with a well loved selection of songs and yodeling sure to bring a smile to your face and warm your heart. They perform on guitar, harmonica, and fiddle and are not to be missed!

**December 15 - Ben Bedford** -- Singer-songwriter Ben Bedford hails from Springfield, IL and is rapidly making a name for himself as a songwriter of quality who leans towards expressive, literary writing in the style of Townes Van Zandt and Guy Clark. Along with songs from his first release "Lincoln's Man", he'll be performing a few Christmas tunes as well so join us for the festivities!

## THE BIG READ

"A Mockingbird Lives in Fulton County" is the theme of the Big Read program to be held this October in Fulton County when area residents will be encouraged to read and discuss together Harper Lee's masterpiece, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Spoon River College, in partnership with Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library, is just one of 117 organizations from throughout the country that has been chosen to participate in the nationally acclaimed Big Read program, resulting in a \$5,000 grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

The Big Read, launched nationally in 2006 by the NEA, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Arts Midwest, encourages literary reading by facilitating communities to come together and read and discuss a single book.

"We are elated to be one of a select number of applicants to receive this competitive grant," said Carol Davis, Dean of Community and Workplace Education, who developed the grant. "To Kill a Mockingbird is my favorite book of all time. It is a work of a timeless message and breath-

taking beauty. We can't wait to share this reading experience with the entire community."

Activities for "A Mockingbird Lives in Fulton County" are being developed and facilitated by a steering committee consisting of Davis; Randy Wilson, Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library Director; and Jenny Beal and Carol Blackfelner, project coordinators.

"We now have a growing list of 24 partner organizations who will be working together to promote our local Big Read program," Davis notes. "Any organizations or businesses who are also interested in participating in or supporting this program can contact one of the steering committee members."

In addition to the \$5,000 seed grant, which is being supplemented with donations from local businesses, the NEA provides participants with a library of free materials, including reader's and teacher's guides, an audio guide, banners, posters and a comprehensive Web site, which can be accessed at [www.neabigread.org](http://www.neabigread.org).

## TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD FILM SHOWING

As part of the Big Read program, The Fulton County Arts Council will be partnering with Dickson Mounds Museum to host a special showing of the film *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962) in the museum's auditorium on October 19, at 7:00 p.m. Discussion of the film will also take place. Popcorn and soda will be served.

This much-loved, critically-acclaimed, classic trial film exhibits a dramatic *tour-de-force* of acting, a portrayal of childhood innocence, and a progressive, enlightened 1960s message about racial prejudice, violence, moral tolerance and dignified courage. The Academy Award winning screenplay was faithfully adapted by screenwriter Horton Foote from the 1960 novel of the



Scene from the film *To Kill a Mockingbird*

same name by Harper Lee which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1960. Released in 1962, the timely film reflected the state of deep racial problems and social injustice that existed in the South.

*To Kill A Mockingbird* is beautifully haunting and having been made in the '60s, at the height of the Civil Rights movement, it garners our attention to stop and take the time to truly see what the human race is all about and what it can and should be, if taken over the bumps in the road and onto a path of sincere honesty and purpose. No special effects were needed, no huge Hollywood budget, no splashing of a story that had a happy ending for

everyone involved. It is an open book into the realities of a world tilting temporarily off its axis and being brought back on track through the goodness that sits in the hearts, minds and souls of mankind, if given half a chance. See it and be amazed at what real movie-making is all about.

The film was nominated for eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director (Robert Mulligan), Best Supporting Actress (Mary Badham), Best B/W Cinematography (Russell Harlan), and Best Music Score - Substantially Original (an evocative score by Elmer Bernstein). It was honored with three awards - Gregory Peck won a well-deserved Best Actor Award for his solid performance as a courageous Alabama lawyer, Horton Foote won the Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar, and the team of Art Directors/Set Decorators also received the top honor.

### Federal Junior Duck Stamp Art on Display

Dickson Mounds Museum will exhibit Federal Junior Duck Stamp Best in Show artwork from 50 states and territories through Oct. 30, 2007. This artwork represents exceptional entries in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest, which invites submissions of waterfowl inspired art by students from across the nation. The Junior Duck Stamp is sold at a cost of \$5 per stamp. Proceeds from these stamp sales contribute to the promotion of conservation education. The winners from the Illinois competition also will be on display with the National Best in Show display.

## SPOON RIVER COLLEGE THEATER

The spring Spoon River College drama production will be *Fuddy Meers*. Written by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright David Lindsay-Abaire, *Fuddy Meers* was described as a "dark, sweet and thoroughly engaging comedy," by the New York Times. While NY Magazine reported "the evening explodes with laughter."

*Fuddy Meers* introduces a curio cabinet full of alarmingly bizarre characters. Meet Claire, who suffers from a rare form of amnesia that erases her memory every time she goes to sleep. Then watch her as she takes one hilarious

and harrowing turn after another on the roller coaster ride of a bad day gone worse. We are betting that you won't remember when you have laughed so hard.

The show will run February 29, March 1, 7, 8 at 7:00 with a matinee at 2:00 on Sunday, March 9. Auditions will be held at 3:30 on November 28 and 29. The play will be under the direction of Bob Gorg

with technical direction by Jeannie Welch and Ron Kimbrell. Watch for updates about what is sure to be a fun-filled night of theatre at Spoon River College.



## CELEBRATING THE FAMILY FARM

On exhibit at Dickson Mounds Museum beginning October 5, 2007 is the special exhibit *A Family Farm Album: The Photographs of Frank Sadorus*. The exhibit includes over 100 vintage prints, contemporary images printed from the original glass plate negatives, postcards of farm news written to Frank's older brother, Enos, and a variety of early agricultural tools and patent models for 19th century farm implements. Partial funding for this exhibition was provided by the Illinois Humanities Council, curated from the collection of the Illinois State Museum by Judith Burson Lloyd, ISM Chicago Gallery.

Frank Sadorus (1880-1934) was a descendant of a pioneer family who founded Sadorus, Illinois, in east central Illinois. He was a farmer who lived with his mother, father, brothers, and sister on the family farm. During the off season from November to April, he photographed the people and landscape he knew intimately.

Frank Sadorus was a self-taught amateur photographer. His photographic equipment and supplies, as well as newspapers, books, and magazines, were mail-ordered from

St. Louis. They were delivered by the Wabash rail line that served the town of Sadorus. Frank photographed life on the farm, leaving a body of work that included 150 mounted prints and 700 glass plate and nitrate negatives. Decades after his death, a relative found the collection in the attic of his home. The prints and plates were donated to the Illinois State Museum.

During his brief, but intense, period of experimenting with photography, Frank used a view camera to photograph the family working and harvesting the fields, relaxing, reading, playing cards, or playfully posing for one of his experimental double exposures. He made family portraits, self-portraits, and still life of favorite objects, as well as landscapes of Sadorus Grove. He meticulously recorded exposures, time of day, weather conditions, and often, personal comments on the backs of prints that he signed by hand or with hand-made stamps. He called himself an artist, a photographer of nature's majesty,



and an artistic pictorialist.

Sadorus was very sensitive to light and shot at many different times of day to capture different effects. He was very interested in the qualities of light and shadow. This was reflected in some of the titles he gave his landscapes and references to his "complete sunshine system". The reference could also refer to his sense of humor, exemplified in his double exposures, visual puns, and written notations on prints.

The exhibit features landscapes, portraits, and still life in striking black and white images that portray a strong sense of place and time – the early years of the 20th century, when technology was making itself felt on the farm. The collection is a moment in time in rural Illinois, focused on one family and its activities.

For More information visit <http://www.museum.state.il.us/ismdepts/art/sadorus/>.

## HAROLD KEE WELCH MEMORIAL ART STUDIO

The works of Harold Kee Welch still touch the state of Illinois and the nation over 30 years after his death. His Seal of Fulton County is still seen on every map and highway sign in the county of his birth. He was also the designer of the Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive Logo. His wood-relief carving *The Good*



Autumn in the Valley by Harold Kee Welch

*Samaritan* still hangs in Peoria's Memorial Hospital. Hundreds of his paintings, carvings, murals, and sculpture are held in private collections around the country.

Harold Kee Welch was born in Smithfield, Illinois. He graduated from Canton Senior High School and attended the Chicago

Art Institute before embarking on his career as a commercial illustrator. In 1963 he returned to Smithfield with his wife, Rita, and their five children. There he focused full-time on fine art until his death in 1972.

Through a grant provided by the Fulton County Arts Council to the Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive Associates, the Harold Kee Welch Memorial Art Studio will be open for viewing during the drive.

## LOCAL ARTS NEWS . . . . .

### Friends of the Arts in Illinois

Illinois Arts Week for 2007 is October 7-13th. Illinois Arts Week was established in 1978 to focus attention on our state's vast cultural resources and to increase public awareness of the arts. In the twenty-nine years since Arts Week's inception, hundreds of communities and countless individuals throughout Illinois have come to appreciate and celebrate the animating force of the arts and creativity. This year's campaign slogan, "Connect with the Arts," invites all Illinoisans to establish, deepen, or expand our relationships with the arts – and to work together in making the arts a visible and vital part of everyone's everyday lives in Illinois.

### The Photograph as an Art Object *18th Tri-ennial Photographic Competition*

The Western Illinois University Art Gallery photographic competition is open to all area amateur and professional photographers. Each pho-

tographer may submit up to two photographic prints for a non-returnable \$25.00 entry fee. Checks must be made out to the College of Fine Arts Public Service Account. All forms of traditional and digital variations of photography are acceptable. All photographic prints must be mounted or matted with white mats only, please. Frames and glass will not be accepted. All entries must be clearly identified with: name, address, phone number, social security number (for purchase awards), title, and insurance if not for sale, or sale value on the back. Shrink-wrapping is advised, but not required.

The exhibition of accepted entries will be from Tuesday, January 14 - Thursday, February 7, 2008. All accepted photographs must remain in the exhibition for the duration of the show. A Public Reception and Awards Presentation will be held on Tuesday evening January 22, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Gallery. Awards consisting of merchandise and purchase awards will be pre-

sented will be presented at 7:00 p.m.

Submission of entries and fee must be received no later than 4:00 pm., Thursday, November 15, 2007. Deliver or mail entries in returnable cartons to: University Art Gallery Western Illinois University 1 University Circle Macomb, Illinois 61455 Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday and Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. during exhibitions, closed on school vacations and holidays.

Contact the Western Illinois University Art Gallery at (309) 298-1587 for more information. All events are held at the Gallery which is located immediately North of (behind) Sherman Hall on the Western Illinois University campus; all events are open to the public at no charge.

### Lakeview Museum

On exhibit at Lakeview Museum in Peoria is *Communicating in Clay: The Ellis Collection of Anna Pottery*. On exhibit through November 11, 2007.

