MEMORIAL FUND ESTABLISHED

Early this year Mrs. Lorene Benzel donated money in memory of her daughter who passed away in 2010. Heidi was a 1971 graduate of Belvidere High School who was hoping to pursue a career in the arts. The money was put into a separate account, the Memorial Fund. Last month Mrs. Benzel made another donation in honor of Kit Scheidenhelm, the Belvidere High School art teacher (retired) who mentored Heidi in her pursuit of art and who has been influential in many of his students’ lives.

It was her hope that eventually a scholarship endowment fund could be established that would provide an annual award.

To that end, the Boone County Arts Council has established a memorial fund to which people can donate in memory of, or to honor special people, or that could be named as a memorial to which gifts could be made upon death. Donations are tax deductible and donors will receive a tax letter verifying the gift. The funds remaining from the Beth Luhman memorial have been added. Donors’ names will be kept on file and will accompany the money when it is transferred. When the amount reaches an acceptable level, the money will be transferred to an endowment fund that will perpetuate and will generate funds for a scholarship to be given each year to a graduating student from a Boone County High School who is going into the arts in higher education.

If any person wishes to give a directed donation towards a special project, that gift is also much appreciated. The money will be put into the restricted Memorial Fund and used for the specified purpose only. Examples of this type of contribution include donations to the Summer Concert Series, the Fifth Grade Arts Festival, and the Harvestfest.

For more information you may contact Karen Shifo, Treasurer, at 815-885-3360, or Sherry Lindquist, President, at 815-332-8900, or leave a message at the Boone County Arts Council office, 815-544-6242.
Letter From The President

The Boone County Arts Council’s 25th year came to a close on the last day of June 2012. It was another successful year of doing what we do best – the Concerts in the Park, Children’s Theater Workshop, Student Art Show, Holiday Lights Display and sponsoring the Snow Sculpting teams. (including willing it to snow!)

Also last year we dedicated a memorial statue to founding member Beth Luhman and established an ongoing Memorial Fund initiated by Lorene Benzel in memory of her daughter, Heidi, and in appreciation of Kit Scheidenhelm who mentored Heidi in her artistic pursuits.

We participated in the Park District’s Harvestfest for the first time with an “Instrument Petting Zoo” that was so popular we are repeating it again this autumn. The annual Fifth Grade Art Experience was expanded to an all day Arts Festival where the students participated in 6 different art experiences (drama, painting, photography, instrumental music, story writing and telling) and created a mural in panels made by each participating school. The mural was donated to School District 100 to be displayed at the administrative office. We are busy finalizing preparations for a similar Festival in October.

Not “all work and no play”, we enjoyed a Leap Day Party in February and celebrated our 25th anniversary on June 10. An open house was held in the Baltic Mill with a display of work by local artists, a slide show by the Photography Club and refreshments. During the intermission of the Jim Kanas Trio concert we recognized founding board members in attendance: Jim Cox, Dan Roddewig, Joan Sage, Kit Scheidenhelm and (Father Thomas Rosa - unable to attend). We honored Karen Shifo, who has served continuously on the board for all 25 years, with a plaque expressing appreciation for her dedication to the arts.

All of us are looking forward to the next 25 years. Won’t you join us?

Sherry Lindquist, President

boone county arts council
board of directors

Sherry Lindquist, President
Jan July, Vice President
Jean Twynig, Secretary
Karen Shifo, Treasurer
Jay Allen
Bonnie Bartell
Sheri Casey
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Jerome Jones
Lee Ladenburger
John McMorrow
Gary Simon
Michael Swinton
Barbara Volk
Maria Werchowec
Sam Yoveff
Troy Yunk

boone county arts council
P. O. Box 311
Belvidere, IL 61008
815-544-6242

Newsletter masthead created by
Beth Luhman and Gary Simon

The programs of the Boone County Arts Council are partially supported by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.
Lots of Fun at  
2012 Children’s Theater Workshop

Director Marissa Meyer knitted a witty skit and a children’s play into a highly entertaining production for the Boone County Arts Council’s 2012 Children’s Theater Workshop on Friday July 20th.

Performed at the Community Building, the play began with a snappy classroom scene in which the class defies the teacher’s attempts to teach them math, geology and sociology with sassy comebacks and one-liners. Jonah Williams, as the teacher, played straight man to the rowdy class and set up the jokes.

When the class broke for recess, the stage shifted to a modern version of The Adventures of Hansel and Gretel, presented as a play during an assembly at the school. Once again Jonah played a major part as the woodcutter father who “loses” his children in the forest. Hansel and Gretel, played by McKenna Bennett and Olivia Dilley, were adorably annoying as they parroted their names obsessively throughout the scenes.

The cast was lively, kept up with their lines, and spoke loudly. The script was fast paced and all of the actors had multiple lines. Marissa said this was a fun group to work with, and that the week just flew by. Alexandria Sterenberg was this year’s recipient of the Holly Roddewig Award, Jonah Williams and Michayla Gallagher-Kramer earned Honorable Mentions. Jan July, in addition to making up the programs, introduced the production and presented Mrs. Meyer with flowers at the conclusion. Jerome Jones took photographs which will be posted at www.boonecountyarts.com. Al White worked his magic with the complex sound and lighting system.

2012 FIFTH GRADE ARTS FESTIVAL

The second annual all day Fifth Grade Arts Festival will be held on October 23rd and 24th, in the Belvidere Community Building. Students from Lincoln, Perry, Seth Whitman, Meehan, Caledonia, Kishwaukee, Immanuel Lutheran and St. James schools will participate in classes in several areas of the arts. Mark Dvorak will start the day with a musical performance. The rest of the day will be spent with small groups rotating through 5 classes: drama led by director Marissa Meyer, Kit Scheidenhelm’s pottery demonstration, origami taught by Colleen Rittmeyer, and students will make a piece of art from recyclable materials instructed by Gary Simon and Norm Knott. Cartoonist Bruce Quast will help create cartoon panels for each participating school. They will be given to the schools for permanent display so visiting family and friends will be able to see them. Lunchtime entertainment will be provided by Belvidere High School’s Trash Can Band. This year’s Festival promises to be another fun-filled educational experience for the Fifth Graders of Boone County.

The Boone County Arts Council wishes to thank the following for helping to fund the event: The General Mills Foundation, The Funderburg Foundation and the Rockford Area Arts Council. Additional funds were provided by a gift in memory of Frances Carter by her daughter and son-in-law, Kathie and Richard Curlee. The programs of the Boone County Arts Council are partially funded by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

Without the collaboration of School District 100 and the hard work of the liaison, Jody Dahlseng, and the cooperation of the Community Building staff led by manager Julie Sullinger, this event could never be accomplished. The Arts Council sends a million thanks to our community partners and volunteers.
Boone County’s newest mural is located at the Boone County District 2 Fire Station #2, 1777 Henry Luckow Lane, Belvidere. The mural was commissioned by the family of Gerald Marrs and painted by Vicki Crone, a Belvidere artist.

The 8’-0” x 2’-0” mural is located in the hallway of the new addition just above the trophy case. It is painted directly on the wall.

The mural is not only a tribute to Jerry, but to the entire District 2 fire department, which was established in 1947. Gerald (Jerry) Marrs was a firefighter and later a trustee for the department from 1962 to 2007. There will be a mural dedication and open house for the new addition to the station on October 7th from 1-4 p.m. at the station.

Fire District #2 Receives Mural from Marrs Family

The mural itself consists of 3 fire trucks: the original District 2 fire truck, seen on the far right, their largest truck, #341, on the left, and the newest truck, a grass truck, in the center. Also depicted is a fire number, which all rural residents had at one time in front of their residences for ease in locating their properties in case of a fire, an actual hose used by the department and 2 helmets.

Experience BCAC “Musical Petting Zoo” at Harvestfest 2012

HarvestFest is a family event held to celebrate autumn in Boone County! The celebration is on Saturday, October 13 from 10am-8pm in the Belvidere Park Baltic Mill Festival Area just off of Lincoln Avenue. Scarecrows will line-up on the KishWalk path to be once again judged by BCAC judges. Three lucky winners will receive cash prizes. Entry is free…..And “Yes” the building of a scarecrow is an artistic challenge!

Back by popular demand is the BCAC “Musical Petting Zoo.” It was originally designed for children to experiment with an assortment of band instruments, but many adults have tried to toot, strum and strike the various musical objects. High school band students, retired director Richard Curlee and Washington Academy teacher Michael Hart will be there to offer advice as people tryout their musical skills.

There will be free children’s activities including the art of telling “Scary Stories” by Libbie Rodakowski, pumpkin painting, make + take scarecrows, and geo-caching. Take a horse-drawn ride on a hayrack, listen to music and stroll the booths which include local foods and crafts. End the evening at a drum circle as you watch the moon rise in the autumn sky.

For details, visit www.boonecountyharvestfest.com

ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL GRANT ANNOUNCED

The Boone County Arts Council has been notified by the Illinois Arts Council that a grant for $1050.00 has been authorized for FY 13. This grant is an operating grant for local arts agencies that will be used for programming and marketing.
Members in the News

Jan July

Pony Dreams, a watercolor painting by BCAC Vice-president Jan July earned first and fourth place ribbons at the Boone County and Winnebago County Fairs in August. Another watercolor, of a Welsh pony mare Cricket, won first and third place ribbons. Both paintings were from photographs taken at last year’s Boone County Fair. A third watercolor painting, a floral still life, also earned a blue ribbon in Boone County.

Jerome Jones

Board member Jerome Jones, with fellow photography club member Curtis Newport, are teaching a photography class through the Belvidere Park District. The free clinic is provided by the Boone County Photography Club which is sponsored by the Boone County Arts Council. During the 4 sessions on Wednesday evenings in September, participants can learn techniques for producing better photographs of children, families, pets, athletes or landscapes. If you have an interest in photography, more classes may be offered in the fall.

2012 CONCERTS IN THE PARK

The Boone County Arts Council held a very successful “Concerts in the Park” series this June and July. We presented seven consecutive concerts - five on the Baltic Mill Stage in Belvidere Park, one concert in Doty Park before the Heritage Days fireworks, and the last concert at Candlewick Lake. The bands included - The Bluegrass Reunion Band, the Jim Kanas Trio, Mike Williamson and Friends, Cajun Strangers, Dale Rhode and the Crossroads, the Prairie Brass Band, and Pirates Over 40.

Our sponsors make these concerts possible. We want to thank Sue Appleby, CFP - Raymond James; Alpine Bank; ARRP - Illinois; Byron Bank; Candlewick Lake Association; Poplar Grove State Bank; Swedish American Foundation; and Swedish American Hospital/Belvidere. We also thank the Belvidere Park District for being our main location and the Community Building for being our rain site although this year we had beautiful weather. The programs of the Boone County Arts Council are partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

The 2013 “Concerts in the Park” are in process now and will be announced in the early spring.
Originally a County-wide Project, Murals Now Given Second-Class Status by City

In June of 1997 the Wall-to-Wall Arts Festival brought 350 of the finest muralists in the country to Belvidere to create 10 murals over a three day weekend. The project was a community wide effort co-sponsored by the Belvidere Area Chamber of Commerce, the Boone County Arts Council, the Belvidere Woman’s Club and assisted by almost every civic organization in the community. Because of the community effort, Governor James Edgar proclaimed Belvidere the “City of Murals”. The City of Belvidere received the Community Award at the Governor’s Arts Awards event on November 5, 1997, in Chicago for the Mural project. In February 1998 the City received an award for citywide promotional campaigns by the Illinois Governor’s Conference on Tourism for the Wall-to-Wall Arts Festival.

The Boone County Arts Council (BCAC) took up the torch and has carried it proudly for the last 13 years, continuing the effort to promote the City’s image. A second Wall-to-Wall weekend was sponsored in June of 1998 to create the Unity Mural focusing on the Hispanic cultural community in Belvidere and Boone County. To celebrate the century change the Millennium Mural was commissioned by the Arts Council in the year 2000. The support given by the BCAC is shown on the Financial Accounting Statement on the facing page.

In response to a request from the City, the BCAC submitted an application for TIF funds to refurbish the 7 murals within the TIF district. The application included the long range maintenance plan and an estimate of what could be done for $90,000. (See TIF District Mural Maintenance Schedule on facing page)

Following a vote to reduce the amount allocated to $50,000 by the City Council Committee of the Whole at a special meeting on 8/15/12, the BCAC requested that the $50,000 be used to repaint only the Streetscape Mural. Unlike masterpieces in a museum, outdoor artwork has a limited lifespan because of exposure to the elements. Restorations can extend that life, but depending on the integrity of the surface, the type of paint used and whether a protective coat was applied, eventually they need to be completely repainted. After careful examination, the BCAC believes that the Streetscape Mural has reached the end of its life and only repainting can save it. A City Council vote on 8/20/12 denied that request.

On September 4, 2012, artist John Berry submitted a bid for $42,500 which was accepted by the City Council. According to the Berry proposal, the Streetscape, Pepsi, Belvidere Seed Company, and New York Candy Store Murals will be “touched up” and two new murals will be painted.

The mission of the Boone County Arts Council is “to enhance the quality of life of people throughout Boone County by promoting the endowment, development and enjoyment of the Arts”. We are advocates and want to see the mural program thrive and grow. To that end, we will continue to work to refurbish the existing murals in need, solicit assistance from other community groups and organizations, seek corporate sponsors to fund creation of new murals, catalogue all existing murals (the 15 original and the 17 that have been added) and promote the murals in advertising materials.
Money received by the City of Belvidere to the Boone County Arts Council:

Year 2000  Matching grant for the Millennium Mural  $5,000.00
Year 2000  Donation for the Millennium Mural  $2,500.00
Year 2007  Money for restoration of the mural on City Hall  $2,000.00
Total Received from the City of Belvidere  $9,500.00

Money spent by the Boone County Arts Council for the Mural Project:
(This does not include the tremendous amount of in-kind support for the project)

Year 1998  Completion of Unity Mural  $5,488.92
Year 1999  Redo of old murals in alley-way off State Street  $6,500.00
Year 2000  Completion of the Millennium Mural  $21,206.33
Year 2003  Mural Brochure printing of 15,000  $1,850.00
             (Design work was in-kind)
Year 2007  Mural restoration on the City Hall mural  $5,000.00
Year 2008  Reprint of Mural Brochure (5,000)  $987.00
Year 2008  Restoration work on Cityscape mural  $600.00
Year 2011  Redo of Student Mural  $1,312.88
Total actual cash spent by the Boone County Arts Council on the murals  $44,765.13

Mural Accounting and Maintenance Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mural</th>
<th>Date Installed</th>
<th>Date repainted</th>
<th>Planned date - repaint</th>
<th>Est. cost to refurbish</th>
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<tr>
<td>Streetscape</td>
<td>June 1997</td>
<td>Washed - Sept. 2009</td>
<td>Sept. 2012 to March 2013</td>
<td>$82,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Hall</td>
<td>June 1997</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill/Speed Cap</td>
<td>June 1997</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td>Private funding request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepsi mural</td>
<td>June 1997</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td>$9,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belvidere Seed</td>
<td>June 1997</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2013 - Touchups of faded areas</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>NY Candy Store</td>
<td>June 1997</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student mural</td>
<td>June 1997</td>
<td>2012 (install date TBD)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$800.00 (paid - complete)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT

THE BOONE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL VOTES UNANIMOUSLY TO REFURBISH
MIKE THE SPEED COP MURAL

The mural located on the building at 615 S. State St, which houses the Brick Café & Gallery is also known as the Welcome to Belvidere Mural. The welcome has faded through the years so building owner Debbie Carlson has commissioned local artists Gary Simon and Kit Scheidihelm to restore it to its previous glory. The BCAC will fund the restoration using restricted mural funds.

Mike the Speed Cop features a 1930’s toy motorcycle policeman. The toy was produced by the toy division of the National Sewing Machine Company. Created by Jeffrey Lang.

This photo shows the mural when it was completed in 1997 with its bright colors and distinctive artwork. This photo shows the mural in its present condition, faded and forlorn.