

# boone county arts council news



April 2015

## BCAC Board Members Congratulate their newest Belvidere Area Chamber of Commerce Recipient



Sheri Casey- 2012 Doctor of Civic Betterment, Sherry Lindquist- 2015 Distinguished Citizen and President of the BCAC , Jay Allen- 2009 Distinguished Citizen and Jean Tywning-2006 Doctor of Civic Betterment and Secretary of the BCAC. All honorees are currently serving on the Board of the Boone County Arts Council. Absent is Karen Shifo, the 2008 Doctor of Civic betterment and Treasurer.



Sherry and John Wolf, Chamber President and emcee of the Chamber Dinner



Sherry and Judi Ford Nash, former Miss American and featured speaker at Chamber dinner.

Sherry's resume includes graduation from BHS in 1963 and a BS in Biology and Chemistry from Lake Forest College in 1967. She taught science classes in the public schools in Wisconsin while raising 2 sons. Drawn by her close ties to the community and to her parents, she returned to Belvidere in 1995. In 1997 she started a Veterinary Technician program at Parkland College (associated with the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois) and became a certified Veterinary Technician in 1999. After a 9 month residency at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, she returned to Belvidere and worked at the Animal Emergency Hospital and Bellwood Animal Hospital in Rockford. She immediately became more than a resident, she became an active citizen who cares deeply about her community. Her membership roles in 4 organizations illustrate time, energy and talents that Sherry committed to making Boone County a better place. They are the Boone County Arts Council, The Boone County Historical Society, The Belvidere Woman's Club, and the Boone County Gardeners of America.

"It was extra special because it was the Chamber's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and my family has a long history of business in Belvidere. My great great grandfather, Anton Hagemeier, owned a butcher shop on S. State (the building next to the Brick) from the 1880's until he closed in 1913. That was 2 years before the Chamber was "born". When he closed the butcher shop his son-in-law, Ben Lear (my great grandfather) went to work at Piel's Grocery on S. State. He worked there until he died in 1937. Then there was a lull until my folks bought the Jewelry Store from Mr. Mang in 1948 and were open for 43 years on S. State."

boone county  
arts council  
board of directors

Sherry Lindquist, President  
Jan July, Vice President  
Jean Twyning, Secretary  
Karen Shifo, Treasurer  
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Troy Yunk

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815-544-6242

Newsletter masthead created by  
Beth Luhman and Gary Simon

The programs of the  
Boone County Arts Council  
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Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.



### Thank You From the President:

It is unbelievable to be given an award for doing something I love to do. Volunteering is an award of its own. The good feeling that you get when you make a difference is a lesson I learned from my mother who gave of herself generously throughout her life. I got involved in Arts Council when Sam Yoveff, Past President, called my folks to see if one of them would serve on the Board. Dad told him no that he was retired and he was going fishing. But, he said, "I think I know someone who would." He gave him my name and phone number and I said yes.

I'm very grateful to the Arts Council, the Historical Society, the Woman's Club and the Garden Club for giving me the opportunity to serve my community. Thank you.

Sherry Lear Lindquist



### **NEW GRANTS ANNOUNCED**

The Boone County Arts Council has received a \$500.00 grant from the Rockford Area Arts Council for the 2015 Fifth Grade Arts Festival that will take place on October 20, 21, and 22, 2015 at the Community Building in Belvidere. The Illinois Arts Council has also granted the BCAC \$1,175.00 for operating expenses during fiscal year 2015-2016.



## Boone County 5th Graders Explore the Arts with Local Artists

Fifth Grade Students from Caledonia, Lincoln, Meehan, Perry, and Seth Whitman Elementary Schools, Washington Academy, Immanuel Lutheran and St. James Schools participated in the Annual Fifth Grade Arts Festival which was held on October 21, 22, & 23, 2014.

Professional artists demonstrated their particular art form and invited the students to participate, Musician Mark Dvorak of the Old Town School of Music presented a program of the History of American Folk Music while the kids sang along. Hip-Hop Dance taught by Kristina Lewis Leonard of Lewis Dance Progression got them moving and using up some of that energy! Corey Hagberg presented Graffiti as an Art Form and helped the students paint large panels. Two of them are on display in the art classrooms of Belvidere South and Belvidere Central Middle Schools where the fifth graders who painted them can see them when they get to Middle School next year. The popular wheel thrown pottery classes were taught for a second year by Kit Scheidenhelm, retired art teacher, and Dee Santorini who teaches at Womanspace. The theater offering was Improv taught by Dan Holmes, Belvidere High School Theater teacher, and Mike Tucker, recent graduate in theater. Norm Knott, well-known local artist, and Cherie Heck who teaches at Womanspace led the Junk Art class. They taught about recycling and the students made faux stained glass vases out of plastic milk bottles to take home.

During lunch everyone was entertained by the BHS Trash Can Band led by Dan Foster and the kids had the opportunity to try out the “drums”.

Thanks to help with funding from Grants from the General Mills Foundation, the Funderburg Foundation through the District 100 Foundation for Excellence in Education and the Rockford Area Arts Council and private donations from Richard and Kathie Curlee and David and Rosalie Whitehouse, we were able to provide another successful experience for the children of Boone County. We are also grateful for donations from Dean Foods and Consolidated Container for supplies and to a dedicated group of volunteers who gave their time and talents to assist the artists.



Students learned about history of American Folk Music with Mark Dvorak



Students danced while Mark Dvorak plays music.



Students explored graffiti as an art form with Corey Hagberg.



Dee Santorini demonstrated a pottery wheel in her classroom.



Dan Holmes talked about Improv with his group.



Graffiti Bear from this year's Fifth Grade Arts Festival in the junior high art room.



## Frank Lloyd Wright Enthusiasts Tour Pettit Chapel

Many Boone County residents are aware that we have a Frank Lloyd Wright building in our county and may have admired it while driving through the Belvidere Cemetery. On Sunday, June 8, the arts council hosted an open house at the Pettit Chapel. This was an opportunity to walk through the inside of the chapel and also to get a little history of this unique building. Not only is it unique to our area, it is one of just a few chapels that Frank Lloyd Wright designed. We were excited to have the work of Ron Olsen on display that afternoon. Ron has created miniature models of many of Frank Lloyd Wright's homes, complete with landscaping and lighting. The event was planned to coincide with the opening of another unique Frank Lloyd Wright home, the Laurent House, in Rockford. This is the only home that he designed for handicapped accessibility. That home is now a museum and is available for tours. For tour information and pricing you can visit [www.laurenthouse.com](http://www.laurenthouse.com) You may visit the Pettit Chapel by contacting the Belvidere Cemetery office at 815-547-7642 to schedule a time. The Pettit Chapel open house was attended by 130 people, both local and out- of-town visitors.



*"The Arts... Share The Vision"*  
boone county arts council

## We Could Use Your Help

The Arts Council was notified that this year the Illinois Arts Council and consequently the Rockford Area Arts Council will have less money to give in grants to local entities. Since these have been major sources of funding for programming, there will be a substantial loss of funds for the annual Fifth Grade Arts Festival. In addition, the General Mills Foundation criteria has changed so that the Fifth Grade Arts Festival no longer qualifies.

The Arts Council is unwilling to give up such a valuable experience for the Fifth Graders of the County and are seeking help to fund it. It costs \$200 a day for each artist and we have 6 or 7 artists on each of the 3 days of the Festival. That means a total of 18 to 21 artists.

If you would be willing to SUPPORT AN ARTIST FOR A DAY or partially support one the children of Boone County would be very grateful.

Rest assured the show will go on as we are committed to doing this.

Thank you for your consideration. Contact the office for more information at 815-544-6242 or mail tax deductible contribution to the Boone County Arts Council at the following address:

P.O. Box 311

Belvidere, IL 61008

You will receive a tax letter.

Sherry Lindquist and the Board of Directors

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## Arts Council Sponsors and Judges HarvestFest Scarecrow Contest

BCAC sponsored and judged the "Scarecrow Contest". Yes, the building of a straw figure is an art! Mark your calendar for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual event: Saturday, October 3, 2015.

The Musical Petting Zoo will also be back by popular demand.



## **BOCO 2015 Showcases Local Businesses**

A fairly good crowd visited the Chamber of Commerce annual BOCO Exhibition on Saturday, January 31. The Arts Council Booth featured the Millennium Mural this year. On display was the framed, signed print donated to the Arts Council by the artist, Bill Heug, and order forms were available for those who wished to purchase a print. We also had post cards of the original murals painted during the Walldog event in 1997 for sale.

A new electronic picture frame displayed a continuously running show of events sponsored or participated in by the Arts Council during the year: Summer Concerts in the Park, Harvestfest, Fifth Grade Arts Festival, Pettit Chapel Open House and annual Membership Party at the Brick.

Membership Brochures and Art in Boone County brochures were handed out, as were notepads and crayons for young artists.

Thanks go to Bonnie Bartell, Maria Werchowec-Hernandez, Sheri Casey, Jay Allen, Jan July and Sherry Lindquist who took shifts in the booth to tell visitors what we do in the community and answer questions.



## **JUNETEENTH**

Juneteenth-Belvidere is a collaborative project between the Ida Public Library and the Belvidere Park District that aims to bring awareness to and appreciation of African culture and American Black History to youth and their families in Belvidere through the experience of music, dance, and instruction. It combines visual art, music, and dance in an effort to immerse children in a positive cultural experience. The program will be taught by local Ghanaian drummer and musician, Annan Lomo, and Jan Sebon of Kazak International, who will lead a group of 50 kids in a one-day age-appropriate drumming workshop. Participants in the program will make their own drums, learn rhythmic drum patterns and patterns of tone, take part in call and response drumming, and will learn a few African songs with dance. The workshop will be followed by a public performance by an African music ensemble, including Annan and Jan which will incorporate elements and concepts learned in the workshop and will include opportunities for the kids to take part in the performance. June 19th from 11-4.

They are looking for a few BCAC board members who would be willing to volunteer for the program for all or part of the day. If you are interested in volunteering, or know of someone who may be interested, contact Jillian Fuller at the Library:

[localhistory@idapubliclibrary.org](mailto:localhistory@idapubliclibrary.org)

815-544-3838 extn. 305

## **IS THERE POETRY IN BOONE COUNTY?**

The BCAC Board is contemplating offering a poetry competition for adult Boone County composers of verse. Prizes would be offered with the best entries published in our newsletter and maybe even a small limited-edition book to share with friends and family. If you think you might like to participate, leave a message at the BCAC office advising us of your interest (815-544-6242). We were thinking of holding the project during the winter months, so you would have plenty of time to work on your original poems.

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## **SISTER CITIES ANNUAL ART SHOW**

The Sister Cities Annual Student Art Show will be held at the Alpine Bank, 600 S. State St., Belvidere on April 18 from 9:30 to 11 AM. The Judging will be at 10:30. The public is invited. The winners will be displayed at The Brick the week after that.

## Mardi Gras is Theme of this year's Member Party

Mardi Gras was the theme for the annual Membership Drive held on February 17. Members and guests enjoyed good conversation, beverages, delicious "Taste of the Brick" and traditional Kings' Cake made by Irma Tate. Jan decorated the tables with Mardi Gras color purple, green and gold beads. Mike Tucker, who has taught theater classes at the Fifth Grade Arts Festival, was the lucky person who found the token in the Kings' Cake. Not only will he have good fortune all year, but he got to choose one of Heidi Benzel's drawings as a prize. A few months ago Mrs. Benzel donated Heidi's portfolio to the Arts Council to be displayed and sold at The Brick with all proceeds going to the Memorial Fund. From that Fund, the Arts Council awards a monetary prize annually to a senior art student whose piece is judged to be best in the High School division of the Student Art Show.



Mike Tucker with Heidi's artwork that he chose as his prize.



Sherry displaying Kings' cake.

### The Kings' Cake (Kings' Cake or Three Kings' Cake)

The Kings' Cake is a sweet, sugary, iced Danish-type dough that is braided with cinnamon inside. The cake has a glazed topping that is sprinkled with sugars in the official colors of Mardi Gras: purple for justice, green for faith and gold for power. Kings' Cake takes its name from the three Biblical kings who visited the Christ Child and is now synonymous with the Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday-the day before the start of Lent) in New Orleans. Traditionally, a small plastic or porcelain baby to represent baby Jesus was hidden in the cake. Today the baby symbolizes luck & prosperity to whoever finds it in their slice of cake. Thanks to a generous donor, the finder had their choice of the artwork by Heidi Benzel hanging on the walls of The Brick.

## The Refurbished Millennium Mural is Installed



**2015 BOONE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL  
FREE CONCERTS IN THE PARK  
SUNDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30 P.M.**

- June 7           Starlite Radio - Folk, Rock, Pop, and Soul Music  
Baltic Mill Stage in Belvidere Park  
[www.starliteradio.com](http://www.starliteradio.com)  
Sponsor: NDK America
- June 14          Rockford Barbershop Chorus - Four-Part Harmony In All Musical styles  
Baltic Mill Stage in Belvidere Park  
[www.rockfordbarbershopchorus.com](http://www.rockfordbarbershopchorus.com)  
Sponsor: AARP-Illinois
- June 21          Rockford Wind Ensemble - Popular Favorites and Concert Standards  
Baltic Mill Stage in Belvidere Park  
[www.rockfordwindensemble.org](http://www.rockfordwindensemble.org).  
Sponsor: Alpine Bank
- June 28          Silver Creek Band - Country Music  
Boone County Fairgrounds at 7:00 P.M.  
Before the Heritage Days Fireworks  
Sponsor: Swedish American Medical Center/Belvidere
- July 5            Mike Williamson Trio - Broadway, Jazz, and Family-style Comedy  
Baltic Mill Stage in Belvidere Park  
[www.mikewilliamsonmusic.com](http://www.mikewilliamsonmusic.com)  
Sponsor: Byron Bank
- July 12          Holmes Productions - Contemporary Folk and Rock Music  
Baltic Mill Stage in Belvidere Park  
Sponsor: Swedish American Foundation
- July 19          Saturday June Band - Classic and Current Rock Music  
Candlewick Lake Recreation Center  
[www.saturdayjune.com](http://www.saturdayjune.com)  
Sponsors: Candlewick Lake Association and Poplar Grove State Bank

The Community Building, 111 W. First Street, will be the rain site for all of the concerts. For information call the Boone County Arts Council at 815-544-6242. Thanks to the Belvidere Park District for their assistance at the concerts. A special thank you to the Community Building for serving as the rain site for the concerts. As always, we could not present these concerts with out the generous support of our sponsors who are mentioned above.  
The programs of the BCAC are sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

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## Coming Events:

### STUDENT ART SHOW COMING IN APRIL

The annual Student Art Show will be held from April 27 through May 1 in the Atrium Entrance of Belvidere North High School. The student reception will take place on Monday, April 27, from 3-5 P.M. All students, their families, friends and teachers are invited to attend. Troy Yunk's Advanced Art Class will hang the artwork for the show and select the best in each grade level. Teachers in all of the schools in Boone County are invited to select five works in each grade level. Artwork will include ceramics, sculptures, and pieces on paper. Every participating student will be given Certificates of Achievement.

The art staff at the high school level will select the winner of the Heidi Benzel Award that will go to a graduating senior. This \$50.00 cash award is given in memory of Heidi Benzel who was an art student at Belvidere High School. We thank her mother, Lorene Benzel, for contributing generously to our Memorial Fund for this award.

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### BELVIDERE BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN SPRING ART SCENE

Spring ArtScene 2015 is sponsored by the Rockford Area Arts council annually in April and October. Boone residents usually have to travel to the Rockford area to enjoy the exciting displays, but not this year.

The **Locust Street Press, 116 W Locust Street, Belvidere**, has joined the Rockford businesses and galleries in opening their doors here to area artists in a free display and sale of original art work.

Locust Street Press opened about 3 years ago in the former Eagles Lodge building. They are a small family letterpress shop that caters to the trade (think specialty) and delivers personal attention to bring original designs to life.

*ArtScene 2015 at Locust Street Press.*  
Friday, April 10 & Saturday, April 11  
Friday, October 2 & Saturday, October 3  
Friday, 5-9 p.m. and Saturday, 4-9 p.m.

Visit <http://www.springartscene.com> for more information

There may still be room for additional artists, give Heather a call at 815-509-1193 if you would like to join the exhibit.