

boone county arts council news



February 2012

Dedication of “Little Beth”

By Sherry Lindquist

A beautiful bright blue October day was the scene for the dedication of the sculpture named “Little Beth” in honor of Beth Herbert Luhman. The family assembled from across the country to join many friends for the ceremony. Letty Luhman Bradley, her daughter, unveiled the statue.

Sherry Lindquist, in addressing the crowd, noted that Beth was a remarkable woman. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, cousin and favorite aunt. She was a dedicated community advocate. As a founding member of the Boone County Arts Council, she served as secretary for many years and created the newsletter masthead with Gary Simon. She and John Cook co-chaired the Baltic Mill Renovation Capital Fund Drive which resulted in the wonderful facility housing the BCAC office and is used for community events. She was an author, painter, sculptor and art teacher. Beth was a true Renaissance woman. John Cook reminisced about working on the Board of Directors with Beth. The family tribute was given by her daughter, Melinda. Beth’s son, Herb, and his family nodded in agreement with the memories of growing up under her guidance. Son Gerard sent a message from his home in Australia saying, “I am deeply touched by your generosity and thoughtfulness. It is greatly appreciated. I know that my mother would be delighted in her own shy manner with this wonderful commemorative sculpture purchased with the memorial donations and installed in her memory.”

A lovely reception was held in the Baltic Mill decorated with pieces of Beth’s artwork loaned by the proud owners. A CD of Beth’s 90th birthday party held at the Mill played continuously on the big screen while guests enjoyed punch and Petit Fours.

“Little Beth” sits in the flagstone garden leading to the Mill. Enjoy her next time you’re in the park.



Beth’s son Herb is shown looking over the shoulder of Little Beth.



Sherry Lindquist, BCAC President and Lonna Bentley, registrar of the Boone County Historical Society set up the refreshments after the dedication.

boone county
arts council
board of directors

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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.



Note from the President

I want to wish all of you a Happy New Year and extend a heartfelt thank you to the members of the Board of Directors and volunteers who worked tirelessly to provide the successful events featured in the Newsletter.

Behind the scenes the Board has been busy:

Receiving the funds from the Mural Mile Association and establishing a committee to preserve and promote the murals

Responding to a request to use copies of 2 murals in the redecoration of Belvidere Starbucks

Completing the new Membership Brochures designed by Kristin Richter-Tope in time to be available at BoCo on 2/4/12

Following the progress of the 5th grade mural started at the Arts Festival and preparing to display

Submitting grant applications to fund projects for the 2012-2013 year

Finding performers and getting financial support for the Summer Concerts

Preparing for the Rockford Park District Snow Sculpting Competition

Again, thank you all from the bottom of my heart. You make my job do-able and the effort all worthwhile.

Sherry Lindquist

Save A Tree

For the first time, the Boone County Arts Council will not only be sending its newsletter by “snail mail”, but will also be emailing it to those members for whom we have email addresses. This will allow members to see all the photos in color. The newsletter will be sent in pdf (portable document format) so anyone can open it. It will also be available on our website, boonecountyarts.com. You can visit the website for additional information and photos.

If you would like to “save a tree”, you can notify us if you would like to continue to receive the newsletter by email rather than tradition mail. It will also save the Arts Council postage money that we can use for our programming. Contact Jean Twyning at twyn-ing@hotmail.com if you are interested in this option.

Chamber After Hours

The Arts Council hosted a Chamber of Commerce After Hours at the Baltic Mill in September. A photo exhibition was displayed throughout the Mill by the Photography Club. To showcase the big screen donated to the Park District by the Photography Club, a slide show played continuously while Chamber members, Arts Council and Photo Club members and guests mingled and enjoyed refreshments.

Jeanne Gang Given “Genius Grant”

The MacArthur Foundation recently honored Belvidere native and world-renowned architect, Jeanne Gang. She was the recipient of a \$500,000 fellowship, also known as the “genius grant.” She is one of only 22 people awarded this grant in 2011.

Gang is known for her designs such as the Aqua Tower in Chicago and the Starlight Theater in Rockford.



Photo by Chris Kitahara

Retired Volunteer Program Presented to Arts Council

Sasha Meyers presented the Retired Senior Volunteer Program to the Board at the November meeting. RSVP, operating under Lutheran Social Services, provides volunteers to all not-for-profit organizations. The Board decided not to sign up to receive volunteer help at this time, as we are always fortunate to have dedicated help from the membership; however, individuals may register with RSVP and then make the hours spent volunteering for organizations of their choice count. “Count for what?” you ask. Your volunteer hours have a hidden value. The total of area hours is recorded in federal grant applications and this can result in real dollars coming into our community. Belvidere is in the Boone/Winnebago District which has logged the most volunteer hours in the state for 5 years in a row. You probably already spend many hours doing volunteer service for several groups in our community. Sign up now. The only requirement is to report your hours monthly. For more information or an application contact Diane in Boone County at 815-544-7128 or diane.bergquist@lssi.org. In Winnebago County the contact is Pat at 815-397-7103.

BoCo Expo 2012 Set for February 4

On February 4, volunteers from the Board will be found in our booth in the lower level of the Community Building from 9 AM until 3 PM. BoCo is an opportunity to present the organization and brag about the things we do and programs we provide. We will have our revolving picture frame displaying past events, mural brochures, newsletters, Summer Concert flyers and other appropriate advertising material. There will be Mural Postcards for sale. For the kids we will set up the musical Tic Tac Toe game made by Jay Allen for the HarvestFest booth and hand out drawing kits. Our colorful new membership brochures will be available and there will be a drawing for a free 1 year membership. Thank you volunteers Bonnie Bartell, Jean Twyning, Barbara Volk, Michael Swinton, Donna Denning, Maria Werchowec, Sam Yoveff, Karen Shifo and Sherry Lindquist for being ambassadors for the Arts.

Harvestfest 2011 Offers New Experiences for Attendees

By Jean Twynning

The BCAC tent was visited by over 500 people during the HarvestFest event in Belvidere Park. Our *Musical Petting Zoo* was a big draw as children (and adults!) tried to hold, blow and play the trumpet, the drums and the violin. With the encouragement of band directors Richard Curlee and Michael Hart, the budding musicians tried to put some music into the autumn air. Many thanks to Deb Kelly for the loaner instruments and to the high school band students who spent the day helping others learn to play music. We'd like to do this again If you have any "retired" instruments that you would like to donate to BCAC, please call the office and leave a message. 815.544.6242

HarvestFest scarecrows lined the path in the Baltic Mill festival area of Belvidere Park..... Some were whimsical, some were scary, and one was very tall ! BCAC provided the judges and the prizes for this creative, community event. Thank you to Jerome Jones, Maria Werchowec and Jan July for their efforts. While the scarecrows may not have been examples of "fine" art; it was an imaginative way to *share a vision!*



This scarecrow, a ribbon winner, was a Buc entered by the KARE Conservation Club from Belvidere High School.



This was a rare chance to view the Jon Critchfield "Chaos in Camp" sculptures. The ones displayed here are being stored inside the Baltic Mill, while the rest are being refurbished at the home of the artist.



Board Member Maria Werchowec-Hernandez is one of the judges for the scarecrow contest.

Additional Photos from Harvestfest



Fifth Grade Arts Festival

By Jan July

On November 1 and 2, 2011 the Boone County Arts Council offered a Fifth Grade Arts Festival for students from seven participating Belvidere schools. Each student was able to experience a full day of culture with artists ranging from musicians from the Rockford Symphony Orchestra to storytelling and mural painting. The nine experts also included a painter, photographer, theater director and an author of children's books.

Fifth graders from three schools attended on Tuesday, and four schools participated in the activities on Wednesday. Each group rotated through the schedule among seven artistic disciplines with a time slot for a sack lunch. Groups were chaperoned by their teacher and an assistant. Members of the Boone County Arts Council board were on hand with each artist.

The Fifth Grade Arts Festival is part of the Boone County Arts Council's continuing efforts to provide exposure to the arts for Boone county fifth graders. Other years have focused on one discipline with either the artist visiting the different schools or the students have been bused to a central location for a group presentation. This year is a major effort by the BCAC to provide a unique day for the students. Jack Neil, former Washington Elementary School principal and art teacher, and Sherry Lindquist, president of the Boone County Arts Council, provided the leadership and organization to make the event memorable for the students.

The BCAC is indebted to several groups and businesses for their assistance with grants and materials including The Home Depot and the Sherwin-Williams Co of Belvidere. This project was funded in part by the District #100 Foundation for Excellence in Education Grant. It was also funded in part by a grant from the Community Arts and Humanities Fund of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. This project also received a grant from the Rockford Area Arts Council. The programs of the Boone County Arts Council are partially funded by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

We thank the staff of the Community Complex of Boone County for providing a perfect venue for our festival.

The Boone County Arts Council logo proclaims "The Arts...Share the Vision." This is one way the BCAC shares the vision for arts in Boone County.



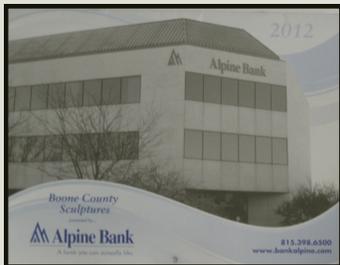
This is a composite photo taken by Jan July of the 6 murals completed by the students at the Arts Festival. The murals are currently being housed at the District 100 elementary schools. The Board is searching for a permanent home for these murals.

Boone County Sculpture Featured in Alpine Bank 2012 Calendar

Using information from BCAC's website (www.boonecountyarts.com) and additional facts from Jan July, author of BCAC's *Survey of Sculpture in Boone County*, Susan Cadie, Marketing and Communications Coordinator for Alpine Bank, featured images of Boone County Sculpture in Alpine Bank's 2012 annual calendar.

The black and white images include the newest sculptures: "The Babysitter," Boone County Fairgrounds; and "Little Beth," Baltic Mill.

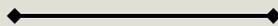
The calendar is available free from Alpine Banks.



Starbucks To Highlight Belvidere Murals In New Remodeling Project

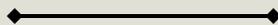
As part of a nationwide marketing strategy to 'localize' the décor in Starbucks restaurants, an architectural interior design firm paid the Boone County Arts Council a usage fee for the rights to print photos of two of the Belvidere murals – the 'Belvidere Seed Co.' mural – and the former 'Eldredge Automobile' mural.

Because the copyright ownership of the downtown mural images belongs to the city, the usage fee will be presented to the City of Belvidere at a future City Council meeting.



HATS OFF TO –

Troy Yunk's high school team for, once again, setting up and taking down our Holiday Light display. Enjoy your pizza party with our thanks.



Snow Sculpture Contest Delayed One Week

Due to the recent snowfall the Rockford Park District Snow Sculpting Competition will be held, but delayed until January 25th. The Arts Council is again sponsoring the team of Kit Scheidenhelm, Gary Simon, and Tom Guirl. Belvidere High School and Belvidere North High School will also send teams. The competition is open to the public through Sunday, January 29, with the judging on Saturday, Jan. 28. We encourage everyone to go and enjoy the sculptures and support the high school teams with votes for people's choice.

Boone County Arts Council Accepts Mural Mile Funds

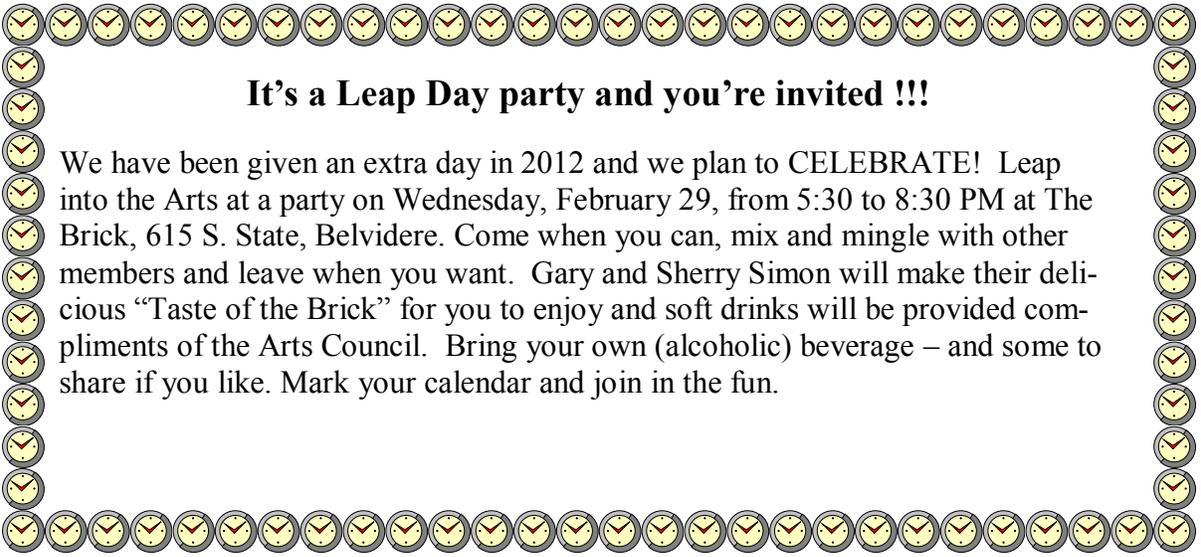
Effective December 31, 2011, the Boone County Arts Council accepted the remaining bank funds of the Belvidere Mural Mile Association after the group disbanded. The stipulations of the acceptance of the funds were 1) Completion of a building owner's agreement and 2) Creation of a new promotional brochure. Both these items will be completed by June 30, 2012, as per the agreement.

The Boone County Arts Council will create a 'Walldog Mural Program' with strategic planning for the preservation of existing murals, creation of new murals and future marketing of the project. The Arts Council board of directors is excited to work on the mural project and create new downtown public art installations in the coming years.



Sister Cities Art Show Slated for March 28-April 4

Sister Cities International will host an art show open to all Boone County youth ages 13-18 by October 31, 2012. Show dates are March 28 to April 4. This year's theme is "Youth as the Catalyst for Change." The show will be again held in the atrium of the Alpine Bank, 600 S. State in Belvidere, with the bank providing the monetary prizes. The awards ceremony will be held on March 30 at 2:00 p.m. in the bank's main lobby. The 1st place winners' work will be sent to Washington D.C. to compete against other American and international winners. For more information contact Lorene "Sis" Benzal at 815-547-8503.



It's a Leap Day party and you're invited !!!

We have been given an extra day in 2012 and we plan to CELEBRATE! Leap into the Arts at a party on Wednesday, February 29, from 5:30 to 8:30 PM at The Brick, 615 S. State, Belvidere. Come when you can, mix and mingle with other members and leave when you want. Gary and Sherry Simon will make their delicious "Taste of the Brick" for you to enjoy and soft drinks will be provided compliments of the Arts Council. Bring your own (alcoholic) beverage – and some to share if you like. Mark your calendar and join in the fun.

"The Arts... Share The Vision"

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P.O. Box 311
Belvidere, IL. 61008

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