



Arts In Action

www.sturgisareaartscouncil.org

Volume 39, No. 1

January/February 2018



A Prank in Three Acts

in her little red wagon and is the eternal and kind optimist. She is set upon by three unsavory characters who concoct a series of elaborate schemes to steal Opal's fortune. Through it all, unsuspecting Opal radiates kindness, affection, and gratitude.

Plan for an evening of laughs and goofy, enjoyable antics. You'll leave the play agreeing with the author's description of "Everybody Loves Opal" as a prank in three acts.



Want to audition for "Everybody Loves Opal"?

Director June Dill has set auditions for Sunday, January 7th, from 6:30-8:30pm in the Williams Middle School band room. June, a veteran director who has recently retired from the Sturgis Brown High School, is now ready to lend her directing skills to the Sturgis Area Arts Council's productions. She is very familiar with the play having previously directed it. She agrees with the New York Post's description of the play as "shamelessly entertaining."

The cast, which includes 2 women and 4 men, is as follows:

Principal Roles:

Opal - A middle-aged recluse living in a tumbledown mansion at the edge of the municipal dump. She is an optimist full of unflinching kindness and an abiding faith in the goodness of human nature.

Gloria Gulock - On the lam from the authorities, she has designer-like wardrobe, and Hollywood dreams makes her the perfect naive front woman. She has a brashness that compensates for her insecurity. She seems hardened.

Bradford Winter "Professor" – On the lam from the authorities, the real brains behind the operation, with his high-end vocabulary, college professor ensemble, and sarcastic sense of humor.

Solomon Bozo – Also on the lam from the authorities, he is the big bossman in his fancy fur and authoritative air who talks a big, mob-boss-like game, but there's something hiding beneath the boisterousness. He is shabby, fat, bald and bug-eyed. He is in an extreme state of agitation.

Minor roles:

Doctor - Middle-aged. Rather cantankerous.

Officer Joe Jankie - A handsome young policeman.

Artists of the Month

We have THREE Artists for January!! Following is a bit about each of them:

Coleen Walsh Brezny is from Piedmont, SD. Coleen is an author, writer, poet artist, and photographer who has a Masters in Wisdom Spiritualism and has studied art and creative writing. Coleen has 2 published works, the most recent a book of poetry whose title is: “Invisible Room – A Collection of Mystical Poetry and the later a fable titled: “Scripted, Thea’s Tale of Love, War, & Wisdom - A journey that is out of tins world. One you have been invited to take.” (with a sequel in the works!) “

Coleen has taught creative writing courses trough Community Education in Rapid City, as well as countless hours spent volunteering at the Pennington County Jail practicing Poetry Therapy with the female inmates. She also works as hospice volunteer, using poetry as a soothing and comforting remedy. In addition she acts as hostess to a writers group in Rapid City for poets & song writers and a VERB writers group.

Currently her poetry/photography is being sold in gift form at Poppy & Pine, located at Main Street Square. In addition she sells canvas wall hangings each blanketed with both photo and a poem and boxed gift cards (Originals)

For more info: 1poetics1@gmail.com. . . . www.theinvisibleroom.com



Kim Oslund is a fiber-holic, artist and all around creative person. She operates SlipKnits, A Favorite Local Yarn Store. Kim grew up in the Black Hills and loves it! She says “The people, the skies, the creativity - it just never ends! Someone once told me that I could ‘live art 24 hours a day’. Now, that was music to my ears and I have been working hard at it ever since. Much of my time is spent teaching and sharing my creative skills. It is fun to be a part of a show with friends and be able to create a few pieces that are completely different from what people are used to from me. So now I will continue to keep my head in the clouds, my feet on the ground and keep reaching for my stars . . .”

Wade Patton says about himself: “The spare beauty of the prairie resonates in my work. I’m an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe and grew up on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation surrounded by a rich culture of music and art. After obtaining a BA in art from Black Hills State University and having a solo exhibit at the Sioux Indian Museum in Rapid City I decided to move away. It took leaving South Dakota for me to find the voice in my most recent body of works. Yet, while pursuing other art opportunities on the east coast, I longed for home. Living on the east coast, I began expressing what I missed, the beauty and splendor of the Black Hills and the skies of South Dakota. I started to draw landscapes and clouds, as a reminder of home.



Something clicked, not only in artistic expression, but with collectors and galleries. Their response was unexpected, but welcomed. I started sending work back home for exhibits and to galleries, and was getting recognition Finally, I realized how much I needed to return, I missed my family and I needed to pursue my art in the place where I find the most inspiration. That decision brought me straight into the thriving Native art scene that clearly wasn’t here when I left.

Interestingly, when I moved back people would say, ‘Oh, you’re the cloud guy!’ People didn’t know me, but knew my work. I’m reacquainting myself with the land and my ancestry. This is most prevalent in my new works and it’s exciting for me as an artist to look forward to the future in the jokes that I’ll produce.”

(continued on next page)

“With the elegant line and an almost hypnotic use of pattern, Patton draws the viewer into his interpretation of the natural elements and seasonal changes of the land. His mastery of graphite evokes the subtlest of phenomenon and his spare use of color is inspired by beadwork, orchestrates the prairie grasses, stormy skies and then power of the buffalo.” Quote by Deborah Mitchell, Director of the APEX Gallery

And then In February .

Our Artists of the Month will be the Williams Middle School Art Students of Kristen Cammack. These talented kids have exhibited in the library every February for many years and we always love to see the talent our young people here in Sturgis have.

Come on down to the library and see our artists every month. Julie works very hard to round up talented folks and get the displays coordinated. We thank her bunches and bunches for doing this every month!!





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Sturgis Area Arts Council's Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 4

Armchair Travelers Book Club
 “Persepolis - The Story of a Childhood”
 Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

Sunday, January 7

Auditions for “Everybody Loves Opal”
 Williams Middle School Band Room, 6:30-8:30pm

Thursday, January 11

Sturgis Area Arts Council Meeting
 Library/City Hall Meeting Room, 7:00pm

Friday, January 19

History at High Noon
 “The Buffalo Soldiers, Their Beginnings
 and Dakota Connections”
 Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

Thursday, February 1

Armchair Travelers Book Club
 Discuss your favorite Civil War novel
 Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

Thursday, February 8

Sturgis Area Arts Council Meeting
 Library/City Hall Meeting Room, 7:00pm

Sunday, February 11

1st Rehearsal for the Easter Cantata
 Grace Lutheran Church - 1061 Sherman St. 1:30pm

Friday, February 16

History at High Noon
 “Water, Wool, Beets and Pickles”
 Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

Tuesday, February 20

Discussion of One Book SD's
 “Kitchens of the Great Midwest”
 Sturgis Public Library Program Room, 7:00pm

February 23-February 26

“Everybody Loves Opal”
 Sturgis Community Center Theater
 Friday, Saturday & Monday at 7:00pm
 Sunday at 2:00pm

History at High Noon



History at High Noon will begin 2018 with two fine speakers in January and February.

Randy Bender will start us off on Friday, January 19th, with a program entitled “The Buffalo Soldiers, Their Beginnings and Dakota Connections”. We always have a full house when Randy is our speaker, and we are looking forward to seeing you all there.

Ken Wetz has an interesting title for his program on Friday, February 16th. It is “Water, Wool, Beets and Pickles” Sounds like fun! Ken is a new speaker for us, so come and welcome him to the bunch.

And so, as we start this new year, the program committee has been hard at work scheduling interesting programs for you. They are Diana Hayes, Rosalee Johnson, Bonnie Lange, Dode Lee and new member, Richard Moeller. We are always welcome to your suggestions for programs. History at High Noon meets on the third Friday of the month at noon in the program room of the Sturgis Public Library - January through May and in October and November. This year we might be scheduling in June and September too. We'll keep you posted.

The library always keeps the coffee pot on and you are welcome to bring your lunch along.

Armchair Travelers Book Club

The Armchair Travelers decided to read “Persepolis -The Story of a Childhood” by Marjane Satrapi for their January 4th discussion. This is a graphic novel – a story told in pictures with balloons for conversation. Even if you haven’t read it or become aware of this event earlier, join us at the meeting to find out what it is about. The group meets at noon in the Lushbough Room of the Sturgis Public Library.



The February 1st discussion will find the group back to its themed read. This month it will be Civil War novels. Everything from the Red Badge of Courage to Gone With the Wind and Killer Angels is fair game. There is a wealth of literature for this time frame and it never seems to lose its popularity.

The March meeting is also on the first and the discussion is on a specific book again, please look for and read “The Hare With the Amber Eyes, A Hidden Inheritance” by Edmund de Waal. This family memoir was a New York Times bestseller and widely acclaimed.

Cosponsored by Sturgis Area Arts Council and the Sturgis Public Library, Armchair Travelers is open to all interested readers. The group meets on the first Thursday of nearly every month at noon in the Lushbough Room of the Sturgis Public Library.

*“A reader lives a thousand lives
before he dies.....*

The man who never reads lives only one.”

George R.R. Martin, A Dance with Dragons

Attention Snowbirds and Movers

If you plan on being gone this winter OR you’re moving from one place to another and you’re on our mailing list, PLEASE let us know!!

The post office charges us \$\$ if we mail something to you and you’re not home (or no longer at the address we have for you). Even if you’ve filled out a change of address form, they charge us to return the item to us! It may only be 49 cents here and there, but it does add up after a while, so if you can help us avoid it, we’d be most grateful.

Contact Linda at 720-6361 or send an e-mail to saacpublicity@hotmail.com to let us know of any and all changes, please ~ we would most appreciate it!! :))



One Book SD



Sturgis Area Arts Council is pleased to sponsor a discussion of the South Dakota Humanities Council One Book SD "Kitchens of the Great Midwest" by J. Ryan Stradal on Tuesday, February 20th, at 7:00pm in the program Room of the Sturgis Public Library.

We are happy to introduce you to a new Humanities Scholar, Molly Barari. Molly graduated in 2017 from Wilkes University with an MFA in creative writing. Originally from Kearney, NE, she resides in Rapid City with her husband of five year, David Barari, and teaches creative writing through Community Ed, of the Black Hills. She is interest in meeting readers from the Sturgis Area.

The books will be available in the library early in January. . If you have questions about this event, please contact Dorothy Pulscher 720-5467 or dapulscher@gmail.com.

Sturgis Big Read events on YouTube and Podbean!

If you missed some of the Sturgis Big Read events, they can be viewed on YouTube!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch...>

- 9/22/17 - "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien
- 11/4/17 - "The Faces of Agent Orange" by Maynard Kaderlik
- 11/11/17 - "Veterans Day Closing Ceremony" with Larry Zimmerman and the Sturgis VFW Honor Guard

The following is available on Podbean: <http://sturgispubliclibrary.podbean.com/>

- 9/15/17 - "Vietnam War: The American Experience" by Larry Mayes, Colonel, USAF (Retired)

Richard Moeller, our official Sturgis Big Read videographer, will be editing and uploading additional programs as time permits. Please check back frequently.



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Calling All Local Quilters!! 2018 SAAC Quilt Show



Once again the months of March and April will feature the quilt show sponsored by the Sturgis Area Arts Council. This year's event is the 8th annual SAAC quilt show, and it is always a very popular exhibit at the Sturgis Public Library.

The show will be open for viewing during the library's regular hours. Viewers can once again vote for their favorite quilt in the Viewer's Choice Award.

All area quilters are encouraged to enter their quilts in this show. Because space is limited, no quilts larger than full size will be accepted. Each quilter may enter up to two items in the show. Quilts must be taken to the library by February 28th. Be sure that the owner's name and phone number are securely attached to each item entered in the show.

There will be a special program on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 2:00pm. Watch your next newsletter for more information on this program.

For more information, you may contact Ruth Mechling at 720-2293, or Marilyn Bates at 720-3189 or send her an e-mail - mlbates48@gmail.com).

*Remember that people will see your quilts long after you are gone. . .
Not your housework!!
Anonymous*



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Looking Ahead To the Easter Season

Although we are in the grips of winter, it is time to think about making plans for an annual spring event – the Arts Council's Annual Easter Cantata. Easter is quite early this year (April 1st) so our 2018 Cantata is planned for Palm Sunday, March 25th, and Tuesday, March 27th.



This is the 12th Annual Cantata and will once again be performed at Grace Lutheran Church. It continues to be a community favorite – both for the singers and for our large audiences.

Marlene Kotab will coordinate and conduct the cantata. Because of space issues, the choir is limited to approximately 75 singers. If you are interested in singing with this fine group, you can contact Marlene by calling 347-1375 or emailing her at kotabgmc@rushmore.com. Rehearsals will begin Sunday, February 11th, and run every Sunday from 1:30 – 3:00pm, with one Thursday practice on March 22nd at Grace Lutheran Church - 1061 Sherman Street in Sturgis. Singers should plan to attend all/most of the rehearsals. Please join us for this amazing event.

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Dear Sturgis Area Arts Council Members (and potential members),
It's 2018 and time to renew (or begin) your membership in the Sturgis Area Arts Council.

It's hard to believe that another active year for SAAC is complete. Plays and musicals, art exhibits and support of art programming in the schools are just a few of the events sponsored by SAAC. We completed our 2017 calendar of events with a meaningful BIG READ series that focuses on the discussion of the Vietnam War with "The Things They Carried" by author Tim O'Brien, and then proudly presented our annual Christmas Concert. And now it begins, the start of an exciting new year.

Are you ready? We are, but we continue to appreciate your support. Your support allows us to present creative programming for both children and adults, create our newsletter, maintain our web site www.sturgisareaartscouncil.org and Facebook page (find us under Sturgis Area Arts Council and like and follow us there to keep up with arts activities). For your convenience, an application can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Art is the heART of our community! Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
Dedi LaRue
Membership Chair and President

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Find us in all of these other places as well

The Sturgis Area Arts Council can be found online at www.sturgisareaartscouncil.org (please note - it's "org", not "com").

We post this newsletter on our site, just in case you lose this one and need to take another look!

You can also "like" us on Facebook at facebook.com/pages/Sturgis-Area-Arts-Council

Send e-mail to: saacpublicity@hotmail.com

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