



prairie arts

24 Park Ave East, Princeton IL 61356

<http://PrairieArts.org>

(815) 875-2787



Christmas Mini-Tree Festival

Come and enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas as the Prairie Arts Council presents its seventh annual Christmas Mini-Tree Festival. Join us for an Opening Reception on Friday, November 18



The Wonder and Joy of Christmas

from 6:00-8:00 pm. Featured are individually designed and uniquely decorated Christmas trees and wreaths by local creative artists. Christmas music by Charlie Gebeck on the keyboard will be enjoyed along with refreshments. The Christmas Mini-Tree Festival, a fundraiser for Prairie Arts Center, will be held Saturdays and Sundays November 19 through December 4 from 1:00-4:00 pm. A silent auction for these beautiful decorations is until December 4th. Phone bids to PAC (815-875-2787) are welcome. New: If you'd like to make an ornament to be displayed at the Christmas Mini-Tree Festival and returned to you, please call the PAC. Lovely music by the Praise and Shine Quartet will be Saturday, November 19th at 2:00 pm.

Delight in the beauty of Christmas at the Prairie Arts Center!

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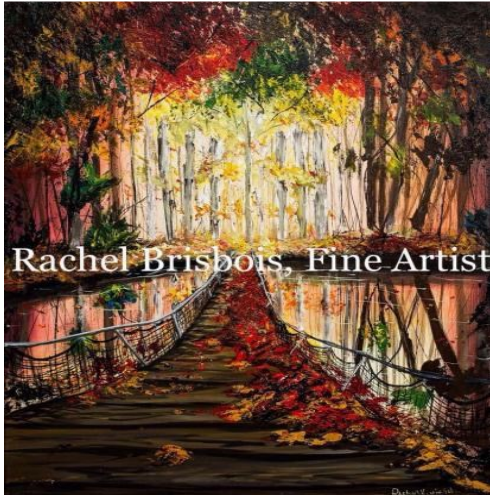
pg 7 - Behind the Scenes



Twenty-One and counting... Last year we were celebrating Twenty Years of Prairie Arts at a wonderful Gala, sharing memories and recognizing Ron McCutchan, Deb Young, John Henning and Robert Russell



Recent Memories...



Rachel Brisbois, Fine Artist

Thanks to Rachel Brisbois for opening our Fall Season with a collection of her acrylic paintings.



The Bureau County Historical Society helped us set up a display called "Art in Agriculture". After that, Linda Von Holten brought her "Liquid Conversions" to our Gallery



Coming Soon...

Bob Holmes Fine Art



Our first Gallery Exhibition for 2017 will be a collection of Bob Holmes' watercolor paintings.

We are planning on opening the show on Friday, February 3rd, with a reception from 6:00-8:00pm. After that, you will be able to see his work on weekends from 1:00 to 4:00 pm through February 26th

EXTRA, EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT..!

The Prairie Arts Council is considering offering an evening of **Poetry and Prose** for those would-be local poets and writers in the area. We plan to do this in late winter or early spring.

Please let us know if you would like to participate. There has been some interest shown by people who would also enjoy sharing the writings of long past Princeton Poets and Prose creators. Stay posted for more information.

This is something new and different for us and we are excited.

"Praise & Shine" Quartet



The Ladies Quartet was organized in 1987 with its first performance given at the Princeton Bible Church. Marty Kiser, Gwen Roseberg, Beverly Odell, and Vickie Holmes sing a variety of sacred and secular a cappella music in styles ranging from barbershop to Southern gospel to pop and the great '50's sound. Performances are often presented with costumes, props, a possible skit, and even a little choreography.

They have performed on television and radio, and for a variety of audiences in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Colorado, and California. Praise and Shine has recorded three albums of sacred selections, one being a Christmas album.

The quartet is available for social, civic, and church functions including worship services, club meetings, community programs, camps, retreats, parties, anniversaries, reunions and weddings.

**The performance will be FREE
November 19th 2:00 pm**

Children's Christmas Musical

“A Winterhaven Christmas”

Tickets: \$10 (Call 815-875-2787 for reservations)

Friday, December 2nd, 7:00

Saturday, December 3rd, 3:00 and 7:00

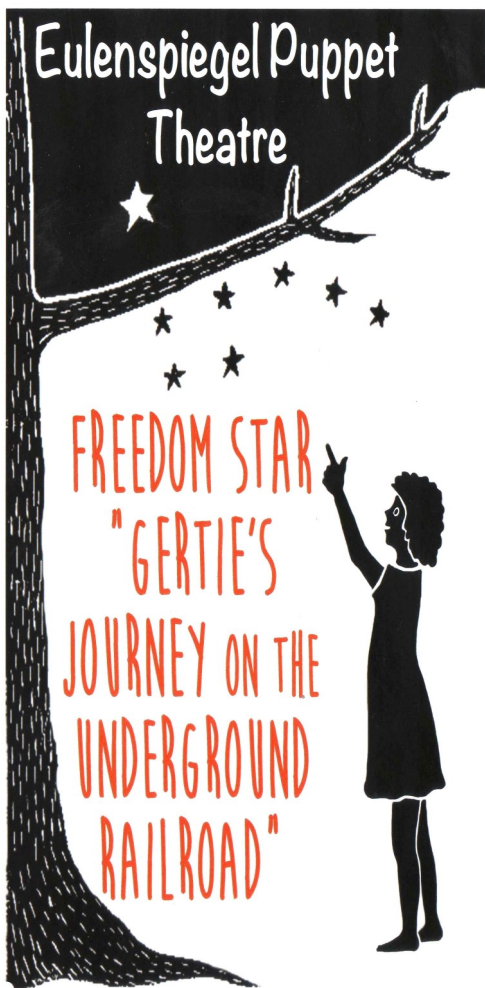
Sunday, December 4th, 3:00

This year's Prairie Arts Council Children's Christmas musical, “A Winterhaven Christmas,” by local playwright Rachel E. Gorenz-Johnson, was written especially for PAC's young actors and was first performed on the PAC stage in 2009.

As the play begins, six young cousins are stranded at their grandmother's house in the country over the holidays; they venture into the attic to explore and find a book hidden in a locked trunk. As one of the children reads the book out loud, they suddenly find themselves face to face with the daughter of an Archduchess, a wicked sorceress, and one of the Sorceress' minions, who step right out of the book into the dusty attic. But when the sorceress disappears, the Archduchess' daughter remains in the attic and one of the children is gone, taken captive by the sorceress. With the help of their grandmother and more colorful storybook characters, the children set about on an adventure to return the Archduchess' daughter to her home and free their lost cousin.

The show is directed by David and Shelley Gorenz. Directors' Assistants are Abby Davis and Asia LaPlante, and choreographers are Mia Bowen, Abby and Maggie Davis, and Emma Roden, all former children's theater performers. The accompanist is Cheryl Bebej, who accompanied the first several Children's Christmas Musicals at the Prairie Arts Center.

2016 PAC Children's Christmas Show Cast List		
Grandma	Krysten Walowski	CHORUS
CHILDREN		Sophie Alt
Abby	Bianca Lanham	Faustina Bystry*
Jocelyn	Libby Boyles	Kimberly Imsland
Ethan	Trent Goodale	Joelle LaPlante
Claire	Alexis Alt	Emma Mavity
Ben	Keegan Fogarty	Payton Walowski
Leah	Camryn York	Lilly Wray
Archduchess of Winterhaven	Isabella Tisdale	DIRECTORS' ASSISTANTS
Olivia	Makayla Heller	Abbie Davis
Lady Winterbourne	Maggie Davis	Asia LaPlante
Polaris	Brennan Roden	
Malice	Luke Bowen	DIRECTORS:
ELVES		David and Shelley Gorenz
Ginny	Cearra LaPlante	
Hunter	Phillip Goodale	ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:
Candy	Audrey Nelson	Rachel Gorenz-Johnson
Cane	Ashten Wilson	
Toffee	Chloe Sampson	ACCOMPANIST:
GINGERBREAD PEOPLE		Cheryl Bebej
Molasses	Alexis Jacobs	
CHORUS		CHOREOGRAPHERS:
Spice	Addison Carr	Mia Bpwen
Cloves	Ashley Richardson	Abbie Davis
Cinnamon	Emily Rabe	Maggie Davis
Sugar	Trinity Hanson	Emma Roden
Gumdrop	Erah Goodale	
Cookie	Reese Reviglio	*featured violinist



The Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre came to town...

...but before I talk about the show, let me tell you about the two Workshops they provided for us on Saturday morning.

The first was a Music Workshop hosted by Ron Hollis. He brought many different instruments, including a banjo, a fiddle, a guitar, harmonica and mandolin. The tunes he shared with us highlighted the Civil War era and explored the history of black spiritual music.

After Ron's Music Workshop, we moved into the classroom for a Shadow Puppet Workshop with Monica Leo. We all made different undersea creatures and I think the parents had as much fun as the children.

The performance we chose to see was called "Freedom Star: Gertie's Journey on the Underground Railroad", which used near life-size handheld puppets, rod puppets, shadow puppets, and hand-dyed scenery to tell a dramatic and moving story, based on local history, of a young girl who escapes from a farm in Missouri and makes her way through Iowa on her way to freedom.

It was a beautiful and exciting play, educational while entertaining. The

script used specific local and regional historical references, including information about John Brown during the years he spent in Iowa. It featured live music with topical songs written and played by Ron Hillis, a highly regarded Iowa musician.

The story was very engaging, never a dull moment, switching back and forth between different types of puppets and ways of lighting. I was very impressed by how one person could be controlling all the lights and puppets (at the same time she was SINGING), while Ron kept the suspense growing with the live music.

Amazing. It was the best puppet show I've ever seen, (Okay, it was the *first* puppet show I've ever seen, but I loved it!) If you ever get a chance to see one of their performances, don't miss it. You can watch a short video clip of the "Freedom Star" performance here:

https://youtu.be/W776zdpAF_o

Since 1974, Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre has provided valuable artistic and educational programming in the art of puppetry. They have performances, workshops, and educational sessions for all audiences. Bring us into your classroom, community, or festival. To learn more, visit <http://puppetspuppets.com/shows>

Special thanks to the Lovejoy Homestead for arranging a special tour for the puppeteers and audience members.

Lovejoy was one of the stops on the underground railroad, which was a great historical tie-in to the "Freedom Star" performance.



We had fun learning how to make shadow puppets at the Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre's morning workshop

THANK YOU NOTE

to **The Gorenz Family** for years of dedication and commitment to Children's Theater. You have influenced many lives, young and old...

THANK YOU NOTE

to **The Bureau County Historical Society** for helping us put together the "Art in Agriculture" exhibit to open during Princeton's Homestead Festival

THANK YOU NOTE

to **Lois Peterson** for hosting a special tour of the Lovejoy Homestead to coincide with the Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre's "Freedom Star" performances

THANK YOU NOTE

to **Melody Best** for her service as Gallery Director. Fare Well!

THANK YOU NOTE

to Lifetime Members **Gary and Hope Browning** for all the years they have continued to generously support the Prairie Arts Center

THANK YOU NOTE

to everyone who prepared Appetizers for our Receptions: **Marilyn Anthony, Kathy Ballard, Susan Barlow, Melody Best, Leann Bulhuis, Kathy Cartwright, Ami Chamberlain, Sue Cox, Cathy Elliott, Jan English, Steve & Jan Esme, Sue Garvin, Jeanie Gelsomino, Mary Sue Goldsmith, Pam Hanson, Jan Heaton, Jeanne Hutchinson, Jan Lohaus, Karen May, Linda McCabe, Anna Roadhouse, Tracy Boylan Roden, Joanne Swan, Tammy Tieman, Esther Tracy, Stephanie VanOrdstrand, Lisa Vincent, True Wahlgren, Lynne Weber**

THANK YOU NOTE

to the Hosts of our Gallery Exhibitions this year: **Kathy Ballard, Mary Damon, Gayle Grace, Jan Heaton, Jan Lohaus, Karen May, Barry Mayworm, Mary Michael, Jack Olson, Anna Roadhouse, Roger Swanson, Kay Telfer, Diane VanDenBorre, Stephanie VanOrdstrand, Lisa Vincent and Ramona Wedding**

THANK YOU NOTES

THANK YOU NOTE

to **Rachel Brisbois** for sharing her artwork with us, opening our Fall Season with "Illinois Scenes and Other Inspirations"

THANK YOU NOTE

to YOU, our Members!
Your membership fees and donations keep us afloat, of course, but we also want to thank you for your time, your companionship, your cheerful enthusiasm. We are all enriched by having this little corner of our town dedicated to art - literature - music - theater

THANK YOU NOTE

to **Dixie Schroeder** for the previous edition of the Prairie Arts Newsletter

THANK YOU NOTE

to **Linda Von Holten** for bringing her "Liquid Conversions" collection of paintings to the PAC Gallery

THANK YOU NOTE

to **David Krieger and Rick Wilkin** for letting us store props and costumes in their buildings

THANK YOU NOTE

to all the **Parents** who devote time and energy into giving their children these experiences

THANK YOU NOTE

to Lifetime Member **Deb Young** for EVERYTHING you have done

THANK YOU NOTE

to **Michelle Munson**

F A R E W E L L



MELODY BEST

Best Wishes to Melody, who has worked for years as our Gallery Director, and also taught us to be more creative through her workshops and classes. Thank You for all you have done for the Prairie Arts Center!

WILLING TO HELP?

One way you can help is by becoming a Member!

Find out more at
PrairieArts.org
or call
815-875-2787

We also welcome volunteers!
Would you like to
Host a Gallery Exhibit?
Bake something for a Reception?
Sponsor Wine for a Reception?
Building or Painting Sets?
Something else?

Let's Talk!

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Ten Years Ago at the PAC:

- ◆ The Gallery was exhibiting photography by John Deason and Randy Richmond
- ◆ Verne Shaffer and Bob Telfer installed the new PAC sign
- ◆ Deb Gould painted the new Gallery sign
- ◆ Carolyn Preston was PAC pres.
- ◆ The Children were rehearsing "The Meaning of the Star"
- ◆ The scholarship was awarded to Jessie Rosetta Morris
- ◆ 80 people went on "Safari" to Hunter's Ridge
- ◆ The November Ten was rehearsing "Blast from the Past"

N E W B O A R D M E M B E R S



TRUE WAHLGREN

I have a Bachelor of Science degree from Bradley University, specializing in Education, with a minor in Art. After teaching a few years I went into social work. I worked for The Department Of Children and Family Services for twenty six plus years as a Child Welfare Specialist and then an Adoption Specialist.



CHARLES GEBECK

President & CEO of Advance Event Group, Inc. , an event production company headquartered in Chicago for the past 20 years, but recently moved to Princeton (21 Park Avenue East). He is an accountant with an emphasis on income tax preparation, he is an organist for several churches in Princeton, and is active in adult choir and Elm City Bells .



JACK OLSON

olson.jack@gmail.com

Jack has been taking care of the PAC website for a few years, enjoys being a Gallery Host, and is now learning:

- ◆ How to create a Newsletter
- ◆ How to be a Gallery Director

Visit our website at:
<http://PrairieArts.org>



How Does It Work?

“Behind the Scenes” with Mary Sue Goldsmith

I’m sure that some of you wonder how the Prairie Arts Council supports itself. We are quite the ingenious group when it comes to funding—from small community grants to membership dues to fund raisers. We rely on small local grant applications and have managed to renovate the theater bathroom and our small kitchen by grants each year from Church Women United (who run “The Closet” on Main St.).

We also received a Sun Foundation Grant, which we used recently to create a Drama Camp for school-age children.



We also receive a small amount from the Princeton Junior Women’s Club which we combine with the Church Women United allowance to make physical improvements such as adding some new lighting or small individual water heaters for the bathrooms.

We rely on grants from OmniArts (originally the Illinois Valley Fine Arts Trust) to supplement special performances such as this summer’s Block Party and the recent performances and workshops by the Eulenspiegel Puppet Theater Company.

The largest grant that we apply for is quite time-consuming. It can take as many as 200 man-hours to collect data for the application and submission. It is called the Illinois Arts Council Grant, and it is awarded through the State of Illinois. This year’s application has been approved and recipients have been named, We are among them, and at this time we are awaiting the check. It will be used to supplement day-to-day expenses such as heating, phone and water.



By combining these grants with funds generated through memberships, memorials, and donations, we have been able to provide such worthwhile entertainment, scholarships and community opportunity.

Our greatest assets, however, are priceless. They are the wonderful volunteers who help with treats for the opening receptions, manage the ‘house’ during theater shows, and host the gallery exhibitions on weekends, to name a few. **THANK YOU !**

We continue to seek more resources in order to provide the best in programming for our local community.

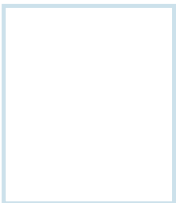


PRAIRIE
ARTS
CENTER

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PrairieArts.org
24 East Park Ave.

P A C E V E N T C A L E N D A R

Nov 18th—Dec 4th	Gallery Hours	Christmas Mini-Tree Festival
November 16th	7:00 pm	Camera Club Meeting
November 19th	2:00 pm	Praise and Shine Quartet
December 2nd	7:00 pm	Children’s Christmas Musical
December 3rd	3:00 pm and 7:00 pm	Children’s Christmas Musical
December 4th	3:00 pm	Children’s Christmas Musical
February 3rd—26th	Gallery Hours	Bob Holmes Watercolors
March 3rd—26th	Gallery Hours	Kent Broadbent Mixed Media
April 7th-30th	Gallery Hours	Bill Lamb Photography



PRAIRIE ARTS CENTER
24 PARK AVE. EAST
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