



prairie arts

24 Park Ave East, Princeton IL 61356

<http://PrairieArts.org>

(815) 875-2787



“May Flowers” an exhibit by the Ottawa Art League

Opening Reception
Friday, May 4th
6:00-8:00 pm

Gallery Hours:
every weekend
from 1:00-4:00 pm

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The Prairie Arts Council is pleased to host a new exhibition in our gallery space, featuring work by a group of artists from the Ottawa Art League.

The theme of the exhibit is “May Flowers”, and will be open to visitors every weekend in May from 1:00-4:00pm

The Ottawa Art League is a non-profit organization established in 1967 by a group of artists from the Illinois Valley Area.

Their mission is to cultivate and promote a greater interest in art, and to encourage the exchange of ideas, knowledge and experience among both professional and amateur artists.

They meet in the lower level of the 807 Building on LaSalle St.

To learn more:

Come meet fellow artists and art enthusiasts on the first Wednesday of the month (except June and December) at 7:00 pm.

Each meeting has about thirty minutes of group business, then we break for mingling with other artists and refreshments, returning for a 45-60 minute presentation on techniques, method, learning, inspiration or discussion with other artists. We'd love for you to join us and see what we are all about!



MEMORIES



Kevin Shyne worked with English and Language Arts teachers from seven different High Schools to bring together the first-ever "Festival of the Written Word"

Over forty students participated in this all-day event which featured workshops, a panel discussion on getting published, an open mike session and a creative writing contest judged by local authors. Free of charge to student participants, the event was sponsored by the Prairie Arts Council with generous support from Church Women United and the Illinois Arts Council.

The Adult Community Theater Program kicked off the season with a production of "All the King's Women", directed by Dixie Schroeder and produced by Jill Marti. Unfortunately, the final performance had to be cancelled because of heavy snow, but the next production is already underway! Stay tuned...



The PAC was pleased to host a quilting exhibit in our gallery during the month of March, and it was so exciting to see the variety of creativity that goes into these. I learned a lot! Special thanks to Quilter's Garden for their support, to Terry Johnson for her "Quilts of Valor", and to Janet Moreland, Lou Tuntland, Barb Schiff, Jeanne O'Melia, Sarah Brooks, Valerie Jensen and Laurie Andersen. Shown here is Carol McGee with her "crazy quilt" from the 1800's.



Summer Art Camp

Dates: June 18-29

**Gallery exhibit for parents and guests:
Friday, June 29th at 6:30 pm**

**Camper Fees:
payable the first day of camp
\$30 for first camper,
\$25 each for siblings**

Morning sessions for campers ages 6-9;

**Session one 9:00-10:00
Session two 10:00-11:00**

**Afternoon session for ages 10-14;
Noon-2:00**

**Every camper will need:
A SHOEBOX**

**Older campers will need:
A PAIR OF CHEAP TENNIS SHOES**

**Younger campers will need:
A BALL CAP**

**(All of these items will
be decorated at camp)**

**Questions can be directed to
Kathy Ballard
815-879-5531**

Summer Drama Camp

The Prairie Arts Council is pleased to announce registration for the Sixteenth Annual Children's Summer Drama Camp for children entering 2nd -9th grades. Camp runs June 4-15 for three hours, Monday -Friday, for two weeks from 2-5 PM. There will also be an afternoon camp running July 9-20 if there is sufficient interest. The camp cost is \$95.00 with special rates for siblings. Need based scholarships are also available upon request for those who meet the criteria.

Each camp session culminates in the performance (5:30 PM on June 15 and July 20 to accommodate working parents) of an original play written specifically for the campers and, to a large extent, tailored to the needs and abilities of the campers. Campers in each session of camp name their own production. Children get the hands on experience of creating a show, from set and light work to costuming to performing.

Camp activities also include theater and improvisational games like you might see on the television show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" and good, old fashioned "camp" games like Telephone. Snacks are served daily.

Children's theater programming at PAC has always been about more than just theater skills. We strive to offer a safe, wholesome environment in which children can learn, grow, and have fun. Over the many years that we have run the summer drama camps as well as other children's drama programming, we have been privileged to witness the transformation of many of our children from ducklings to beautiful, talented swans. Fostering the growth of our community's children is the greatest benefit of PAC children's theater programming.

To register, please contact camp director
Rachel Gorenz-Johnson
815-876-6284
or by email at
hildigard@hotmail.com
to receive a registration form.

A \$25 deposit is due May 15. Full payment is expected by June 1.
Please make checks payable to Rachel Gorenz-Johnson.
Checks and registration forms can be returned to:

**Rachel Gorenz-Johnson
425 W. Washington St.
Princeton, IL 61356**

PRAIRIE ARTS COUNCIL BOARD MEMBER UPDATE



MEET THE NEW PRESIDENT!

Kevin Shyne moved to Princeton in 2013 and was delighted to find a vibrant community of fellow writers, artists and theater lovers. His wife Debi had already discovered Princeton's stitching and quilting community prior to their move to Princeton. In 2017, Kevin, a published poet, helped organize a poetry event for the PAC, which a year later gave rise to the PAC's first-ever creative writing event for high school students in Bureau County. Elected PAC president in April 2018, Kevin looks forward to building on the PAC's great track record of bringing music, art, drama, and literature to Princeton and the surrounding communities.



MEET THE NEW TREASURER!

Cyndi Olson served as the Treasurer for Festival 56 for seven years, and also taught children about it as the leader of the Open Door 4H club. She works full-time for Compeer Financial in Princeton and assists with technology needs in the Appraisal Department. She lives in Princeton with her husband, Jack (the PAC Gallery Director). They have three children but are currently enjoying the empty nest lifestyle! She has been involved in many nonprofit volunteer activities, but got involved in the Prairie Arts Council because our former treasurer, Bob Davidson, was ready to retire from the Board.



MEET THE NEW ...

What am I talking about? You all know Steve Esme! Steve has been serving on the board for many years, but has decided to step down as PAC president, and focus more on some of the activities he enjoys, like growing his orchids, reading, painting and design. Steve will remain on the Board of Directors, but has volunteered to take on some of the maintenance issues related to the facility.

So if you see him painting columns or planting flowers over at the PAC, stop and say hello! And THANK YOU, Steve, for all you have done so far keeping the Prairie Arts Council on track!



A GRATEFUL FAREWELL

Since 2004, Bob Davidson has been working behind the scenes for well over a decade as our Prairie Arts Council Treasurer, keeping track of all the financial transactions and preparing reports for our board meetings.

Bob probably wanted to retire many years ago, but we just wouldn't let him!

THANK YOU, Bob, for all of your dedicated work for us, and for helping to make a smooth transition for Cyndi in her new role as Treasurer.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

2018 marks the 20th anniversary of Children's Theater Programming at the PAC. In 1998, Kay Telfer and the late Evie Farley approached Shelley and me asking if we would direct a children's show for Act IV, the (now defunct) community theater group; we have always referred to those lovely ladies as the "godmothers" of children's theater in Princeton. Clare Suarez suggested we check out a children's theater production in Macomb where her niece was performing, and the director of that show recommended Tumbleweeds as a first show to produce; she even rented us all of the costumes for that first production! Deb Puetz Young, the president of the PAC, welcomed making the show a joint venture with Act IV; the late Bob Morrow helped build a stage in the building where the Christian Science lecterns had been, and Mary Dorsch served as consultant. Through these efforts, Tumbleweeds and children's theater came to life at the PAC.

Tumbleweeds has thrown a wide net for the arts. Cast members from the 1998 production have gone on to shine on the stage and off: Dane Suarez (Wart) is now a professional opera singer and Rachel Gorenz-Johnson (Hildegard) has written and directed over two dozen children's plays at the PAC and performed in many local community theater productions. Mary Sue Goldsmith, Jamie Bickett, and Tammie Tieman, parents of cast members from our 1998 and 2008 productions of Tumbleweeds (yes, we reprised Tumbleweeds for the 10th anniversary too!) have joined the PAC board (Molly Goldsmith as Mrs. Fluster, Abbie, Mackenzie, and Sabrina Bickett as Throckmorton, Prudence, and Epic, and Taylor, Cameron, and Vicki Tieman as Hogarth, Chief Poohawk, and Percy). Taylor Tieman has been Stage Manager for college theater productions. Les and Jeannie Cavada were set artists in 1998, and Les went on to become the PAC board president. Emma Roden (Echo) and Ryan Gee (Puce Moose) from the 2008 production are serving as Stage Manager and crew for our 20th Anniversary show. Ryan is also the great-grandson of Evie Farley, who first encouraged us to direct children's theater and truly changed the trajectory of our lives for the next 20 years.

Since that first show in 1998, the Gorenz family has performed in, directed, produced, and otherwise provided artistic direction and/or support for 20 years of theater programming on the PAC stage, most notably with our Children's Christmas shows, written by daughter, Rachel (since 2004), summer musicals featuring high school and college aged youth, and the summer children's drama camps (since 2003), but also for many other plays and musicals featuring both adult and child actors.

Although Rachel will continue to direct the summer drama camps, our family is otherwise taking a break from leading the PAC Theater Program. We have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to foster the performing arts here. We appreciate the support that we have received over the years from the PAC board (Julie McCutchan in particular!) and the community in general, without which PAC theater programming would not have been possible.

For us, running the theater program at the PAC, and particularly children's programming, has always been about more than performing. We have been blessed to be able to nurture hundreds of children over the years, fostering skills and character in our area youth. We have always boasted that our little theater typically cast every child who auditioned for our children's shows, and we were able to produce high quality performances without having the luxury of casting only the most talented actors. Being able to nurture all skill levels in our youth is a gift of which our community should be justly proud; only a small organization can have that luxury. Our children and our community are the beneficiaries.

And so, we close this chapter of our service to the PAC theater as we began it, with a humble production performed by talented children who have touched our hearts, as so many children and older performers have before them. We wish all "our" kids only the best as they continue to nurture their gifts and talents and spread their wings into future endeavors. We close this note with the lyrics from one of our favorite songs from the musical, Little Women (brilliantly directed by Dave Roden on the PAC stage in 2009), a fitting tribute to our "godmothers," Kay and Evie:

"Sometimes when you dream, your dreams come true, in extraordinary ways..."

SHELLEY & DAVID GORENZ & RACHEL GORENZ-JOHNSON

Can YOU Help?

The Prairie Arts Council appreciates everyone's help bringing appetizers or wine for any of our Opening Receptions on the first Friday of the month and/or being a Host for any of our gallery shows on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00-4:00 pm. If you would like to host (or volunteer in any other way), please leave a message with your name and number at

815-875-ARTS

or email me at
olson.jack@gmail.com

!!! THANK YOU !!!

Thank you to the Ushers:

Tammy Tieman, Pam and Chuck Hanson

Thank you for the Refreshments:

June Harmon, Anna Roadhouse,
Pam Hanson, Kathy Ballard

Thank You for the Appetizers:

Marilyn Anthony, Tracy Boylan, Lisa Vincent,
Steve Esme, Sue Garvin, Stephanie Van Ordstrand,
Ramona Wedding, Julie McCutchan, Pam Hanson,
True Wahlgren, Jack Olson, Charlie Gebeck, Sue
Cox, Laura Kann, Patti Moynihan, Kathy Ballard,
Dianne Van Drew, Mary Sue Goldsmith

Thank you to the Hosts:

Lisa Vincent, Mary Damon, Mary Michael, Matt
Kaufman, Karen May, Gayle Grace, Jack Olson,
Jon McCutchan, Ramona Wedding

**Thank You
to
OmniArts
and
The Illinois
Arts Council
for
supporting
the
Prairie
Arts
Center!**



PAC Community Photo Project



The Prairie Arts Council is planning a unique event for our October Gallery exhibit, and **EVERYONE** is invited to participate! Yes, **YOU!**

This is a new and fun idea proposed and organized by Sue Garvin, and we're pretty excited about it.

So, here's the idea: Anyone who wants to be part of the October exhibit will take a photograph sometime during the weekend of Princeton's next Homestead Festival in September. It can be a photo of one or more people, activities, family outings, landmarks in town; It can be **ANYTHING**. Your photo doesn't have to be related to the Homestead Festival, the only restriction is that it has to be taken sometime during the Festival, Sept. 6-11

The PAC will supply identical 8 x 10" frames to all participants. You will develop your picture as an 8 x 10" photo (color or black and white) and return it to the PAC in the frame, ready to hang!

Fun, right? We also hope to get a short description of your photo. Is there a story behind it? Is this someone special in your life?

Your photos will be presented to the public at a free Opening Reception on Friday, October 5th (invite your friends and family, and especially the "subjects" of your photos), and the collection will be on display in the gallery for the rest of the month.

**We'll have more details for you later,
we just couldn't wait to announce it!**



Prairie Arts Council

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Welcome to the Prairie Arts Council

Thank You for supporting arts programming in our community!

Name

(or) Business Name

Street address

Street address line 2

City

State

Zip Code

Phone number

E-mail

We will deliver the newsletter to your email address

print & mail ☐

If you are interested in Exhibiting, Performing or Teaching, please specify:

Membership Level

- ☐ \$15 Student
- ☐ \$25 Individual
- ☐ \$35 Family
- ☐ \$60 Associate
- ☐ \$100 Sponsor
- ☐ \$150 Patron
- ☐ \$300 Ambassador
- ☐ \$500 Corporate
- ☐ \$1000 Benefactor

Donation of \$

On Behalf of

Memorial gift of \$

In Memory of

Willing to Volunteer?

- ☐ Gallery: Host
- ☐ Theater: Painting or Sets
- ☐ Theater: Sewing
- ☐ Mailing and Clerical
- ☐ Appetizers or Baking
- ☐ Graphic Arts
- ☐ Gardening or Maintenance
- ☐ Programming & Publicity
- ☐ Other

**Make checks payable to "Prairie Arts Council", and return with this form to :
Membership Chairman, 24 Park Ave. East, Princeton, IL 61356**



PRAIRIE
ARTS
CENTER

815.875.2787
<http://PrairieArts.org>
24 Park Avenue East

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

May 4	6:00-8:00pm	Gallery Reception
May 5-27	1:00-4:00pm (weekends)	Gallery Exhibit: Ottawa Art League
June 4-15	2:00-5:00pm	Summer Drama Camp
June 15	5:30pm	Drama Camp Performance
June 18-29	9:00-2:00pm	Summer Art Camp
June 22	11:00-1:00	Bake Sale at S&S Park
June 29	6:30pm	Art Camp Exhibit
July 20	5:30pm	Drama Camp Performance
August 3	6:00-8:00pm	Gallery Reception
August 4-26	1:00-4:00pm (weekends)	Gallery Exhibit: Coca Cola Memorabilia

PRAIRIE ARTS CENTER
24 PARK AVENUE EAST
PRINCETON, IL 61356