



# prairie arts

24 Park Ave East, Princeton IL 61356

<http://PrairieArts.org>

(815) 875-2787



## ART NIGHT

**Join us for Art Night at the PAC on Thursday, October 19, 6-8 p.m.**

We hope that Art Night will be the first of many Third Thursday events at the PAC

Art Night will feature performances in the theater, artwork in the gallery, and refreshments in the fireplace room

The event is for all ages and family friendly

Admission **\$5** at the door  
Children 12 & under  
**FREE**

## Art Night Performers:

**Rachel Kiser Rucker**  
(singing + guitar, piano)

**Eric & Courtney Engel**  
(poetry + live painting)  
in the PAC Theater

6:30-7:30

Mary LaFrenz's artwork will be featured in the gallery from 6:00-6:30, 7:30-8:00

**DEADLINE APPROACHING!**  
**HOLIDAY CARD DESIGN CONTEST**  
**(OCT15 SEE PAGE 9)**

## ARTISTS ON THE LAWN

On Saturday, October 14, The PAC will be hosting Artists on the Lawn in conjunction with the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce Fall Fest.

Artists will be on the PAC lawn from 1-3 p.m.

Featured artists include Michael Vaughn, Sue Blake, Judith Gosse and Collette Yelm. The artwork of Mary LaFrenz will be on display in the PAC Gallery.





# RECENT MEMORIES



**Ann  
Weisbrod**

**David  
Hinkston**



**Paint  
Pouring**





# OCTOBER GALLERY EXHIBIT

## Tapestries of Nature Mary LaFrenz

When asked to tell us about herself, Mary shared this:

“My eyes were opened to an appreciation for nature, design, creativity, beauty, and people when I worked at Crate and Barrel in Oak Brook, Illinois. I worked there for five years. I started there knowing very little and I left with a love for everyone and every item in the store.

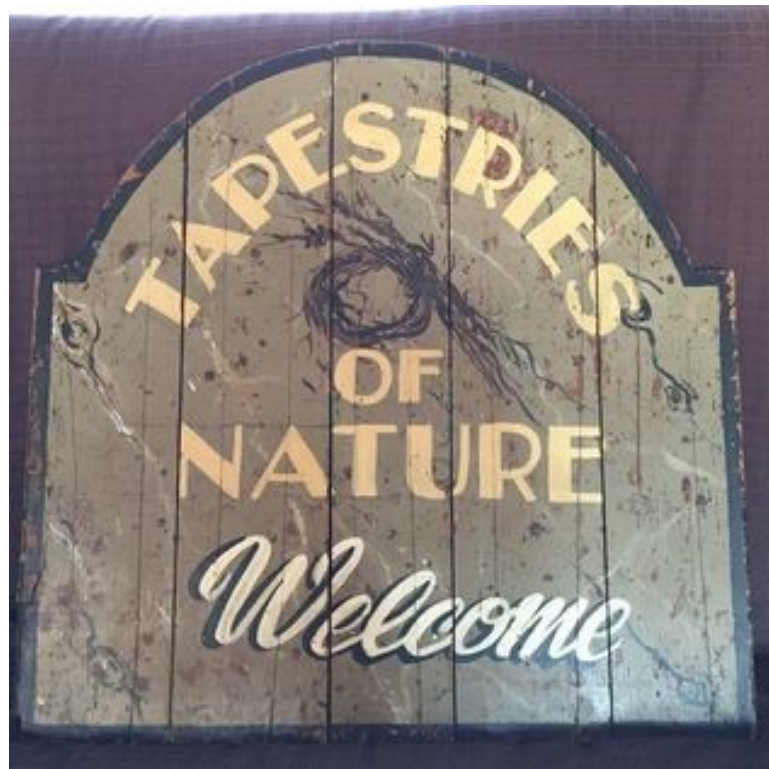
I then went to work at Past Basket in Geneva, Illinois. I was the designer for nine years. The owner, Linda McFadden taught me about creating warmth and beauty using flowers, branches, fabric, and even weeds.

I went on to give design classes for garden clubs. After that, a friend and I started our own show for twelve years in Wayne, Illinois.

I took pottery classes for four years at Colorado Mountain College. and then opened Midland Arts in Rifle, Colorado with four other artists.

For the past 10 years I have been doing the 3 French Hens Market in Morris, Illinois. I now only do home shows.

I love pottery, felting and painting on windows, and gathering all things of nature. I used to wonder why I wasn't smart in school, and then I realized the gift God gave me was in my eyes, my hands, and my heart for all that is in nature and people.”



Throughout the month of October,  
the Prairie Arts Center Gallery  
will feature  
Tapestries of Nature  
artwork by Mary LaFrenz

Join us for her Opening Reception  
Friday, October 6 from 6-8 p.m.



We hope that you come out  
to see her amazing work.  
The gallery will be open  
every weekend in October  
from 1-3 p.m.

# NEW BOARD MEMBERS



## Judith Gosse

Judy is an illustrator & designer who grew up in Princeton (PHS Class of '69).

She studied art at the University of Kansas and the University of California and enjoyed a career in the creative departments at J. Walter Thompson and Bernard Hodes Group in San Francisco and Silicon Valley.

As an art director, designer and illustrator she won numerous design awards and led creative efforts for Hewlett-Packard, Intel, Oracle, Cost Plus, and Mercy Hospitals.

Judith also worked as an illustrator for government contractors in Washington DC for several years illustrating for the Department of Defense and the FAA among others.

Judith raised two daughters who are themselves both artists and she loves to spend time doing art projects with her three creative granddaughters. In 2018 Judith left the fast-paced city life and moved back to her midwestern roots. Today she illustrates children's books in her Princeton studio.

"My mom insisted that my first word was pencil", she says. "Now there are a great many pencils, watercolors, and a graphics computer on my table where I am very fortunate to be doing exactly what I've always wanted to do – drawing for children."

## Libby Kiser Scott

Libby is a Princeton native and started her art journey at PHS while taking classes with the incredible Linda Ribar. Then, from the University of Iowa, she received her BA with a double major in Studio Art and Art History. She began with Studio Art as her focus, but after her first Art History class, quickly realized that she wanted to pursue that discipline as well.



After Libby graduated from the U of I, she moved to Madison, WI for a short time and worked briefly at a small gallery which showcased local artists from the area. In 2008, she moved to San Diego for the weather, but ended up making it her home for the next 14 years. Shortly after arriving in CA, she began attending San Diego Mesa College and taking classes in their Gallery / Museum Studies program. Upon completion of the program, she was hired by ArtWorks San Diego, which is the leading art handling company in San Diego. During her ten years at the company, they installed, packaged, transported, and shipped many precious works of art. As the Operations Manager, she worked closely with all the major museums and galleries in San Diego, and many institutions in Los Angeles and Palm Springs as well.

She, along with her family, recently moved back to Princeton to be closer to their extended family. She is excited to be involved with the Prairie Arts Council and is honored to join such an active and multi-faceted art center.



## Collette Yelm

Collette joined the Prairie Arts Council Board in December of 2022. She is excited to advocate for the arts in Princeton and the surrounding area. Born in Rockford, she attended Boylan Central Catholic High School and Illinois State University, graduating with a degree in Social Work. Collette worked in mental health in Henry County for 15 years. She then accepted a Social Work position at Perry Memorial Hospital. Collette retired in 2018 after 27 years at PMH.

Collette moved from Sheffield to Princeton in 1989 with her husband Charlie and two children Katie and Michael. She has always enjoyed the arts. She looks forward to increasing community awareness and participation at the Prairie Arts Center.

## POETIC VOICES AT THE PAC

If you enjoy the beauty of words and language,  
you won't want to miss Poetic Voices, a poetry reading  
event sponsored by Princeton's Prairie Arts Council.

Join us at 1 p.m., Saturday, September 23  
24 Park Avenue East, Princeton, IL 61356

Poetic Voices will run for approximately two hours and will feature readings by local poets and poetry lovers. Some readers will share their own poetry, while others will read favorite poems by other authors. Overall, the program will be an afternoon of celebrating the joy of poetry.



The featured readers include Marty Kiser, Pam Horwitz,  
and Kevin Shyne from Princeton; Jennifer Amy Dressler,  
John Breslin, and Dave McClure from Ottawa;  
and Marydale Stewart from Spring Valley.  
Books written by the readers will be for sale.

The event is free, light refreshments will be served.  
Please join us for this most poetic event!

Programming is partially supported by grants from the  
Illinois Arts Council Agency, the National Endowment  
for the Arts, and the Princeton Closet



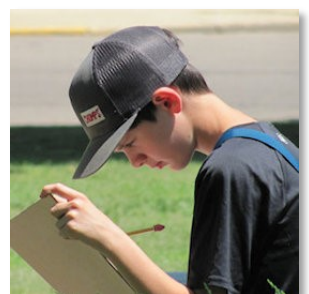
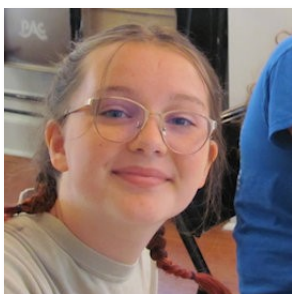
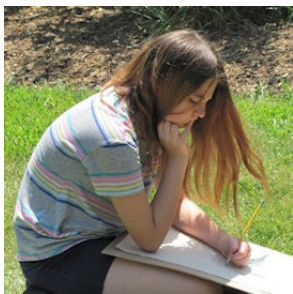
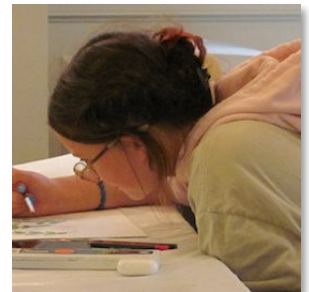
# SUMMER ART CAMP

Art Camp was held June 5-16, 2023, with 42 campers from 31 area families. Camp was once again led by local artist and retired art teacher Kathy Ballard. Ballard was assisted by Jill Marti, Barb Schlund and three student helpers; Nora Schneider, Peyton Matuszyk, and Tessa Carlson.

This year's theme was Potpourri. Younger campers (ages 6-10) made clay creatures and their habitats. Later, they painted the creatures and parts of the habitats. They wove square mats and decorated them. They especially enjoyed making wood sculptures out of scrap pieces of lumber. They made simple origami forms. They practiced using scratching tools to take a scratchboard picture. They made tangram characters and a Father's Day tie.

Older campers (10-14+) made Henry Moore-type sculptures from clay. After firing, the sculptures were painted with metallic paint and rubbed down with shoe polish to bring out the textures. Then they were buffed with a soft cloth. The campers wove sit-upons to use when they went outdoors for two days of sketching at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Afterward, the campers had to use one of the sketches to make a finished drawing or painting on good paper. Many used watercolors to finish their pieces, with good results. Older campers also made personal collages, taking time to put these together, again, with very good results. If they had time, they made Father's Day ties and origami creatures.

A gallery show was held on Thursday afternoon. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all. Camp ended with an ice cream sundae and brownie day for all campers. It was also Junk Art Day (creations made from found materials).





# SUMMER DRAMA CAMP

## The World Through the Frame

The 2023 drama camp was held July 24 through August 4. Twelve children participated under the direction of Rachel Gorenz-Johnson, with assistance from David & Shelley Gorenz. Campers participated in a variety of theater related activities including improv games, set design, set construction, costuming, stage makeup, and stage combat. The stage combat, which was taught and then utilized within the camp production, was very well received, with the emphasis of safety clearly resonating with the campers directly involved in the staged fight choreography.

Rachel Gorenz-Johnson organized and led our Summer Drama Camp this year, Here's the cast photo:

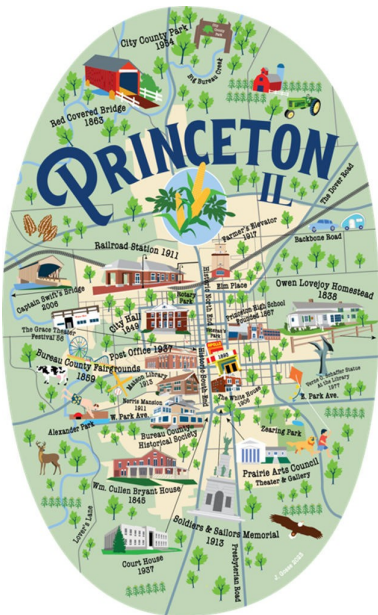


## Tidbit Tray Fundraiser

The Prairie Arts Council will be offering Princeton historical tidbit trays for sale throughout the coming year. Designed in a colorful and whimsical style, these 8" trays depict the famous sites and buildings of Princeton on a map of the town. The tray was designed and illustrated by Princeton artist Judith Gosse. They are made of sturdy Melmac, are dishwasher safe, and will make a delightful addition to your historical collection.

Proceeds will help the PAC bring the arts to the Illinois Valley: gallery shows, theater events, concerts, poetry readings, camps for kids, and artist workshops throughout the year.

The trays are available at the Prairie Arts Center gallery, open Saturdays and Sundays 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and are priced at \$20.00





We really appreciate  
**Studio K  
Architecture**  
for sponsoring another

## **Homestead Festival 2023 Lego Design Competition!**

Participants built and  
titled their MOC's  
(my own creations).  
This year's theme:

**“Let Your Dreams  
Take Flight”**

Participants' designs will be  
on display in the PAC gallery,  
open every weekend 1-3 p.m.  
through September 24



We really appreciate  
**Tumbleson  
Auction**  
for hosting our second

## **Antiques Roadshow**







# Holiday Card Design Contest & November Gallery Exhibit

The Prairie Arts Council is excited to announce our **First Annual Holiday Card Design Contest!**

Everyone is invited to participate. Since its formation in 1995, the Prairie Arts Council has sponsored hundreds of successful programs, classes, musical and theatrical productions, and visual arts exhibits for people of all ages and abilities. We hope that this contest will be another way to support the area's artistic community. We look forward to a lot of participation from our members and friends, both young and old. One entry will be chosen as the winner. The winning design will then be turned into holiday cards and sold to support our organization. All entries will be displayed at the PAC gallery throughout the month of November.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions. We look forward to receiving your holiday themed artwork!

**Deadline: October 15, 2023**  
**Open to All Ages**

Multiple entries by one participant are welcome.  
The winner will be awarded \$100 prize money

One design will be selected for the annual PAC holiday card.  
Cards will be printed & sold to support the Prairie Arts Center

**All entries should be original,**  
**on 8 1/2 x 11" paper,**  
**any medium of the artist's choosing.**  
**Two-dimensional art only,**  
**please avoid textured and/or raised surfaces**

Entries need to be brought to the Prairie Arts Center (gallery entrance) on Saturdays and Sundays, 1-3 pm, starting in September. The winner will be announced on **October 19 at Art Night at the PAC**

Once printed, cards will be available for purchase at PAC as well as on the PAC website. All entries will be displayed in the PAC Gallery throughout the month of November

Any questions about the contest may be directed to Libby Scott  
**[prairieartsgallery@gmail.com](mailto:prairieartsgallery@gmail.com)**

We hope that you will get your creative juices flowing and submit an entry into our design contest!



# YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



Prairie Arts programming is partially supported by grants from the Illinois Arts Council Agency, the National Endowment for the Arts, and The Princeton Closet  
**!!! THANK YOU !!!**



**NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
for the ARTS**  
**arts.gov**

## AN EVENING AT CULVER'S "Share Night"



On Monday, August 28, members of the PAC board assisted the Culver's staff for "Share Night". We are grateful to Culver's for allowing us to participate in this fundraiser. We earned \$508.15, plus another \$91.34 in tips for a total of \$599.49. These funds will be used to help various building updates and improvements.

## New Owners of the Princeton Inn Give Back to the PAC – The Queen of Hearts

The Princeton Inn was recently purchased by Gary Phillips, Dave Schouse, Jeff Piper, and Shelly Monier.

In addition to remodeling the venue, they decided to give back to the community by running a Queen of Hearts event, with the proceeds being given to the Prairie Arts Council

**!!! THANK YOU !!!**

Drawings every Wednesday at 7 pm Starting Aug. 9 Until the Queen is Drawn!

Please contact the Princeton Inn for ticket information.

**THE QUEEN OF HEARTS  
SUPPORTS THE ARTS**

Queen of Hearts Drawing at the historic  
**PRINCETON INN**



1516 N Main St, Princeton, IL 61356





# 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
- ☐ \$75 Associate
- ☐ \$150 Patron
- ☐ \$300 Ambassador
- ☐ \$500 Corporate
- ☐ \$1000 Benefactor

You can now  
**JOIN or RENEW**  
your Membership  
**ONLINE!**  
[PrairieArts.org](http://PrairieArts.org)

## Willing to Volunteer?

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

Donation of \$

On Behalf of

Memorial gift of \$

In Memory of

**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](http://prairiearts.org)  
24 PARK AVENUE EAST

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

September 9-24	1-3 p.m. (weekends)	Gallery Exhibit: "Lego Contest"
September 14	7 p.m.	Antiques Roadshow
September 23	1-3 p.m.	Poetic Voices
October 6	6-8 p.m.	Gallery Opening Reception: Mary LaFrenz
October 6-29	1-3 p.m. (weekends)	Gallery Exhibit: "Tapestries of Nature"
October 14	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Art on the Lawn
October 15		Holiday Card Contest Deadline!
October 19	6-8 p.m.	Art Night at the PAC
November 3	6-8 p.m.	Opening Reception: "Holiday Cards"
November 4-26	1-3 p.m. (weekends)	Gallery Exhibit: "Holiday Cards"

PRAIRIE ARTS CENTER  
24 PARK AVENUE EAST  
PRINCETON, IL 61356