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people to
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theater • music • literature • art
The newsletter of the Prairie Arts Center

PAC Annual Gala to honor Mary Win Norris

An evening with food and auctions to honor a shining light in the arts.

The Prairie Arts Council cordially invites you to its fifteenth annual gala event, "The Arts Brighten Our World." The event will be held on Friday, Feb. 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wine Cellar on South Main Street in Princeton IL.

Champagne, wine, and hors d'oeuvres will be served throughout the evening while Adam Webber entertains us with the keyboard. Catering will be provided by Kramer's Kitchen.

This year, the Prairie Arts Council will be presenting its first "Lifetime Achievement in the Arts" award. This is a new award given to recognize and honor outstanding people for their contribution to arts in our community.



PAC honors Mary Win Norris. See her bio on page 2.

The first recipient of this annual award is Mary Win Norris.

The silent and live auctions include many items that are sure to brighten your world, such as: a gourmet

meal for two at the Chestnut Street Inn in Sheffield with wine pairings provided by the Wine Store in Princeton. There will be a private walking or driving tour of Princeton's historical homes presented by Pam Lange, director of the Bureau County Historical Society. Max Halberg will be providing a private golf lesson and a round of golf at the Wyaton Golf Course. Master Gardener Laurie Bonucci will be donating a private landscaping consultation and Hornbaker's Gardens has donated a gift certificate for plants. Kathy Ballard has created a beautiful terra cotta Aztec vessel for the auction. Both Cathy Clark and Joel Nelson will be donating photographs. The Gorenz family is donating a Victorian doll house. Ann Dittmer of Annie's Little Pots will be providing private pottery making lessons for the auction. Gina Nelson has created an original design necklace from Beads Buzz. Festival 56 has donated Flex-Four tickets for their 2010 season. Julie McCutchan again this year will be donating her cookies each month from March to December. There will also be art works from Susan Berry, Dennis Elliott, Penny Boedigheimer and Harry Clucas.

Tickets for the gala are \$30 per person. Reservations may be made by contacting either Ami Chamberlain (875-1972) or Linda Gustafson (872-9181). Please RSVP by Jan. 28.

Mary Win Norris: A Lifetime of Achievements in the Arts

Princeton native, Mary Winifred Skinner Walter Norris is well known as an artist, illustrator, sculptor, teacher, volunteer, and philanthropist. She was encouraged as a child by her mother who was also an artist. Norris grew up in Princeton, attended the University of Chicago, received her Bachelor of Arts degree at University of Illinois at Champaign and went on to study art at the Art Students' League in New York, later receiving her master's degree from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

Her first year of teaching was in the Amish community of Arthur, IL, followed by three years at Brownell Hall, a girls' boarding school in Omaha. She moved back to Princeton to teach at Logan Jr. High and to marry Eugene Walter whose four year stint in the Air force took them to Florida. After the war, they returned to Princeton and Mary Win taught art at Princeton High School until her retirement in the 70s.

During the 1960s she began illustrating children's

books, first with Hildegard Ford (Velma Morrison) and then textbooks for Priscilla McQueen and Open Court Publishing. The first book she illustrated, "My Go To Bed Book" was republished in 2007.

Mary Win has been a generous donor to Zearing Child Enrichment Center, Rotary and Prairie Arts Center. Her works may be seen at the Mission Covenant Church, First Presbyterian Church, Hunters Ridge, Perry Memorial Hospital, and Bureau County Health Department to name a few. She has been an active member of DAR, Friends in Council, PEO, National League of American Pen Women, and a past board member of the Bureau County Historical Museum, Prairie Arts Council, and a member of the Putnam County Historical Museum.

At 95, Mary Win continues to live in her historic Victorian family home with the assistance of her daughter, Sarah Walter.

PAC Junior Art League: Creating and seeing art in a different way.

The PAC Junior Art League welcomes two new members, Lauren Johnson and Ashley March. Lauren and Ashley both live in Princeton and enjoy making all kinds of art from pencil drawing to bead making. Since recently joining, they were able to participate in the scrap booking workshop led by Marcia Peddicord in October. We had eleven people present for this workshop. Moms were invited to attend, as well. Marcia led us in making five projects, including a bookmark, three cards and a keepsake box.



"Tapestries of Nature" works of art. Here, we roasted marshmallows on an open fire, petted the animals, ate cookies and drank cider. Pottery, handwoven items, painted furniture, and art from nature were for sale. Some of us were lucky enough to watch Mary as she designed a wall hanging from oak leaves and corkscrew willow. While watching her work, Taylor Tieman said "I am so inspired right now!"



If anyone between the ages of ten and thirteen would like to join the PAC JAL, please call Deb Young at 815-875-9124.

The third weekend in October, we took a field trip to Mary LaFrenz's home, south of Dover, where she was conducting an open house to showcase her

PAC looking forward to theater renovations

Thanks to generous donations from Gary and Hope Browning and the Princeton Optimist Club, the Prairie Arts Council can now move on to a much needed sound system in the theater. This new sound system will allow for the use of CD or MP3 sound tracks as well as provide more realistic sound effects from the stage. This upgrade will also provide new headset microphones and microphones on stands for our performers. Headsets for the light operator and stage manager will be included in this upgrade to allow for better communication between light and sound operator and stage manager behind the stage. In addition, we will have a backstage monitor for the actors so they will be able to hear what is happening on stage during performances and set changes. Brett Hall of Commercial Sound has generously agreed to donate his time and services for the installation of this project.

Second on the agenda for the PAC theater is to finish the lighting upgrades which began in 2009. Pending the results of a structural engineering appraisal, we will be able to mount stage lights suspended from the ceiling to create more accurate lighting.

The PAC auditorium is showing much wear and tear

from the numerous plays and events that have taken place over the past fourteen years. With many sets being built on the stage and then taken down and the great amount of use by many performers, it is in much need of a new paint job. With the help of professional design consultants and artistic set designer, Dylan Carlson, we hope to come up with a pleasing color scheme while showing off the beauty of this unique architectural building. We hope to also have this project completed in 2010.

The next and largest step for PAC will be to build a large addition behind the current building. This will provide much needed storage space for sets, costumes and props and provide a back stage area for actors. This new space, if built large enough, could also provide room to conduct various art classes for children and adults without disturbing any art exhibits in the gallery space.

PAC has a lot to look forward to. With your help we will be able to achieve these goals. Volunteers will be needed to assist with the various aspects of these renovations. As always, monetary donations are welcome to defray the heavy costs of such upgrades.

Volunteer wanted: To take over the leadership and direction of the PAC Junior Art League. This person must be able to work well with children between the ages of 9 through 13. Must be able to organize activities, field trips, and arrange workshops with artists of various media. Currently the art league meets two Saturdays a month, but you may customize this time with your own schedule. Contact Deb Young at 815-875-9124 if you are interested in this rewarding position.

On Facebook? Visit facebook.com/prairiearts and become a fan of the Prairie Arts Center.

The Prairie Arts Center is proud to be the recipients of a new Podium built by local group Woodcrafters

Unlimited. The three Woodcrafters who donated their labor were: Dave Sawitoski, Don Troglio, and John Damon. We thank them immensely for their wonderful work. PAC board member Dave Taylor painted

the Podium for us. It looks great and will be well used at programs, meetings and events held at the Prairie Arts Center.



Highlights of 2009

2009 Gala, "Chocolate, Champagne and Candlelight"

PAC Gallery features works of R. C. Williams in Feb, Freedom House in April, Mary Michael & Students in May, PAC Scholarship Artists in Sept., and Penny Boedigheimer in December.

4th Annual Art Scholarship awarded to Alexandra Wilson

Urinetown, the Musical, young adult theater production in July

West Wing Refurbishing completed, deck and ramp by Patrick Reeves and Boy Scout Troup 1068.

Valentine's Weekend Concert, "Our Favorite Songs, Love Changes Everything"

Little Women, the Musical on stage in March and California Suite in Oct.

7th Annual Children's Drama Camp and PAC Children's Summer Art Camp

6th annual Children's Community Theater Musical, A Winterhaven Christmas

Carol Dremann and Deb Young added shrubs to the landscaping and planted a dogwood tree that was given in memory of Allen Murphey by his family.

Grants totaling \$4851.75 and Project Donations totaling \$5793.75 provided by a supportive community.

2010 Prairie Arts Council Officers:
President: Liz Draper
Vice-president: Barb Schiff
Treasurer: Bob Davidson (temporary)
Secretary: Ami Chamberlain
Building & Maintenance: Dave Taylor
Grants: Linda Gustafson
Membership: Tammy Tieman
Newsletter: Julie McCutchan
Theater: David Gorenz
Volunteers: Pam Hanson
Website: Dixie Schroeder
Chad Brokaw

We wish to thank retiring board members Sally Munson, Greg Anthony, Kathy Ballard, and Dana Collins who have served us well over the past years. Although they will no longer serve in a voting capacity, we will still depend on their insights and assistance in PAC events and projects.

Children's Literature comes alive in September

Princeton KidLit will be held on South Main Street in Princeton on Sept. 25 and will retain much of the same carnival atmosphere as Festival 9 3/4 with activities, games and food. The difference is KidLit will encompass the entire genre of children's literature rather than focus on just one element.

Father Dominic Garramone is the Local Author Guest of Honor and will be promoting his new children's book *Brother Jerome and Angels in the Bakery*. There will also be classes for kids and adults, such as teaching adults how to write for children and storytelling workshops.

The purpose of Princeton KidLit 2010 is to be a fundraiser for the KidLit Foundation, an organization

whose mission is to promote literacy among all children with a special emphasis on low-income and at-risk children. The KidLit Foundation donates books and partners with literacy programs to develop the critical early foundation and skills which young children need to be successful in life.

News, information, and announcements can be found at the Princeton KidLit 2010 website: www.princetonkidlit.org.



Special Thanks

Thank you to Kathy Ballard who has served as 2009 membership chairman. She has passed her title and files to new board member, Tammy Tieman.

THANK YOU to theater volunteers for November: Lisa Putness, Lou Brown, Kami Hieronymus, Diane VandenBorre, Lynne Weber, and Anna Roadhouse; and to December volunteers and gallery hosts: Jan English, Dana Collins, Barb & Roger Schwind, Mary Ella Rumley, Mary Damon, Anna Roadhouse, Lou Brown, and Frances Hassler.

We also thank Lou Zearing whom we depend on to keep sidewalks shoveled, Carol Dremman for her gardening expertise, and all who baked for our events.

The month of March will be the annual PAC membership drive. A few of the benefits you will enjoy as a member are quarterly newsletters, invitations to members only events, reduced rates for special programs or classes and notice of special events. With your support, the Prairie Arts Council will be able to accomplish its goals for the enrichment of the arts community in North Central Illinois.

For most of you, the time is coming to renew your PAC membership. If you are not sure when you are up for renewal, please check the mailing label on your newsletter. Your renewal date is located on the last line of the mailing label.

Please note the "preferred method to contact section on the revised membership form. The "going green" option will help the PAC minimize printing and postage costs, while still keeping members informed of events. If you have an e-mail address, please consider this option.

There will be a membership table at the Gala on February 5. I look forward to meeting you at that time.

Tammy Tieman

Prairie Arts Center Membership Application

Please return this form and remittance to:
Tammy Tieman, Membership Chairman
24 Park Avenue East
Princeton, IL 61356

Categories of Membership
Please check one

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Single	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$300

Name: _____

Business name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Preferred method to contact:

E-mail Notification US Postal Service

Monetary Donation _____

Make a memorial gift

I would like to volunteer my time. Check all that apply.

Artist/fine art exhibitor. Please specify.

Performing Artist, Musician. Please specify

<input type="checkbox"/> Baking	<input type="checkbox"/> Jr. Art League
<input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry	<input type="checkbox"/> Mailing <input type="checkbox"/> Photography
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity
<input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Arts	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing
<input type="checkbox"/> Host/Usher	<input type="checkbox"/> Painting <input type="checkbox"/> Programming

**PRAIRIE ARTS
CENTER**

24 Park Avenue East
Princeton IL 61356
815-875-2787

prairieartscenter.org



Programming partially
funded by the Illinois
Arts Council and Illinois
Valley Fine Arts Trust
and Sun Foundation

- Feb. 5 Annual PAC Gala, "The Arts Brighten Our World" 7 p.m.
- Feb. 6 Jr. Art League 1 – 2:30 p.m.
- Feb. 16 PAC Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 20 Jr. Art League 1 – 2:30 p.m.

- Mar. 6 Jr. Art League 1 – 2:30 p.m.
- Mar. 16 PAC Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- Mar. 20 Jr. Art League 1 – 2:30 p.m.

- April 10-24 Jr. Art League Gallery Show
- April 30 – May 1 Adult Musical Production
- May 1 Annual Rummage Sale

September 25th Princeton KidLit 2010

Rummage Sale : Please consider saving your old treasures and donating them to the PAC for our annual rummage sale to be held this Spring. Contact Ami Chamberlain at 815-875-1972 for more information.

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