

SUMMER 2011

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# prairie arts

*theater • music • art • literature*

*The newsletter of the Prairie Arts Council*

## The Prairie Arts Council Celebrates 15 Years of the Prairie Arts Center

The Prairie Arts Council has sent out invitations to current PAC members and former board members to celebrate the 15 year Anniversary of the Prairie Arts Center at an open house on Saturday, July 16 from 5-7 p.m.

This event is for Prairie Arts Council Members and former PAC Board Members only, as a small way of saying thank you to our membership.

A preview of the summer youth musical *The Wiz* will be the entertainment highlight of the open house.

The open house will feature appetizer-style food and beverages for members as they have a chance to socialize and remember some of the events and performances that took place over the past 15 years.

The open house will take place in the Prairie Arts Center Gallery and Fireplace Room.



**1996-2011 - Fifteen Years of the Prairie Arts Center will be celebrated on July 16**

## Ease On Down to see *The Wiz* at the Prairie Arts Center Theater July 21-24

Things are shifting into high gear for PAC's Annual Summer Youth Musical, *The Wiz* by William F. Brown, with music and lyrics by Charlie Smalls. Adapted from L. Frank Baum's beloved book, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, and the classic 1939 film of the same name starring Judy Garland, this 1975 Tony Award-winning musical (Best Musical, Best Original Score, Best Featured Actor and Actress, Best Costume Design, Best Choreography, and Best Director) retells one of the most well-known stories of the 20th century. With soulful R&B and soft-rock music, *The Wiz* puts a more contemporary spin on Dorothy's journey down the Yellow Brick Road.

"It's still the same, classic story, but with more of an edgy, rocker vibe," says director Rachel Gorenz. The original version of *The Wiz* featured an entirely African American cast and a 1970s theme. Gorenz is excited to incorporate the soulful, 70s aspects with the well-known, classic themes of the 1939 film. "I am thrilled to be able to have so much room to be creative with costumes, sets, and even the casting," Gorenz states. "My sister was in this show at PHS in 2000, and I went to both performances. It was and still is one of the best shows I've ever seen at the high school. I fell in love with the show. There are things I still remember from the PHS production that I'm hoping to be able to incorporate into our version. The most important thing to me is that we take this show, this wonderful story, and make it our own, but still pay tribute to the original 70s production and the classic movie version."

See 'The Wiz' Page 2

## The Wiz

*continued from Page 1*

Another source of excitement for Gorenz is the cast. "There is so much talent in this cast. Auditions were so much fun! Casting this show was difficult because everybody was so great." Cast members include Abigail Bickett as Dorothy, Mackenzie Bickett as Addaperle, Lee Anna Browne as Glinda, Benjamin Carlson as the Tinman, Jennifer Fullerton as the Gatekeeper, Joshua Fullerton as the Cowardly Lion, Peter Hamilton as The Wiz, Taylor Jensen as Aunt Em/Yellow Brick Road, Tara Kunkel as Yellow Brick Road, Stephanie Lomedico as an ensemble member, Anjali Patel as Yellow Brick Road and featured soloist, Amy Powell as the Scarecrow, Allison Puetz as Evillene, Ariel Rose as the Messenger, Zach Scarborough as the Lord High Underling, Andrew White as Uncle Henry/Winged Monkey, and Nicole Worgess as an

ensemble member. The children's ensemble fills the roles of the Field Mice, Winkie slaves, and Munchkins, and includes Sabrina Bickett, Amber Dietz, Kimmie Glenn, Anna Grey, Drew Grey, Myah Headley, Preston Milliron, Samantha Muñoz, Emma Roden, Vicki Tieman, and Grace Wolbrecht.

Gorenz serves as director, with Shelley Gorenz as Assistant Director, Dane Suarez as Interim Musical Director, Emily Stover as Musical Director, Matt Boehm as Technical Director, Dylan Carlson as Artistic Designer, and David Gorenz as Producer.

"The Wiz" will be performed July 21-23 at 7:30 PM and 24 at 3:00 PM at the Prairie Arts Center. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Prairie Arts Center Ticket Line at 815-200-4789.

## Songs in the Key of Art



Pictured are just a few of the 247 students that enjoyed the program, cosponsored by the Prairie Arts Council and Jefferson School. In addition to the students, 30 teachers participated in the afternoon program. Sixty parents and family members attended the evening program.

The program was presented by Greg Percy who is an award-winning arts educator/musician who has developed a unique approach to art appreciation by a wide variety of musical styles to learn about art in a fun and exciting way. Mr. Percy has created a set of learning materials that are currently being used at Jefferson School with the Grades K-1 students.

## Prairie Arts Council's Ninth Annual Children's Summer Drama Camp

The June campers presented the play, *A Mixed-Up Fairy Tale*. The play centers around a prince named Charming, whose mother, Queen Bea, is obsessed with finding the perfect princess for Charming to marry. Meanwhile, Charming has fallen in love with his pen pal, a girl he knows only as "H," and who only knows him as "C" because they are both afraid to reveal their royal status. Add in two feuding fairy godmothers, four oddball princesses, a magic mirror, and a few more zany characters and surprises, and you have the recipe for hilarity!

The cast included Justus Bystry as Charming, Maddie Hannon as Ginger, Sabrina Bickett as the Jester, Amelia Bystry as Queen Bea, Jacob Leach as the Magic Mirror, Milo Bystry as the Guard, Nora Eiken as the Unicorn, Hensley Leach as Rapunzel, Jordyn Read as Odette, Kennedy Kloepping as Penelope, Makayla Heller as Fairy Godmother Flora, Olivia Eiken as Princess Joy, Desiree Vertheen as Hyacinth, Austin Catton as Eddie, Lanie Hannon as Fairy Godmother Fauna, and Mr. Hornswaggle, a PAC children's theater favorite, as himself.

Originally performed in 2004 by the campers in the Second Annual Children's Summer Drama Camp under the title, *The Perfect Princess, A Mixed-Up Fairy Tale*, as named by this session's campers, delighted all in the audience that attended the free performance on June 24.

# Who is Blessed More?

by Barb Williams

Special to the Prairie Arts Newsletter

We all need a dream, what sort of world, city, or neighbor do you want your families to live in. We have a great community that offers so much. Many of our greatest residents are not well known. They do not lead lives that place them in the public eye. They are our quiet community servants. Our community is best place to test one's wings for a better life, to do what we can to make a better life, to feel good. If you have an idea, act of kindness, if you have a talent their isn't a better comfort then right here at home.

Prairie Arts Council was just an idea with a group of people. Then this group went together to set this dream into one of the many Blessings in Princeton. The Prairie Arts Council (PAC) has sponsored hundreds of successful programs, classes, musical and theatrical productions and visual arts showings for people of all ages and abilities.

When PAC was starting out, Stephanie Welsh saw that the Center had a need, she went out and found talents from the community to make a wonderful complete little kitchen. Who do you think had the best feelings?

The wheelchair ramp was needed. Young Joe Zearing did it for his Eagle Scout project. What a Blessing this was everyone, including Stephanie and everyone else that has trouble walking will enjoy this.

The Country Comfort Retirement Home was so good for Stephanie and her well-being. They had a bake sale. The residents were busy, others received some home bake goodies, and Country Comfort received money. Who do you think had the best time?

Hearing that the Prairie Arts Center is in need of repairing the front concrete steps, Country Comfort is donating the money from the bake sale to help repair them. Who do



Country Comfort Retirement Home presented \$300 in proceeds from their annual bake sale to PAC in memory of Stephanie Welsh. Country Comfort manager, Sherry Pettit, Leland Madvin, resident, Barbara Williams and Alice Rohrig, step-daughters of Welsh presenting \$300 to David Gorenz and Julie McCutchan for PAC

you think had the best feeling?

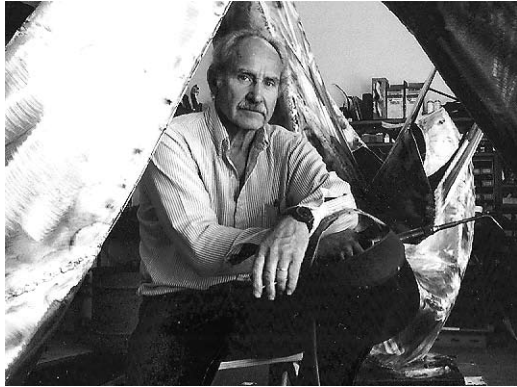
When my Grandson planted baby pumpkins in my garden, we had so many. My Grandson Kade drew a smiley face on one side and I wrote, "Have a happy Day" on the other side. He dressed in his dinosaur outfit I got from the "Closet" and we went to Country Comfort and passed them out to everyone. Who do you think had the best time?

Our community will always have needs - they need our support, sponsorships, time, labor, talents, things we may have extra. It is like "Stone Soup" and everyone can enjoy it for more than just our lifetime. Look around share your talents, ideas, support or time. Be a community servant. When we bless others we find out that we are blessed ourselves.

Borrowing the words from Robert Frost, "that has made all the difference."

.....  
: *The Prairie Arts Council would like to thank the Residents of Country Comfort* :  
: *Retirement Home for their generous contribution that will help in the repair of the* :  
: *front steps to the Prairie Arts Center Theater.* :  
: .....  
.....

### 1961-2011/50 YEARS AND COUNTING: THE WORKS OF VERNE SCHAFFER IN THE PAC GALLERY JULY 29 - AUG 28



August's Gallery show will feature Verne Shaffer, local artist who has designed works on a large scale, with images of his works and sketches that he did for the planning of the works.

The First Friday Opening Night Reception is Fri, July 29 from 5-7 p.m. at the Prairie Arts Center Gallery. The exhibit will then run until Aug. 28 on Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 p.m. and Wednesdays 6-8 p.m. with an Evening with the Artist on Wed., Aug. 3 at 7 p.m.

### Thinking on Their Feet at the 2011 Improv Program



A group of very excited students got to show off what they learned from the Chicago Improv Festival actors with a public performance at the PAC Theater on May 13. The PAC sponsored this free program along with grants from the Sun Foundation and the Illinois Arts Council.

## Words of Thanks...

Thank you to all supported the fundraiser for our new furnace and air conditioner by coming to see Will Rogers. Will's quotes were appropriate for today as well as in the 1920s and 1930s. Kevin McKillip's rope tricks were great to see.

Thank you to Shelley Gorenz and Joy Schertz who began preparations for producing the musical "Company".

To all our gallery volunteers, appetizer and treat makers for opening nights in the Gallery.

Ami Chamberlain who have been busily cleaning and organizing storage areas and office of the PAC.

David Gorenz and Dylan Carlson for cleaning up and organizing the storage trailer.

Thanks to Dave Taylor for fixing/repairing the miscellaneous handyman jobs around the PAC.

## Thumbs Up for the Green Thumbs



Thanks to The Master Gardeners who worked on the landscaping of the PAC: Carol Dremann, Valerie Jensen, Bea DeSpain, Florian Bangert, Helen Kenney, Tim Goodrum and Linda Gustafson.

*Those who can, do. Those  
who can do more, volunteer.*  
- Author Unknown

# Prairie Arts Council Membership for 2011

## Single

Jeanne Austin	Vicki Giehl	Fran Lewis	Mary Ella Rumley
Lois Beaber	Gayle Grace	Jan Lohaus	Ethel Scruggs
Carol Bird	Janet Grossman	Carol McGee	Roger Swanson
Chad Brokaw	June Harmon	Mary Michael	Esther Tracy
Katie Chamberlain	Hannah June Hultine	Audrey Monier	Diane VandenBorre
Harry Clucas	Christy Joehl	Patricia Polson	Jeanne Wedding
N. Dana Collins	Marjorie Johnson	Betty Pretzsch	Ramona Wedding

## Family

Judy Anderson	Denny & Cathy Elliott	Mike & Pam Lange	Jeff & Theresa Schlesinger
Steve & Susan Barlow	Alan & Mary Forristall	Lloyd & Colleen LaPlante	Jack & Barb Schmitz
David & Jone Booth	Mike & Joanne Friel	Judson & Ann Lusher	Ken & Dixie Schroeder
Vincent & Leigh Ann Bulthuis	Charles & Linda Gebhardt	Andrew & Jill Marti	Barry & Catherine Schultz
Jeff & Rachel Bystry	Harry & Elaine Gerber	Dr. Jeff & Leanne Martin	Rodger & Barbara Schwind
John & Theresa Cotter	Kenneth Grams	Barry Mayworm	John & Lynda Smith
Jack & Joyce Coulter	Sarah Cooper & Stephen	Roger & Linda McCabe	Tony & Donna Sorcic
Doug & Sarah Criner	Gunning	Phillip & Elizabeth Naffziger	Roger & Joanne Swan
John & Mary Damon	Ralph & Sherry Hastings	Bruce & Anita Obenhaus	Dave & Sharry Taylor
Bob Davidson	Doug & Lucille Kann	Bill & Barb Ollila	Dean & Tammy Tieman
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Dorsch	Karen Kerienek	Bob & Deb Russell	Gene & Lisa Vincent
Gordon & Carol Dremann	Steve & Marty Kiser	John & Artie Scala	Alan & Lynn Weber
Don & Gloria Eklund	Tim & Cheryl Kunkel	Don & Barb Schiff	Keith & Kirsten Wolbrecht

## Sponsor

Marge Albrecht	Dr. Ted & Lynne Doran	Dr. Timothy Puhr
Gregory & Marilyn Anthony	Mike & Jan English	O. V. (Verne) Shaffer
Kathy Ballard	Roger & Linda Gustafson	Dr. Bruce & Sue Shriver
Mr. Daryl Becler	Norman & Beverly Hall	Don & Nedda Simon
Colleen Bockel	Pam Hanson	Harold & Margery Steele
Paul & Lou Brown	Dan & Margaret Martinkus	Bob & Kay Telfer
Dr. Paul & Bridgette Castelein	Julie McCutchan	Marilyn Weeks
Rex & Ami Chamberlain	Jay & Mary Mickow	Carolyn Workman
Joan Chinal	Janet Morris	Lou & Terri Zearing
Gary & Bea Coates	Judith & David Peterson	
Dennis & Donna Dickison	Mary Phillips	

## Patron

Cliff & Kathy Cartwright	Betty Ann Losey
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Dorsch	Pete & Karen May
Thomas Lestina	Edward Burke & Fredericka Veikley

## Lifetime Members

Gary & Hope Browning	Bob & Marilyn Haslam
Fr. Edward Harkrader	

## Corporate

Kent & Jamie Bickett

*If you don't see your name listed and feel that you did renew your membership to the Prairie Arts Council, please contact Tammy Tieman, Membership Director. She will be more than happy to clarify any membership issues.*

If you would like to become a member of the Prairie Arts Council or know someone that would like to join, please go to our website and download a membership form:

[www.theprairieartscouncil.org/membership](http://www.theprairieartscouncil.org/membership)

## Save the Date!

Free Outdoor Concert  
Sunday, Aug 21

featuring:  
**Creole Stomp**



Across from the PAC at Soldiers and Sailors Park



**Prairie  
Arts  
Council**

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Princeton IL 61356  
815-875-2787

[theprairieartscouncil.org](http://theprairieartscouncil.org)



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funded by the Illinois  
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Valley Fine Arts Trust  
and Sun Foundation

## Upcoming Events

- July 16 5-7:00 p.m. - Open House celebrating the Prairie Arts Council Members and the 15th Anniversary of the Prairie Arts Center
- July 19 6:00 p.m. - PAC Board Meeting
- July 21-24 Summer Youth Musical - *The Wiz*. Performances are Thurs, Fri, and Sat. July 21, 22, and 23 at 7:30 p.m. and Sun. July 24 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 each and are available by calling 815-200-4789.
- July 29 5-7:00 p.m. - First Friday Gallery Opening, "1961-2011/50 Years and Counting"
- Aug 16 6:00 p.m. - PAC Board Meeting
- Aug 21 Outdoor Concert at Soldiers and Sailors Park featuring Creole Stomp
- Sept 2 5-7:00 p.m. - First Friday Gallery Opening, "Harvest: Handcrafted Farm and Home Tools - Harold Steele Collection"
- Sept 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 *Ten Thousand Thunders* - original play by Trey R. Barker in celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Owen Lovejoy (more information to come)
- Sept 9-11 Homestead Festival

(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)

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