

WINTER 2011

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Going once, going twice... SOLD! Gala auction sneak peak.

Will Rogers is coming to PAC for 2 shows on March 6!

Past events at PAC give a hint of what's to come for 2011

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# prairie arts

*theater • music • art • literature*

*The newsletter of the Prairie Arts Council*

## Prairie Arts Council Honors Nedda Simon

*Simon will be the Second Recipient of the Lifetime Achievements in the Arts Award at this year's Gala.*

The sixteenth annual Prairie Arts Council's gala will be held on Friday, February 4th at 7 PM at the Wine Cellar in Princeton. This year the Prairie Arts Council will honor local arts supporter and educator, Nedda Simon for her "Lifetime Achievements in the Arts." Nedda was born into a musical family. Her mother was an opera singer who taught in the public schools and taught piano and singing to both Nedda and her sister Carol. Nedda studied at the Quincy Conservatory of Music and graduated from the Northwestern School of Speech majoring in the theater arts and public speaking as well as earning her teaching certificate. Nedda appeared in USO shows, the Springfield Municipal Opera Company, recitals and plays. She taught English and Speech in both the



*Nedda Simon will receive the Lifetime Achievements in the Arts Award on Feb. 4, 2011*

Princeton and Manlius Schools as well as working with the high school plays.

Professionally, Nedda had a great interest in counseling and worked with Quad County Counseling in outreach and drug and alcohol counseling, specializing in women. During that time, she also had her own private counseling practice as well as being the founder of Freedom House. She was a talk show host on WZOE for seventeen years. In addition, she was actively involved in community activities and served on the original committee that established the Prairie Arts Council and that purchased the building that now houses the Prairie Arts Center. She continued her interest in music and theater and served on both the Princeton Theater Group Board and now the steering committee for the Illinois Conservatory. Nedda has always had a lifelong interest and support of the arts and feels that there is a joy of the arts that raises the spirit. She has been very influential in raising the awareness and appreciation of the arts.

This is the second "Lifetime Achievements in the Arts" award that will be made to recognize and honor special people like Nedda Simon who have made such important contributions to the arts. Mary Win Norris was the first recipient of this special reward at last year's gala.

The gala is the main fund-raiser for the Prairie Arts Council, and these funds will be used to continue and

**See 'Simon' Page 2**

## Silent and Live Auctions at the 16th Annual Gala Raise Funds for PAC

The theme for this year's PAC gala will be "Building Our Future in the Arts", and this theme will be reflected in the many both silent and live auction items as we work together to build and strengthen our future in the arts and those of our children and grandchildren.



*Some of the Prairie Arts Council Board Members pose with just a sampling of items that will be up for Auction at the 16th Annual Gala that will be held Friday, Feb. 4, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wine Cellar on Main Street in Princeton IL.*

Some of the gala's auction items will include an original oil painting of the Captain Swift Bridge that has been especially created by Denny Elliott for our auction, a BB overnight stay and a gourmet dinner for two at the

Chestnut Street Inn in Sheffield. There will be two Immke prints donated by the Bureau County Historical Society and a framed print by Bart Kassabaum. Master Gardener Laurie Bonucchi has donated a private landscaping consultation, and Hornbaker's Gardens has donated a collection of three exquisite hostas. Cathy Clark, Joel Nelson, Ben Martinkus and Ryan Cox have donated photographs for the auction.. David Gorenz has donated a selection of bimonthly freshly baked bread for a year. Ann Dittmer of Annie's Little Pots has provided private pottery making lessons for the auction. Gina Nelson will create an original design necklace from Beads Buzz. Festival 56 has donated Flex-Four tickets for their 2011 season. Julie McCutchan again this year will donate her outstanding cookies each month from March to December. The new Prairie Arts Council logo items designed by Chad Brokaw will also be auction items.

This is only a sampling of the many auction items that will help to build our future in the arts.

### Simon

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enhance the many programs that the PAC offers for our local community. The PAC is a completely volunteer organization and its only sources of funds are donations, memberships and the gala. Your support of our efforts in making the arts accessible for all members of our community is greatly appreciated. Linda Gustafson is serving as the chair for this special event and can be reached at 815 872-9181.

### Mini Tree Festival Brought Some Holiday Cheer to PAC



The Fireplace room was filled with mini Christmas Trees decorated by locals and auctioned off to raise funds for PAC. Pictured are some performers from the Children's Holiday Show with the Mini Trees.

*Thank you to Mary Mills, Mary Michael, Elli Bonucci, Stephanie Van Ordstrand, Festival 56/Mellar family, Ami Chamberlain, Laurie Bonucci, Rachel and David Gorenz, Lindsay Vaughn, Goldie Currie, Kathy Ballard, Maddie Ellis, Boy Scout Troup 1068, Katie Chamberlain, Deb Young, Dawn Cimaroli, Marilynny Anthony, Cheryl Bebej, Carol Johnson, Liz Draper, and the Cotter and Hannon families, who shared their imagination and creativity by decorating the trees for our first Mini-tree Festival and to those who came to view and bid on the trees. A special thank you goes out to Stephanie Van Ordstrand and Dee Bersell who shared their decorating experience gleaned from assisting with the Galva Arts Council Tree Festival to make the Prairie Arts Center truly look magical.*

# *Will Rogers: An American Original* - Coming for 2 shows on Sunday, March 6 at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. to the PAC Theater

## *One-man Show Pays Homage to Great Cowboy Philosopher*

The Prairie Arts Council is proud to present *Will Rogers: An American Original*, written and performed by 3-time JEFF nominee Kevin McKillip. This one-man show explores the life and times of America's most popular humorist.

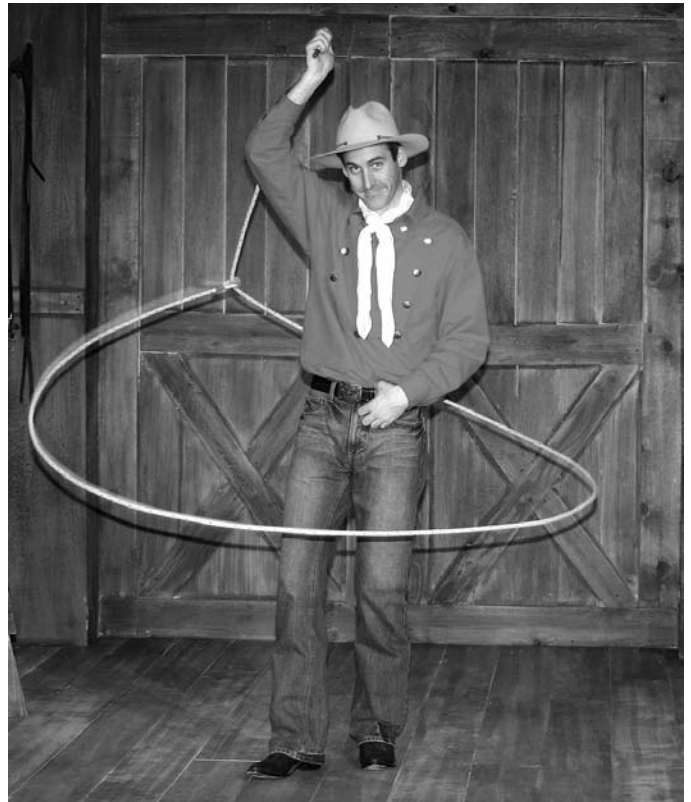
At the time of his death in 1935, Will Rogers hosted the number one radio show in America, had a daily column that ran in over 400 papers, and was the number one male box office star for three years running. In the course of a career that included both Texas Jack's Wild West Show and the Ziegfeld Follies, Will Rogers invented the American stand-up comic. Using his trick roping skills to punctuate his delivery, Will Rogers' folksy humor set the groundwork for everyone from Bob Hope to Johnny Carson to David Letterman.

Will was born on a ranch near the town of Oologah in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). His mother was 1/4 Cherokee and his father 3/8 Cherokee and Will used to say, "I never got far enough in arithmetic to figure out what that made me."

His observations on government, the economy, and society are as timely now as when he first made them. On his political affiliations: "I'm not a member of any organized political party. I'm a Democrat." Of the Stock Market Crash: "If stupidity got us into this mess, then why can't it get us out?" Concerning taxes: "The Republicans now, they are accusing the Democrats of raising taxes. This upsets the Republicans because if Democrats do most of the tax raising, the Republicans do most of the tax paying."

Famous for the statement, "I never met a man I didn't like," Will Rogers is the quintessential image of the common man.

Reserved tickets are \$20 and will be available at the Gala, or by calling Theresa Cotter at 815-646-4635 (Tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable).



*Three-time JEFF Nominee Kevin McKillip plays Will Rogers in the one man show written by McKillip. Only at the PAC Theater for 2 shows on Sun. March 6. Call 815-646-4635 to reserve your tickets.*

Proceeds from these performances will go toward the Prairie Arts Council's required 25% of the costs associated with the HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) upgrades. The other 75% of the cost was covered by the Energy Efficiency Grant that was awarded through the North Central Illinois Council of Governments. This grant represents 75% of the cost of completely replacing the highly energy inefficient HVAC heating and air conditioning systems in both the gallery and the theater of the PAC.

Visit our website at  
[www.theprairieartscouncil.org](http://www.theprairieartscouncil.org)

If you are on Facebook, go to  
[www.facebook.com/prairiearts](http://www.facebook.com/prairiearts) and like us!

## 2011 Art Spectacular in Springfield IL

Applications for Artists for Art Spectacular 2011 are now available at [www.carillon-rees.org/html/art\\_spectacular.html](http://www.carillon-rees.org/html/art_spectacular.html). If you're looking for a great little fine art fair with reasonable fees and great artist amenities and attention, then please consider Art Spectacular! It was the best ranked fine art fair (of 3) in Springfield, IL in the 2010 Art Fair SourceBook! Application deadline is March 31, 2011.

## A Musical Start for Raising Funds at the PAC



Musician and native of Princeton, Jared Bartman (with guitar) played music for the audience at the PAC Theater on Tuesday, Jan. 25. This is the first of many events planned by the Prairie Arts Council during 2011 to raise funds for various efforts.

## Not Much Time is Left to See the Very Popular “Art of the Hat” Exhibit at the PAC Gallery!

The Prairie Arts Council is proud to present the “Fashion: The Art of the Hat” art show featuring the hat collection of Julia Cain of Princeton. Julia has a collection of over 700 hats that she has been collecting since a college shopping trip with her roommates to a Goodwill Store where they all bought hats, including winter hats and berets.



From there, Julia began a lifelong interest in collecting hats of all kinds, hat stands, hat pins, cards and pictures of ladies wearing hats. She is especially interested in the Victorian style of vintage hats but also collects hats of all styles and materials. She has found hats to collect at the

Closet, auctions, antique stores, and from friends. Julia sees hats as showing a different aspect of specific people's style or a part of their style signature. She remembers when her mother made her own hats, including a stylish pheasant hat. Originally hats were used for protection from the weather and even though hats are not worn as often as in the past, young people are now wearing hats and scarves as part of their wardrobes.

Julia's show at the Prairie Arts Center Gallery in Princeton features a wide range of hats, hat stands, hat pins and other accessories that make fashion statements. The First Friday opening reception for “Fashion: The Art of the Hat” was held on Friday, January 14th from 5-7 PM. Champagne, wine, punch and refreshments were served at the opening reception which was free and open to the public. A special free “Evening with the Fashionista” in which Julia spoke about hats and her hat collection was held on Wednesday, January 19th at 7 PM at the Prairie Arts Center gallery.

The show continues through Sunday, February 6th with the gallery open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 PM and Wednesdays from 6-8 PM.

## Words of Thanks...

Thank you to the 29 young actors plus their parents who helped as technical and production staff, served as ushers and donated refreshments for *The One, The Only, Christmas Fairy Queen*, our annual Community Theater Children's Christmas Musical which was held December 3rd thru 5th.

Thank you to Lou Zearing who has worked overtime to keep sidewalks clear of snow this winter.

A special thanks to Gallery Artists, Ben Martinkus, Ryan Cox, and Julia Cain for sharing their art and talents for our December and January Gallery exhibits.

Thank you also to volunteers who served as hosts for the gallery shows and who baked treats and donated wine and refreshments for the opening receptions.

Thank you for the board of directors who have worked hard to create and support the Prairie Arts Programming in the past year.

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We thank the 2010 officers, Liz Draper, President; Barbara Schiff, Vice President; Ami Chamberlain, Secretary; and Bob Davidson, Treasurer.

**Liz Draper** retires from the board after serving three years as board president and a total of 5 years on the board. **Barb Schiff** retires after serving 7 years on the board, 6 of those as secretary, and one as vice president.

Officers for 2011, elected at the Annual meeting held Jan 18th are Linda Gustafson, President; David Gorenz, Vice President; Ami Chamberlain, Secretary; and Bob Davidson, Interim Treasurer. Continuing board members include Chad Brokaw, Pam Hanson, Julie McCutchan, Dave Taylor, and Tammy Tieman.

## GRANT NEWS

Church Women United gave us \$1000 to finish up our front steps and sidewalk.

Illinois Valley Fine Arts Trust gave us \$1000 for our summer concert and Art in the Park, \$400 more than we requested!

### Prairie Arts Council 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

Single \$15       Family \$25  
 Sponsor \$50       Patron \$150  
 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  
\_\_\_\_\_

Baking       Carpentry       Mailing  
 Fund-raising       Maintenance       Publicity  
 Graphic Arts       Membership       Sewing  
 Host/Usher       Painting       Programming  
 Photography       Other: \_\_\_\_\_



24 Park Avenue East  
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[theprairieartscouncil.org](http://theprairieartscouncil.org)



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

## Upcoming Events

- Feb. 4 7:00 p.m. - 16th Annual Prairie Arts Council Gala, "Building Our Future in the Arts" at the Wine Cellar, Main St, Princeton
- Feb. 11 5-7:00 pm - First Friday Gallery Opening, "How Long...A Lifetime!" featuring the work of Bart Kassabaum
- Feb. 15 6:00 p.m. - PAC Board Meeting
- March 6 2 and 7:30 p.m. - "Will Rogers - An American Original" Reserved Tickets are \$20. Call Theresa Cotter at 815-646-4635 to reserve.
- March 16 6:00 p.m. - PAC Board Meeting
- March 18 5-7:00 pm - First Friday Gallery Opening, "Vroom: The Art of the Motorcycle"

(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)

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