



prairie arts

The Newsletter of the Prairie Arts Council

Gallery to feature pottery with 'pop'

**Opening reception
6-8 p.m. May 3.
Exhibit open
May 3-18.**

Karen Russell, a ceramicist who lives in Barrington, Illinois, will be our featured artist for the month of May. Karen creates hand-built pottery, each piece containing some kind of botanical embellishment and most always a ladybug for "a pop of red."

Her creations are both beautiful and functional. Her plates, platters, bowls, and ever-popular berry bowls are each decorated with hand-built, three-dimensional botanical embellishments. From

flowers to fruit and pinecones to pine needles, she carefully fashions these embellishments in a realistic way and then attaches them to her pieces.

Eleven years ago, she signed up for a pottery class and took another and then another and kept on taking them. "I pretty soon ended up with two kilns in my basement," Karen said.

Karen has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a master's in education. She has taken countless classes in pottery and studied botanical drawing with an instructor from the Art Institute of Chicago.

Although Karen's pottery is considered



At left and far left are some examples of the pottery of Karen Russell that will be on display in the PAC gallery in May. Karen is a ceramicist from Barrington, Illinois, who creates unique pieces that are beautiful and functional.

functional, many people would agree that it is too beautiful to use. Gazing upon the beauty of her seemingly realistic impressions in her botanical embellishments, one can't help but appreciate the beauty of each piece.

Karen continues to sell her works at art shows across Illinois and Wisconsin. She has

traveled as far as Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Delaware. Several stores in the Chicago suburbs have sold her pieces. Last summer she was juried into the Chicago Botanic Garden Art Festival. Karen's pottery can also be seen at Sweeties on South Main Street in Princeton.

Art Rummage Sale set April 27

Don't forget about the Prairie Arts Council's Art Rummage Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 27. Here you will find art, frames, and art-related items at low garage sale prices.

But wait! There's more! Household items, decorations, craft supplies, vintage and antiques, and much, much more. Every year our rummage sale offers uniqueness and variety. Something for everyone.

We would appreciate any donations for our rummage sale. Donations can be dropped off at the PAC from 1 to 4 p.m. any Saturday in April or call Deb Young at (815) 303-7444. No clothing, please.

Rummage sale proceeds will go toward the PAC Art Scholarship, which will be awarded in May.



MAY/JUNE HAPPENINGS



Floral design workshop

This hands-on workshop will teach the fundamentals for putting together a well-designed silk floral arrangement. Instructor will first give a demonstration, followed by students completing a small floral design of their own to take home. Students are invited to bring their own 4- to 6-inch container and flowers, if they have items they would like to use. However, these items will be available to purchase from the instructor for a small fee. **As a bonus** -- students will have an opportunity to make and take home a professional looking bow to use in any floral arrangement or wreath. Wire-edged ribbon will be furnished for this added bonus.

Please bring a hot glue gun and wire cutters. Other incidental supplies needed for the class are included in the cost of the workshop. *For high school age and adults.*

Thursday, May 16, 6:30 - 8:00 pm; Registration deadline: May 11
Cost: \$18 for members; \$20 for nonmembers

Jane Ousec has over 30 years of experience as a craft artist. She trained as a floral designer at the American Floral Art School in Chicago. She is currently employed as a floral designer at Cattails in Utica.



WEBER HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR

Join us on this fascinating tour of the Weber House and Gardens. Situated on a two-acre lot on a busy street in Streator, Illinois, one has no idea what is behind that mysterious, handsome, red wooden gate that is so densely surrounded by ivy that one has no idea what they are to embark upon.

Upon approaching the red wooden gate, no one can enter until the bell is rung. Ted Weber personally greets his guests. Upon entering, you are immediately surrounded by beauty and awe as a crushed stone path leads you through a series of garden "rooms." As you walk the meandering paths throughout the English gardens full of roses, hollyhocks and old oaks, one can't help but view the storybook, Tudor-style Weber house, itself full of stories and history. The garden tour ends at the Luther Hall, where guests are served refreshments.

After touring the outside gardens, Ted Weber, a long-time Chicago radio and television personality, will lead you throughout the old Weber House describing the fascinating history of the house. The tour ends in the basement where Weber will recount some of his stories of well known television stars and political figures whom he has interviewed throughout his profession that spanned the 1960s.

Our day will begin by meeting at the Arts Center at 8:30 a.m. for coffee. We will board a Starved Rock Shuttle at 8:45 and travel to Streator during a 45-minute ride. The Weber House and Garden Tour will take approximately 1 1/2 hours to complete. We will arrive back at the Arts Center around noon.

Date: June 12

Cost: \$32 members; \$36 nonmembers

Time: 8:45 - 12:00 noon

Where: Prairie Arts Center

Registration Deadline: June 3



Ceiling tiles become works of art

Sharyl Iwanski of Plano, Illinois, shows one of her pieces that has been on exhibit in the PAC gallery during April. Her show, titled "Timeline — New Challenges," featured Sharyl's abstract form of art using ceiling tiles and a variety of other materials including resin and acrylic paint. The result is a vibrant, unique piece of art that is truly one-of-a-kind. The PAC hosted an opening for Sharyl's exhibit on April 3. It will be available for viewing through April 21 during the hours of 10 a.m. to noon Wednesdays and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.



MAY/JUNE HAPPENINGS



Painting florals with oil

If you have ever wanted to learn how to paint flowers with oil paints, this class is for you. Lorraine Cabral, recently featured in the *Illinois Valley Living* spring 2013 magazine, has been painting floral pictures for over 20 years. She has mastered the art of painting flowers and enjoys sharing and teaching what she learned from American floral painter Gary Jenkins, who has published many art books and instructional videos on the art of floral and landscape painting. This is a four-week class with emphasis on floral painting techniques. Students will complete an 16 x 20 painting on canvas. This class is intended for the beginner to intermediate level. Students should have some prior oil painting experience. **Please bring a 16 x 20 canvas, odorless turpentine, 9 x 12 tracing pad and paints. Brushes should include #14, #8, #10, Round #8, and a #1 liner brush.** *This class is for high school age to adult.*



6-8 p.m. Mondays, May 13 - June 10 (No class Memorial Day)

Cost: \$58 members; \$64 nonmembers

Registration deadline: May 6

1-day painting workshop

This is an all-day workshop for the oil painter who wishes to complete a painting in one day. Lorraine Cabral will share her knowledge of oil painting and the art of painting flowers. Students will complete an 18 x 24 painting of flowers in a vase using the wet-on-wet oil-painting technique. Students should have some prior oil painting experience. **Please bring an 18 x 24 canvas, paints, brushes and supplies, and a box lunch. Drinks will be provided.** *This all-day workshop is for high school age through adult.*

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 22

Cost: \$58 members; \$64 nonmembers

Watercolor painting field trips

As a follow-up to our "Watercolor for Beginners" class, we are offering three field trips with the instructor. Each field trip will be planned in advance and will feature a garden, a popular local landmark, and a trip to Hornbaker Gardens, where students will sit as a group in a special setting for their painting pleasure. Each student will receive personalized instruction from the teacher. This class is intended for the beginner to intermediate level. Students should have some knowledge of watercolor painting and be able to draw or sketch. **Please bring pencils, paper, paint supplies, and a camera.** Drinks will be provided for this class. *For high school age and adults.*

3 Saturday sessions, 10 a.m. to noon, June 8 - 22

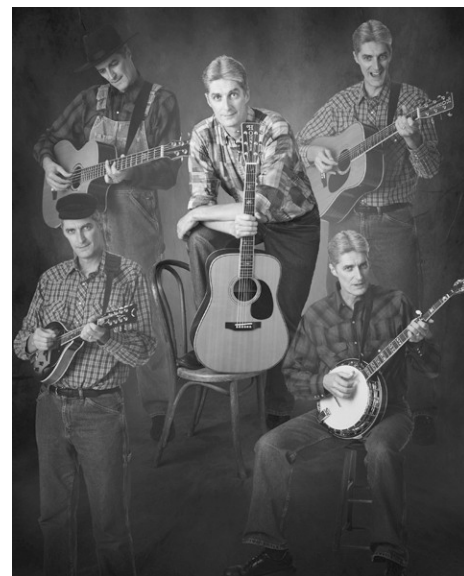
(Rain date June 29)

Cost: \$50 members; \$55 nonmembers

Registration deadline: June 1

Fighting local hunger with 'The Cotton Patch Gospel'

The off-Broadway musical "The Cotton Patch Gospel" is going way off-Broadway to the Prairie Arts Center. The purpose is to raise money for local, national and international programs that help fight hunger. This show will be presented on June 8-9. Tickets are \$10 and a freewill offering will be accepted. One hundred percent of the funds raised go directly to fight hunger. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by calling (815) 875-2249 or (815) 879-0916.



"The Cotton Patch Gospel" is a musical written by Tom Key and Russel Trez, featuring the music of singer/songwriter Harry Chapin. The story, inspired by Koinonia farm founder Clarence Jordan's translations of the Gospels, imagines what it would be like if Jesus were born in Gainesville, Georgia, in the 20th century. Those old Bible stories take on a new twist as Mary Hagler and Joe Davidson raise a most miraculous human.

What makes "The Cotton Patch Gospel" truly unique is the one-man performance by native Illinoisan Phillip Kaufmann. With permission from the Chapin family and through

the use of audio and video technology, Phillip portrays over 20 characters, plays 11 musical instruments, and sings his own backup vocals. His performance, combined with an excellent script, makes this a performance that you don't want to miss.

The show is even more enjoyable knowing that one hundred percent of the proceeds go to fight hunger. Fifty percent of all proceeds stay right here and support the Buddy Bags children's lunch program; 25 percent goes to WhyHunger, an organization founded by Harry Chapin and New York radio host & Catholic philanthropist, Bill Ayres; and the last 25 percent goes to the Mennonite Central Committee food program.

Thus far, Phil has taken his one-man show on the road for hunger, raising more than \$77,000 during the past two years. WhyHunger lists Phil and his show along with artists like Bruce Springsteen, Carlos Santana, and Chicago in their efforts to fight hunger.

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
(815) 875-2249 OR
(815) 879-0916**

Summer Drama Camp registration now open

The Prairie Arts Council is pleased to announce registration for the 11th annual Children's Summer Drama Camp for children entering second through ninth grades. Camp runs for three hours, Monday-Friday, for two weeks. Two camp sessions will run June 10-21, one from 9 a.m. to noon and one from 2 to 5 p.m. There will also be a morning camp running July 8-19 if there is sufficient interest. The camp cost is \$85 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 (noon and 5 p.m. June 21 and noon on July 19) of an original play written specifically for the campers and, to a large extent, tailored to the needs and abilities of the campers. Previous camp productions include "Cinderella," "The Perfect Princess" (also known as "A Mixed-Up Fairy Tale" and "The Prince and the Pen Pal"), "The Evil of the Atkins Diet," "The Best-est Summer Ever" (also

known as "Picture This" and "Going Through the Frame: The Journey to Enilef"), and "Fish Out of Water: A Nautical Story" (also known as "A Mermaid's Tale"). 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.

Past guest speakers have included Dave Roden, who shared his knowledge of theatrical accents, sets, and Shakespeare; Angela Winger, costuming; Jan Seeds, stage make-up; Norm Engstrom of IVCC for mime; members of the IVCC comedy improv team; Stephen Kwiatek for choreography for the stage; Matt Boehm for stage lighting and design; Dane Suarez for musical theater and opera; and Nick Umbdenstock and Steve

Sessions set for
June 10-21,
July 8-19

Brown, who teach safe stage combat. 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. 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 at (815) 876-6284 or hildigard@hotmail.com. Payment is expected by June 1. Please make checks payable to The Prairie Arts Council. Checks and registration forms (available at the PAC website: www.theprairieartscouncil.org) can be returned to Rachel Gorenz, 1009 S. Main St., Princeton, IL 61356.

PAC presents Afro-pop/reggae concert August 25

For the past four years, Prairie Arts Council has sponsored a summer outdoor concert at the Soldiers and Sailors Park and has brought a variety of entertainment for your musical enjoyment. This year we bring Mathew Tembo, an award-winning Afro-pop and reggae musician hailing from Zambia, Southern Africa. He is an important ambassador of Zambian music culture both in America, where he resides now, and abroad.

Originally a reggae singer only, Tembo was approached while giving a presentation at the Rhythmic Conservatory in Copenhagen, Denmark, by one of the professors there. He was asked why he played reggae and not African music since he was from Africa. Upon returning home from that European tour in 2004, Tembo began a self-taught exploration of traditional African instruments

such as the silimba and kalumbu. He now incorporates the use of these instruments into his original compositions.

Mathew studied music education at Evelyn Hone College of Applied Arts and Commerce in Zambia majoring in classical piano and later studied primary education with a concentration in music at the University of Zambia. He continues his quest for higher education in DeKalb, Illinois, at the renowned school of music at Northern Illinois University where he is wrapping up his graduate degree in world music performance.

This summer concert is scheduled for 6 p.m. August 25. Bring your lawn chairs and sit back and enjoy! Refreshments will be available during the concert. This concert is free to the public and is funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Valley Fine Arts Trust.



Mathew Tembo

So many ways to support PAC

Become a Member!

Complete the membership form below and return it to Prairie Arts Council, 24 Park Avenue East, Princeton, IL 61356. Or stop by the Arts Center during open hours.

Become a Volunteer!

Support for the arts in Princeton can come in many forms, whether it be monetary, helping to spread word about PAC, or donating time to events and programs. Volunteer opportunities range from setting up gallery exhibits to helping at PAC performances. We are currently looking for people to help keep PAC open for exhibits on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. And if you like to bake and entertain, we need you to help with our opening artist receptions. Please call us at (815) 875-2787 if you feel you can help in any way.

Matching grant monies!

Many employers offer matching contributions their employees make to not-for-profit agencies. Check with your employer and see if they make provisions for gift-giving.

Make a memorial contribution!

Any memorial monies received totaling over \$50.00 will be added to our memorial plaque honoring the name of your loved one.

PAC receives grant, gift

Prairie Arts Council was recently awarded a grant from the Illinois Arts Council for \$1250.00.

PAC also recently received a memorial for Harriet Coulter.

Our Mission

The guiding purpose of the Prairie Arts Council is to strengthen and support the participation in cultural arts in Princeton and the surrounding areas. The cultural arts entail drama, music, art and literature and we have made it our mission to support and develop these arts for everyone.

Our Board of Directors

Deb Young	Tammy Tieman
Jamie Bickett	David Gorenz
Daniel Acker	Hope Browning
Robert Davidson	Sue Garvin
Pam Hansen	

Thank you for supporting the PAC with your membership!

Your financial and volunteer support is vital to our arts programming.

Please return this form and remittance to:

Tammy Tieman, Membership Chairman
24 Park Avenue East, Princeton, IL 61365

Make checks payable to Prairie Arts Council

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

*E-Mail _____

*In an effort to "Go Green", the PAC would like to notify members of events using e-mail. If you would like to receive our newsletter and other event notifications through your e-mail, please fill out, or simply leave it blank.

_____ I still prefer to receive my newsletter by US postal service.

I am willing to volunteer my time and talents. Please check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appetizers	<input type="checkbox"/> Mailing	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity
<input type="checkbox"/> Baking	<input type="checkbox"/> Programming	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Painting	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewing	<input type="checkbox"/> Ticket Sales
<input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry	<input type="checkbox"/> Typing	<input type="checkbox"/> Usher	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning	<input type="checkbox"/> Host	<input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Arts
<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening	<input type="checkbox"/> Fund-raising	<input type="checkbox"/> Web design/upkeep	<input type="checkbox"/> Rummage Sale	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	

____ Artist/Fine Art Exhibitor. Please specify: _____

____ Performing Artist/Musician. Please specify: _____

____ Teaching. Please specify: _____

Categories of Membership

<input type="checkbox"/> Student..... \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Monetary Donation _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Single..... \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Gift _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family..... \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> in Memory of _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor..... \$50	
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron..... \$150	
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$300	



Prairie Arts Council

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

theprairieartscouncil.org



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

Upcoming Events

- Now-April 21** “Timeline — New Challenges” art exhibit in the gallery, 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.
- April 27** Art Rummage Sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the PAC
- May 3** 5-7 p.m. Gallery opening reception for Karen Russell pottery exhibit
- May 3-18** Karen Russell pottery exhibit in gallery, 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays
- May 13-June 10** Floral painting class
- May 16** Floral design workshop
- May 22, 29** Weber House and Garden tour, Streator
- June 2-9, July 18-19** Children’s Summer Drama Camp
- June 8-9** “The Cotton Patch Gospel” in the theater
- June 8-22** Watercolor painting field trips
- June 22** 1-day floral painting workshop
- June 24-July 5** Summer Art Camp for Children
- August 25** Matthew Tembo summer concert in the park

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