



Building awareness of the arts by making them accessible to all

For Art's Sake!

November–December 2009

News of Arts on Grand and the Spencer Area Arts Council

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Exhibit Schedule

Gallery Shop Artists — Holiday Season Show

November 24–December 31

David Thoreson — “20 Years/20 Stories”

January 5 – February 13

Danielle Clouse — “Rural Abstractions: Recent Paintings”

February 16–March 20

AOG Holiday Hours

Arts on Grand is again open until 9:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Beginning on November 22, we will be open Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. through the holiday shopping season. We will be closed on Saturday, December 26, and Saturday, January 2.

Grant News

The Spencer Area Arts Council has had a very successful fall as far as grants are concerned. We received three substantial grants in October:

- A Renaissance Initiative Grant has enabled us to purchase a color copier/printer/scanner to replace the monochrome copier we had been leasing. We now have the ability to scan artwork up to tabloid size and to digitize paper files that need to be archived.
- A grant from Humanities Iowa, a state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, is helping us to put on our first Festival of the Written Word (see page 2).
- A grant from the Hazel Hoepfner Trust, which is administered by the City of Spencer, provided additional funding for the Festival of the Written Word.

Holiday Season Show

Gallery Shop Artists

The holiday season show opens November 24 and runs through December 31. It will showcase work by regional artists who currently sell their art in the Gallery Shop. Wood turning, wood carving, glasswork, ceramics, oil paintings, watercolors, collages, and photographs will adorn the walls and pedestals of the main gallery. Almost all of the artwork will be for sale.

There will be no formal artists' reception for this exhibit, but Arts on Grand will be open extended hours during the holiday shopping season. In addition to being open during Grand Meander, Monday, December 7, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., we are open Thursday evenings until 9:00 p.m. We will also be open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday afternoons before Christmas.

“Alice's Tea Party”

Arts on Grand—Holiday Tea

December 6, 2009, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm
A cordial invitation to the public!

Drink from teacups collected over a lifetime by Alice Schar. There will be Christmas collections, unusual Christmas Trees, and tasty Christmas treats and festive Christmas music. There will not be a dormouse, but maybe a visit from the Mad Hatter!

Free will offerings will be accepted. Everyone is welcome!

AOG Storefront

The wooden protective barrier will soon be coming down, and our new storefront will be revealed! We hope to have a public event at the beginning of this year's Grand Meander to celebrate our grand new entryway. Watch for news of this long-awaited event.

Artist of the Month: Wayne Smith

Wayne Smith is a former farmer who began wood carving when he retired twenty-one years ago. He carves various things—fish, animals, human busts, and Santas of all shapes and sizes. He began a series of Santa tree ornaments, creating a new one each year. This is the twentieth year—and the twentieth ornament.

Smith is also a musician, and has entertained people most of his life, accompanying himself on the guitar, which is just one of several instruments he has played. He has also sung in a church choir as well as for weddings and funerals.

Smith lives in Emmetsburg with his wife of sixty-two years. They have a daughter and a son, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

The latest Santa tree ornament is available at Arts on Grand. Many people have been collecting them for years. Smith says that this year's Santa will probably be the last.

His award-winning trout sculpture is featured on the Arts on Grand 2010 wall calendar.



Wayne Smith's 2009 Santa tree ornaments are available at Arts on Grand.

Poetry & Puppetry Highlight AOG's Festival of the Written Word



The literary arts will be spotlighted as Arts on Grand hosts its first Festival of the Written Word on the weekend of November 20–22. The festival will feature workshops, readings, and performances with Iowa's poet laureate, Mary Swander, and will culminate in a book fair on Sunday afternoon. Monica Leo, of the internationally renowned Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company, will accompany Swander.

The public portion of the festival will open with a free performance at 7:00 p.m. Friday, November 20. Swander and Leo have created a performance piece from selections of Swander's book-length narrative poem *The Girls on the Roof*. In this one-hour adult (*not* for children!) production, Swander reads poems from her book while Leo brings the scenes to life through the use of hand, rod, and shadow puppets. Filled with old-time music, romance, intrigue, humor, folklore, and the flora and fauna of the Mississippi River basin, this show will dazzle the ear with its poetic rhythms and delight the eye with its likenesses of an unforgettable cast of characters.

The Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre will give a free performance of one of its most acclaimed puppet shows on Saturday, November 21, at 10:00 a.m. Monica Leo has presented her version of *Little Red Riding Hood* at puppetry festivals throughout the United States and in Germany and Austria, and received a rave review in *The Puppetry Journal* when she performed it at a national festival in Florida for adult puppeteers. The show uses miniature marionettes, with a big pop-up book as a stage. Because of its small scale, even young children

will not be frightened by the *little* bad wolf! The show has been exceedingly popular with audience members of all ages, with humor that appeals to adults as well as kids.

Immediately after the performance, at 11:00 a.m., Leo will conduct a one-hour puppetry workshop for kids and families. Each participant will make a shadow puppet of an underwater creature, using poster board and colored acetate. Leo will demonstrate how to make a simple tabletop shadow stage out of corrugated cardboard. The session ends with an impromptu performance by the participants. Participants must be old enough to draw and cut (or have a parent help them). There is a nominal registration fee of \$5 per family. Preregistration is recommended, since class size is limited to thirty participants.

Mary Swander will conduct two writing workshops that afternoon: a poetry workshop at 1:00 p.m. and a fiction workshop at 2:30 p.m. Because each workshop will be limited to twenty participants, early registration is encouraged. There is a \$10 registration fee per workshop if taken individually or \$15 for both.

The public is invited to a free poetry reading on Saturday, November 21, at 7:00 p.m. Mary Swander will read selections from her poetry,



and the public will have a chance to meet her and talk to her afterward during an informal reception.

The weekend will close with a holiday book fair on Sunday, November 22, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Arts on Grand authors will be on hand to visit with the public and sign their books. Mary Swander will also be signing books during the first part of the afternoon. For more information, see the article on the facing page.

The Spencer Area Arts Council has received a grant of \$2,670 from Humanities Iowa, a state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, in support of our Festival of the Written Word. Additional funding was provided by a generous grant from the Hazel Hoepfner Trust, which is administered by the City of Spencer.

For more information about the Festival of the Written Word, or to register for a workshop, phone Arts on Grand at 712.262.4307 Tuesday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Schedule at a Glance

Friday, November 20

The Girls on the Roof, 7:00 p.m. (Free adults-only performance)

Saturday, November 21

Little Red Riding Hood, 10:00 a.m. (Free family performance)

Puppetry workshop with Monica Leo, 11:00 a.m. (Registration fee: \$5 per family)

Poetry workshop with Mary Swander, 1:00 p.m. (Registration fee: \$10*)

Fiction workshop with Mary Swander, 2:30 p.m. (Registration fee: \$10*)

Poetry reading and reception with Mary Swander, 7:00 p.m. (Free)

Sunday, November 22

Arts on Grand Book Fair, 1:00 p.m.

* Participants may register for *both* the poetry and fiction writing workshops for only \$15.

Arts on Grand Holiday Book Fair

Spencer has been building a reputation as a place that nurtures writers as well as other artists, and Arts on Grand has played a part. For several years, we have hosted a writers group, which meets from 10:00 a.m. to noon the first and third Saturday of every month. It is led by Everly writer and editor Jean Tennant, who has recently edited two anthologies of stories by Midwestern writers—*Walking Beans Wasn't Something You Did With Your Dog* (2008) and *Knee High by the Fourth of July* (2009). Members of the Arts on Grand writers group are represented in both of them.

Our Festival of the Written Word will end with a Sunday afternoon holiday book fair at Arts on Grand. Area authors will be on hand to sign their books. Iowa poet laureate Mary Swander will be present during the first part

of the afternoon with copies of her books. Jean Tennant and members of the Arts on Grand writers group will be signing the two anthologies. Vicki Myron will be signing both her New York Times best-seller, *Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World*, and her new book for children, *Dewey: There's a Cat in the Library!*

Other authors who have already confirmed that they will be present include Julie Schmidt (*Conflagration: The Great Spencer Fire of 1931*), Alan Oppedal (*The Inevitable Triumph*), Jim Oleson (*In Their Own Words: True Stories and Adventures of the American Fighting Ace*), Marjorie Roelofson (*Sam*), and Tricia Currans-Sheehan (*The Egg Lady and Other Neighbors and The River Road*); we expect others will be on hand as well.



Arts on Grand authors will be on hand to sign their books at this year's holiday book fair from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, November 22. This photograph, taken at last year's book fair, shows some of the authors represented in *Walking Beans Wasn't Something You Did With Your Dog*, an anthology of stories by Midwestern writers. Seated at the table in this photograph are Loren Flaugh (with granddaughter on his lap), editor Jean Tennant, Ruth Jochims, Arlene Walker, Janet Branson, Verla Klaessy, and Sharon Parriott. Behind them, with outstretched arms, is AOG's Programming and Marketing Director Joanne Schar, who also had a story in the book.

Clay with Gene

Thinking of Christmas presents, how about giving someone a gift certificate for a clay class series with Gene Polson! Gene will have student and adult classes. You can find a place in these classes whether you are just a beginner or have experience on the wheel. These classes will run three Monday afternoons or evenings in January, February, and March. The "times are tough" price for these classes has been lowered to \$30 for members and \$40 for nonmembers for a three-class series. Clay supplies are \$12. The classes are limited to six students per session. Call 712.262.4307 to register.

Spencer Main Street Activity (Free!)

Decorate & Take a Gingerbread House with Barb Dean & Lisa Petersen

Sunday, November 22, 2009

1:00 p.m. Preschool to First Grade

2:30 p.m. First & Second Grades

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Downstairs at Arts on Grand!

Preregistration required.

Limit 20 children per session.

Call Arts on Grand 712.262.4307 to sign up!

Upcoming Classes

Little Leonardos

Seasonal Art Projects with Kim Jessen Heinrichs

Dates: Saturdays, December 5 & 12

Time: 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Cost: Members \$5 Nonmembers \$7

Ages: Preschool–Third Grade

Parents may stay or use the time to run errands!

Spencer Area Concert Association

There are still four concerts remaining in the 2009–2010 season of the Spencer Area Concert Association. The next concert will be at 7:30 Saturday, December 12, at the Old High School Auditorium. It will feature the Noteworthy Duo on flute and guitar.

Individual tickets and season tickets may be purchased in advance at Arts on Grand or at the box office on the evening of the performance. Beginning December 14, half-price/half-season tickets will be available at Arts on Grand. They make great stocking stuffers!

In addition to Spencer concerts, season ticket holders may attend concerts in Algona and Sheldon, including the Czech boys choir Boni Pueri performing their Christmas program in Algona on November 24. This concert alone is worth the price of a season ticket!

For more information, phone 712.262.4307 or visit www.SpencerConcerts.com.

Spencer Community Theatre

Spencer Community Theater will present its production of *A Christmas Story* at the Clay County Regional Events Center. There will be four performances, at 7:30 p.m. on December 10, 11, and 12, and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 13.

Parker Museum

In 2010, Parker Historical Society will be celebrating fifty years of collecting and preserving Clay County history. To commemorate this achievement, they are offering a 2010 Clay County Historic Scenes calendar. Each month features a black-and-white photo from one of the twelve communities in Clay County. They are \$10 each and are available at Parker Museum, Southpark Mall Business Office, Barb's Corner, the Rossie Store, Farmers Bank, Fostoria, Royal Library/Royal City Hall, and State Bank and Jim's History Barn in Peterson. The gift-giving season is upon us. Consider gifting your special people with a 2010 Historic Clay County calendar!

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Arts on Grand

Home of the

Spencer Area Arts Council

408 North Grand Avenue

Spencer, IA 51301

www.artsongrand.org



Building awareness of the arts by making them accessible to all.

Gallery Hours:

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. until Christmas

Monday: closed

Phone: 712.262.4307

Fax: 712.264.0430

Contact Arts on Grand

Arts on Grand General Information:

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Your New Newsletter

As you have probably noticed, our newsletter is transitioning to a new look. With this issue, we have to full color, thanks to a Renaissance Initiative Grant that enabled us to purchase a color copier/printer/scanner. (The balance was paid for by our Dvergsten Foundation grant.) The switch to color from black on colored paper will give our publications a look that is more appropriate to the image an art center should project.

Other changes are in the works. *For Art's Sake* will be published every time we have a new exhibit at Arts on Grand, approximately eight times a year rather than the current four, allowing us to eliminate the separate post cards announcing each exhibit.

We will also change the size of the newsletter. Because it will be published more frequently, we will not have to squeeze quite as much news into each issue. Instead of a folded tabloid-size sheet, it will be printed on legal-size paper and folded to the size of a letter. The mailing label will go on one side of the folded newsletter, with the exhibit announcement on the back.

We estimate that these changes will save us at least \$1,000 per year in printing and mailing costs. At the same time, we will be able to get word out about classes and other events in a more timely fashion.

AOG 2010 Wall Calendars

Arts on Grand has published a 2010 wall calendar featuring art by a dozen Gallery Shop artists, including our artist of the month, Wayne Smith (see the article on the front page). Pick up your free calendar the next time you come in!

