



Building awareness of the arts by making them accessible to all

For Art's Sake!

Fall 2009

News of Arts on Grand and the Spencer Area Arts Council

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Exhibit Schedule

Theresa Lugo — “Joy of Life”

October 13 – November 20

Gallery Shop Artists — Holiday Season Show

November 23–December 31

David Thoreson — “20 Years/20 Stories”

January 5 – February 13

Daniel Clouse — “Rural Abstractions: Recent Paintings”

February 16–March 20

Fall Films for the Cinematically Disadvantaged

Arts on Grand and Carey's Electronics will again present Films for the Cinematically Disadvantaged beginning on October 19. This series will feature four films on four consecutive Monday evenings in October and November. The films are screened upstairs at Carey's, 220 Grand Ave., beginning at 7:00 p.m. This fall's series features films from Britain, France, Germany, and the Czech Republic.

October 19 *The Bank Job* (2008)

October 26 *The Grocer's Son* (2007)

November 2 *Mostly Martha* (2002)

November 9 *Zelary* (2003)

Films for the Cinematically Disadvantaged is a partnership between Carey's Electronics and Arts on Grand. There are two four-film series each year. The series is open to the public, with free-will donations accepted to help support the series. Many of the films are later available for checkout at Arts on Grand.

Scenes from the 2009 Clay County Fair

For the nine days of this year's Clay County Fair, the Art Barn was a hive of activity. Except for a brief downpour on one day, the weather was ideal. Artists demonstrated and sold their art inside, and musicians attracted large audiences as they performed outside in the gazebo. As usual, there were activities for kids of all ages both inside and outside the Art Barn.

The photos below provide a sample of this year's Art Barn activities. Clockwise, from the upper left: Jack Ryan, Glenn Henriksen, and Larry Sattler drew a large audience when they performed the first Sunday; a young artist at work (with other artists' masterpieces drying on the line in the background); the Little Sioux Spinners and Weavers demonstrated on Wednesday; Natalie Theroux and Greg Taylor performed in the gazebo on the last day of the fair; Spencer High School senior Hailie Iles performed on the second Saturday; and Joanne Schar helps with shrink art inside the Art Barn.



Spencer Area Concert Association

There are still five concerts remaining in the 2009–2010 season of the Spencer Area Concert Association. The next concert will be at 7:30 Saturday, November 7, at the Old High School Auditorium. It will feature the German cello quartet Quattrocelli performing *Cinemacelli*, a concert of music from the movies.

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. In addition to Spencer concerts, season ticket holders may attend an additional concerts in Algona and Sheldon. This year, all Spencer concerts will be on Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. For more information, phone 712.262.4307 or visit www.SpencerConcerts.com.

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.

Lmit 20 children per session.

Call Arts on Grand 712.262.4307 to sign up!

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

“Reliving the 1920s in Clay County” is Parker Museum’s 2009 major exhibit, located in the second-floor exhibit room. This was a decade of growth and changing technology in the home, the farm, and in business. The exhibit was researched and created by Assistant Director Holly Kellogg.

AOG Holiday Hours

Beginning on November 22, Arts on Grand will be open Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. through the holiday shopping season. On the first Sunday, many Arts on Grand authors will be on hand to sign books, including the new anthology *Knee High by the Fourth of July*, edited by Jean Tennant.

Arts Council and Gallery Celebrate Anniversaries

The year 2009 marks two important milestones in the area cultural community. It is the thirtieth anniversary of the formation of the Spencer Area Arts Council (SAAC), and the twentieth anniversary of the opening of Arts on Grand. During the first ten years of its existence, the SAAC mounted exhibits wherever space was available. Then, in 1989, it gained a permanent home with the purchase of the former Morony Clothing store on Grand Avenue.

Five years later, the SAAC kicked off a fundraising effort to remodel the old store building and make it a real gallery. “You do not display artwork, you present artwork, and this will help us accomplish that,” Dr. Harry Rasdal, who was then a member of the SAAC board of directors, said at the kickoff of the fund drive.

The main floor was reconfigured to include a foyer and separate exhibit and sales areas. Track lights were added, the walls were covered with sisal, and movable display panels were installed in the exhibit gallery. Two new classrooms and a storeroom were built on the lower level. The building was closed during construction, and offices and the gallery shop moved to temporary quarters in the old Redmond’s shoe store.

Fast-forward to the present, and Arts on Grand is again undergoing a “facelift.” The SAAC is taking advantage of Spencer’s Storefront Initiative program along with funds from the Dvergsten Foundation to make upgrades. This time, it is the exterior of the building will be changing. The building that houses Arts on Grand is one of the key buildings of Spencer’s Historic District. Because of the building’s significance, the front entry is being restored using the original 1931 architectural drawings (see below).

As a result of this restoration, the front foyer has more than doubled in size, and when completed will provide a grander entrance to Arts on Grand. The ceiling light fixture designed by Spencer artist Holly Kellogg, paid for with a Renaissance Initiative Grant last year, will adorn the finished foyer.

The current remodel will also address energy efficiency. The new front display windows will have thermal, UV-rated glass, which will help conserve energy while also protecting art from the sun. The rear door and window are being replaced by an insulated door and window. The original rolled-steel windows upstairs are being restored and fitted with interior storm windows.

Inside the building, gallery lighting is being improved. The gallery had a relatively painless conversion to “green” technology when the existing floodlights were replaced with compact fluorescent thanks to Spencer Municipal Utilities. Existing halogen lights will be replaced with more energy-efficient compact fluorescent floodlights and dark spots will be eliminated.

Thanks to another Renaissance Grant, the Gallery Shop is also in the process of being upgraded. A neon sign created by Tony Curiel helps to draw visitors to the Gallery Shop, and new display units are now in place. The facility will gain much-needed storage space in closets along the north and south walls of the front foyer, which replace the former large closet that was built to provide space for an elevator. (Two years ago, the addition of a chairlift to the lower level eliminated the need for an elevator.)

Arts on Grand has had a tremendous impact on the community in its first twenty years, and is looking forward to a bright future.



Exhibit News

“Artisans Road Trip 2009: One More Time Around”

Arts on Grand hosted a preview exhibit of works by participants in the Artisans Road Trip from September 10 through October 10. Twenty-seven of the thirty artists were represented, with everything from paintings and pottery to jewelry and furniture. A combined artist reception and Business After Hours co-hosted by Arts on Grand and the Spencer Alliance for a Creative Economy (SPACE) gave attendees an opportunity to meet many of the artists and discuss their concerns.

Holiday Season Show

Beginning on November 23, Arts on Grand will fill the exhibit gallery with original art by Gallery Shop artists. Everything in the gallery will be for sale! Unlike most gallery sales, buyers will not have to wait until the exhibit closes to take their purchases with them. This is a perfect opportunity to find a gift for those hard-to-please people on your holiday shopping list!

Arts on Grand to Host Video Festival

Arts on Grand will host a video festival on Thursday, November 5, at 7:00 p.m. Curtis Dean of Spencer Municipal Utilities will be master of ceremonies. Two videos made during the summer Arts on Grand video camp will be premiered that evening. Eric Meeter, a Dordt College senior majoring in contemporary film and music, led the video camp while working as a summer intern in the SMU Cable video studio. Eric plans to return to Spencer to help with the premiere of two videos made by the video campers.

School-age video artists are invited to submit entries for Arts on Grand's first video festival. Videos may be up to ten minutes in length. They will be pre-screened and placed in the appropriate categories prior to the festival.

Arts on Grand Trivia Questions

- Where did the 4 tall white vases come from?
- When will we ever sell the moose antler by Kurt Curtis?
- Who is/was Henry Klessen?
- Does anyone remember the architect John Galvin and what he did for AOG?
- Whose store became Arts on Grand?
- What was the first exhibit at Arts on Grand?

Theresa Lugo: “Joy of Life”

Theresa Lugo's colorful abstract paintings are on display at Arts on Grand through November 20. Lugo, formerly of Estherville but now a Colorado resident, says of her art, “I'm trying to find the magical, lyrical and sublime, to find the exuberant joy of creating.”



Awards will be presented in several categories, depending on the number of entries received. The video festival (and the winning videos) will be televised later on SMU Cable's Channel 3.

Video entries should be submitted on a DVD in a format that can be played using a standard DVD player. They may be dropped off in person or mailed to Arts on Grand, 408 N. Grand Avenue, Spencer, IA 51301. Entries should include the names of students who participated in the making of the videos, along with their ages, grades, and schools. The name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the video should also be included.

Deadline for video submissions is 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 3. For more information, contact Martin at 712.262.4307.

- What was the theme of the first Backyard Bach & Blues?
- Where was the venue for the first Backyard Bach & Blues?
- Did you ever attend a Mardi Party? What year?
- Where was the first Art presence at the Clay County Fair?

Bring your answers into Arts on Grand and receive a prize!

Upcoming Classes & Events

“Have you met _____?”

Tennie Binzer presents an artist!

Bring your lunch and enjoy the conversation about an artist you may not know!

Date: Thursday, October 29

Time: 12:00 noon–1:00 p.m.

Dessert will be served! Free!

Ndebele or Herringbone (ladder stitch)

Taught by Diane King

This weave is often found in the beadwork of South African Ndebele tribe. Learn to do Herringbone stitch. Make a beaded bracelet using size 11°, 8° & triangle glass beads.

Dates: Thursdays, November 5, 12, & 19

Time: 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Cost: Members \$30 Nonmembers \$40
Supplies extra

Class size limited to 6.

Acrylics with Kendall

Taught by Kendall Oliver

Create a painting on canvas board.

Dates: Thursdays, November 12 & 19

Time: 6:30–9:00 p.m.

Cost: Members \$30 Nonmembers \$40

Kendall Oliver is a graduate of Cornell College, Mt. Vernon.

Cartooning with Kendall

Taught by Kendall Oliver

Tips on drawing a cartoon character and a scenario.

Date: Saturday, November 14, 2009

Time: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 noon

Cost: Members \$7 Nonmembers \$10

Ages: Fourth–Seventh Grade.

Limit 8 students.

Little Leonardos

Seasonal Art Projects with Kim Jessen Heinrichs

Dates: Saturdays, November 7, 14, & 21

Time: 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Cost: Members \$5 Nonmembers \$7

Ages: Preschool–Second Grade

Parents may stay or take the time to run errands!

Writers Group

Dates: November 7 and November 21

Time: 10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

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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 and Monday: closed

Phone: 712.262.4307

Fax: 712.264.0430

Contact Arts on Grand!

Arts on Grand General Information:

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Arts on Grand Staff

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Arts on Grand Turns Twenty

Arts on Grand is celebrating its twentieth anniversary with a week of festivities October 20–24. Gallery visitors will be able to sample a different cake each day, Tuesday through Saturday, during regular business hours. The week will culminate with an Oktoberfest birthday party for members and volunteers starting at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, October 24. The party will open with hors d'oeuvres and a cake contest, followed by a German-style Oktoberfest meal and birthday cake.

Entertainment will be provided by Greg Taylor and Natalie Theroux, both former Spencer residents. Greg is a singer/songwriter who worked at KICD before moving to Winona, Minnesota. Natalie is an accomplished singer who played the part of Dorothy in the Spencer Community Theatre production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Invitations to Arts on Grand's Oktoberfest birthday party have been mailed to current members and volunteers. Members who did not receive an invitation but would like to attend should contact Arts on Grand. New members may join during our anniversary week and receive an invitation, as well as a 2010 commemorative calendar featuring artists from the Arts on Grand Gallery Shop.



Arts on Grand is giving away a 2010 calendar featuring art by Gallery Shop artists.