



Building awareness of the arts by making them accessible to all

# For Art's Sake!

**Summer 2009**

**News of Arts on Grand and the Spencer Area Arts Council**

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## Exhibit Schedule

**John Brommel — Sculptures and Paintings**

August 10–September 8

**Artisan Road Trip 09**

September 10 – October 10

**Theresa Lugo — “Joy of Life”**

October 12–November 20

## Arts on Grand to Get a Facelift

Construction is slated to begin soon on remodeling projects at Arts on Grand. It should begin in August, and be finished before the Clay County Fair. We will be taking advantage of the Spencer Storefront Initiative program to remodel both the front and rear entryways.

The Fraser Building, which houses the gallery, is a key structure in the city's Historic District, and our remodel will restore the front as closely as possible to its original appearance. The back entrance, which has no historic significance, is also being remodeled

As part of the remodeling, the building will be made more energy efficient. Thermal-paned windows and doors will be installed in both the front and back. The front windows will use UV-rated glass to help protect artwork from the harmful rays of the sun. The apartment windows, which are original to the building, will be restored, and inside storm windows made to improve energy efficiency.

This remodeling is part of Arts on Grand's Iowa Great Places project, which is aimed at restoration and improving energy efficiency of the entire building.



## 2009 Backyard Bach & Blues

This summer's Backyard Bach & Blues, “A Taste of Tuscany,” took place July 18 at Del's Garden Center. Del's new wood-fired outdoor pizza oven got a workout, turning out 70 gourmet pizzas during the evening. Also on the menu were antipasti, salads, sorbets, gelati, and other delicacies.

Music was provided by pianist Isaac Brockshus. A 2007 graduate of Spencer High School, he is majoring in composition at the University of Northern Iowa. Adding a bit of local color to the event, soprano Jessica Hurley Schable sang a selection of arias from Italian and French operas. Jessica is a Milford native and a 2005 graduate of Simpson College in Indianola. She was accompanied by Christina Pierce of Spencer.

The first Backyard Bach & Blues was held in 1992 to help raise funds for the Spencer Area Arts Council and the new gallery at Arts on Grand. Since then, it has grown to become the community's best summer party. Each year it takes place in a different location, and there is a different theme. Next year, it will return to Doris Ginger's yard to help celebrate the centennial of her home.



## Spencer Community Theatre

Spencer Community Theater will be moving its productions to the Clay County Regional Events Center for the 2009–2010 season while the Playhouse undergoes major remodeling. Advance ticket sales will be handled through the SCT Playhouse box office during construction. The season schedule is:

*Oklahoma!* — October 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 2009

*A Christmas Story* — December 10, 11, 12, 13, 2009

*Over the River and Through the Woods* — February 11, 12, 13, 14, 2010

*The Spitfire Grill* — April 15, 16, 17, 18, 2010

## 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.

## Clay County Fair Art Barn

Before we know it, it will be time for the Clay County Fair. This year the fair begins late, running September 12–20. We will be at the Art Barn again with a host of visual artists demonstrating and selling their work, music in the gazebo, and great activities for kids of all ages—including the ever-popular watercolor easels on the south side of the building.

Volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts every day. Your volunteer time is good for a ticket admitting you to the Fair. If you would like to volunteer for one or more two-hour shifts at the Art Barn, please call Joanne at 712.262.4307, or e-mail her at [programming@artsongrand.org](mailto:programming@artsongrand.org).

Arts on Grand downtown will be closed as usual on Sundays and Monday. It will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. other days during the fair.

## SAAC Elects New Officers

The annual meeting of the board of directors of the Spencer Area Arts Council was held on Monday, July 6, at Arts on Grand. Barbara Workman was elected president, replacing Irene McCoy. Other officers include treasurer John Toale and secretary Carole Lea Cotton.

Tennie Binzer of Spencer and Lois Christensen of Hartley were elected to fill vacancies on the board of directors.

## 2009 Telethon

The Spencer Area Arts Council held its second annual telethon on SMU Channel 3 Sunday, May 3, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The theme of this year’s telethon was “ART—a pART of all of us.” The telethon’s chief goal was to raise \$15,000 in operating expenses for the next year. It also aimed at increasing awareness of the Spencer Area Arts Council, Arts on Grand, local artists, and the arts in general, as well as recruiting new members.

This year’s telethon featured local artist Anita Baedke-Plucker demonstrating her watercolor technique in the studio. She later announced that she was donating the “Thunder Bridge” original watercolor to Arts on Grand to sell for additional funds.

A number of local musicians performed live—Shanté Foote and The Last Minute, Devin van Holsteijn, Hailie Iles, and the Spencer High School Chromatic Jazz. We were really pleased to be able to present so many talented young high school musicians. The Jessie James Band, Jim and Jessie Howard from Spirit Lake, added to the musical fun.

Joining Jill Barr and Curtis Dean in the studio were Jean Tennant, who heads the Arts on Grand writers group; local artists Jessie Bogenrief, Anita Gilbert and Anthony Vodraska; and pianist Abby Cooper Brewer, who performed at Arts on Grand immediately after the telethon.

Also on hand again this year were state senator David Johnson and representative Mike May, Spencer mayor Reynold Peterson, and city manager Bob Fagen. SAAC board vice president Barbara Workman talked about the Gallery Shop art on display in the studio and this year’s Backyard Bach & Blues, which she chaired. Arts on Grand executive director Martin Arthur discussed the sculpture that has been commissioned for the city of Spencer by SPACE.

The telethon also included highlights of the previous year at Arts on Grand as captured by SMU Cable’s video department, including artists’ receptions, Music in the Gallery, classes, and outreach activities—all of which demonstrated the rich variety of offerings available.

At the end of the telethon, a drawing was held for a fine art print donated by the artists, Anita Gilbert and Anthony Vodraska. Tom and Wendy Van Tassel were the lucky winners.

We at Arts on Grand would like to take this opportunity to once more thank everyone who helped make this event such a great success!

## Scenes from the Telethon



*Top right: Katie Plucker demonstrated her watercolor technique in the SMU studio.*



*Above: The Jessie James Band got the studio audience involved.*



*Bottom right: Hosts Curtis Dean and Jill Barr welcomed glass artist Jesse Bogenrief to the studio.*

**Exhibit News**

**Vehicles of Inquiry**

Spencer native Sue Avery Lewis brought her art exhibit to Arts on Grand during July and early August. "Vehicles of Inquiry: A Contemplative Journey" showcased mixed-media installations involving silver jewelry pieces, fantastical vehicles, and collage paintings that encouraged viewers to ask questions, consider the artist's questions, and to observe and enjoy the "vehicles" that transport her thoughts.

In her gallery talk, Sue explained that she hoped that the exhibit would encourage people to think, to come up with their own answers to the questions she posed. She pointed out that she did not portray drivers in any of her vehicles so that viewers could put themselves in the driver's seat.



**Sculptures and Paintings by John Brommel**

Des Moines artist John Brommel has works in private collections around Iowa as well as numerous other states. Between now and September 8, Arts on Grand is displaying a fascinating selection of his work.

"My art is a never-ending journey of discovery and invention. I avidly recycle and repurpose material, drawing from diverse technical genres, searching out new and innovative applications. I greatly enjoy the interplay of energies and ideas in the execution of commissioned works. The work ethic and sense of efficiency practiced in my 35 years as a steamfitter are very apparent in the execution of my work."

**Summer Video Camp**

The participants in this summer's week-long Video Camp produced two videos, which will be premiered here at a later date. The camp was offered by Arts on Grand in cooperation with Spencer Municipal Utilities. It was conducted by Eric Meeter, a Dordt College senior who interned this summer at SMU Cable's studio.

The camp was modeled after a college-level class. The kids worked on all aspects of video production, from storyboarding and script development to editing and mastering.

Meeter had high praise for his students' capabilities, noting that the six kids were able to do in 15 hours what it took his college class 48 hours to complete!

On the left, Forest Saunders, who was visiting from Seattle during the camp, takes a turn at the camera to shoot an outdoor location scene in the alley behind Arts on Grand.



## For Art's Sake!

Summer 2009

### 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:

info@artsongrand.org

### Arts on Grand Staff

**Martin Arthur**, Executive Director,

director@artsongrand.org

**Joanne Schar**, Programming & Marketing

Director, programming@artsongrand.org

**Sandy Langner**, Office Administrator,

accounting@artsongrand.org

### Board of Directors 2008–2009

Barbara Workman, President

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## Concert Association Announces New Season

The 2009–2010 season of the Spencer Area Concert Association will feature six concerts:

**Minneapolis Guitar Quartet** — September 26

**Quattrocelli** (four cellists playing music from the movies) — November 7

**Noteworthy Duo** (flute and guitar with a South American flavor) — December 12

**Craicmore** (Celtic band) — February 27

**Chapter 6** (male a capella sextet) — March 27

**Project** (classical-jazz-fusion trio) — April 24

In addition, season ticket holders may attend an additional eight concerts in Algona and Sheldon.

This year, all Spencer concerts will be on Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Brochures are being mailed to all 2008–2009 season ticket holders, and will be available at locations around the area, including Arts on Grand. Season tickets may be purchased at Arts on Grand. For more information, phone 712.262.4307 or visit [www.SpencerConcerts.com](http://www.SpencerConcerts.com).

# Annual Support: July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

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Mezzo-soprano Andrea Petska sang a program of arias and art songs at Arts on Grand on the evening of Thursday, August 6. The Spencer native was visiting from Philadelphia, where she has performed with the Main Line Opera Guild. She was accompanied by Jessica Schable on the piano.



**Spencer Area Arts Council Annual Membership:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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