



Building awareness of the arts by making them accessible to all

For Art's Sake!

January 2010

News of Arts on Grand and the Spencer Area Arts Council

Exhibit Schedule

David Thoreson — “Twenty Years/Twenty Stories”

January 5 – February 13

Danielle Clouse — “Rural Abstractions: Recent Paintings”

February 16 – March 20

Spencer Area Schools 2010 Exhibit

March 23 – May 20

Spencer Graduates Exhibit

May 25 – July 3

Upcoming Art Activities

Creative Collage Class

Supervised creativity!

Date: January 5, 2010

Time: 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Ages: 10 years – Adults over 80

Cost: \$15 Members / \$20 Nonmembers

Bring a photo or photos — a picture of your pet, your family on a trip, a holiday event, a sports activity, a family gathering, a musical program. Using supplies from the art room, create a personalized framed collage highlighting your photo. Frame provided.

Youth Pottery

Taught by Gene Polson from Marcus

For middle school and high school students.

Dates: Mondays, January 4, 11, & 18

Time: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30 Members / \$40 Nonmembers

Clay \$12.50

The class will be repeated the first three Mondays in February and March.

Adult Pottery

Taught by Gene Polson from Marcus

For all skill levels.

Dates: Mondays, January 4, 11, & 18

Time: 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30 Members / \$40 Nonmembers

Clay \$12.50

The class will be repeated the first three Mondays in February and March.

To register for classes, call 712.262.4307

or e-mail info@artsongrand.org.

Scholarships are available for all classes.

“Have you met _____?”

Tennie Binzer presents an artist!

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

Date: Thursday, January 28

Time: 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Dessert will be served! Free!

Holiday & Winter Hours

Arts on Grand will be closed on Saturday, December 26, and Saturday, January 2. We will be closed Thursday evenings during January and February unless there is a special event scheduled. Beginning March 4, we will again be open on Thursday evenings.



Artist of the Month: Dr. Karen Ruddy

Karen Ruddy received a B.A. in art and education from Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, in 1973. Her large artworks have been featured in one-woman shows at Nebraska Wesleyan University and the Haymarket Gallery, both located in Lincoln, Nebraska, and she has works of art in private collections across Nebraska, Texas, and Iowa.

In 1977, a career change resulted in an earned master's degree and Ph.D. from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas. Ruddy retired in 2004 after thirty-three years of administration in college and universities and moved back home to Emmetsburg, Iowa, with her husband Victor. She also returned to her first love — the creation of art in all its forms.

Ruddy's current work is influenced by the mosaics of the Byzantine period, first rendered in pencil, pen, and mixed media, and then reproduced using Venetian Smalti mosaic glass. Realistic and abstract themes are found throughout these creations, with the recognition and beauty of the images appearing to the observer after close study and admiration. Secular images of birds, landscapes, and flowers, as well as the Madonna and Child series, are frequent subjects.



SAAC Membership

Membership in the Spencer Area Arts Council is a great gift any time of the year. Members receive the following benefits:

- ✦ 10% discount on purchases over \$10 in the Arts on Grand Gallery Shop
- ✦ Discounts on classes and workshops
- ✦ Use of the Arts on Grand studios
- ✦ Discounts on tickets for special events, such as Backyard Bach & Blues
- ✦ Special members-only events
- ✦ Newsletter
- ✦ Use of Arts on Grand for special functions

Arts on Grand Wish List

- ✦ Large projection screen
- ✦ Card tables
- ✦ Staples gift cards
- ✦ Help reconstructing the framing table donated by Beth Kramer
- ✦ Continued support of members in the coming year

Thanks for all you do!
Joanne

Let us know if you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail!

For Art's Sake!

January 2010

Arts on Grand

Home of the

Spencer Area Arts Council

408 North Grand Avenue

Spencer, IA 51301

www.artsongrand.org



David Thoreson

“Twenty Years/Twenty Stories”

At Arts on Grand

January 5–February 13

Opening reception

Saturday, January 9

2:00–4:00 p.m.

Thoreson describes himself as “a committed photographer/writer/speaker who wants to make a difference in the environmental awareness of the public.”

Sponsored by

Marvin Burk Photography

and

Blue Water Studios

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.–5:00 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

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David Thoreson Photos at Arts on Grand

Arts on Grand is excited to start out the year 2010 with the exhibit “Twenty Years, Twenty Stories” featuring the photographs of David Thoreson of Okoboji, Iowa.

Since 1984, Thoreson has traveled nationally and internationally. He has photographed both polar regions, numerous places in the National Park System, and scenes along the Northwest Passage. In 2008, his documentary *Arctic Journey in a Changing World* premiered on PBS.

This exhibit uses fine-art photography together with the written word to depict exploration and the evolution of life. It encourages the viewer to stop and think about the world. By themselves the stories and images are only fragments of time and travel. Woven together they present a storyline of the human condition, wild and remote places, and the finite environment in which we all live.

The exhibit will be open for public viewing when Arts on Grand reopens after the New Year holiday on Tuesday, January 5, and will continue until February 13. The opening reception will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 9.

These days David is of the water and the world, as he is traveling on Ocean Watch, a ship that is sailing around South America with the project “Around the Americas.” Anyone interested in finding out where David is these days can check out www.aroundtheamericas.org.

Director's Corner

A lot has happened in the past year! We began the year by meeting with focus groups made up of educators, cultural organizations, business people, service clubs, and civic organizations to find out how we can better serve the community.

In the past year, we partnered with Spencer's schools to provide programming that they would not otherwise have been able to offer, sharing Chad Elliott, Opera Iowa, Mary Swander, and Monica Leo with them, thanks to grants from the Hazel Hoepfner Trust. Renaissance Initiative Grants have enabled us to spruce up our Gallery Shop and get a color printer/copier, both of which enhance our image as an area arts center and, in the process, help our area artists sell their work. A grant from Humanities Iowa allowed us to host Iowa's poet laureate and the Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre during our first Festival of the Written Word in November.

Probably the most visible change has been the remodeling of our façade, made possible by Spencer's Storefront Initiative. We wanted to restore the building to its original appearance as nearly as possible while using modern materials to improve energy efficiency. In the process, we gained more space in our foyer than anyone could have imagined, including much-needed storage space!

On a sobering note, I had an opportunity to speak recently with Senator David Johnson, who told me that funding for the Department of Cultural Affairs (on which we rely for support of our day-to-day operations) will be cut drastically in the next fiscal year. To help make up for anticipated funding cuts, we will need to raise more money locally. I hope that you will keep us in mind as you plan your year-end giving.

— Martin Arthur