

Shawano County Arts Council Inc.
N5649 Airport Road
PO Box 213
Shawano, WI 54166-0213

Non-profit
US Postage
PAID
Permit No.
108
Shawano WI

For all address corrections
or additions or further information
call 715-526-2525
www.shawanoarts.com

Shawano County Arts Council
Newsletter March, 2006.
Published quarterly. PO Box 213
Shawano, WI 54166 Issue # 16



Support the arts in our community...

Mielke Money Gift Certificates

We have the perfect solution for a gift certificate for Christmas, anniversary, birthday, or any other special day. If you wish to give a gift certificate, please call:

715-526-2525

and leave your name, spelling of last name and phone number, including area code, and state what you wish, and someone will call you to explain. We will sell Mielke Money, in ones fives tens and twenties and you can give them as certificate. If you send \$20.00 and someone only uses \$9.00 or \$18.00, etc, they will receive the remainder in Mielke money change, which can be used toward any other event sponsored by the Shawano County Arts Council.

Become a member of The Shawano County Arts Council. Your membership helps support the arts in the greater Shawano area. You will be kept up to date on all our events and have a vote at the annual meeting.

Membership Form

- ☐ Single \$20
- ☐ Family \$25 ☐ Student \$10
- ☐ Business \$50 ☐ Senior \$15 (62 and over)
- ☐ I would like to donate ☐ Art Organization \$20
- \$ _____
- ☐ I do not wish to have my name printed

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE AND E-MAIL (Optional) _____

COMMENTS _____

Shawano County Arts Council

News Letter

Promoting the arts in the greater Shawano area • March 2006 • www.shawanoarts.com

Mambo in 1110

The Box in the Wood Theatre Guild will present the Spring Play:

Mambo in 1110 on March 31, April 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, and 9 at the Mielke Arts Center, Airport Road, in Shawano. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday.

The story takes place at a convention center that is hosting its annual Latin Ballroom Dance Festival. A room that is being used as a secret meeting place for the assistant concierge and a young French maid is let accidentally to a dentist who has unwillingly agreed to fill in for an injured dancer.

Great confusion ensues when the dentist ends up with the French maid and his *supposed* original partner (whom he has never met) ends up with the concierge and both pairs end up competing in the festival. Add the two mysterious men in black who are searching for something mysterious in the dentist's mysteriously missing luggage and you have a little *Mambo in 1110*.

Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$5 for students ages 18 and under. Advance tickets are available at the Shawano Chamber of Commerce and Clintonville Chamber of Commerce. For reservations, call 526-2525. Reserved tickets must be picked up 15 minutes prior to showtime or management reserves the right to fill all remaining seats.

The Mielke Arts Center is located by the Mielke Park on Airport Road in Shawano. The play is a Box in the Wood Theatre Guild Production sponsored by the Shawano County Arts Council.

MIELKE THEATRE 2006 SCHEDULE

- April 30
(Sun. afternoon OR evening)
4H Musical Concert
- May 12 (Fri.)
Wolf River Home School kids
present "Connecticut Yankee"
- July 13-16 and 20-23
Summer Musical "GREASE"
- July 30
Sunday, Arts and Crafts Fair

- August 11-13, Shawano Folk Music Festival
- October 19-22 and 26-29
Fall play "STEEL MAGNOLIAS"

(a Christmas show is tentatively set for the 1st week in Dec. 2006, update later)



Joanne Cowen a dedicated volunteer of the Box in the Wood Theater Guild died last week after a long struggle with cancer. She will be missed and remembered fondly by all who knew her.

Shawano Folk Music Festival

Planning is well underway for the 28th Annual Shawano Folk Music Festival, August 11, 12 & 13. We're busy booking some of the best performers around, lining up crafters and trying to decide on which workshops to fill the tents with. Should a session on Rope Tricks be at two o'clock or three o'clock? Should we put Traditional Ballads in a big tent or a small one? What about Guitar Styles, Beginning Yodeling, French Love Songs, Dance Lessons or Old Time Favorites? Our performers for the 2006 Festival give us lots to choose from.

Randy Sabien and Dean Magraw will be headlining the Saturday night concert. Randy was last here in 1995, and his fiddle music filled the theater. As his website says, "When Randy Sabien (suh bean) picks up his violin, get ready. His rhythmic, bluesy, swingin, sound will have you bobbing your head, tapping your toes and dancing right out of your chair." Any of you who've been lucky enough to see Randy in concert know what they mean. This time, he's performing with guitarist Dean Magraw. Drawing from traditional folk, Celtic and Jazz traditions, he draws sounds out of his guitar that nobody knew were there, and makes it look effortless. Separately, Randy and Dean are musicians and performers of extraordinary ability. Together, they'll be unforgettable.

Small Potatoes (Jacquie Manning and Rich Presioso) made their first brief appearance at the Festival a few years ago. Although they call themselves a well kept secret, we haven't for-

gotten them and they'll be back in 2006. This duo from Illinois will find their way into your heart with their warm wit, harmonies, yodels and original and traditional songs.

Mark Dvorak has become a familiar and welcome face at the Festival. With his banjo and songs he'll get you singing along with his music. Whether it's a contemporary ballad or a traditional old-timey toe tapper, he'll make you smile. Mark has been at the Festival as a solo performer, and as part of Weavermania. He is surely one of the best examples of the folk tradition.

Anyone who's old enough to remember Gene Autrey, Roy Rogers and the other great cowboy singers will want to come to see KG and the Ranger. They sing, they yodel, they do rope tricks, and much more. We're happy to welcome them back to the Festival after a long absence.

Bill Jorgenson will be returning to the Festival once more. In case there's still anyone around who doesn't know Bill, he's considered the Father of Wisconsin Bluegrass Music. He's held a special place in our hearts for quite a few years, and we're happy to welcome him back again. He's celebrating his 75th birthday this year, so come join us in helping him celebrate.

Just added is Tom Pease a Festival favorite with his great children program; the Whistlepigs a string band with a bit of a tongue-in-cheek attitude; Robin Pluer's French café songs; Kitty Donohoe's thoughtful music.

This year, the Shawano Folk Music Festival is honoring our children and the traditions we pass on to their care. On Sunday

August 13, 2006, we're focusing on programs that will get children singing and dancing with their parents and grandparents, and children under 12 will get in free to join us in songs, dances, yodels, rope tricks, and crafts.

We'll also have the annual Quilt Raffle, a chance to go home with one of two beautiful handmade quilts, a gift from one of the crafters or a CD of your favorite music. Kazuko Rand will offer a demonstration of Ikebana, Japanese flower arranging. Join the Shawano Folk Music Festival August 11, 12 & 13 for music and dance in Mielke Park and Theater.

See you in August at the Shawano Folk Music Festival.

Dori Jerger,
2006 Festival Director

Laura Fuentes and Pedro Villagra Concert

Laura Fuentes and Pedro Villagra will perform in concert on Saturday, April 8 at 7pm. Coming from Santiago, Chile in a rare North American tour, they'll present the music of South and Central America. Laura Fuentes last performed in Shawano as the lead singer for the group Sotavento. Pedro Villagra, a former member of the internationally acclaimed group Inti-Illimani, is a passionate virtuoso on the quena, quenacho, sikus, flute, mandolin and saxophone. The free concert, sponsored by Menominee College's Institute for Sustainable Development and the Shawano Folk Music Festival, will be at the Commons of the Menominee College, just a few miles north of Shawano. Watch your newspaper for more information about this exciting event.

LOOKING BACK AT THE SCAC

By Ann Van Grinsven

Upstairs in the Mielke theatre, when searching for something else, I found a grocery bag filled with newspaper articles, photos, and more, from 1976, to 87, all thrown together in a jumble. Well, in a weak moment, I volunteered to sort through the mess and organize it. It took some months of procrastination, but I finally had articles sorted by year, then by subject. There were also some similar articles that I simply discarded. Anyway, as you can imagine, I had to read most of the articles in order to sort them. I found out some early facts regarding the formation of the Shawano County Arts Council of which I was not aware.

A typewritten document (author unknown) dated June 8, 1976, states: "The Shawano-Menominee Arts Council evolved through conferences in the Shawano Ministerial Association early in 1967. It was felt that a need existed for an organization to correlate all fine arts activities in the community; this organization to be composed of citizens representing all area civic, educational, and religious groups. The Shawano-Menominee Arts Foundation and Council decided to incorporate under the name Shawano-Menominee Arts Council with regular meetings to be held on the second Thursday of every month. The actual incorporation occurred on May 23, 1967. Later, in 1974, the name was changed to the Shawano County Arts Council."

I didn't realize that one of the first goals of the Council at that time was to bring good, classical movie films to the residents that

no longer were shown on the regular movie circuit. A film festival was held in the spring of 1967 and continued in 1968 and 1969. These films were shown at the Crescent Theatre. The Council also sponsored bus trips for elementary school children to Green Bay and Clintonville to hear performances by the Green Bay Youth Symphony and the Wisconsin Youth Symphony.

Keep in mind, that there was no Mielke Theatre at this time. Construction of the theatre took place in 1975 and 1976. Therefore, any musical performances were held at area churches, schools, and even restaurants. Poetry and drama workshops were held at the high school. Dramatic productions from Green Bay's Chancel Players (1969), Marinette Players (1972) and the Milwaukee Repertory

The first Art Fair sponsored by the SCAC was in 1969, held in Ridlington Woods, which was located between the Olga Brener Elementary School and Shawano High School. This year will be the 38th year for the Art Fair, located now in the beautiful wooded park surrounding the Mielke Arts Center. The Old Time Music and Crafts Fair began in 1979. Our outdoor marquee sign was installed in 1986.

In September of 1971 a public meeting was held at Zion Lutheran Church to explore the possibility of a drama program in Shawano. Early promoters were Mr. & Mrs. William Stanton, Carol Dahl, and Paul Wollangk. In March of 1972, Carol Dahl, Henry Ross and Galen Winter spoke on Channel 38 (PBS) regarding the feasibility of a theatre in Shawano. Public reaction was positive, and enthusiasm

grew for the project. Prior to this, Dr. Edward F. Mielke had donated 24 acres of land near Shawano Lake to Shawano County for the establishment of Mielke Park. The Mielke Foundation, the City of Shawano, and Shawano County donated \$100,000 toward the construction of the theatre. The Mielke Theatre was dedicated on February 8, 1976.

Shawano County Arts Council

Linda Blohowiak
President
920-822-5042

Robert Hieronimczak
Vice President
920-899-4761

Joyous Bowen
Treasurer
715-526-6088

Dori Jerger
Secretary
715-276-6942

Dennis Brei
715-524-4954

Norman Cook
715-799-3688

Cheryl Folkerts
715-745-6222

Anita Hartman
715-524-4736

Tom Suttner
715-526-6502

Gary Kopitske
715-855-5821

Marion Nemetz
Mielke Foundation Representative
715-526-3763

Fred Ponschok
City of Shawano Representative
715-526-3564

Mike Schuler
Town of Wescott

Tyler Schmidt.
Shawano County Representative
715-526-2496