

# The Arts



The Fulton County Arts Council is funded in part by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

We invite you to join us in ringing in the New Year with your continued support. 2006 was a year of change with dwindling participation in shows and the loss of key officers and board members. Nevertheless, we are happy to report that we are alive and well and moving forward. Several new members have stepped forward to fill key positions, and we making efforts to get the organization fully back on its feet. Plans are in place to host a full year of shows in our gallery and we are exploring new ideas to further extend our outreach to people of Fulton County.

In addition to program planning, you will see by this newsletter that we are updating our look and are committed to getting the newsletter back on schedule on a quarterly basis. We are also redesigning and expanding the website to include much more informa-

tion about the organization, gallery, events, membership information, news, links to other arts related organizations, and contact information for our officers. The site will also include downloadable entry forms for shows and membership. Members are encouraged to submit information to be placed in the newsletter or on the website.

As of the Annual Meeting held in November we again have a full suite of officers for 2007. We thank those people for their willingness to serve. We also have 5 active board members bringing the total number of board members including officers to 9. The by-laws allow for 15 members and we would welcome the filling of those empty seats. Anyone interested in serving as a board member should contact one of the officers. In an effort to increase board member participation meetings will now be held



Kelvin Sampson, new president of the Fulton County Arts Council.

bi-monthly beginning in January. As always, members are encouraged to attend and participate in all meetings of the Fulton County Arts Council.

We look forward to the year ahead. We hope you will continue to support The Arts in Fulton County by renewing your membership and participating in this year's events.

*Kelvin Sampson*

### Board Meeting Schedule

- January 9, 2007
- March 13, 2007
- May 8, 2007
- July 10, 2007
- September 11, 2007
- November 13, 2007

*The Fulton County Arts Council meets at 6:30 p.m. at Graham Hospital. Members are welcomed and encouraged to attend.*

### Officers for 2007

- President - Kelvin Sampson
- Vice President - Stephan Love
- Secretary - Paula Helle
- Treasurer - Steve Endsley

### Board Members

- Dennis Crawford
- Marnie Eskridge
- Sharron Harkless
- Cynthia Richter
- Bill Whitehouse (Gallery Coordinator)
- Max Latimer (Advisor)

## A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

On December 15, 2006, The Spoon River Rascals presented A Charlie Brown Christmas in association with the annual Ellisville Christmas Walk at the Ellisville Opera House. Directed by

Paula Helle of Ellisville, Fulton County Arts Council Secretary and Board Member, the Rascals delivered two excellent performances to a packed house. Performances by the Rascals are

becoming a must see event! The Spoon River Rascals are a talented bunch of local children ages 4 through 15 who prove that good things come from small towns! This summer the "older ras-

cals" will be presenting a full length production and the "younger rascals" will be back for their 5<sup>th</sup> annual performance during the Spoon River Scenic Drive at the Ellisville Opera House.

## GALLERY NEWS

In October of 2006, the Fulton County Arts Council hosted an exhibit titled "The Closeline Project" sponsored by the Fulton / Mason County Crisis Center. The exhibit consisted of a group of decorated t-shirts addressing the issue of violence against women.

The Annual Membership Show was installed on November 14, 2006 and will run through January 9, 2007. Participation was small this year with only 10 entries produced by 5 members. The winners will be announced in the next newsletter.

Currently on exhibit in the gallery curio cabinets are the woodcarvings of Bill Whitehouse, of Canton. Bill has had a long time interest in woodworking which led to an interest in carving birds and decoys. Bill also serves as the gallery manager for the Fulton County Arts Council.

As always, the Fulton County Arts Council entertains suggestions for shows by individual artists. Anyone interested in providing a show for the gallery or curio cabinets should contact the Fulton County Arts Council.

### Upcoming Shows

**Digital Art Show** . . . Check in: March 13, 2007, 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. at Graham Hospital Atrium.

Entries may include anything digitally created or manipulated by camera or computer. Entries must be no smaller than 8x10inches and no larger than 36 inches image size in length or width. All entries must be framed and have sturdy wire type hanger on the back with screw eyes at least 3/16 inch.

**Annual Theme Art Show "Bygone Days"** . . . Check in: May 8, 2007, 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. at Graham Hospital Atrium.



Duck Decoy carved by Bill Whitehouse, presently entered in the Membership Show.

Entries must adhere to the theme of "Bygone Days". This show is open to most mediums except photography. All entries must be framed and have a sturdy wire type hanger on the back with screw eyes at least 3/16 inch. Three dimensional objects must be small enough to be displayed in the gallery curio cases.

## SPOON RIVER COLLEGE THEATRE PRODUCTION

The Spoon River College Drama Department has announced that the 2006-2007 play will be John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men."

The play was written in the 1930s and is set during the Depression. It is a touching tale of dreams and relationships between

a pair of nomadic drifters, George and Lennie, who move from town to town, stopping wherever they can find work.



George loyally stays with Lennie who inevitably gets into trouble causing them to move on looking for another job. Nothing is permanent in their lives except each other and the dream they share of a home and a piece of land.

Without a dream and someone to share it with, life can be a long, lonely trip to nowhere. George and Lennie have each other,

and they have their dream.

SRC Drama Instructor Bob Gorg is the director of the production, with the help of Cassie Valentin as student director. Communications instructor Rochelle Liebman will serve as producer. Performances will take place Friday and Saturday, March 2, 3, 9, and 10, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Spoon River College Drama Theatre of Taylor Hall on the Canton Campus

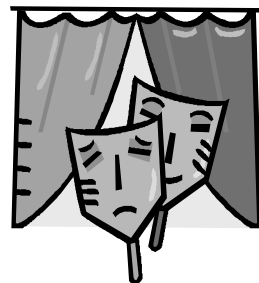
Contact Spoon River College at 309-647-4645 for more information.

## CANTON HIGH SCHOOL SPRING MUSICAL

The Canton High School will present the musical "Bye Bye Birdie," written by Michael Stewart, Charles Strouse (who wrote "Annie"), and Lee Adams. Performance dates are set for March 29, 30, and 31 at 7:30 p.m.

This musical is about an Elvis Presley-inspired rock star, Conrad Birdie, who is drafted into the army. His songwriter, Albert Peterson, is worried about his future if Birdie leaves. Peterson's secretary, Rosie, with whom Albert has long

been romantically attached, convinces Albert to write a farewell song for Birdie that he will sing on The Ed Sullivan Show to a specially selected fan. The lucky fan turns out to be Kim McAfee of Sweet Apple, Ohio. When Birdie arrives in this hick town, Albert deals with crazed fans, Kim's manic father, and his own domineering mother,



while he almost loses Rosie to the Shriners.

The Canton High School production will be directed by Lorie Rude and Elaine Worrell, with music direction by Matt Brown, and orchestra direction by Tammy Hamilton.

Contact Canton High School at 309-647-1820 for more information.

## FRONT OF THE CLASS WITH JUNE RUSSELL

June Russell is a teacher at Fulton County Community Unit District Schools #3 (Cuba) and a Member of the Two Rivers Arts Council and Fulton County Arts Council. She has been with the Two Rivers Arts Council serving thirteen downstate counties for fifteen years, and teaching for seventeen and running. In addition, Russell is an Illinois Artisan program member with a background in black & white documentary photography. In 2004, she became a National Board Certified Teacher in Early and Middle Childhood Literacy. When the Illinois Arts Council Strategic Plan Task Force held their Information Gathering Session this in April 2006, at the Western Illinois Museum in Macomb, Russell took to the podium and shared her views. In vivid detail, she confirmed firsthand both the great joys and the tremendous challenges in teaching arts education in the more rural communities of Illinois. Below we've taken four quotes from her comments and asked her to elaborate:

**"The arts are a way to view the world"** – Involvement in visual arts help children develop an eye for shape, form, and color. They can see the world differently, through an artistic camera of a sort. Children who are exposed to creative dramatics learn that it is okay to be imaginative and playful. They are not afraid to speak up and out to others. Art encourages children to reach their potential.

**"As a teacher, if you want to teach artistically, you are defying the odds and you are doing so out of your own pocket"** –The current Illinois school funding creates a tiered educational

system with "haves" and "have-nots. "Along with textbooks, my district was able to provide \$ 150 to buy materials for each classroom. This is to teach all subjects, every day, for an entire school year. It amounts to an average of less than four cents per child each day to be engaged in authentic, hands-on lessons. Obviously, this can't be done. So teachers raise funds creatively, or use hundreds (if not thousands) of dollars from their paychecks each year to provide the basics. With high stakes testing influencing our curriculum and no formal art teacher at the elementary level here, I would guess that the majority of art supplies such as clay or paint are donations from arts-friendly educators.

**"When we do an artist residency, people are really aware that these are their tax dollars at work."** – Raising awareness is very important for the future funding of the arts. When we host art programs, I am very careful to credit our local arts council and the Illinois Arts Council, explaining to the audience and participants, "This is an example of how the Illinois Arts Council helps to bring tax dollars back into your community!" I see smiles and nods of approval. Parents feel pride that they have helped offer a rare and special arts opportunity for their community. The children value the experience more than if they simply viewed it as 'free'. Creating future patrons of the arts is important. They real-

ize they are getting a great value for their arts dollars.

**"Priority for the Illinois Arts Council is reaching the most rural and the most low income people and having them have arts experiences."**—These people lack a voice and presence in the art community of Illinois. Rural poverty is different from urban poverty in that it is more expensive and difficult to deliver services to. Where are we going to get corporate sponsors for events when there are just two gas stations and a grocery store in town? The Two Rivers Arts Council has sponsored innumerable summer art activities for children, but here is one example of our hurdle: Five children from remote farms and villages were invited to a live theater event at the gorgeous Orpheum Theater in Galesburg (45 miles each way). Yet we also drove an additional 180 miles to pick these five children up and return them to their doors. Was it worth it? Sure. These five children will always have that one, possibly lifetime, opportunity.

The Illinois Arts Council and thanks June Russell and all the teachers, administrators, and others throughout the state who work hard to keep arts alive in their schools.

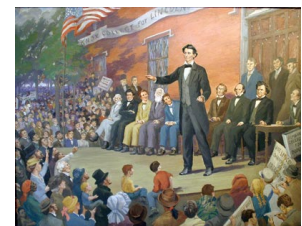
*This article was reprinted from Heartland, the Illinois Arts Council newsletter, Volume 11, Number 3, Fall 2006.*



## BROCHURE DETAILS WORKS OF PUBLIC ART

The Galesburg Civic Art Center has a new brochure detailing a century of public art in Knox County beginning with the Mother Bickerdyke Memorial, dedicated May 22, 1906. The brochure highlights 22 public works of art throughout the county and was made possible through grants from the Community Foundation of Central Illinois and the Illinois Arts Council.

The brochures are available at a variety of locations including the Galesburg Civic Art Center, The Carl Sandburg Historic Site, The Galesburg Public Library, and The Convention and Visitors Bureau. For more information contact the Galesburg Civic Art Center at 309-342-7415 or visit <http://www.galesburgarts.org/publicart/>.



Painting by Ralph Fletcher Seymour, 1937, located in Old Main, Knox College, Galesburg.

## LOCAL ARTS NEWS . . . . .

### IN PLAIN SIGHT

ArtsPartners of Central Illinois, Inc. is proud to announce its new Public Art Catalog, *In Plain Sight: A Guide to Finding and Experiencing Peoria's Public Art*. Authored by Dr. Peter Couri, local historian, and designed by Converse Marketing, the 30-page publication documents 170 public art pieces with photos, maps, and historic tidbits regarding some of Peoria's most noted pieces of public art.

This free booklet may be picked up at Lakeview Museum, the Illinois Antique Center, the Riverfront Visitors Center, Peoria City Hall, the Peoria Park District Pavilion, the Contemporary Art Center, Illinois Central College, The Shoppes at Grand Prairie, the Economic Development Council, and ArtsPartners. The guide can also be viewed at <http://www.artspartners.com>.

### "CLASSIC IMAGES: PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANSEL ADAMS"

Exhibits of Ansel Adams' work abound but none are quite like those now on exhibit through March 4, 2007, at Lakeview Museum in Peoria. That's because these images in the exhibit were personally selected by the artist himself who believed that these, roughly 70

images - which span from 1921 to 1968, best summed up his legacy and importance.

The "Classic Images" now on exhibit at Lakeview comes from Adams' daughter Anne Adams Helms whose husband, Ken, graduated from Woodruff High School in Peoria in 1954.

For more information contact Lakeview Museum at 309-686-7000 or go to <http://www.lakeview-museum.org/Upcoming/adams.html>.

### Spring Bloom Arts Festival

This indoor fine art festival to be held at the Bloomington, Illinois Sale Barn on Saturday, March 17, 2007, is presented by the McLean County Arts Center, one of the oldest community arts organizations in the Midwest and the organizers of the Sugar Creek Arts Festival. This juried show of fine art and fine craft, with exhibitors from across the nation, draws an estimated attendance of 2,000 each year.

For more information call 309-829-0011 or visit <http://www.mcac.org/Documents/SpringBloomApplication2007.pdf> for details and festival application form. Applications are due January 26, 2007.



Image from the Ansel Adams show, presently at Lakeview Museum in Peoria.

### Eureka Lilac Festival and Fine Arts Fair

The Eureka Lilac Festival and Fine Arts Fair to be held on April 20 and 21, 2007. The juried art fair is located on the grounds of the Eureka College campus which features a wide variety of historical buildings with beautiful spring flowers and trees as a backdrop. Entry applications are due by February 28. Call 309-467-2113 for additional information or visit <http://EurekaLilacs.com> for detailed information and application.

### Town and Country Arts Show

The annual Town and Country Arts Show sponsored by the Canton Park District will be held March 9 - 11, 2007, at the Donaldson Center in Wallace Park, 250 South Avenue D, Canton

