



arts council of white lake

- NUVEEN COMMUNITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS
- WHITE RIVER GALLERY
- MUSIC & PERFORMING ART

DECEMBER, 2011  
VOLUME 26, ISSUE NO. 4

[www.artscouncilofwhitelake.org](http://www.artscouncilofwhitelake.org)

## WHITE LAKE CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR RETURNS by Sondra Cross

The 2011 White Lake Christmas Home Tour will take place on Sunday, December 4, 2011 from 1-5 p.m. The initial Christmas Home Tour in 2009 was a huge success showcasing homes lavishly decorated for the holidays.

One ticket provided entry to all six homes. This year's tour is a benefit for Music & Performing Arts branch of the Arts Council of White Lake. Tickets go on sale November 15 for \$10 and will be available at Hokey Pokey, the ACWL office, the Book Nook and Java Shop, and at each home on the day of the tour.

Many volunteers are needed to help with this event with opportunities to work a two-hour shift as a host or hostess. Small vocal and instrumental ensembles are also needed to perform in the homes. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Sondra Cross at 231-329-3056.



## 2011 Cathy Seggie and Dee Dee Josephson Award Winners



During the Annual Fall Membership Dinner, the Cathy Seggie Award for volunteer of the year was given to Phil VanderPol, pictured at the top. White River Gallery awarded the Dee Dee Josephson award to Tim Ryan, pictured with gallery artist, Sheila Passenier. Thank you to all the volunteers who keep the arts alive every year in our White Lake area community!

## Notes from the Chair

by Dave Cotter

I just heard a long-range winter forecast and there was talk of below average temperatures and above average snow (over 100 inches.) Those of you who head to Florida and Arizona for the winter might be on to something.

For those of us who stay, we might want to look for activities to take our minds off the cold weather. I suggest taking part in a class at the Nuveen (I'm currently learning how to play the Ukulele), visiting White River Gallery or attending one of the music performances scheduled in the next several months. Winter is our "slow" time but there are still wonderful things happening.

As an organization we continue to make progress. The Music and Performing Arts branch is growing and maturing. The advent of its own Board will be a great boost. The ACWL building has been painted, the office is being redecorated (Gallery Art included) and new software has been installed that will help us keep better track of things. The current Nuveen exhibit is art produced by local artists featured in the Grand Rapids Art Prize competition.

There are openings on the ACWL Board for two people who would like to help guide this organization in its support of the arts. If you are interested, please give Kim a call at the office at 231-893-2524.

Enjoy the winter.



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## Music & Performing Arts

by Sondra Cross

Growth has been both exciting and rewarding for this ACWL branch in the few short years of its existence!

A Junior Strings program was created and established and has been expanded to include not only a White Lake campus, but a Hart campus. Two very successful White Lake Chamber Music Festivals brought high level performers to the area plus a nation-wide college age solo competition. Community Park Band performances have brought together local musicians, and there have been many other outstanding musical events from this growing branch. We are privileged and proud to be part of such a wonderful community.

Because of this growth, the M & PA branch is establishing an official board that will help to organize and oversee activities. Our new Board members are: Bob Swan, Janet Thomas, Judy Stojak, Howard Meade, Karen Burek, Harold Wheaton, Barb Wheaton, Susan Peoples, and Bryan Uecker. The Board's mission is to promote the advancement, awareness, and appreciation of the performing arts, thus enhancing the vitality and enriching the cultural life of the White Lake area. We look forward to what the future holds for this branch!

The Oat Bran Boys will be warming our spirits in a mid-winter concert on Friday, January 13, 2012 at the Howmet Playhouse. This 8 p.m. show will benefit the Junior Strings Program, with proceeds providing scholarships.

A three-part lecture series will be presented by Foley Schuler from Blue Lake Public Radio 90.3 classical music station on the last Tuesday of January, February, and March. Foley's warm, highly interesting and intellectual, plus witty style will be sure to capture and intrigue those new to the classical music genre as well as those with a high degree of familiarity. In the comfortable setting of the Nuveen Center in downtown Montague, wine and cheese will be served for a suggested donation of \$5. Dates for this series are January 31, February 28, and March 27.

## HarborLight Movie Night Continues

by Dave Pickard

HarborLight Movie Night Series is co-sponsored by the Arts Council, HarborLight Credit Union and the White Lake Community Library. On the first Thursday of each month, September through May, a classic feature movie is shown at the Howmet Theater in Whitehall.

Movies are presented free of charge with expenses covered by a generous donation from the HarborLight Credit Union. Free-will donations are accepted at the door and, in the past, have been divided among the sponsors.

At the beginning of the 2011 season on September 1, Series sponsors made an exciting change. Donations now go to a "Charity of the Month". In return for providing volunteers to staff the hosting and clean up duties, the pre-chosen Charity receives all of the door donations for that night. There is still an opportunity for a charity for February. If your charity is interested in hosting the February movie night, please contact the ACWL office at 231-893-2524.

Upcoming 2012 films and Charities of the Month are:

- Jan. 5 Murder on the Orient Express - We Can Do This (Meinhardi Building restoration)
- Feb. 2 My Big Fat Greek Wedding - Open
- Mar. 1 Jesus Christ Superstar - Habitat for Humanity
- Apr. 5 Back to the Future - Love, Inc.
- May 3 The Odd Couple - White Lake Community Library

Come join us at 6:45 for cartoons and the feature film starting at 7:00. It's just like your early days in the "old home town."

The Council is supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts



*michigan council for  
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## Gallery Corner

by Nancy Reagh Johnson

White River Gallery will join other community merchants for the White Lake Holiday Walk on Friday, November 18 and Saturday, November 19, with a Holiday Bazaar. Come into the gallery to purchase unique art and holiday items for gift giving. Holiday Bazaar hours will be Friday from 10:30 am to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Award-winning weaver Marilyn Ryan is the featured Gallery artist for November. Ryan's show, Handwoven Elements of Black and White, which includes shawls, wraps and coats of black and white accented with splashes of color, will be featured at WRG throughout the month of November.

Nancy Reagh Johnson, also a fiber artist, will be WRG Featured Artist during December. Among the works Johnson will be exhibiting are contemporary wall hangings, table runners and character dolls.

WRG will be closed during January and February 2012. On March 1 the Gallery reopens with WRG's annual juried exhibition, Change of Seasons. This show draws entrants from around the region and beyond. Visit the White River Gallery page of the ACWL website for further details.

The members of White River Gallery wish Happy Holidays to all and remind you to visit the Gallery for an outstanding array of unique, locally made gift choices this Holiday season.

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## Membership News

by Nan & Ron Bruskotter

We would like to give a big THANK YOU to Alice Gambel, Joanne Pitney, Nancy Dunwell, Mary Krueger, and June Schmelzer for helping to turn the Nuveen Center into a cozy Italian Bistro for our fall membership dinner on September 20. Congratulations to the 2011 Seggie Award winner, Phil VanderPol and Josephson Award winner, Tim Ryan.

We especially want to give recognition to each of you listed on this year's membership roster. Your support of the ACWL is very much appreciated. We hope you will continue to support the arts by renewing your membership for 2012.

You will be receiving a renewal form in the mail along with the news that we are now able to individualize your membership year based on when you renew. A form is available in this newsletter if you want to use it or if you would like to share with a friend who is not a member.

Help us spread the word about all that is happening with the ACWL by sharing this newsletter and encourage others to become members. Benefits of membership are quarterly newsletters, ten percent discount on White River Gallery purchases, and Nuveen Center art classes, and invitations to all ACWL events.

## Find us on FACEBOOK!

The Nuveen Center, White River Gallery, and Arts Council of White Lake are all on Facebook! "Like" us for instant updates about grants, events, and community happenings.

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### 2012 ACWL Membership Form

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ACWL accepts credit cards for membership dues & donations. Call the ACWL office for details. →

## Notes from the Nuveen by Erin Charles

Stepping into the Nuveen Center from December 1-January 14 will be like stepping into the great outdoors. Our annual fundraising exhibit for local school art programs "Fall Into the Arts" has a unique twist this year, with each school creating artwork on a different theme, from birds and reptiles, to water, sun, and trees. When arranged throughout the room, the artwork will form a huge diorama of a typical Michigan ecosystem. Visitors to this fantastic display will have the opportunity to donate directly to the art program at any of the 14 local schools represented in the exhibit.

Those of you who attended a production at the Howmet Playhouse during the 2011 Summer Fine Arts Festival had the opportunity to make your mark on one of three blank canvasses set up each weekend. Sponsored by the Arts Council of White Lake, this community art project resulted in 27 collaboratively created paintings that will be on display at the Nuveen Center from January 19-February 25.

And finally, on March 1, the "Change of Seasons" art competition returns to fill the Nuveen Center with the best artwork that local youth have to offer. The show is open to any student grades K-12. Entry guidelines will be posted on our website in January.

Looking for a gift that will bring joy beyond the short frenzy of torn wrapping paper and bows on Christmas morning? How about a gift certificate to a Nuveen Center art class? We can customize your gift certificate for any dollar amount, and it never expires, allowing the recipient to choose the time frame and subject matter that interests them most!

## Save more by giving before December 31

by Susan Newhof

Donating to the Arts Council's Endowment Fund *this month* makes more sense than ever, because the State of Michigan tax credit program, which returns a significant portion of your donation, will end on December 31, 2011.

Tax *deductions* are great, because you get to subtract the amount of your donation from your taxable federal income. But tax *credits* are even better because a portion of your donation is subtracted from any state tax you owe.

And what does your donation to the Endowment Fund do? It builds long-term stability for the Arts Council and a source of income in the future that will help support the arts in White Lake regardless of fluctuations in the stock market and the availability of grants for the arts.

Since its creation about half a dozen years ago, the Endowment Fund has grown to \$33,845.74. The council may distribute - which means it can spend - up to four percent of that balance annually, but instead, the board has chosen to leave that money in the fund where it continues to earn interest, helping the fund continue to grow. Year after year after year.

Thinking of making a contribution to the Endowment Fund soon? Do it before December 31 and it may cost you as little as half the actual amount you give to the Council! If you have questions, talk taxes with someone knowledgeable or call the Arts Council office.

Thank you for your support! Happy Holidays!

Judy Stojak  
Financial Advisor  
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## ACWL Welcomes New Coordinator



The Arts Council of White Lake is sprucing up its office at 8695 Ferry Street in Montague with new paint, a polished floor, art displays, and most importantly, a new ACWL Coordinator. Kim Harsch of Whitehall is the new face greeting you at the door, replacing Judy Wisniewski-Cavalier who left earlier this summer.

Kim Harsch will be coordinating the efforts of the ACWL, Nuveen Community Center for the Arts, White River Gallery and Music & Performing Arts. Her responsibilities include office management, event coordinating, community relations, and grant writing. If you frequent the theater, you may have seen Kim on stage at the Howmet Playhouse or the Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts. She has worked as a stage and screen actress for nearly a decade. She is trained in the teachings of Uta Hagen and Howard Fine, studying under Mr. Fine's protégé, Kurt Dreyer. She prides herself in her performance diversity and professionalism. Before arriving

at the ACWL, she worked as an actress and as a marketer for US Medical Management.

Married to Eric Harsch for thirteen years, they have two children age twelve and seven. Her children, Sky and Jacy, have both enjoyed classes through the Nuveen and the Music & Performing Arts branch. She is excited to be working with the Arts Council because of the "breadth of artistic opportunity the organization brings to our community." She strongly believes the "organization is vital to a vibrant White Lake Community", and she responds, "I cannot be happier to be a part of it".

Please stop by the ACWL office, check out the new look, and welcome Kim to her new position.

### QUILTING -----AN AMERICAN FOLK ART

by Mitzi Luttrull and Mary Krueger

While not considered true "fine art", throughout history people have enjoyed quilts for many different reasons. In this series of articles we hope to help you develop a new appreciation for an age-old craft.

Quilts can provide clues to the past; provide warmth, beauty and value. American quilts communicate a bond between African American and European women and traditions, as well as a role within society, that often goes overlooked and unappreciated. Quilting in America became popular in the Nineteenth Century and that was when distinctly American and appliqué designs were created. These quilts were produced for utility and pleasure and are the inspiration for today's quilters. They are also an important part of American Folk Art. Both African and European Americans were quilting in order to provide warm blankets for their families, to record family history, to represent personal and religious beliefs, and to spend time together. *Excerpted from "Quilters Complete Guide"*



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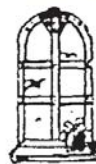
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Ryan, Tim & Marilyn  
Sawyer, Chip & Sue  
Scarborough, Bill & Kate

Schaafsma, Miriam  
Scharmer, Roger  
Schlaff, Ray & Claire  
Schmelzer, Leon & June  
Schroeder, Richard & Maria  
Seaver, Jack & Robin  
Singelyn, Robert & Mildred  
Sipka, Dave & Wendy  
Sommer, Karen & Scott  
Stinebower, Kelley & Linda  
Stubbs, Edith Bliss  
Suits, Bob & Lee  
Tanis, Jim & Martha  
Todd, Grace  
Vander Pol, Phil & Loraine  
VanderHaagen, Gary & Linda  
Vanderwall, Yvonne  
VanHoeven, Drs. Donald & Shirley  
Wasson, Barbara & Jerry  
Wheaton, Harold & Barbara  
Whelan, Cheryl & Howard  
Whitbeck, Jon & Sally  
Wiegerink, Ron & Margie  
Wilson, Al & Debbie  
Winger, Joe & Sandy  
Wisnom, Thomas

### ***RENAISSANCE***

Byam, George & Mary Ann  
Community Foundation for Muskegon  
County  
Krause, Ellie  
Lothmann, Skip & Joy  
MCACA  
Schultz, Jack & Laura

### ***ART BENEFACTOR***

City of Montague  
MCACA  
Nuveen Benevolent Trust  
Viola E. Bray Charitable Trust



Lynn Cotter enjoying dessert at the Annual Membership Meeting.

## Calendar of Events: Dec. 2011– Feb. 2012

### December

- 1 HarborLight Movie Series  
*Pocket Full of Miracles*
- 1– Jan. 14 Fall Into the Arts: Ecosystem  
Nuveen Exhibit
- 3 Opening Reception  
10 a.m.– 12 p.m.
- 4 White Lake Christmas Tour  
Music & Performing Arts  
1 –5 p.m.

### January

- 5 HarborLight Movie Series  
*Murder on the Orient Express*
- 13 Junior String Fundraiser-Oat Bran Boys  
Howmet Playhouse, 8 p.m.
- 19-Feb. 25 Community “ART” Project Grand Showcase  
Nuveen Exhibit

### February

- 2 HarborLight Movie Series  
*My Big Fat Greek Wedding*

The Historic Howmet Playhouse  
Invites you to Warm Up with your  
Hometown Theater!



#### HarborLight Movie Night

January 5...Murder on the Orient Express  
February 2...My Big Fat Greek Wedding  
March 1...Jesus Christ Superstar  
Cartoons 6:45 pm, film at 7:00 pm

#### White Lake Youth Theatre 2012

Check our Youth Theatre webpage for details on workshop and performance opportunities. Dramatic Acting Workshop registration begins December 1st.

#### First Fridays Michigan Music Concert Series

March 2...The Dave Zagar Trio

For tickets and more information on upcoming events, please call 231-894-4048 or visit [www.howmetplayhouse.org](http://www.howmetplayhouse.org).

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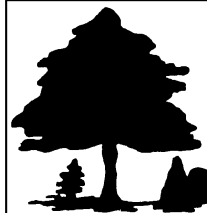
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## Call for Entries to Change of Seasons

It's not too early to begin developing a work of art to enter the twelfth annual Change of Seasons juried exhibition at White River Gallery or the companion children's exhibition at the Nuveen Community Center for the Arts. The exhibitions will run March 1 through April 1, 2012. Entries will be received February 17, 18 and 19.

New this year: entry forms will be available online. Previous entrants will receive a post card indicating where to find the online forms. Artists who have never entered before are invited to watch the Arts Council of White Lake website and area newspapers in late December to learn how to submit an entry. Artists who do not have online access may pick up entry forms at the ACWL or Nuveen offices beginning late December. They may also call either office to have an entry form mailed to them.

Monetary prizes are awarded in both the adult and children's shows. Change of Seasons signals the beginning of Gallery operations each year.



Director, Alice L. Gambel, gives last minute instruction to the three Playhouse ghosts during dress rehearsal for "Locked In!: A Haunted Halloween Happening at the Howmet Playhouse." The Nuveen Theatre Workshop teamed up with White Lake Youth Theatre to present this frighteningly funny variety show on October 28-29 as a safe, family-friendly Halloween activity for the community.