



ALBERTA HOUSE NEWS

Volume 2009 Issue 2

February 2009

SAULT AREA ARTS COUNCIL
ALBERTA HOUSE ARTS CENTER
217 FERRIS STREET
SAULT STE. MARIE, MI 49783

Website: <http://www.saultarts.org>

e-mail: saac@saultarts.org



FEBRUARY EVENTS



Inside this issue:

EVENTS	1 to
EXHIBITS	3 to
FAIRS/FESTIVALS	7
ARTISTIC OPPORTUNITIES	7 & 8
WORKSHOPS	8 & 9
FEATURED ARTIST	9 & 10
BOOKS	10
NEWS & NOTES	10 & 11
SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION	COVER

Sunday 1 — **ALGOMA INTERNATIONAL FILMS:** *Heaven on Earth* (drama, Canada, 2008). Galaxy Theater in the Sault, Ont. Station Mall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday 3—**CABIN FEVER WRITERS GROUP** meets at the Bayliss Library at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday 4—**LE SAULT ARTISTS GUILD MEETS** in Alberta House at noon. Members should bring their lunch, the assignment using tracing paper, and any new trading cards.

SWEENEY TODD. White Pines Onstage. 7 p.m. at Kiwanis Community Theater Center in Sault, Ont.,

STORYTIME AT THE BAYLISS for children 3 to 5. Every Wednesday at 10 a.m. See "NEWS & NOTES", p. .

Thursday 5 — **DRUMMOND ISLAND AUTHOR CHERYL LANNING** will speak about *Quest*, her latest book, at 7 p.m. in the Bayliss Library. The book, set in the Upper Peninsula, is a continuation of her first novel, *Rapunzel's Window*. The program is free to the public.

STORYTIME AT THE BAYLISS for children 3 to 5. Every Thursday at 1 p.m. See "NEWS & NOTES", p. 11.

MEET-THE-ARTIST Opening Reception for Beth Dubeault at the Art Gallery of Algoma in Sault, Ont. 7:30 p.m. See p. 5.

SWEENEY TODD. See Feb. 4.

Friday 6 — **SWEENEY TODD.** See Feb. 4.

Saturday 7 — **MEET THE ARTISTS RECEPTION** for **Bruce Murray and Ron Paquin.** Alberta House. 1 to 4 p.m. All are welcome. (See pp. 4, 5 & 10.)



(Continued on page 2)

EVENTS—CONTINUED

ALGOMA MUSIC CONSERVATORY CONCERT: *Soaring Strings* (violin and cello). Water Tower Inn in Sault, Ont., 7:30 p.m. \$30/10. Tickets at the Station Mall box office (705-945-7299). www.algomaconservatory.com.

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR. Part of the Metropolitan Opera Series at the Galaxy Theater in Sault, Ont. 1 p.m.

SWEENEY TODD. See Feb. 4.

Sunday 8 — **ALGOMA INTERNATIONAL FILMS: *Happy Go lucky*** (UK, 2008). Galaxy Theater in the Sault, Ont. Station Mall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday 10—**FILM@BAYLISS: *In Love We Trust*** (drama/China). 6:30 p.m.

Thursday 12— **PICK UP A SWEET TREAT FOR YOUR VALENTINE.** Friends of the Library Valentine Sweet Sale, Bayliss Library, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.



BAYLISS LIBRARY CLASSIC FILM SERIES: *The Philadelphia Story*, starring Katherine Hepburn, Carry Grant and Jimmy Stewart (1940). 3 to 5 p.m.

GUITAR HERO at the Bayliss. 3:30 p.m.

VERDI HALL DINNER DANCE. Verdi Hall in Sault, Ont. Tickets are \$25 per person. For more information, please visit Verdi hall online (www.verdihall.ca) or call 705-253-0889.

Saturday 14—**SNOWFEST CRAFT SHOW**, at the Community Center east of the Blinker on M-134 in Cedarville. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Crafters, see p. 7.)

Monday 16—**SHADOWS OF THE MIND FILM FESTIVAL BEGINS.** See pp. 10

& 11 for more information.

Tuesday 17—**TWEEN READERZ**, a book club for 8 to 12 year olds, meets at the Bayliss Library at 4 p.m. to discuss *Leeplike Ridge* by Nathan D. Wilson. Refreshments will be served. Free of charge.

SAAC BOARD MEETS IN ALBERTA HOUSE at 7 p.m.

SHADOWS OF THE MIND FILM FESTIVAL. See Feb. 16.

Wednesday 18—**OVER THE RAINBOW CHILDREN'S SERIES: Maritime Marionettes presents "The Lonely Leprechaun"**. Lock City Grand Theatre in Sault, Ont. 7 p.m. Passports, good for one child with adult, for the Over the Rainbow series of five programs, are \$35. Individual "rush" tickets will be sold at the door as availability allows. Call the Arts Council of Sault and District at 705-945-9756 for more information.

SHADOWS OF THE MIND FILM FESTIVAL. See Feb. 16.

Thursday 19—**CABIN FEVER WRITERS GROUP** meets at the Bayliss. 6:30 p.m.

SHADOWS OF THE MIND FILM FESTIVAL. See Feb. 16.

Saturday 21—**FAMILY MOVIES@Bayliss: *Homeward Bound—the Incredible Journey***. 1 p.m.

SAULT SYMPHONY: *The Symphony Rocks! With the Music of the Beatles*, featuring Jeans 'n Classics from London, Ontario. Kiwanis Community Theater Center in Sault, Ont. 8 p.m. www.saultsymphony.com.

SAULT HIGH HOCKEY FUNDRAISER:

EVENTS—CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)

Spaghetti Dinner/Pub Night—Live Music (Rainbow). National Guard Armories. Dinner 5 to 8 p.m. (takeouts available), music begins at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Contact Terri Ferroni (tferroni@eup.k12.mi.us) for more information.

SHADOWS OF THE MIND FILM FESTIVAL. See Feb. 16.

Sunday 22—**SHADOWS OF THE MIND FILM FESTIVAL.** See Feb. 16.

Tuesday 24—**SIERRA CLUB Three Lakes Group film, “Oil on Ice”** at the Bayliss Library, 7 p.m. Free to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Wednesday 25—**SAULT THEATRE WORKSHOP: *Looking for Normal.*** Quonta Festival entry directed by Chris Horsepool. 8 p.m. in the Studio Theater in Sault, Ont. \$18/16/5. 705-946-4081. www.saulttheatre.com.

Thursday 26—**CLAUDIA SCHMIDT**, performing live at the Bayliss Library. 7 p.m. in the Community Room. Admission is free. CDs will be available for purchase. Refreshments will be provided by Friends of the Library.

LOOKING FOR NORMAL. See Feb. 25.

Friday 27—**LOOKING FOR NORMAL.** See Feb. 25.

Saturday 28—**CANADIAN BRASS** at the Kiwanis Community Theater Center in Sault, Ont. 7:30 p.m. An Algoma Conser-



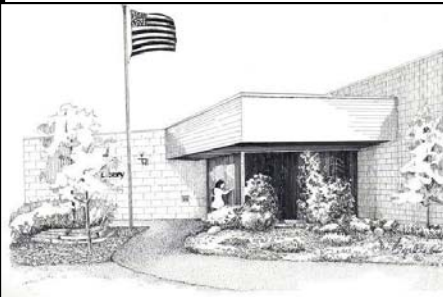
Claudia Schmidt

vatory Concert. Tickets \$35/10 at the Station Mall box office (705-945-7299) or by downloading an on-line form at www.Algomaconservatory.com.

YUK YUKS at Verdi Hall, 8 p.m. \$20. www.verdihall.ca.

LOOKING FOR NORMAL. See Feb. 25.

“COMMON STROKES” demonstrations in the Sault, Ont. Station Mall.



BAYLISS LIBRARY — 541 Library Drive (906) 632-9331

Open Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 9 to 1. Library events are scheduled February 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 17, 19, 21 and 26. See date listings for more complete information.

*Next Month
in Alberta
House,
March 3 to
28:
“Youth
Creates”
Student
Multi-Media
Competition
(See p. 7)*



*—for your Valentine—
Post-inventory sale
of selected items
Open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tues. thru Sat.*



**LSSU
LIBRARY
GALLERY**



SAULT, MICHIGAN EXHIBITS

ALBERTA HOUSE CENTRE



217 Ferris Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783—906/635-1312. E-mail: saac@saultarts.org. Website: www.saultarts.org. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



site of many of the Group of Seven's paintings. He says he spent a great deal of time looking up and for years has had the desire to paint or do etchings of trees. He studied at Sault College of Applied Arts and Technologies from 1976 to 1979, majoring in Fine Art Printmaking with a minor in Advertising Art. In 1980 he moved to Calgary to pursue a career in advertising Art, but quickly moved into printmaking in the studio of John K. Esler. He produced a series called "Pump Jacks" which was very successful in the oil town. He was working on a series illustrating the six day account of creation plus day of rest in 1985 when he moved to the Sault and took a labor job to support his growing family. For more than twenty years, the needs of his family—nine children (six boys and three girls) and the American woman he married) occupied his time.

The purchase of a digital camera in 2006 brought with it the ability to take a multiple shot pan and turn it into one image. Using the camera and attendant software he produced a body of images of trees, in all seasons and many species in both vertical and horizontal panoramic formats.

The pans are printed with a large format Epson pro printer (many taking over an hour to print). The end product is the view one would have standing on site, leaning back and looking up. As he puts it, "full tree portraits . . . a sitting with the

February 3 to 28

OLIVE CRAIG GALLERY and MINI GALLERY: Bruce Murray, "Extreemscapes"

and

Ron Paquin, "Comes from the Woods"—Native Crafts

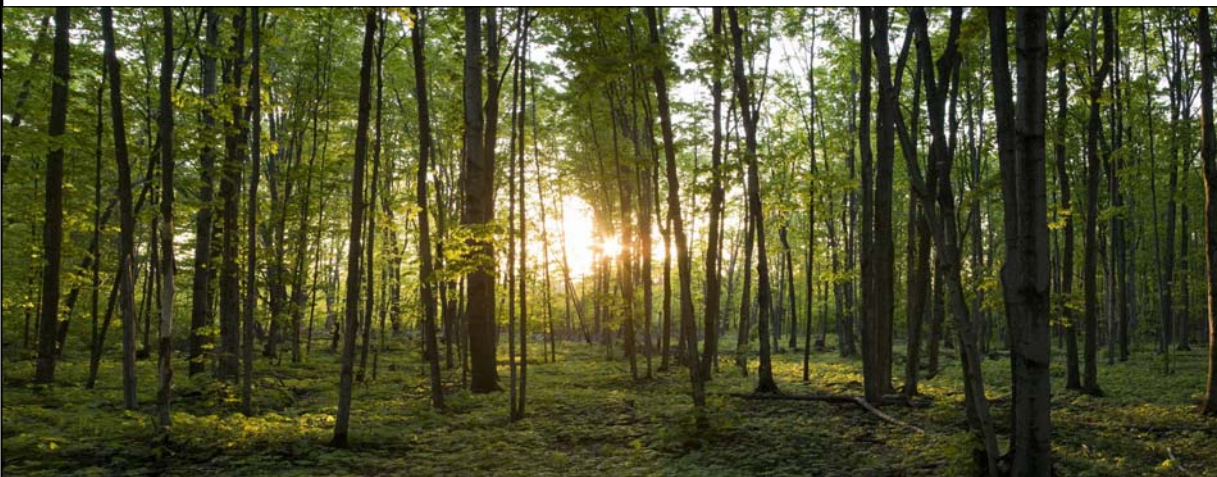
Meet the Artists Reception

Saturday, February 7,

from 1 to 4 p.m.

Bruce Murray writes: *I love to capture the essence of a tree and its individual character qualities. . . The digital camera and printing renaissance released me to do what was too hard to do well and not representative in other media.*

Murray was born in Huntsville, Ontario in 1957. His father was a professional forester and Bruce and his brothers spent much time in the woods, especially in Algonquin park,



Life Fire by Bruce Murray

subject in the environment that surrounds it . . . these images on a wall are like a window and the trees they portray can become a sort of enduring companion that has a real presence. . . It is my goal that we would learn to appreciate the individual tree that may otherwise be lost in the forest. See additional photo on page 10.



Birch bark and porcupine quill baskets by Ron Paquin

RON PAQUIN

Ron Paquin is an elder of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. A self-taught artist, his education is the result of years of listening to the elders he has been influenced by during his lifetime. His mastery of wood and bone carving, quill work, basket making and lodge and birch bark canoe construction is symbolic of his commitment to his heritage. He uses all natural materials, most of which he gathers himself—birch bark, cedar bark, red willow, diamond willow, sweet grass, basswood and spruce roots. He truly wants to transmit his knowledge to future generations, and has is continually teaching workshops and apprentices and giving demonstrations, working with various art councils, schools and organizations such as the River of History Museum, the Chippewa County Historical



Ron Paquin demonstrating in Alberta House —photo by Paul Freedman

Society, and other state museums and galleries. He has received both state and national recognition for his work and his awards are, literally, too numerous to mention. His work can be seen locally at Alberta House, at the Annual Sault Summer Arts Festival (at which he regularly takes awards) and at his home. In this exhibit he will be displaying a cradleboard; a model canoe, a drum; whitetail and moose antler carvings of eagles and totems; quill work on birch bark pocket baskets; tulip baskets and other styles of birch baskets with sweet grass; frames, knives and jewelry.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PERMANENT COLLECTION:
Sculpture of a Moose, from a moose antler, by Ron Paquin
Owl on silk by Olive Craig

CEDARVILLE/HESSEL
Wolderness, 134 S. Pickford Ave. Open Wed. through Fri. from noon to 3 p.m. and by appointment. Call Roxanne Eberts at 484-1258. www.wolderness.blogspot.com.

See ad in WORKSHOPS section, p. 8.
 Cedarville, Sat., Feb. 14, 10 to 4:
Snowfest. See p. 7.

CURTIS
Erickson Center for the Arts, P.O. Box 255, Curtis, MI 49820.
 9 0 6 - 5 8 6 - 9 9 7 4 .
info@curtisartcenter.com.

SAULT, ONTARIO EXHIBITS
ART GALLERY OF ALGOMA, 10 East Street, 705/949-9067. Hours: Mon. thru Sat. from 9 to 5. Admission \$3. Children under 12, free. e-mail: aga@shaw.ca. website: www.artgalleryofalgoma.on.ca

Feb. 5 to March 7: **Beth Dubeault—**

Coming Full Circle

Through my journey, I discovered my own meaning of a rose. For me a rose is a symbol of a new beginning from a start to an ending.

Meet-the-Artist

Opening Reception Thursday, February 5, at 7:30 p.m.

to Feb. 14: **BON SOO Annual Juried Art Show**

Feb. 19 to March 28: **Original**

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Ink— Prints from the gallery's Permanent Collection. Intaglio, lithography, silkscreen and relief printing.

**ARTSPACE, in the Station Mall—
across from ZooZoo**

Feb. 9 to 15: **Gladys Oswin**,
paintings

Feb. 23 to March 1: **Sandra
Hodge**, clay

SAULT STE. MARIE MUSEUM,
corner of Queen and East Streets.
705/759-7278. Tues. thru Sat. from
9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on Sun.
and Mon. www.saultmuseum.com.
heritage@saultmuseum.com.

to March 28: **"Strike Up The Band"**
— An exhibit in partnership with
The Bandettes All Girl Drum &
Bugle Corps of Sault Ste. Marie
featuring uniforms, instruments
and history of the group

**ROSES ART GALLERY, 348 Bruce
Street**

Week of February 5: Hand made jewelry by Pauline Nolet and Jude Ortiz. Sculptures by Brian Raymond, Adele Hill and Robin Huron. Mixed media by Karen Nisbet.

Week of Feb. 12: Archival photographs on canvas by Doug Gibbons and Gordon Stone. Photographs by Otto Heimbach and Emile Nolet. Pastels by Helenmary Carter and Gwen Keatley.

**VILLAGE POTTERS, 503 Queen
Street East—705/256-5800. Mon. thru
Fri. 10 to 5, & Sat. 1 to 4.**

February feature: **Phyllis Dorman**,
watercolor paintings

OUTSTATE EXHIBITS

CHEBOYGAN OPERA HOUSE,
231/627-5841 & 1-800/357-9408.
www.theoperahouse.org/

Sat., Feb. 7, 9:30 a.m.: Auditions for
"Northern Michigan Has Talent."
(see p. 8)

Sat., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.: **Northern
Michigan Has Talent.** Non-
reserved seating. All tickets \$8.

**ESCANABA: Wm. Bonifas Fine
Arts Center.** 786/3833. 700 1st
Avenue South, 49829.
www.bonifasarts.org.

through Feb 12:

Lower Gallery: **John Lundeen**, *Abstracts from the Shore of Lake Superior*

Upper Gallery: **Martha Fieber**, *Fabric art—a world in miniature*

MARQUETTE

Exhibits

NMU Devos Art Museum. Open 10
to 5, Mon., Wed. & Fri.; Thurs. noon to
8; Weekends 1 to 4. 906/227-1481.

to March 30: **Beyond Green—
Toward a Sustainable Art.** A
traveling exhibition exploring how
sustainable design philosophy resonates
with the work of an emerging
generation of international artists.

Events

Saturday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m.: **NMU Performing Arts Series: Adam Solomon & Tikisa.** African Guitar Music. Great Lakes Rooms, Don H. Bottum University Center
T i c k e t s \$ 2 0 .
www.nmu.edu/tickets.

Sat. Feb. 21: **21st Annual Glacier
Glide Outdoor Winter Art Exhibit**, sponsored by the Lake Superior Art Association. Presque Isle Park, noon to 5 p.m. Call Cindy or Jack at 225-0254, 225-1952 or e-mail: cdeo@mapsnet.org.

**PETOSKEY: CROOKED TREE
ARTS CENTER.** 231/347-4337.
Open Mon. thru Sat., 10 to 5.
www.crookedtree.org.

Exhibits

to April 4: **High Art/Low Fire.** A colorful cacophony of Cone 06 Ceramics Exhibition joins six lifelong friends and Michigan master-ceramic artists: Sue Bolt, Russ Bolt, Jerry Berta, Madeline Kaczmarczyk, Pat Denison and Chip Denison.

**2009 Juried Photography
Exhibition**, plus photographs
by D. James Galbraith.

Events

Sunday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m.: **Paris
After Dark**, with the Bijou
orchestra Ensemble (Virginia
C. McCune Performing Arts
Series.) \$25/10.

TRAVERSE CITY AREA

Dennos Museum Center, North-
western Michigan College, 1701 E.
Front Street, 49686—
www.dennosmuseum.org. 321-995-
1055

to March 30: **Ancient Bronzes of
the Asian Grasslands** from
the Arthur m. Sackler Founda-
tion

to April 5: **Andy Warhol**, photog-
raphy

FAIRS & FESTIVALS



SAULT SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL

Applications are now available for the 37th Annual Sault Summer Arts Festival which will be held Tuesday, August 4, on the grounds of the old federal building (soon to be the new Sault Ste. Marie City Hall), 209 E. Portage in the Sault. The Sault Summer Arts Festival is a juried show and sale of original fine art and crafts, displayed by the creating artist. It is produced as a public service by the Sault Area Arts Council. Three slides, photographs or digital images (five for jewelers) for every category of work displayed are required for the jury. The space fee is \$100 for a 10' x 10' outdoor space (\$50 for members of one year or more). Festival hours are from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Awards are given in the following

categories: Best of Show—\$300; Best of Crafts—\$150; Painting Award—\$150; Judge's Choice Award—\$75; Design, Jewelry, Fiber, Graphics, Photography, Wood, Glass and Pottery Awards—\$50 each.

The Jury Deadline is June 1, 2009. Notification will be made by June 15. Applications are available for download on our web site: www.saultarts.org. To request an application by mail call Jean Jones at 906-437-5463 or write the Sault Area Arts Council, Alberta House Arts Center, 217 Ferris Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

SNOWSFEST CRAFT SHOW

The Snowsfest Craft Show will be held Saturday, February 14, at the Community Center in Cedarville. Crafters interested in participating should call Amy Polk at the Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce—906-484-3539.

ART RAPIDS

Art Rapids is held in Elk Rapids, Michigan on Saturday, June 27, from 10 to 5, sponsored by Art Rapids Organization (www.artrapids.org). The show is open to original work in ceramic, drawing, fiber, glass, jewelry, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, wood, metal, paper or mixed media. Only prints that are hand pulled, properly signed and numbered are permitted. Booths must be comprised of a majority of original work. Space fee is \$125 for 1 artist, 1 space; \$175 for 1 space 2 artists and \$250 for 2 spaces, 1 artist. Art Rapids is outdoor, rain or shine. Best of show is \$1000. jury is by digital images (3 to 6 of work and 1 of display) on a CD. **Entry deadline is April 1, 2009.** Applications may be downloaded at the organization's web site.



ARTISTIC OPPORTUNITIES

YOUTH CREATES !

The Olive Craig Gallery announces that this year's **Youth Creates** exhibition will be held March 3 to 28, utilizing both galleries of Alberta House Arts Center, and will be limited to college level student artists.

Original, hand crafted work in all media is eligible. Students may submit up to three entries for a non refundable fee of \$5 (U.S.) per entry. Two dimensional work must be framed and ready to hang. All work must be for sale for the price listed on the entry form. Artists under 18 years of age must have parent or legal guardian's permission to enter. The Olive Craig Gallery will collect a 30% commission on work sold. Work must remain in place until 4 p.m. on March 28.

The juror is Joel Lake, a pastel and pen and ink artist known for vibrant paintings and realistic stipple drawings. His work has been featured in *Michigan Out of Doors*, the Sonora Desert Museum and in Alberta House. The First Place Award is three hundred dollars, Second Place is two hundred dollars and Third Place (donated by Corey's Fine Arts and Antiques in Rudyard) one hundred dollars.

Work must be delivered to Alberta House between February 24 and February 28. For an application, contact Alberta House Arts Center, 217 Ferris Street (906-635-1312—e-mail saac@saultarts.org) or drop by after the Arts Center after it opens February 3. Alberta House Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 to 4.

ARTS COUNCIL OF SAULT AND DISTRICT

ArtSpace: In the Station Mall (across from Zoozoo) is seeking artists for 2009; \$25 per week per person with 15% commission to the Arts Council of Sault and District. The council is accepting bookings for 2009 now.

Poetry Contest: Have a fondness for words? Enter the Poetry Contest of the Arts Council of Sault and District. Works must be no more than 30 lines. There is a \$5.00 entry fee per poem and no maximum on the number of poems submitted. A prize of \$50.00 will be awarded to the contest winner. The winner and short-listed works will be featured in the April edition of the Arts Council's

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

publication—ARTiculations. This is a fundraiser for the Arts Council of Sault Ste. Marie & District which hopes to have a great many submissions sent to the office before the **deadline of February 15, 2009.**

DEMONSTRATING ARTISTS AT LES CHENEAUX HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Les Cheneaux Historical Museum hosts demonstrating Artists-of-the-Week on Wednesdays during the summer. Artists interested in participating should send a resume to Museum Director Chris Hollowell, P.O. Box 301, Cedarville, MI 49719. Call the museum office (906-484-2821) or e-mail: lcha@lchistorical.org for more information.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN HAS TALENT

On Saturday, February 21, the Cheboygan Opera House Benefit Concert Series will present a Talent Show featuring amateur performing artists who reside in the Northern Michigan area. **Auditions are open to all and there are no limitations in regards to age.** Auditions will be conducted beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 7, on the Opera House Stage. Anyone interested in auditioning should contact the Cheboygan Arts Council Business office 9231-627-5432) by **Wednesday, February 4.** Contestants must provide their own music, accompanist etc. Those selected to enter must pay a \$25 entry fee, from which the prize money will be awarded according to paper ballots from the audience.

City Band needs YOU!!

**Thursday nights 7:00 p.m. at Sault Area Middle School—
Call Meg Stevens at (906) 635-4703 or Chris Chenoweth at (906) 635-5612
for more info.**

WORKSHOPS & CLASSES

ICON PAINTING WORKSHOP

Chippewa County Historical Society's Icon Painting Workshop will be held July 6 to 11, in the St. George Greek Orthodox Church. The project will be to write the icon of Christ, which, along with the icon of John the Baptist, completed two summers ago, and this past year's icon of Theotokos (Mother of God), will form a triptych. Call Paul Raappana at 635-4702 for more information.

STARTING LINE STUDIO

Starting Line Studio and Art Classes are offered by instructor Sherie McKay Gladu in her downtown Sault, Ontario Studio as follows—classes in acrylic painting Tuesdays 7 to 8:30 p.m.; Beginning drawing Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Life drawing Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays and Fridays are open for portraiture, printmaking or more painting. Call Sherie McKay Gladu at Starting Line Studio—705-942-9736 or e-mail: startinglinestudio@gmail.com. Class sizes are limited.

VILLAGE POTTERS

Village Potters offers classes in tole painting, watercolor and pottery. Call to arrange. 705-256-5800. 503 Queen Street East in Sault, Ontario.

BERKANA ART STUDIO

Berkana Art Studio, 796 Queen Street East in Sault, Ontario, offers **painting with acrylics** classes. Find schedule of classes for both children and adults at www.berkanastudio.ca or call Taimi at 705-942-2710.



WARM UP YOUR FRIENDSHIPS!

SHARE WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE IN FELTING, LOCKER-HOOKING, PUNCH EMBROIDERY, PRIMITIVE HOOKING ETC., WITH FRIENDS. CHECK OUR OUR BLOG AT

WWW.WOLDERNESS.BLOGSPOT.COM. GREAT LUNCHESES ARE A SHORT HOP AWAY OR BROUGHT IN DURING YOUR CREATIVE ESCAPE. WOOLDERNESS IS OPEN ALL WINTER, WEDNESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, NOON TO 3 P.M. OTHER HOURS BY APPOINTMENT. CALL ROXANNE EBERTS AT 906-484-1258.

VALENTINE CRAFTS AND TREATS FOR KIDS

Upstairs at Rome's in Sault, Ontario offers Valentine Crafts and Treats for children ages 6 to 9 on Saturday, February 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. The fee is \$14. Children will create two Valentine crafts, a special Valentine Card and decorate a treat to take home. Register at the service desk—705-253-5626.



FEATURED ARTIST: COLLEEN LAVEY by Jessica Hirt

FROM BASKETBALL TO THEATER; THE PASSIONS OF COLLEEN LAVEY

The interests of Colleen Lavey span many different areas, from mother to advertiser, athlete to actor. Her talents are equally distributed in all areas, but her passion for theater is what led her to become the “unofficial”—as she describes it—artistic director for the Chippewa Theater Guild. Lavey had previously served two years on the board and recently resumed board duties after a short hiatus. She is also the guild’s Vice President. But where did this love of theater begin?

It began with a childhood nanny, Kay, who was an active member of theater. Lavey wanted to be as much like her as possible, and promised herself in the seventh grade that she would take the first opportunity she could to audition for a play. That opportunity didn’t come until she was in high school, where she landed a minor character role through Sault Area High School’s drama program. Though her parents had always encouraged her to pursue athletics, which Lavey enjoys, the moment she hit the stage, she had found her niche. Lavey claims that at the time, she didn’t have any “stage presence,” but the rush she felt when the audience laughed after her first line is something that she never forgot. It was in that moment that her interest in theater changed from trying to be like Kay to her own passion. Lavey continued to be involved with theater all through high school, and while attending Lake Superior State University, she was a part of Reader’s Theater. While she could have majored in

drama, she stated she didn’t “regret not going into theater.” Instead, it has become her “one artistic outlet.”

And she’s good at it.

After graduating from LSSU, Lavey took a ten year break from theater and focused on her career and home life. Returning to the stage reignited her love of acting—which she says is “one thing [she] does outside her family.” Her family is always encouraging, and when she auditioned for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams, their support became apparent. Though her original intention was to slowly work her way back into theater, she landed the lead role of Maggie. One of her favorite characters to date, the role was challenging, but Lavey states: “I love to do characters that I don’t think I can do.” Part of being an actor is to learn every time she plays a character. Since then, Lavey’s other favorite character roles were in the plays *Caesar: Death of a Dictator* (an adaptation of *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare) and *The Guys*. She enjoyed *Caesar: Death of Dictator* not only because of the character she played, but because of the people she worked with. The director, the late Keith Knight from Toronto, influenced Lavey in many ways. She felt grateful and honored that he worked with her, and she also appreciated performing with Jennifer Kersley. It was Lavey’s first opportunity to participate in Shakespearean theater, and she hopes to introduce Shakespearean plays to the Chippewa Theater Guild. Joan, from *The Guys*, was Lavey’s first non-fictional character. Lavey felt a strong commitment to be authentic. She felt it was her responsibility to play Joan honestly because

of the admiration she felt for her. Lavey says that she spent so much time preparing for the characters of Maggie and Joan that she found it hard to let them go.

Though I have never personally seen her in a play, just listening to her talk about the research she does to understand a character and to portray her accurately is inspiring. She describes being an actor as “being a parasite”—an unusual analogy. Her explanation is that being an actor gives a person the chance to create a different persona than his or her own. A rudimentary actor mimics, but acting is more than that. It “is verbal, physical, and emotional.” Lavey physically creates a different personality; she works from the outside in, figuring out how that character would move. How would she say those words? When would she say them? What is she doing while she is saying those lines? How does the person move in that environment? Does she take short, quick steps or long, fluid ones? Another way for Lavey to begin to feel comfortable with a character is through smell. For each role, she finds a different cologne; it acts as a trigger, and with the scent of the woman comes her emotions. Lavey also delves into the character’s background. She wants to know what led up to the moment the play begins. “The trick”, Lavey states, “is to get to the point where you become the character.” The end result of her hard work is obvious: the enthusiastic response of the crowd. “An audience that enjoys your performance is such a huge high,” Lavey says. Most importantly, Lavey views theater and acting as something similar to

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

basketball. “You’re a team.” That’s what she likes best about theater: “You’re all in it together.”

Colleen Lavey is performing in the Chippewa Theater Guild’s production of *Educating Rita*, written by Willy Russell. Directed by Jennifer Kersey, it will be the next guild performance. Watch for it.

Jessica Hirt is a SAAC intern from LSSU. This is her third FEATURED ARTIST article.



BOOKS

WARCHILD

Helga Flower has written a book called “Warchild”. In an earlier review of Rich Hill’s book we mused that reading a book about someone we know or a place that we have been can be especially interesting because of the many things we have in common with that person or place—reference points that make the experiences seem more tangible. Helga’s book isn’t like that. And while the narrative sounds just like Helga talking, there’s no commonality there, either. This slim little volume is just what it says it is. You know the *warchild* is Helga, but what you think about is all children, all people, all those living in the fallout of war. The people who had nothing to do with the decisions that led into the war; no say at all in how it was conducted; no knowledge, really, of what was going on; no way to anticipate what was coming next; no escape. The war was just an environment, a horror, in which they found themselves. There was no way out and no way to cope and they were powerless to have any effect at all on what was happening to them. And one is conscious that there is no beginning and no end to it. That millions of people have been through this since time began and are going through it at this moment—in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Africa. . . not the soldiers, not the decision makers, just the people on the ground, whose names we don’t know. And distressing as Helga’s story is, it pales in comparison to the life of her mother, who lived through not one war, but two, with death her only escape. Even though we know that Helga has long lived in the United States, a highly successful artist, teacher, wife and mother, there is no happily ever after to something that should never have happened in the first place and can’t be erased. There is only survival.

The book is a slim little volume—a quick read, partly because it is hard to put down. Helga tells her story and then stops. This may reflect the discipline of an artist who works primarily in watercolors. To overwork a watercolor painting is to ruin it. One needs to know when to stop. The book is available from Helga Flower, helgaspalette@att.net, or Helga’s Palette, P.O. Box 736, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783—or call Heidi at 906-632-3437—for \$20, plus \$3 shipping.

← *Summer Solstice*, by Bruce Murray. See “EXHIBITS”, p. 4.

NEWS & NOTES

SHADOWS OF THE MIND FILM FESTIVAL FEBRUARY 16 TO 22

The 10th Annual “Shadows of the Mind” film festival, produced by Algoma International Films Association, will take place February 16 to 22, at the Galaxy Theater in the Sault, Ontario Station Mall. Festival Passes are now available (call 705-759-3299 or 705-253-4434) at \$135 (Gold Pass) and \$80 (regular pass). Last year’s schedule had 19 films. Confirmed films for this year are:

C’est pas moi, je le jure! (It’s Not Me, I Swear)—105 minutes

Cruising Bar 2—100 minutes

Cruising Bar—96 minutes

Waltz with Bashir—90 minutes

Borderline—109 minutes

Eating Buccaneers—88 minutes

Asterix aux Jeux olympiques—116 minutes

Sky High—110 minutes

NEWS & NOTES

Il y a longtemps que je t'aime (I've Loved You So long)—115 minutes

The Last Hangman—95 minutes.

Times and dates were yet to be determined when we went to press. Check Algoma International Films' web site at: www.shadowsfilmfest.com.



STORYTIME—“A DESERT ADVENTURE”

The Bayliss Library offers StoryTime Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 1 p.m. for children between the ages of three and five. Each session consists of stories and art activities and will last approximately one hour. Enroll by calling 632-9331 or e-mailing Mrs. Lehman at Debbie@uproc.lib.mi.us. The story hours began January 7.

A book club for 8 to 12 year olds began January 20 in the Library Children's room. The next meeting will be February 17, to discuss the book *Leelike Ridge* by Nathan D. Wilson. Meetings are on Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Singer Claudia Schmidt will perform live at the Bayliss Library at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 26. Admission is free. Refreshments will be provided by Friends of the Library.



SNOWMEN

The Snowmen capering about this month's newsletter are the creation of Sharon Smeltzer, a Kingsford artist, who has these images and more on cards that we're selling in the Alberta House Shop. Sharon will exhibit work of a more serious nature in Alberta House in June.

QUONTA FESTIVAL

The Sault Theatre Workshop will host the QUONTA Drama Festival at St. Mary's Theatre in Sault, Ontario March 16 through 22. Plays to be performed are:

March 16: *Looking for Normal*, by Jane Anderson, performed by the Sault Theatre Workshop

March 17: *The Diviners*, by Jim Leonard, performed by Theatre SMC

March 18: *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, by Neil Simon, performed by Family Life Theatre

March 19: *Half Life*, by John Mighton, performed by the Gore Bay Theatre

March 20: *An Anglophone Is Coming to Dinner*, by George Rideout, performed by the Gateway Theatre Guild of North Bay

March 21: *Ethan Claymore*, by Norm Foster, performed by Elliot Lake's ELATE.

The festival adjudicator is Dr. Ross Stuart. Tickets can be ordered on line at quonta2009@hotmail.com. Tickets are \$18 per performance, but a package deal offers all six shows for \$90, or five shows for \$75. The Awards Brunch is \$25. Tickets for nightly greenroom, with an opportunity to meet the various casts and crews are \$5. Call Sandra at 705-946-4081 for more information.

OOPS!

Somehow we managed to lose the caption on the front page photo of the January 2009 *Alberta House News*, and this after we had asked Jude McConkey's permission to use it last August and plugged it in (with caption) at that time. The photograph is by Jude and was on the poster for her August 2008 exhibition.

Got something to show off?

Advertise in *Alberta House News!*

Full page ad, \$100. 1/2 page \$50.

1/4 page ad \$25. 1/8 page ad \$15.

1 & 1/2" banner across the front page \$50.

Call Jean Jones at 437-5463 or e-mail: saac



@saultarts.org



SAULT AREA ARTS COUNCIL
ALBERTA HOUSE ARTS
CENTER
217 FERRIS STREET
SAULT STE. MARIE



Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Sault Ste. Marie, MI
Permit # 56



Home of the Sault Summer Arts
Festival (2009 Applications on line
at www.saultarts.org)



SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Alberta House News is published monthly as a public service by the Sault Area Arts Council. Printed copies may be picked up free of charge at Alberta House Arts Center or the Bayliss Library. Printable copies can be downloaded from our web site (www.saultarts.org). Items for Alberta House News are best transferred in written form, either dropped off at Alberta House or mailed there c/o Jean Jones. You may also call 906/437-5463 afternoons or evenings or e-mail saac@saultarts.org. Alberta House News publishes art news of general interest to its readers. There is no charge for inclusion. Please include the sponsor of an event with the information.

If you would like to become a member of SAAC and help support arts council services, fill in the form alongside and mail with your check for \$25.00 in U.S. funds to the Sault Area Arts Council, Alberta House Arts Center, 217 Ferris Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. Members are mailed a monthly copy of "Alberta House News" as a benefit of membership or can download a copy. We will send an e-mail reminder when a new copy is on line if you send your e-mail address to us at: saac@saultarts.org.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE & ZIP _____

PHONE & E-MAIL _____

