

Arts Around the County

H A R D E M A N C O U N T Y A R T S C O U N C I L

M O T H E R N A T U R E P E R F O R M S A T H C A C

On June 25th, 2010 the Harde- man County Arts Council had an unscheduled event – by an out of town performer. At approxi- mately 3:45 – 4:00 pm Mother Nature decided to perform at our facility. The performance was spectacular – but, unfortu- nately, destructive to structure and contents. Fortunately, she was sparing in her destruction. The roof over the southeast corner of the building was torn away. This exposed all of the east side of the upstairs to wind and rain. It also exposed the southeast corner of the auditorium to wind and rain. The heavy downpour soaked all exposed areas and contents in those and adjacent areas. The heavy rain filled the upstairs area – spreading across the floor and finding its way into the

lobby ceiling. Water ran down the lobby walls and dripped from the ceiling lights. We were extremely fortunate that none of the artwork on display for the Southern Expressions Art Show was damaged.

Another section of roof was torn away just above the stage on the west side. This expo- sure was relatively limited. The rafter system was stressed – shoving a portion of the rafters out of line, pushing out portions of the rear eave, and dislodging one rafter to wall brace which fell just in front of the down- stairs women’s dressing room. We later discovered that the portico ceiling support was also compromised – but re-



mained in place. Within minutes of the damage community and arts council members poured in to offer support and assistance. Henson Logistics quickly pro-

vided a trailer. Building con- tents were loaded into the trailer for protec- tion and safe keep- ing. Other contents were organ- ized if ex- posed or damaged – or moved out of harm’s way. This great outpouring of community sup- port and concern immediately overrode sorrow of loss. The Harde- man County Arts Council is a shining beacon of what community can accomplish and community spirit. The response to June 25th, 2010 was a brilliant flash of the

same. I am glad to report that our insurance providers have quickly responded to our situa- tion and needs. Repair and reconstruction are already un- derway. The cast for the up- coming August 28 and 29 per- formance of Our Town is re- hearsing at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church until the facility can be made available for their use. We expect to be rehearsing and set building at the HCAC facility before the middle of July. Thanks goes out to all who have helped and supported the HCAC in response to the June 25th storm damage. To further assist the HCAC in recovery – please be sure to renew your membership, remind others to renew theirs, or become a member if not. Bob Williamson – President, Harde- man County Arts Council

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H C A C M E M O R I A L & H O N O R A R I U M S

The HCAC Memorial and Hono- rarium program has been rather quite in 2010. This fund was recommended by Bertha Vaughan several years ago and until now has done quite well. Please remember that your dona- tions to this program go di- rectly into a fund that supports building projects. Another facil- ity is needed to house sets that have been constructed for past

and current productions, and we are in great need of a “costume” or wardrobe facility.

The following donations have been made since January 1, 2010:

Memorials:

- Bob Shackelford by Joe & Judy Shackelford
- L.A. Simpson by Joe & Judy Shackelford

- Nathaniel Dix (Linda Clifft’s father) by Tommy & Diana Lomax, Steve and Teresa Moffitt

The HCAC appreciates your dona- tions in memory of a friend or loved one, and your honorarium in memory of someone you “just want to remember.”

-Linda Cross

FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

If you did not see "Nutbush Manor Goes to Dodge", you missed a great musical comedy. We had great audiences both nights. They not only answered the trivia questions before the show started, they also participated in the music during the show. Kudos for the audience.

We had a cast of eighteen, some playing dual roles. They went from residents of an up-scale retirement complex in Act I, to cowboys, cowgirls, an Indian, a china-man, a bartender, saloon girls, and a saloon piano player (whatever that means) in Act II.

Act I opened with Nancy and Tom Cobb dancing to the

"The only time the audience wasn't laughing was when the music was going on."

"Tennessee Waltz". We had a rousing response from the cast and the audience on "Rocky Top". Along with great music, we had great comedy, especially when the ladies came out with their "exercise!" outfits on, ready to get slim and trim. Iris (Morgan Smalley Bell) really developed the look and the walk. If you saw the show, you'll remember her exit on the broom.

In Act II some of my favorite western songs were performed. When Maisen Smalley, Mike Smalley and Steve Wood sang "Tumble Weeds" and Eddie Davis played "Shenandoah" on the harmonica, I think everyone had goose bumps. By the way, Steve Wood on piano and Mike Smalley on guitar make a great duo. Steve plays a mean "boogie-woogie".

Each character was unique. I cannot praise them enough. This was the first time on the stage for Kaila Ervin and she did a great job. Charles Hatch, as a china-man, and

Bill Strobe, as an Indian, were very believable, especially when Chief How tried to scalp Pearl (Bonnie Leathers). You would never have guessed that Dolly (Tammy Pulse), the cute little old lady in Act I, was the dark haired saloon girl in Act II. Leah Grantham did a great job as Myra, the exercise expert in Act I, and as Lil, a saloon girl in Act II. Clara's (Tonya Perry) reaction to the "searching of the residents" by outlaw cowboy, Luke, was a hoot. ("Hallelujah!") Leanne Grantham can play any part you give her and do it well. This is exactly what she did as Nurse Willa Checkum. Nancy Taylor, as Rose, was hilarious, especially when she "boogied" with Andy and when she drank the "sleeping tonic". Eddie Davis, as a resident and Blackjack Mack, sang, played harmonica, danced a mean boogie-woogie with Rose, and "died well" when he got shot at the end of the show by Durango (Mike Smalley). Durango had an unusual "fast draw". To see it was to

believe it. Luke (Bob Williamson) also "died well" when he got shot by Calamity Jane (Morgan S. Bell) and Annie Oakley (Sarah Grantham), our "gun-totin' cowgirls". They were pretty cool.

I guess you can tell I am pretty excited about the show and the cast. A play is only as good as its cast, and we had a great one. I would write more on each character if there space in the newsletter. Maybe I just need to write a book about this zany bunch?

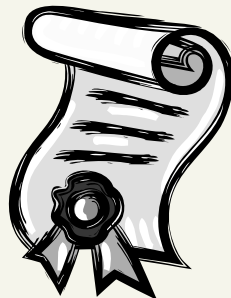
Thanks to everyone who had a part in the show, on the stage and behind the scenes. Thanks Wanda Young, as co-director.

If you didn't get to see "Nutbush Goes to Dodge" you don't know what you missed. The only time the audience wasn't laughing was when the music was going on. Maybe the Nutbush gang will go on another excursion in the future!

-Carrie Smalley, Chair

HCAC AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP

Each year the Hardeman County Arts Council offers a scholarship to a qualified high school senior from Bolivar Central and Middleton High. The scholarship is open to seniors pursuing a college major or minor in the arts and/or related fields. A degree program in Art, Music, Drama, Dance, Literature, and Creative Writing, as well as teaching in these areas or related fields is taken into consideration.



The 2010 recipient from Bolivar Central is Kendra Wiley who will be pursuing a Major in Psychology with a Minor in Music. Kendra plans to attend Austin Peay State University.

The 2010 recipient from Middleton High is Jacob (Jay) Bishop who will be pursuing a Major in Communications. Jay will be attending Jackson State Community College. He plans to be a Video Game Designer.

-Joan Henderson

HARDEMAN COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL NEEDS YOU

Recently the Hardeman County Chamber of Commerce asked Bob Williamson (our president) to estimate the volunteer hours needed annually to support the Arts Council. His figure was 13,582 hours; which sounds very large, but is in fact a very conservative number. That is because the success of the Arts Council depends almost entirely on volunteer talent. That is not just the talent we see on stage, but also the talent it requires to produce the quality shows Hardeman County Arts Council is known for.

The Hardeman County Arts Council (HCAC) is an all volunteer "not for profit organization" dedicated to providing quality live entertainment for the residents of Hardeman County and its surrounding communities. A primary goal is to discover and develop new talent so that the Council can be passed on to following generations. A major ingredient in everything the Council does is FUN. If our overall activity is not fun, we should be doing something different.

The key to our success are the volunteers who work in all aspects of the organization. The numbers of hours mentioned above are not borne by just a few, but by many people who share the load so that no one individual is overburdened. When Bob Williamson became our president, he challenged us to work "smarter not harder." Could you see yourself working on one of the committees listed below?

Board of Directors: The board members are elected each year to provide overall management of the Arts Council. All members are Hardeman County residents and have a broad variety of professional experiences.

Production Committee: The selection of performances is extremely important to the overall success of the Arts Council mission. The Production Committee is responsible for the selection of shows and gaining Board of Directors approval. This committee meets at least once annually to decide on the show schedule for the next year. A July meeting timeframe is suggested. When selecting performances, a key question will be to select performances that we would enjoy producing. The theory is that if we enjoy producing a show, that enjoyment will be contagious with the audience. We currently produce one dinner theater, and three other performances each year. Additionally we help produce at least one art show plus helping the Cancer Society with their annual "Hee Haw" Show.

Production Supervisor: The Production Supervisor is the central point of contact for all members when questions arise concerning the particular

show being produced. The key responsibilities will be to coordinate all committee actions, assist the show director in production matters, keep the Board of Directors informed, and insure that the show meets all licensing rules and regulations.

Director: The Director is responsible for all artistic aspects of the performance. She/he will keep all licensing requirements of the owner of the show. The director must coordinate all show needs with individuals responsible for each aspect of the production. It is very important to convey to the cast what is expected and who is in charge of each aspect of the production. Directors must convey ideas concerning costuming ideas and requirements to assistants, cast members, parents, etc. Cast members must be made aware of responsibility to take direction on stage, backstage, costumes, etc. The Director makes final decisions concerning the artistic presentation of the performance, but should solicit constructive advice from anyone who could improve the performance. Assign people to contact all key individuals who will be involved in this production to confirm dates and availability. The Director is the key to the successful production of any performance, but is not expected to do everything. The Production Supervisor should be relied on to coordinate all support activities so that the production is not an overpowering burden on any one individual.

Actors and Actresses: We actively seek new people to get involved. We have many actors and actresses who thoroughly enjoy performing as much as we enjoy watching them. We need new faces for every performance, so please think about joining in. We will find a place for you.

Set Design and Construction: Set design and construction should be done as early as possible so that the director and cast can rehearse the same way as the actual performances. The Director should convey her/his ideas so that actual construction can take place as time allows throughout the year. This group works almost every Wednesday throughout the year taking down the past performance and getting ready for the next.

Props and Costumes: This committee is responsible for procuring and/or producing props and costumes desired by the Director. Props should be available at the beginning of rehearsal. Costumes should be available as requested by the Director.

Stage Manager: The Stage Manager is a key member of the Director's staff and is the leader of all back stage activities such as keeping actors, set movers, sound and light coordinated during the performance. The stage manager should be available during rehearsals as desired by the Director.

Lighting: This individual handles all stage lighting needs and should be involved when the show is selected and must be available when rehearsals begin so that he/she can attend rehearsals as requested by the Director.

Sound: This individual manages all microphone, speaker, and recorded music needed for the show. He/she sets up the equipment needed for the show and attends rehearsals as requested by the director.

Performance Program: The performance program includes the play overview, names & bios of director and cast, an overview of the next performance and dates, plus a membership solicitation.

Events Committee: This committee is responsible for advertising and ticket sales plus refreshment sales during the show. In the case of the annual dinner theater, this committee will also select the vendor to cater the meal and obtain Board of Directors approval.

Fine Arts Committee: Each year we sponsor at least one art show highlighting the work of area artists. This year we are working of both a photograph and a painting show.

Facility Maintenance: Like any facility, there is a lot of effort put into the upkeep of the building and grounds. This committee meets usually on Monday mornings, but individual efforts go on as needs arise.

Membership: Membership not only provides us the money to operate the facility, but also the talent needed to carry out our mission. Our membership needs to grow and become stronger. The larger the membership, the easier it is on everyone.

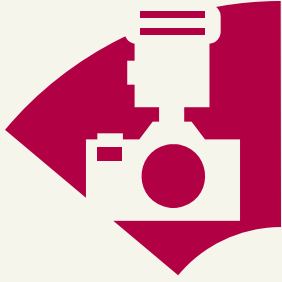
Every Thing Else Committee: There are numerous task which our members take on as needs arise. These tasks include office work, bookkeeping, telephone message answering, letter correspondence, newsletter writing, and the list goes on. We welcome all help.

Conclusion:

If you have read this far, it is obvious you too are interested in the success of the Hardeman County Arts Council. We need your help! If something mentioned above sparked your interest, call me at home (658-9028) or the Arts Council office at (658-2787). We look forward to hearing from you.

-Neil Certain

FINE ARTS COMMITTEE



We have been a busy little committee the last two months. Our first Annual Southern Focus Photography Contest

held in May was an overwhelming success. We received 94 entries from photographers of all ages and amazingly they were all from Hardeman County.

Another surprising aspect often repeated by those that came to see the exhibit was what a wide variety of subject matter was included. It's very interesting to see what people enjoy taking pictures of. If you missed the show, it covered everything from caterpillars, tomato worms and dragon flies to many international scenes captured by our local world travelers. There were photos of beautiful birds, flowers, and animals of all sorts. The landscapes and sunsets were wonderful.

The most talked about photograph had

to be Rose Black's creative photo called Love's First Kiss. Everyone's imagination went wild trying to decide "what" was sharing the kiss. They were all surprised to learn it was just a set of hippo salt and pepper shakers.

The judge for Southern Focus was Don Putnam, a professional photographer from Memphis. Don's photography has been featured in numerous magazines and publications and he has worked as a photographer for several nationally known companies. Don currently has a Gallery in Memphis and specializes in wedding photography. He was very impressed with the quantity and quality of our entries.

April Allen was selected for the first place award, Dianna Garrett received second place and an honorable mention, and third place went to Tonya Brotherton. Judy Franklin also received an honorable mention award. Five special merit awards were given. Best floral was awarded to Deborah Brasfield, best animal photo went to Phil Waldon. David Burchette received awards for best people photo and best

architecture. Dianna Garrett also received the award for best landscape.

Five of the photographs were purchased during the show. Photographers receiving purchase ribbons were Angela Galloway, with one photo purchased by Marilyn Easterling and another purchased by Julie Fisher, Paula Stanley purchased photos by Tonya Brotherton and David Burchette, and one of Brandon Wall's photos was purchased by Carol Doyle. The People's Choice Ribbon went to David Burchette for "Courthouse".

We really appreciate the efforts of everyone that participated. The show was a big hit and we are already making plans to make this an annual event. We are discussing the possibility of a separate category for black and white photographs next year and also a student division. I'm already hearing rumors that "new" photographers are out there snapping pictures and planning to enter the next year's Southern Focus.

-Diane Mumford, Chairman



Purchase Winners: Angela Galloway, Tonya Brotherton, David Burchette



Merit Winners: Deborah Brasfield, Phil Waldon, David Burchette, Dianna Garrett



Award Winners: April Allen, Dianna Garrett, Tonya Brotherton, Judy Franklin

S O U T H E R N E X P R E S S I O N S 2 0 1 0 A R T S H O W



Best of Show
"Cud-ly" by Mary Spellings

Artists from all over West Tennessee delivered art show entries to the HCAC Art Center

Monday morning June 21st. Fine Arts Committee members spent the afternoon sorting and hanging the 81 beautiful paintings. The lighting was adjusted so that each painting would look its best. Volunteers were called and scheduled to staff the art center during the show from June 28th – July 11th.

The judge, Anne Enochs, a well known and respected artist and art teacher from Bartlett came on Thursday and spent several hours studying the art and selecting the award winners. She also made pictures of the entries so she could later provide a critique of each painting to the artists. (The critiques make the artists aware of techniques that could be improved to make their paintings even better). The ribbons were then carefully placed on each winning entry and the names tags were put in place.

As the winners were being called on Friday afternoon to congratulate them, I received the call from our president, Bob Williamson, with the devastating news of the storm damage to the HCAC Art Center. The drive to Bolivar was filled with the dread of seeing these beautiful works of art ruined by the storm and the rain, some were valued at as much as \$2,000.00 and others were considered "priceless" by

the artists. Realizing that we would need a dry safe place to store the paintings temporarily, I called the Chamber of Commerce before I arrived in Bolivar and Rob Jensik, the director, graciously offered their meeting room for that purpose.

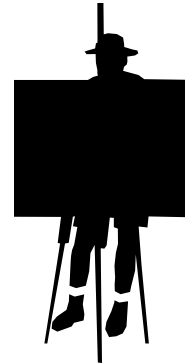
My panic increased when I arrived and saw the gapping hole in the roof. There were dozens of volunteers already there. They had already taken all of the paintings down and moved them from the lobby to a dryer spot on the stage. They then formed an "assembly line" and brought them out one or two at a time to be carefully packed into vans and SUV's. After they were loaded, I stepped inside the building to see what damage had been done. I was immediately shocked that standing water inside the door almost covered my shoes.

We quickly discussed our options for putting the show back up in another location, but decided that it would not be feasible to find a new venue with adequate hanging space, get the show back up and publicize the new location before the show's scheduled ending date.

Under still threatening skies and sprinkles of rain our little caravan carried our precious cargo to the Chamber of Commerce where our "assembly line" again went to work unloading the artwork. We checked each piece, dried the sprinkles and sorted them to get each artists work together. Amazingly we discovered that our only damage was a broken glass on a large watercolor painting and four rain soaked photographs that had been stored in the ticket office waiting to be picked up from a previous show. None of the paintings suffered any water damage!

Each artist was called and notified about the storm damage, assured that their work was safe and told where

they could pick up their paintings. They all expressed their appreciation for the quick actions taken by all of the volunteers to protect their artwork. Thank you all so much for your help!!! It was a wonderful show and we were all saddened that it had to be taken down before the opening date.



Southern Expressions Art Show winners were:

Best of Show, Mary Spellings

Professional Category -1st place Jo Ann Blanton, 2nd place Tuva Stephens, 3rd place Vicki Babb, Honorable Mention Margaret Patton, Vicki Babb and Mary Spellings.

Amateur Category - 1st place Pat Patrick, 2nd place Kenny Rutledge, 3rd place Mary McAuslin, Honorable Mention Kenny Rutledge and Mary McAuslin.

Senior Category – 1st place Dewey Dalton, 2nd place Pat Perry, 3rd place Mary Walker, Honorable Mention Carolyn Tardy and Mary Walker.

Special Merit Awards – Best Use of Color Tuva Stephens, Most Creative Mary Spellings,

Best Landscape Vicki Babb, Best Perspective Lisa Kersey, Best Floral Tuva Stephens, Best Architecture Tuva Stephens.

-Dianne Mumford, Chairman

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.HCAC-TN.ORG



HARDEMAN
COUNTY ARTS
COUNCIL

P.O. Box 249
1580 W. Market Street
Phone: 731-658-2787
E-mail: hcac@hcac-tn.org

OUR TOWN: UPCOMING PERFORMANCE

Auditions for Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* were held during the weeks of June 14th and 21st. I am so pleased to say that we have cast many new faces and a few familiar ones.

Our town is a drama set in the fictional small town of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire in May of 1901. The play revolves around two families, the Gibbs' and the Webb's and the every day happenings of this small community. There are three acts, each one depicting the different stages that we all go through in life, youth, love and marriage, and death and loss.

In the first act you will meet the Gibbs' and the Webb's and their children. You will see the daily routines of each of the

families and people of the town.

In act two you will attend the wedding of George Gibbs and Emily Webb. You will experience their wedding day jitters and listen to the advice their parents give to help calm them on their wedding day.

In act three you will see that Emily has died in child birth. She longs to return to the life she knew but when she is given a day to relive realizes that it is too painful to do knowing now how precious each moment is, and wishing that everyone would savor each second and really live life to the fullest.

The beauty of *Our Town* is that it is our town. It is every small town...every life. *Our Town* will speak to the hearts of the

audience and the message is simply that we all go through the same things in life. We are all connected by our experiences, good and bad, happy and sad, and we should cherish our time together.

It is my privilege to be directing such a wonderful show with what appears is going to be a wonderful cast. The show will be presented on Friday, August 27th and Saturday, August 28th.

-Christopher Wall

