

Borderland Arts

Representing the Central Upper Peninsula and Northern Wisconsin—March/April 2015—Issue 12

Borderland Arts is a not-for-profit organization established to promote the creative arts, enrich the cultural fabric of our communities, and build mutually beneficial relationships with similar groups elsewhere.

Viking båter i Norge, MI

In our travels we often see various forms of art worthy of appreciation. What we consider outdoor art is not always statues and murals. It can be the architectural features of an old Victorian home or a sign on the highway. Whatever the art form, one thing typically coincides with the art: a good story. In the mid 1990's, three such works of art appeared in the city of Norway, Michigan. Roughly thirty feet in length and made of steel strips, the Viking ships were built to honor the city founders and their Scandinavian heritage.

The artwork resulted from several meetings with Parks and Recreation, the Downtown Development Agency, and a Michigan State University Extension representative. It was decided that something other than simple signage should be placed on the three primary roads into Norway; and that these, like many other recognizable symbols in our surrounding area, should represent the town. Through grants and donations, over \$18,000 was raised to construct three ships. Entrances into Norway on east and west US2 and south on Hwy8 each have a prominently placed ship, that through



banner signs on their sails, welcome guests into town.

Each ship is surrounded by blue-green juniper bushes representing the Atlantic Ocean the founders would have crossed to get here. Rocks represent the shoreline, and the iron in the ships may even represent the area's mining industry. One thing is clear—the ships certainly do a fine job representing the City of Norway and the people who live there.

The Value of the Arts to Our Communities

The arts have social impact on our cities and towns. They encourage expression, refinement and exchange of ideas. Research has shown that high concentration of the arts in a community leads to higher civic engagement and more social cohesion. A vibrant arts structure helps promote prosperity. Arts and culture are fundamental to

our humanity. Jonathan Fanton of the MacArthur Foundation offers this thought: "There is no better indicator of the spiritual health of our communities, their neighborhoods, and the larger region than the state of the arts."

But beyond the philosophical and esoteric assets of arts and culture is a truly practical

benefit: Arts help strengthen the economy. Only recently has this industry been considered an economic driver to a region. In so many ways, the arts are valuable resources to our communities. For example, artistic events which are able to attract audiences from surrounding areas generate income for the hosting city or town. Out of town

(Continued on page 2.)

Friends of the Braumart and Iron Mountain Downtown Development Authority/Main Street present:

Support Your Community

Featuring Scott Helmer, Live in Concert

April 24, 2015 • The Performing Arts Center

104 West B Street, Iron Mountain, MI

Doors open at 5:00 pm CT

A fun-filled evening of great music

- Raffle and Door Prizes
- Silent Auction

Two Teams Working Together To
Build A Better Tomorrow

(*The Value of Arts . . . continued from pg. 1.*)

participants purchase lodging, meals, and transportation. A research study by the Travel Industry Association and Partners in Tourism found 65% of all adult travelers attend an art event while on a trip fifty miles or more away from their homes; 32% prolong their stay due to the event.

Arts create jobs, bring in local and governmental revenue, create a better economy, provide a cornerstone for tourism, and inspire a community. Arts activities help families share positive experiences, discover new talents and ideas, and grow together.

Thank you

Iron Mountain School District

Art instruction in some Iron Mountain schools dissolved a few years ago. Students and their parents quickly raised their voices in concern—and the school district listened. Art instruction for grades 4, 5, and 6 returned for the current school year.

Early kindergarten through grade 3 students at North Elementary are following a program called *Art in Action*, a non-profit enterprise dedicated to promoting visual arts education for grades K-8. For more information, visit www.artinaction.org.

The Association of Student Artists

For area high school art students, a most exciting event is coming up. It's the 22nd Association of Student Artists' Banquet on April 20. Held at Kingsford High School, it begins with an impressive multi-school art exhibit from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Then there's the banquet itself followed by the award presentation including scholarships from colleges and universities of the upper Midwest. ASA is led by art instructors Sarah Western, Kingsford; Brenda Smeaton, Pembine; Kristin Stanchina, Iron Mountain; Denise Eichinger, Niagara; and Katie Dahlman, Norway.



A Don't-Miss Event!

Scott Helmer comes to Iron Mountain on April 24, 2015 to highlight a benefit show at the historic Braumart movie house. This exciting evening of acoustic music, a silent auction, raffles, door prizes, and more, signals the beginning of two community organizations working together: Friends of the Braumart (FOTB) and the Iron Mountain Development Authority/Main Street. This Scott Helmer appearance is one of three in the U.P.; he'll also perform at similar fundraising concerts in Sault Ste. Marie and Calumet. Scott performs free of charge; the proceeds of the concert will go to support the Braumart building purchase and expanding downtown revitalization efforts.

Scott's overall goal is to help raise \$1,000,000 for a variety of good causes such as the purchase and restoration of historic theaters. So far, his 25,000 mile journey around the USA has helped raise more than \$225,000.

Helmer's concert consists of upbeat, energetic solo-acoustic rock and country favorites along with original material from his new CD, *Wake Me When It's Over*. His contagious blend of rock and pop infuses memorable guitar riffs, catchy sing-along choruses, and lyrics that tell real stories of love, pain, and starting over—all of which have been a part of Scott's life. Scott has opened for iconic acts such as Heart, Eddie Money, 3 Doors Down, Jeff Bridges, and Big Country.

Tickets are available from the Dickinson Area Chamber Alliance and from FOTB and DDA/Main Street board members and volunteers. Check out these websites for more detailed information: www.scotthelmer.com and www.friendsofthebraumart.org.

Save the date on your calendar and purchase tickets in advance for this wonderful benefit!

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Calls for Artists

Florence, WI Public Library

Borderland Arts members are invited to display their works at an exhibition and sale at the Florence County Library. This free show runs from April 13 through June 12, 2015 and will feature a variety of artists who work in many media. These sixty days will lead up to and help kick off the summer art season. Members interested in participating should contact Jeff Gurchinoff through the Borderland Arts Facebook page, or via email at Jeff.gurch@charter.net to reserve space. Also in the works are two "Meet the Artists" receptions. Please check our Facebook page for updates.

Art for All at Bay West College

All area artists and crafters are encouraged to enter the Art for All show at Bay College West in Iron Mountain celebrating its 48th year! The show attracts works ranging from painting and photography to jewelry and sculpture. Art for All will run from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, June 27, 2015. First application deadline is March 9. Entry forms are available by contacting Co-chairperson Lynne Wilson at imartforall@gmail.com while people wishing to volunteer should contact Co-chairperson Lana Frantz at (715) 251-1594.

Mining the Arts, Republic, MI

Artists, crafters, authors, musicians, and food vendors are invited to participate in the 2nd annual Mining the Arts Festival on May 23 and 24, 2015 sponsored by the Park City Art Gallery of South Republic. Please contact Stacy (906) 366-0195 or visit their Facebook page for details.

Stay in Touch

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A Flair for Plein Air

From Five Differing Views: Plein Air Artists' Exhibition and Reception at Bay College West, Iron Mountain



In 2014 artists Gail Stanek, Jane Landwehr, Melisse Carr, Kathy Kuczek, and Darlene Strand explored the local landscape from May to December recording their impressions. They journeyed together facing numerous challenges including wind, rain, blazing heat, freezing cold and insects in pursuit of painting what they saw and felt. Their canvases record farms, rivers,

forests, meadows, people, flora and fauna. The exhibit can be viewed until April 1, 2015 at Bay College West.

The public is invited to the opening reception, which has been changed, to meet the artists on Tuesday, March 3 in the Bay West Lower Commons from 6 to 8 pm CT. Tammie Carr, violin, and Catherine Vivio, piano, will provide the music and refreshments will be served.

Historic Crystal Theatre Offers 10 Events in 2015

For more information see our next issue. In the meantime, please visit www.thecrystaltheatre.org.

In Rehearsal!



Rob Lundholm of Iron Mountain wants to give kids the chance to learn a little about acting and, more importantly, to have fun on stage. Last fall, he started The Iron Mountain Children's Theatre Troupe and, with assistance from Becky Nord, put on *Snow White and the Seven Kachus*, a variety show of skits and one-act plays. After that successful show, his troupe joined forces with Dickinson County Community Theatre. Lundholm is currently directing *The Wizard of Oz* with Ali Mondloch, who has a BS in Theatre from NMU. Forty children came to the audition workshops—an indication of how valuable this kind of activity is for kids! Six months after the first production, the troupe is in the middle of their second show and is continuing to grow, and most importantly, the members continuing to learn and have fun. *The Wizard of Oz* will be performed on March 13 at 6:30 pm CT and March 14 at 2 pm CT at the First Presbyterian Church in Kingsford. Tickets: \$5 at the door.

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Calendar of Events

March

- 1 Ballpoint Pen with Jason Limberg, Artist Workshop Series, 3/1, 8, & 15, 1-5 pm ET. Bonifas Fine Arts Center, Escanaba 786-3833.
- 1 Plein Air Artists Exhibition, until April 1, Bay College-West. See Article on page 3.
- 3 Artist Reception for Plein Air Artists' Exhibit, Bay West College, Iron Mountain, 6-8 pm CT. Music and refreshments.
- 3 Thick as Thieves Concert, Besse Center, Bay College, Escanaba, 7:30 pm ET. www.baycollege.edu.
- 3 "A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking", J. Pankowski Black Box Theatre, NMU, Marquette, 3/3 & 3/4, 7:30 pm ET.
- 4 50 Years of Players, Behind the Musical, Players de Noc, 8 pm ET, Mar. 4, 5, 6, & 7 Bonifas FAC Theatre, Escanaba. (906)789-7468.
- 5 Borderland Arts Meeting, 6 pm CT, **Maple Creek Restaurant Meeting Room**. (Food can be ordered.)
- 5 UP Focus: Leopoldo Madrigal & Ann Russ, Paintings & Ceramics, DeVos Art Museum. Reception 6-8 pm ET. Exhibit until April 5.
- 8 Red Tail Ring & Whitewater at Second Sunday Folk Concert. Fortune Lake Camp, Crystal Falls, 4-7 pm, CT.
- 9 Entry Deadline for "North of the 45th", DeVos Art Museum, NMU, Marquette. (906) 227-2235 or online.
- 9 Application Deadline for Art for All: Artists who apply before this deadline will be entered into a drawing for free entry. For more information see article on page 3.
- 10 YUPO Watercolors with Michele Earle, Bonifas FAC, 6-8 pm ET. Visit www.bonifasarts.org for more information.
- 11 Book Art with Amber & Raga, Joy Center, Ishpeming, 6:30-9 pm ET. Same time on April 8. Visit Joy Center Facebook page.
- 12 Band Festival, Norway Performing Arts Center.
- 13 "Youth in Arts Talent Show", Bonifas FAC, Escanaba, 7:30 pm ET.
- 13 & 14 "The Wizard of Oz", Iron Mountain Children's Theatre Troupe. See article page 3 for details.
- 14 Elaine Elias—Jazz Piano, Kaufman Auditorium, Marquette, 7:30 pm, ET. www.nmu.edu/tickets.
- 18 Clothing (Wearable Art) with Diane Kris-Mays, 3/18, 25, 4/1, 8, 15, 22, 29; 6-7 pm ET, Bonifas FAC, Escanaba.
- 19 Oil Painting, Hillcrest School, Aurora, WI, Thursdays until April 2, 9-1 pm CT. NWTC (715) 251-3790.
- 19 Out Loud—Poetry, Stories, Art & Music, Joy Center, Ishpeming, 7-9:30 pm ET. Visit the Joy Center Facebook page for details.
- 26 Superiorland Woodturners' Exhibit, Bonifas FAC, Escanaba, until April 23. Opening reception tonight, 7:00 pm ET. (906) 786-3833.
- 28 Jake Menghini Museum Craft Show, Norway Legion, Main Street, Norway. 9-2 pm CT.
- 28 Acoustic Music Jam, Dickinson Co. Senior Center, Iron Mountain, 1 pm CT. Beginners to seasoned players and listeners are Welcome. Contact Kathy Falls (906)828-1825 for more info.
- 28 NMU Dance Concert, Forest Roberts Theatre, Marquette, 7:30 pm ET. Box Office: (906) 227-2082.
- 31 Holy Tuesday Lenten Service in conjunction with the Dickinson Co. Community Chorus and the IMACA. St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church, Iron Mountain, 7:30 pm CT.
- 31 Deadline for Porcupine Mountains Artist-in-Residence Programs. For application visit: www.porkies.org/artist-in-residence.

April

- 1 Spring Student Art Show in the Gallery, UW-Marquette until May 29. For more information call: (715) 735-4300, Ext. 4322.
- 2 Borderland Arts Meeting, Dickinson Co. Library, 6 pm CT.
- 2 3D Composition in Clay with Gail Stanek, Bonifas FAC, 6-8 pm ET (906) 786-3833.
- 3 Bay West Spring Student Art Show until May 7. Iron Mountain.
- 9 "Picasso at the Lapin Agile", Besse Center Theatre, Bay College, Escanaba, April 9, 10 & 11, 7:30 pm ET. Tickets: (906) 217-4045 or visit www.baycollege.edu.
- 10 Student Art Show at Bay College, Besse Center, Escanaba until May 10. Reception: April 15, 3 pm ET.
- 10 "Becky's New Car", Theatre on the Bay, UW-Marquette. April 10, 11, 17 & 18, 7:30 pm; 4/12 & 19 matinees: 2 pm. For tickets: www.marinette.uwc.edu.
- 11 Icosahedron—decorative ornament with Toni Leny, Bonifas FAC Escanaba, 1-3 pm ET.
- 12 Shari Kane & Dave Steel & Whitewater, 2nd Sunday Folk, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, Crystal Falls, 4-7 pm CT.
- 13 Borderland Arts Show and Sale, Florence Co. Library until June 13. Library is closed Sun. & Mon. (715) 528-3094.
- 14 Mini-Fiber Collage with Teresa Ross, Bonifas Fine Arts Center, Escanaba 6-9 pm ET.
- 15 Student Art Reception, Bay West College, Iron Mountain, 6-8 pm CT. Music and refreshments.
- 15 NMU 2015 Senior Exhibition until May 1, Marquette. DeVos Art Museum. Reception 7-9 pm ET.
- 15 "Little Shop of Horrors", Forest Roberts Theatre, NMU, Marquette. April 15, 16 & 17—7:30 pm. April 18—1 pm ET.
- 16 Keweenaw Symphony performance at the Crystal Theatre, Crystal Falls, 7:30 pm CT. Visit www.thecrystaltheatre.org
- 16 Animal Portraits with Jason Limberg, Bonifas Fine Arts Center. 6-9 pm ET.
- 16 Regina Carter's Southern Comfort Delta Jazz, Kaufman Auditorium, Marquette. 7:30 pm ET www.nmu.edu/tickets
- 16 Out Loud—Poetry, Stories, Art & Music, Joy Center, Ishpeming, 7-9:30 pm ET. Visit the Joy Center Facebook page for details.
- 18 Jake Menghini Museum Vintage Style Show, Norway Covenant Church, 1:30 pm CT. Dessert, beverage, & music.
- 19 Cool Jazz, Marquette Symphony Orchestra, Besse Center Theatre, Escanaba, 3 pm ET. www.baycollege.edu.
- 20 Association of Student Artists, Kingsford H.S., 4:30 Viewing Art; 5:30 Banquet. CT
- 21 Wire wrapping Jewelry with Corinne Powers, Bonifas FAC, Escanaba, 6-7:30 pm ET.
- 23 Poetry Reading, Joy Center, Ishpeming, 7 pm ET.
- 24 "Boeing, Boeing", Players de Noc, Escanaba, 8 pm ET on April 24, 25, 30, May 1 & 2. April 26 Matinee: 2 pm ET.
- 24 Scott Helmer Live in Concert, The Performing Arts Center, Iron Mountain, Doors open at 5 pm. See article, page 2.
- 25 Acoustic Music Jam, Dickinson Co. Senior Center, Iron Mtn. 1 pm CT—blue-grass, country, gospel, & old-time tunes. Bring your acoustic guitars, mandolins, fiddles, banjos, dulcimers, bass, etc. For info, call Kathy at (906) 828-1825.

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