



# Arts In Action

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

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January/February 2017



## ***Thanks, Sturgis Veterans Honor Guard!!***

Many thanks go to the Sturgis Veterans Honor Guard, as they have donated a check for \$300 to the Sturgis Area Arts Council.

Veterans Guard members Darrell Pulscher and Gordon Kotab (the man behind the camera) presented Arts Council President Dedi LaRue the check at our December meeting. Also in the picture are treasurer Francie Ruebel-Alberts at left and Secretary Dorothy Pulscher at right.

The Honor Guard is one of those groups that you never hear a lot about, but if you've ever been to a funeral at the Black

Hills National Cemetery you've seen them - they provide military funeral honors for veterans buried at the cemetery. They often spend several hours a day and several days a week at the cemetery helping to honor our veterans and we don't thank them as much as we should.

So - thanks, guys - both for the donation and for all your dedication and hard work and hours spent helping to honor our veterans!!



## ***Attention Snowbirds (and anyone planning a move)***

If you plan on being gone this winter  
OR you're moving from one place to another and you're on  
our mailing list, PLEASE let us know!!

The post office charges us \$\$ if we mail something to you and you're not home (or no longer at the address we have for you). Even if you've filled out a change of address form, they charge us to return the item to us!

It may only be 49 cents here and there, but it does add up after a while, so if you can help us avoid it, we'd be most grateful.

Contact Linda at 720-6361 or send an e-mail to [saacpublicity@hotmail.com](mailto:saacpublicity@hotmail.com) to let us know of any and all changes, please ~ we would most appreciate it!! :)



## ***Armchair Travelers Book Club***

The Armchair Travelers are going exploring in the new year!

They've decided to read about the northeast United States/New

England for their January 5th, 2017 discussion. For a change of pace, they will venture to the northwest for their February 2nd discussion.

In either case the books can be set in the area or the author can be from there.

As always, the librarians will display books on the theme. Join us in the New Year on this unique adventure.

## ***Looking Ahead To Spring - the Easter Cantata***

Although we feel that winter is just beginning, it is time to think about plans for an annual spring event - the Arts Council's Annual Easter Cantata. The 2017 Cantata is planned for Palm Sunday, April 9th and Tuesday, April 11th. This is the 11th Annual Cantata and will once again be performed at Grace Lutheran Church. It continues to be a community favorite enjoying large audiences.

Marlene Kotab will coordinate and conduct the cantata. Because of space issues, the choir is limited to approximately 75 singers. If you are interested in singing with this fine group, you can contact Marlene after Christmas at [kotabgmc@rushmore.com](mailto:kotabgmc@rushmore.com). Rehearsals will begin Sunday, February 26 and run every Sunday until the concert from 1:30 p.m - 3:00 p.m. There will also be a Thursday night dress-rehearsal the week before the concert.



## ***History at High Noon***

History at High Noon 2017 will be off to a good start on Friday, January 20th. Randy Bender will be presenting a program on the CCC Camp Fetchner at Ft. Meade and also on the German prisoners of war that were detained at Ft. Meade during World War II. Randy will surely be giving an interesting and important program.

Neal Rowett will be the program presenter on Friday, February 17th. He will be sharing the Rowett family history. His grandfather was a Black Hills pioneer and both Neal and Elaine are members of the Society of Black Hills Pioneers. We love those family histories.

A sneak peak into March - on the 17th Dave Super, formerly of Sturgis and now residing in Rapid City, will give the program on the City Auditorium/ Sturgis Armory. Dave was an area newspaper writer and editor. More about this later.

History at High Noon meets the third Friday of the month at noon in the program room in the Sturgis Public Library, January through May and in October and November. We are always interested in a family history, a good story, histories of our small communities in the country and also places, events and organizations. We appreciate your faithful support and ideas. The committee members are Diana Hayes, Rosalee Johnson, Bonnie Lange and Dode Lee. The coffee pot is always on thanks to the library. You are welcome to bring your lunch with you and enjoy it while you listen to our new 2017 programs.



***YOUR donations in action!***

Every year, when you send in your membership renewal, we give you the option of adding in an extra \$10 to help support the Sturgis Public Library.

Your donations added up to a total of \$565 for 2016!

Thanks to all of you so very much - we're thrilled to be able to pass those funds along to our library. Pictured above is Sturgis Public Library librarian Charlie Nonhof (on the left) accepting the check from Arts Council President Dedi LaRue. On the far right is our wonderful and amazing "History at High Noon" chairwoman, Dode Lee.

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***Sturgis Area Arts Council's  
Upcoming Events***

**Thursday, January 5**

Armchair Travelers Book Club  
Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

**Thursday, January 12**

Sturgis Area Arts Council Meeting  
Library/City Hall Meeting Room, 7:00pm

**Friday, January 20**

History at High Noon  
Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

**Thursday, February 2**

Armchair Travelers Book Club  
Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

**Thursday, February 9**

Sturgis Area Arts Council Meeting  
Library/City Hall Meeting Room, 7:00pm

**Friday, February 17**

History at High Noon  
Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

**Sunday, February 26**

1st Easter Cantata Rehearsal  
Grace Lutheran Church, 1:30-3:00pm  
(Additional rehearsals will be on March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th and on April 2nd. Dress Rehearsal will be the evening of April 6th. The Concerts will be on April 9th and 11th)

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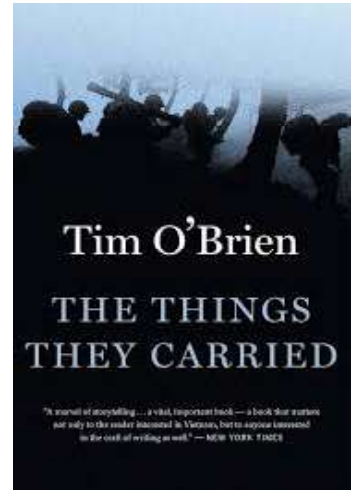
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## *Asking for your help to bring the “Big Read” to Sturgis*

An initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our communities and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. NEA Big Read annually supports approximately 75 dynamic community reading programs, each designed around a single NEA Big Read selection. Each community program that receives and NEA Big Read grant is also provided with resources, outreach materials and training on various aspects of developing these programs.

The Sturgis Area Arts Council and the Sturgis Public Library are collaborating with a diverse group of community leaders and veterans to apply for a NEA Big Read grant. This group selected a novel titled *The Things They Carried*, by Tim O’Brien, whose own tour of duty in Vietnam served as the inspiration for the book.

The committee has been working since last summer to develop programs that facilitate a conversation in our community focused on the unique cultural and social moment which was Vietnam. Further, and perhaps more importantly, we aim to acknowledge the effects of war on the veterans, their families, the nation, and our own communities. Through our work, it’s evident those effects are still being deeply felt and the lessons learned may be applied to better understanding those who served not only in Vietnam - but in every conflict since. These programs will be held between Labor Day and Veterans’s Day 2017. We are planning opportunities



- \* For combat soldiers to tell their stories,
- \* For experts to explain warning signs of post-traumatic stress disorder,
- \* To learn the history and geography of the Vietnam conflict,
- \* For soldiers who served in other conflicts to compare their experiences,
- \* To meet Vietnamese immigrants to hear their stories,
- \* To participate in related art projects,
- \* To experience a USO sort of musical event,
- \* To discuss the novel in a variety of times and places,
- \* To hear keynote speaker, Dr. Jason McEntee, on war, literature and the healing professions,
- \* To explore the peace movement of the 1960s and 70s.
- \* To meet and hear author Tim O’Brien in the Black Hills.

Additionally, Tom Rancour of Armed Forces Display and Gifts has agreed to bring Vietnam era packs and the actual things they carried in the field for a program. SD Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Larry Zimmerman, will speak at the program’s closure around Veterans Day 2017.

At this time, we are projecting a need for \$7000 to match a grant of the same amount from the NEA. We would appreciate donations of any amount, which may be mailed to us at: Sturgis Area Arts Council - PO Box 901 - Sturgis SD 57785. We are a 501(c)(3) organization, so all donations are tax deductible,

We hope to be one of the seventy-five communities in the country selected for this grant. If we are not approved, we are committed to bringing this important conversation to our area. Our proximity to Ft. Meade and the concentration of military bases in our area make us uniquely qualified to spearhead this work. We would be honored to count you among those helping to better understand and serve our veteran community.



## *Arts Council Treasurer Honored as Volunteer of the Year!!*

Although WE know how wonderful she is - it seems other folks think the same! Francie Ruebel-Alberts is our Arts Council Treasurer, so when we saw notice of her recognition in the Rapid City Journal, we just had to pass it along. (Thanks to the Journal for letting us use this original article)

Telling an organization's story has become an art for a Sturgis woman and has earned her recognition as the Volunteer of the Year (public affairs category) with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve during a ceremony in Washington D.C. on November 15th of this year.

The award was presented to Francie Ruebel-Alberts for her years of service with the South Dakota ESGR program. This program highlights employers' support for National Guard and Reserve employees through news release and local media connections. The award was presented to Ruebel-Alberts by the Assistant Secretary of Defense - Manpower & Reserve Affairs Todd A. Weiler and ESGR National Chair, Paul Mock.

"I am so honored to have been selected as the Public Affairs Volunteer of the Year for ESGR," said Ruebel-Alberts. "To receive this distinction is like frosting on the cake."

As a volunteer with the SD ESGR program, Ruebel-Alberts said she quickly realized that saying thank you to employers through an awards program wasn't enough. "I believe in getting information out about what ESGR does, what our employers do to support their Guard and Reserve members, and what those service members do in the military", said Ruebel-Alberts.

Following her belief, she quickly took to writing press releases about employers receiving recognition for their unique and outstanding support to their Guard and Reserve employees, as well as their participation in ESGR activities, to gain a better understanding of their employee's military service. She also worked to establish relationships with the local newspapers, which resulted in the increased publication rate garnering the public recognition Francie believed employers deserved.

"Francie's ability to utilize local media connections has been vital to strengthening and increasing our ESGR media presence in South Dakota," said Ron Mielke, state chair for SD ESGR. "I was honored to nominate Francie for the ESGR Public Affairs Volunteer of the Year award for her commitment and efforts to telling the ESGR story. "Without volunteers like her, we couldn't recognize the great employers we have in South Dakota supporting our Guard and Reserve members."

*"Art is a collaboration between God and artist, and the less the artist does, the better"*

*Andre Gide*

*Rockingtree Floral  
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Wow! It's hard to believe that 2017 is here (or at least it will be in a few days, depending on the speed this newsletter reaches you). This opens the door to yet another opportunity to support YOUR Sturgis Area Arts Council with your annual membership for 2017. We just finished a successful run of the Dakota Players production of "The Superhero Show" that involved thirty seven kids from our community and we had a full house for our annual Community Christmas Concert. In the new year we've got all the "oldies" that you love (History at High Noon - Armchair Travelers Book Club - the summer musical and a couple of "newbies" that we're working on. The Big Read project planning has started (see related article in this newsletter) and there are lots of fun things planned to go along with that in the fall.



Our members are the glue that holds all of our events together! With membership support, the Sturgis Area Arts Council will be here providing art shows, art in the schools, art on stage, art written by talented authors, art displayed in the park, art surrounding the history in our community, basically, providing all forms of art for the Sturgis Area! The Sturgis Area Arts Council can do all of this because of member support. If you haven't already renewed or joined SAAC this year, now is THE time. Just fill out the membership form on the back page of this newsletter and send it in. If you prefer not to destroy this lovely publication, you can also go to our website ([www.sturgisareaartscouncil.org](http://www.sturgisareaartscouncil.org)) and click on the membership tab - it will bring up a printable form that you can fill out and send in. Remember, your membership also entitles you to attend and vote at any 2nd Thursday 7:00pm meeting in the City Hall meeting room.

We have tremendous talent of all kinds and compassion in this community! Keep that heART pumping!

Dedi LaRue

Sturgis Area Arts Council President



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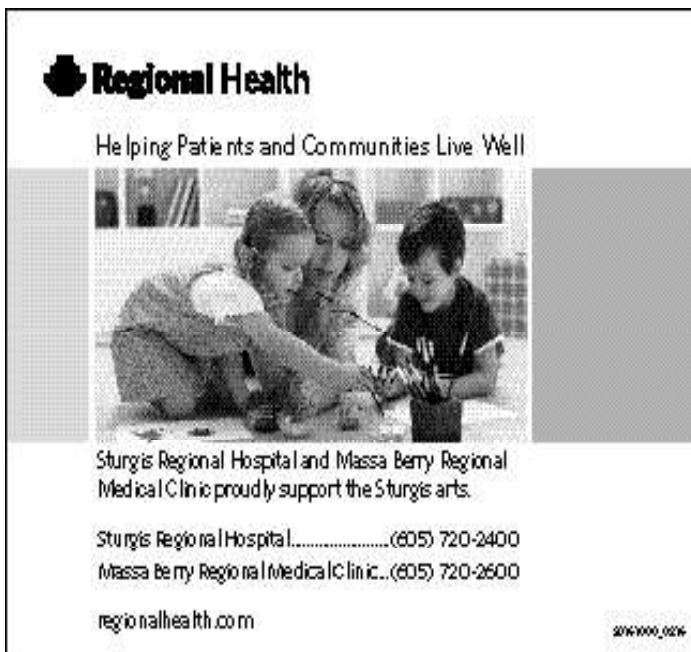


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*Connie Watson*

## Artists of the Month

At the time this newsletter went to press, information about our January and February "Artist of the Month" program wasn't set in stone yet - but here's what we CAN tell you.

For January there's a fashion display (and maybe an adult tea party fashion show??) in the works.

Watch the Sturgis Public Library's newsletter for details as plans are finalized.

For February, our artists are the middle school art students of Kristin Cammack. The middle school exhibits annually during February and their work is always wonderful. Stop in during February and see the talent our young artists have to share with you.

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*Find us in all of these other places as well ....*

The Sturgis Area Arts Council can be found online at [www.sturgisareaartscouncil.org](http://www.sturgisareaartscouncil.org) (please note - it's "org", not "com"). We post this newsletter on our site, just in case you lose this one and need to take another look!

You can also "like" us on Facebook at [facebook.com/pages/Sturgis-Area-Arts-Council](https://facebook.com/pages/Sturgis-Area-Arts-Council)

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