



Arts In Action

www.sturgisareaartscouncil.org

Volume 38, No. 3

May/June 2017

“The Drowsy Chaperone”

All actors from high schoolers to adults are invited to be part of the 2017 summer musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Auditions are Sunday, April 30 and Monday, May 1 from 6:00-8:00pm at Grace Lutheran Church. No advance preparation is necessary. The audition will include reading a bit of the script, singing some part of the musical, and an easy dance step with help from the director, Stephen Farruggia and choreographer, Bridgett Hill. All levels of experience are welcome to audition. We would love to have some new actors.



The musical performances are June 16-19 Friday, Saturday and Monday at 7:00pm, with a Sunday matinee at 2:00pm. Rehearsals will occur Mondays through Thursdays from 6:30-8:30pm. and actors must have minimal absences. We need actors to make the musical a priority throughout May and until June 19th. The first rehearsal will be Tuesday, May 3rd.

The Drowsy Chaperone is a parody of the American musical comedy of the 1920s. This “Perfect Broadway Musical,” pokes fun at all the musical theater genre. The story is told by a middle-aged, musical theater fan as he/she plays his/her favorite (fictional) musical record (*The Drowsy Chaperone*). As he/she shares the recording with the audience, the show comes to life onstage. This outrageous comedy has the fan entering and exiting the play-within-the-play as he/she comments on the music, story, and actors.

Hilarious characters include the theater fan, a butler, two lovers on the eve of their wedding, a bumbling best man and female companion, a desperate theater producer, a not-so-bright hostess, two gangsters posing as pastry chefs, a misguided Don Juan, a brash female aviator and an intoxicated chaperone – all ingredients for an evening of madcap delight. Many other ensemble parts will include singers and dancers of various ages.

The narrator’s personal life is revealed throughout his musings about the show, until, as the record ends, he is once again alone in his apartment. The audience will still be laughing as they exit the theater.

Partial funding to promote and advertise the musical is being sponsored by the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Sturgis through an event grant of \$1,500. We are very excited to have this support for an arts event in our community. It will impact many arts-lovers in Sturgis and the surrounding area.

Performance Info:

Performance will be held at the Sturgis Community Center Theater, located at 1401 Lazelle St. in Sturgis
Friday, June 16 at 7:00pm
Saturday, June 17 at 7:00pm
Sunday, June 18 at 2:00pm
Monday, June 19 at 7:00pm

Admission is \$15 for Adults - \$10 for Seniors - \$5 for Students and free for little ones 5 and under.



Armchair Travelers Book Club

The Armchair Travelers Book club will meet at noon on Thursday, May 4th, in the

Lushbough Room of the Sturgis Public Library to discuss books set in the Northern Plains of the United States. We are continuing the exploration of our country. The theme includes books set in this area or written by authors from it. The librarians will have a display of books that fit the theme near the check-out desk if you need inspiration.

The group decided to go to Texas for their June 1st meeting. The same criteria apply and the librarians will assist as usual.

This is an open book club, sponsored by the Sturgis Area Arts Council and the Sturgis Public Library. Anyone who is interested in the theme may attend and is welcome to discuss his/her reading. If you have questions, please call or email Dorothy Pulscher. Her phone is 720-5467 and her e-mail is dapulscher@gmail.com.



History at High Noon

There will be a change in the usual date for the May History at High Noon program. It will be on Friday, May 12th, the SECOND Friday! Our program presenter will be Jo Hartmann. She will tell us about coming to the United States as an English bride and about her life here in Sturgis and the Black Hills. We hear that this is a very entertaining program.

There is a possibility that we might have a special program in June. Keep an eye out-we will be sure to let you know. History at High Noon (usually) meets on 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 smaller 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 interesting programs. See you on Friday, May 12th.

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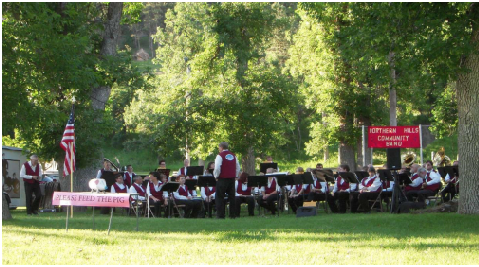
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Northern Hills Community Band



Once again, the Sturgis Area Arts Council is so very pleased to help sponsor the Northern Hills Community Band as they present two summer concerts here in the Sturgis

City Park. This year they have a new director leading the fun - Dr. Christopher Hahn, who is a music instructor at Black Hills State University.

The Northern Hills Community Band, which is made up of volunteer musicians from the Northern Hills area, plays a wide variety of selections ranging from marches to show tunes to patriotic music.

You can check out more about the band at their website; www.northernhillscommunityband.com Here you can see their concert schedule and get information on how to join the band as well as see pictures and help sponsor the band.

Their first concert here in Sturgis will be held on Sunday, June 25th and their second concert will be held on Sunday, July 23rd. Both of these concerts will be at the east end of the Sturgis City Park near the concession stand and both concerts will start at 7:00pm.

We ask that you please bring along a lawn chair or a blanket and relax with an evening of fine music by this talented and well-loved group of area musicians.

*"An artist cannot fail;
It is a success just to be one."
Charles Horton Cooley*

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Sturgis Area Arts Council's Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 30 & Monday, May 1
Auditions for "The Drowsy Chaperone"
Grace Lutheran Church, 6:00-8:00 both evenings

Thursday, May 4
Armchair Travelers Book Club
Discussing books about the Northern Plains
Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

Thursday, May 11
Sturgis Area Arts Council Meeting
Library/City Hall Meeting Room, 7:00pm

Friday, May 12
(Please note - 2nd Friday this month)
History at High Noon
Jo Hartmann will present the program
Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

Thursday, June 1
Armchair Travelers Book Club
Discussing books about Texas
Sturgis Public Library, 12:00 Noon

Thursday, June 8
Sturgis Area Arts Council Meeting
Library/City Hall Meeting Room, 7:00pm

Friday, June 16 at 7:00pm
Saturday, June 17 at 7:00pm
Sunday, June 18 at 2:00pm
Monday, June 19 at 7:00pm
"The Drowsy Chaperone"
Sturgis Community Center Theater
Admission is \$15 for Adults - \$10 for Seniors
\$5 for Students - Free for 5 and under

Sunday, June 25
Northern Hills Community Band Concert
Sturgis City Park, 7:00pm
Bring a lawn chair or a blanket :)

Sturgis Big Read

Our “Big Read” is going to be here quickly! We’ve submitted the applications and should know any day now whether we’ve been approved for our grant! Regardless of whether we get that grant or not, we’ve got a lot of wonderful things planned. See the website - www.sturgisbigread.com - for all of the details.

As part of the programs, Larry Mayes, Colonel, USAF(retired) will be presenting a two part program on the history of the Vietnam War and the protests in the US. His programs are titled “A History of the Vietnam Conflict” which will be presented at noon on September 15 in the library program room and “Turmoil in the USA” on September 29, same time and place. He has prepared the following reading list for those who are interested in a head start on the subjects.

ABRIGHT SHINING LIE - John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam - Neil Sheehan

John Paul Van served in a variety of positions, both military and civilian, in Vietnam from 1962 until his death in a helicopter crash in 1972. His insights about Vietnam, its leadership, strengths and weaknesses, particularly politically, give great resonance to this story of American presence and participation in the war.

ARUMOR OF WAR - Philip Caputo

Philip Caputo was an infantry officer in Vietnam and has chronicled his tour of duty in a very readable and visceral way, triumph and tragedy at the grunt’s eye level. A perfect companion book to Tim O’Brien’s THE THINGS THEY CARRIED .

A VIETNAMESE FIGHTER PILOT-In the American War - Hoi B. Tran

Hoi is now an American citizen when escaped Vietnam just before it fell to the Communists. He flew fighters for many years leading up to the final days of the war. His story of living in Hanoi as a child, fleeing to the South after the French defeat, fighting against the North, escaping to America and becoming a citizen gives a very special insight into the Vietnam War. I was an advisor to Hoi in the writing of this book.

DERELICTION OF DUTY-The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Lies That Led to Vietnam - Lt General H. R. McMaster, USA

This is a new book by the Trump Administration’s National Security Advisor, written as his Thesis at National War College. General McMaster reveals the in-fighting, political intrigue and personalities involved in the corrupt leadership before, during and after American involvement in the Vietnam War.

IN RETROSPECT: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam - Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defense

This an unusually candid “mea culpa” book by the man who was more responsible for the mistakes that led American in to and through the prolonged agony that resulted. He reveals the thought processes of President Johnson and his advisors as we were dragged deeper and deeper into a morass that they could not resolve. This is a fascinating look in to how bad planning, lack of vision and civilian decision making combined to create a lost cause and the deaths of nearly 58,000 Americans.

MATTERHORN-A Novel of the Vietnam War - Karl Malantes

Karl Malantes served as a Marine officer just below the DMZ in Vietnam as a Company Commander. While this book is a novel, it very accurately portrays what the war was like at the very point of the spear. This book is honest, gritty, profane and touchingly accurate, giving insights in to how decisions of life and death are made at the most personal level. Malantes is a well-educated man who tells this story an articulate and nuanced manner that is both readable and profound.

THE 10,000 DAY WAR: Vietnam 1945-1975 - Michael MacLear

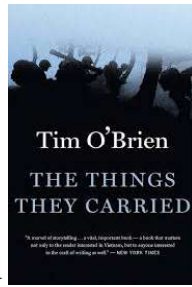
This book gives one of the best overall histories of how the Vietnam War began, starting with a history of the French Colonial experience, right up through the final defeat of the South. If you are only going to read one book about the Vietnam War, this would be your best choice.

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THE THINGS THEY CARRIED

Tim O'Brien - Our Big Read Book!

O'Brien's book is part autobiographical and part novel, telling the story of one small unit fighting in the Central Highlands and working through the actions of several individuals who tell the story of fighting, dying and the horrors of war, and the small items they carried with them for Good Luck, talismans from the lives they led before the war. This book is not about strategy, rather it looks into the thoughts, hopes, dreams and losses of the various soldiers, a very earthy and sometimes disturbing look at what war does to young men facing death.



THE VIETNAM WAR: South Dakota Remembers - South Dakota's Vietnam Veterans

Collected war stories and memories of many of South Dakota's veterans, told in their own voices. It brings home what it is like for the young men, and some women, who served in all services during the Vietnam. It personalizes the war because it is related by those who live among us now, brothers, sisters, fathers, uncles and grand fathers who left their prairie home to travel half way around the globe to fight for our freedom.

WE WERE SOLDIERS ONCE AND YOUNG Lt General Harold G. Moore, USA (Retired)

This book relates the story of Lt. Colonel Harold G. Moore as Commander of 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, I Cavalry Division (Airborne) at the Battle of the Ia Drang in 1965. This was the first major ground battle between American troops and Main Force Communist North Vietnamese Army forces. The history of Airborne Forces was largely written by Col Moore and his troopers as the first American troops to go in to battle primarily by helicopter, developing the tactics and methodologies still in use today by our modern army.

Green Thumb Gala

The library is planning our annual Green Thumb Gala fundraiser.

We're asking people to donate a plant in a decorated or creative pot (we are always amazed at how talented our community is!) or anything garden related to the Sturgis Public Library by May 8th to be part of this year's event.



The plants will be on display in a silent auction held the week of May 8th – 12th. The bidding will end at 4:30 pm on Friday, May 12. If you have the winning bid on a plant, you may pick up your prize and enjoy refreshments from 4:00-5:00 that day. Make sure to check back often if you put in a bid, because if someone raises it, you'll then have to give up that specific plant or put in a higher bid! It's a fun and friendly competition, with all proceeds going to help out the library.

Our Quilt show could use extra hangers if you have any at your house. We're looking for the kind that sometimes come free with clothes - clear plastic with "arms" that have clips to hang skirts or pants. If you have some that you don't want please drop them at the library and we'll put them to good use. Thanks!

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Artists of the Month



Our May Artist is Jodi Shaw. Jodi says about herself...

“Seven years ago, my heart began to stir. Something called to me to pay attention and to begin to

walk in a new direction. I listened and took my first steps of writing, making collage art on wood and sharing the journey through photographs. Four statements resonated with me: believe truth, be real, be who you are, and don't blink. Each one gives its own little message and all of my art weaves in at least one of these statements.

As a child, my grandmother taught me the names of all the song birds that would visit her bird feeder. This precious time planted a seed in my life that has grown as I discovered my own wings and embraced my interests and passions.

As an adult, my husband and I are growing the wings of three kids on a family cattle ranch that has been in his family for over 100 years. Some people call it the middle of nowhere, but I call it the center of my life.”

Jodi's business, White Owl Wings, features face-to-face and online art classes to encourage your heart and soul. “In addition, I create and sell mixed media art layered with photography and messages for you to "find your wings" and become who you were meant to be. Trade in fear, anxiety, and pressure for courage, authenticity, peace of mind and discovering everyday beauty via relaxing, fun, self-paced classes that weave together faith, art, photography, and words.”

See more at her website - www.whiteowlwings.com

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Our June Artists are Kat Thompson and JB Hoffman.



Kat grew up in the ranch land of western South Dakota. Mostly self-taught in her art, Kat's

western lifestyle supplies her with an endless bounty of resource material. She enjoys depicting nature and ranch/farm life in current and historical settings.

Working in many mediums, but with oil as a favorite, Kat strives to add a sense of mystery or emotion, accurate detail, and vibrant color in her Western impressions.

Kat takes part in annual exhibitions at the Black Hills Stock Show Quick Draw & Art Sale and the Custer Stampede Buffalo Show & Auction.

Her current project is a series of oil paintings depicting the 1880 era stagecoach trails leading to Deadwood.

JB Hoffman grew up on a ranch in western S.D. He learned to drive old farm tractors and was doing the farming and haying by the time he was eight. Being a mechanic was a necessity and that led him to a career as a Mechanical Technician.



An avid outdoors man with a deep appreciation for nature, it came naturally for him to live in the Alaskan Wilderness and during his many years there he became an artisan of one of a kind pieces of log furniture. On his return to SD he returned to his love of old cars and anything vintage. He collected unique pieces and began assembling them into unique creations - one of a kind pieces with a hint of whimsy.

He lives near Belle Fourche, where he has a shop/studio, where he finds great joy in creating with items discarded from another era. You never know what will show up in the shop or what will come out of it, but it is guaranteed to make you smile and scratch your head. One thing is sure - his work will always bring a smile!

The Wall that Heals coming to Chamberlain

The Wall That Heals, a 250-foot replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, along with a mobile Education Center, is coming to Chamberlain on August 10-13.. It will be at the I-90 Information Center/Rest Area (Exit 264) and will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public. It honors the more than three million Americans who served in the armed forces in the Vietnam War and bears the names of more than 58,000 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is one of the most visited memorials in our nation’s capital, however, many have not been able to visit. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the organization that built The Wall in 1982, wants to give all veterans and their family members across America an opportunity to see the Memorial.

“Taking The Wall That Heals on the road gives thousands more veterans and their family members an opportunity to see The Wall and honor those who have served and sacrificed so much,” said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of VVMF. “It helps veterans from all of America’s conflicts to find healing and a powerful connection through their common military experiences.”

South Dakota Public Broadcasting has arranged for The Wall That Heals to be located at the rest area off I-90 at Chamberlain near the Dignity sculpture. It is a part of their effort to honor veterans from the Vietnam era, Gold Star families, and others affected by the Vietnam War.

About the half-scale replica - the replica Wall is approximately 250 feet in length, and like the original Memorial is erected in a chevron-shape. The replica is constructed of powder-coated aluminum, supported by an aluminum frame, and is made up of 24 individual panels, each containing six columns of names. The names on The Wall That Heals replicate the names on The Wall in Washington, D.C.

Names are listed alphabetically by day of casualty. Beginning at the center/apex, the names start on the East Wall (right-hand side) working their way out to the end of that wing, picking up again at the far end of the West Wall (left-hand side) and working their way back in to the center/apex. Thus, the beginning and ending of the conflict are joined at the center, signifying an epoch in American history. It is transported by a 53’ trailer with cases built into its sides, allowing it to serve as a mobile Education Center that tells the story of the Vietnam War.

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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 (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!

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