



# Arts In Action

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

Volume 38, No. 5

September/October 2017

## *The Sturgis Big Read Kickoff Celebration*



The NEA Big Read is coming to Sturgis on Thursday, September 7th. Join in the excitement at Rally Point, Main and Harley-Davidson Way, at 5:30 pm. Free copies of *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien and brochures of the upcoming activities will be distributed. After the Veterans' Honor Guard and the National Anthem, enjoy the music of Kate Fjelstad.



At 6:00pm, SAAC President Denise LaRue will introduce Mayor Carstensen for a few words. She will give recognition to the committee members and partners who made the Sturgis Big Read possible. Then on to the PBS preview of "Ken Burns' *The Vietnam War*," which will be broadcast on SDPB starting September 17th.



There will be some seating, but bring your lawn chair for your viewing comfort. In case of inclement weather, we will meet in the Sturgis Community Center Theater.

**NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.**

## *Author Tim O'Brien in Sturgis*

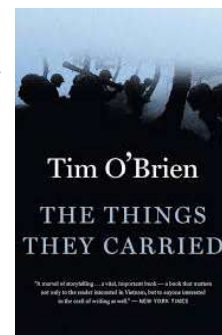
With a great deal of financial help from the South Dakota Humanities Council and AARP South Dakota, as well as the National Endowment of the Arts, Sturgis Big Read is honored to have author Tim O'Brien in our midst on Friday, September 22nd.

He will be at Sturgis Brown High School at 9:30am to visit those students who are studying his book, "The Things They Carried", which is the focus of the Big Read in Sturgis.

Everyone is invited to a reception in his honor beginning at 6:00pm in the Meade Room of the Sturgis Community Center. There will be food, beverages, a cash bar with wine and beer, and music. Jeanine, Paul and Gary will play their '60s medley, which should have everyone tapping their toes and relishing memories of days gone by.

O'Brien will present "Reflections on *The Things They Carried*" to the assembly in the theater at 7:00pm. He was born in Austin, MN, raised in Worthington, and served in Vietnam during 1969 and '70 after his graduation from Macalester College. He wrote this novel in 1990 and has earned many accolades with it.

He will participate in the Festival of the Book in Deadwood on Saturday, September 23rd, featured at an evening program with Ron Capps of the Veterans' Writing Project. See [www.sdhumanities.com/festival-of-books](http://www.sdhumanities.com/festival-of-books) for more information on that program.



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• *The Sturgis Big Read Committee, through its digital expert, Heidi Kruse, has developed a web site to keep you informed of all the events, partnerships and sponsors. Not only is it an excellent resource, it is a work of art. See for yourself by logging on to [www.SturgisBigRead.com](http://www.SturgisBigRead.com).*  
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## Artist of the Month

Our September Artist is Seth Harwood. Here's what he would like you to know about himself and his work:

"I am an artist native to the Black Hills of South Dakota. I have a background in Architecture and Design with a B.S. in Architectural Studies from South Dakota State University, and I am finishing my M.F.A. in Photography through Academy of Art University. My work has been featured both nationally and internationally, spanning from Los Angeles, CA, to Melbourne, Australia. Currently I am an Adjunct Professor of Photography for Black Hills State University, where I work to show my students that a passion can become a career.



My work is reflective of the vehicular landscape that the American Midwest was built around. This road culture is always shedding the old for the new, and in its wake, leaving these pockets of nostalgia, rust, and comfortable stillness. It's this facet of our rural landscape that I find so exhilarating to draw inspiration from; a landscape heavily saturated with run down automobiles, and neon lined motels. Scenes so beautifully lost to time, that they feel almost cinematic in their presentation. I am constantly chasing that sensation of mystic solitude and nostalgia that is so delicately littered along the vehicular landscape of the American Midwest."

Our October Artists are all of YOU! This is a call to artists of all ages for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sturgis Pop-Up Art Show. This year, in conjunction with the NEA Big Read, we are asking that entries reflect the theme of "What Does Peace Look Like?". The show is sponsored by the Sturgis Public Library, Sturgis Center for the Arts, Sturgis Area Arts Council, and First Interstate Bank. Entry forms and guidelines are available at the Library and the Center for the Arts or you can get them over e-mail by sending us a note at saacpublicity@hotmail.com. They are due back with entry fees by Monday, September 18th. Venues include the Library, Center for the Arts and 1st Interstate Bank, where art will be on display during the month of October. Receptions will be held on Thursday, October 26th, from 4:00-6:00pm.

Age Groups and Categories: (Please note - Entry fees will be WAIVED for all Veterans participating in the Show)  
 Art: painting (oil, acrylic, watercolor) mixed media, drawing (chalk, pencil, charcoal, crayon, marker), fiber,  
 Adult (age 19 and up) \$15 for 2 entries (max 2) ~ High School (grades 9-12) \$5 per entry (max 2)  
 Middle School (grades 6-8) \$5 per entry (max 2) ~ Upper Grade School (grades 3-5) \$5 per entry (max 2)  
 Lower Grade School (grades K-2) \$5 per entry (max 2)

Photography: Open Adult and High School ages only, \$10 per entry (max 2)

Sculpture: Adults and High School Age Students \$10 per entry (max 2)

Prizes: Best of Show, People's Choice and 1st Place prizes.

\*The venues will try to protect items displayed but are not responsible for loss or damage to items.

More questions? Call Julie or Toni at the Library, 347-2624




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## *Armchair Travelers Book Club*

Armchair Travelers will meet at noon on Thursday, September 7th, to discuss war stories. This book club meets in the Lushbough Room of the Sturgis Public Library. They have decided to discuss *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien at their October 5th meeting. We welcome all interested readers to join in the conversation.

Other opportunities to discuss *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien are available:

September 11th at 5:30 pm in the program room of the Sturgis Public Library. High school English teacher Eric Johnson will lead the discussion while training other discussion leaders and moderators.

September 19th at 7:00 pm in the program room at the Library. Anne Bodman and Francie Ruebel Alberts will lead.

September 21st at 7:00 pm at the Piedmont Valley Library, 111 Second St., Piedmont, SD. Librarian Jane Abernathy will lead the discussion.

September 25th at 1:00 pm at the Old Fort Meade Museum and Historical Research Association, Bldg. 55, Sheridan St., Ft. Meade, SD. John Tesnow will serve as leader.

November 7th at 5:00 PM at the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum. Come see vintage motorcycles and discuss the novel.

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

*Please note - the events listed here are the NON "Big Read" related events.*

*For a list of the Big Read events, please see the insert in this newsletter*

### **Thursday, September 7**

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

### **Friday, September 8th**

History at High Noon  
"Growing up at Bear Butte" by Gene Bovee  
Sturgis Library Program Room, 12:00 noon

### **Thursday, September 14**

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

### **Thursday, October 5**

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

### **Thursday, October 12**

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

### **Sunday, October 15**

USO Show  
Sturgis Community Center Theater, 2:00pm

### **Monday, October 16**

Auditions for Dakota Players Production of  
"The Bard of Ballyfiddle"  
Sturgis Elementary School Gym, 3:30pm

### **Friday, October 20**

History at High Noon  
Program on the Aga Family  
Sturgis Library Program Room, 12:00 noon

### **Friday, October 20 & Saturday, October 21**

"The Bard of Ballyfiddle"  
Sturgis Community Center Theater, 7:00pm

### **Friday, October 27**

Halloween Story Telling  
with the Black Hills Storytellers  
Sturgis Center for the Arts, 7:00pm



## ***Children's Theater Production to return in October***

Dakota Players will be back in Sturgis in October to work with our students to put on their “musical in a week” Mark your calendars now - auditions for any and all students in the Sturgis/Whitewood area will be held on Monday, October 16th, at 3:30pm in the Sturgis Elementary school gymnasium. Letters will be send home with all Sturgis/Whitewood students in early October, but if you have a home-schooler that would like to participate that'd be great as well. Send an e-mail to [saacpublicity@hotmail.com](mailto:saacpublicity@hotmail.com) and we'll send you the letter that the rest of 'em will be getting. We always love having the Dakota Players folks in our midst - they have a knack for working with the kids in a way that makes it both fun and educational. You can read more about them (and their programs) at their website - [www.dakotaplayers.com](http://www.dakotaplayers.com)

A bit about the show - The Sheldon R Serious School is in trouble, folks! Principal Farly has just implemented the “Serious Plan for Serious Education”, which features a no-joy policy and, most devastatingly, the elimination of music!! When a strange Bard and a Mysterious Symphony of Sound show up, the kids discover the magical world of Ballyfillde, teaching them how to listen to their hears and helping them devise a clever plan for restoring joy to their school.

“The Bard of Ballyfiddle” will be presented Friday, October 20th and Saturday, October 21st at 7:00pm each evening in the Sturgis Community Center Theater. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for students - kids under 5 are free. Bring the whole family and support our young actors and actresses here in Sturgis!!

## ***USO Show Celebrates “The Big Read”***



Get ready to swing back in time to the 60's and 70's as the Arts Council's Drama Department presents its Fall Music Revue - a USO show highlighting music from the Vietnam Era.

Along with the variety of events scheduled for The Big Read in Sturgis, we know that music also takes people back to this memorable time in their lives. We hope to lighten some of the memories of that tumultuous time in American history by recalling songs that everyone sang and still fondly remember.

The USO-type show will be presented on Sunday, October 15th at 2:00pm. at the Sturgis Community Center Theater. Performers may include Bob Hope, Nancy Sinatra, Ann Margaret, the Beatles, the Mamas and the Papas and your other favorite performers from the Vietnam Era. Don't miss this entertaining part of our Big Read events calendar.

Admission is \$15 for Adults, \$10 for Seniors and \$5 for Students.

## ***Round Table Discussions***

One of the most valuable and thought-provoking elements of the Big Read programming in Sturgis is the opportunity to hear our veterans and their families tell their stories. We have planned three events that will give the audience an opportunity to ask questions of the panelists after they tell of their experiences.



On Tuesday, October 3rd, Michael Fellner, PhD will moderate a panel of four Vietnam Combat Veterans in the Meade County Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Erskine Building, 1300 Sherman, Sturgis, beginning at 6:00pm.

During “Battles on the Homefront: The Families of War,” a round table panel of four with a moderator will share thoughts on issues of deployment and loss of loved ones. This event will take place on Thursday, October 5th, beginning at 6:00pm, also in the Erskine Building on West Sherman St. in Sturgis.

On Sunday, October 22nd, MSG Kristi L. Palmer, CPS – Master Religious Affairs – NCO- SD National Guard, will moderate a foursome of soldiers involved in conflicts outside of Vietnam discussing “Perspectives – 50 years of Conflict.” This event will take place at the American Legion (Post 311) Hall, 101 Pine Street, Piedmont, SD., beginning at 1:00pm.



## “Considering The Things They Carried”

The Sturgis Big Read Committee is excited to bring Dr. Jason McEntee to Sturgis on Saturday, September 16th, to serve as Keynote speaker for the NEA Big Read Project. He will be speaking in the Sturgis Community Center Theater in a program that will begin at 6:30pm with music of the Vietnam era by Paul Peterson and Loren Erickson.

Dr. McEntee is Professor and Department Head of English at South Dakota State University. He

comes well versed in the literature of war and has been involved with the Literature and Medicine program through the Veterans Administration Health Care System. He has also participated in establishing veterans writing groups through the South Dakota Humanities Council.



## Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Among Veterans and their families, two of the most perplexing dilemmas related to military service are the tendency toward suicide and the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. We are pleased to have two experts in these fields to help us cope with the reality of each.

On Thursday, October 19th, at 7:00pm, Dr. Bill Meirose - a Master Trainer in suicide prevention and Intervention - will discuss these difficult situations in a program titled “The Road To Hope”. This will be at the Erskine Building, located at 1300 West Sherman in Sturgis. Dr. Meirose has served as Executive Director of the SD Joining Forces Initiative, twenty years in the SD National Guard including three years in the US Army and ten years at the VA Black Hills Health Care System at Ft. Meade. He has earned his Doctorate in Adult and Higher Education from USD, Masters from SDSU and Bachelors from BHSU.

\*\*\* (Article continues on back page)

## What Were the Things They Carried?

American Legion Post 311 is hosting Rod Green, a veteran from Sioux Falls, starting at 1:00pm on Sunday, September 10th, at their hall in Piedmont. The hall is located at 101 Pine Street. Green will display military gear and answer questions about what it was used for. Combat veterans often carried in excess of eighty-five pounds of gear. If you’ve ever wondered about it or want to reminisce, this is your chance to check it out.

## Have a Haunted Halloween!



The Black Hills Storytellers promise to shiver your timbers and rattle your bones at our 22nd annual storytelling program for adults and teens. It will be held at 7:00pm on Friday October 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Sturgis Center for the Arts, 1238 Main Street Suite #2 (in the back by the dark alley).

The event is co-hosted by the Sturgis Area Arts Council, and admission is by donation.

Our stories are meant for teens and adults - we ask that you please leave your children safe at home!

## History at High Noon

After their summer vacation, our History at High Noon programs will start again on Friday, September 8th with a special 2nd Friday event! Gene Bovee will present “Growing up on Bear Butte” along with history about the Fruth Hotel. Gene is the grandson of Henry Fruth and Ezra Bovee. Henry Fruth owned the Fruth Hotel and Ezra Bovee homesteaded some 1200 acres including about 2/3rds of Bear Butte. Gene grew up in Sturgis, graduated from SHS in 1952, served in the Army through 1956, and graduated from BHTC in 1959. He traveled extensively and then returned to the USA in 1975, eventually working for CoBank in Denver.

On Friday, October 20th. they’ll be back to their 3rd Friday, where Marion Eatherton will be presenting a program on the Aga Family.

Both programs will be in the Program Room of the Sturgis Public Library at 12:00 Noon. One and all are welcome!



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## Experience of a Vietnamese Immigrant



On Friday, October 13th, at 12:00 noon in the Program Room of the Sturgis Public Library, we have the opportunity to meet Anh Nyugen Harper, DDS. Dr Harper is an immigrant from Vietnam. She is willing to share her experiences as a child during and after the American presence in Vietnam and her eventual move to Nebraska as a young adult.

Dr. Anh Q. Nguyen Harper was a five year old child when Saigon fell in 1975. Her father, who had worked with the Green Berets, was imprisoned in Hanoi for 8 and 1/2 years. Her mother, a former nurse, struggled to support the family by selling fish. In November 1992, President Bush's refugee program re-settled them in Hastings, Nebraska. Dr. Anh attended dental school, married, and now has a practice with Ray Dental Group in Rapid City.

## What DOES Peace look like?

Everyone seems to have a different image of peace, judging by the variety of concepts around. However you see it, you have the opportunity to illustrate it in the Sturgis Big Read Art Project.



Bob Davis, of Sturgis Photo and Gifts, is cutting 14" jigsaw pieces for anyone who is so inclined to create his/her version of "peace". You can draw, paint, sketch, or write on it. Use whatever medium you prefer privately in your home or come to a community event in the program room of the library on Tuesday, October 17th at 6:30pm to work on your "piece of peace" with others. Puzzle pieces will be available at the Sturgis Big Read Kick-off on September 7th at Rally Point and at the Library and the Sturgis Center for the Arts after that.

Young people will have the opportunity to create their idea of peace at the Library's Makers' Space programs on Mondays: September 18th, October 2nd, and 16th. We're working to involve the middle and high school art programs.

The entire collection will be hung in the library on November 1st, and be on display for the month. Although each puzzle piece represents an individual; when they all come together, we will have a unique community concept of Peace.

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(ask Bob for a tour of his workshop)

## How did we get into and out of Vietnam?



To help those of us who thrive on history (as well as those of us who weren't paying attention back in the

day), Larry Mayes, Colonel USAF (retired) has spent many hours condensing the broad scope of information about the Vietnam Conflict into an hour long program. He will present "A History of the Vietnam Conflict" on Friday, September 15th, at 12:00noon in the program room of the Sturgis Library.

Knowing there are two sides to everything, "Turmoil in The USA" will follow on Friday, September 29th, with the same presenter, time and place.

Larry Mayes is a native South Dakotan with a degree in history from Northern State University. While spending thirty years in the US Air Force, he served in Vietnam, fifteen other foreign countries, and earned Master's degrees in Counseling and Public Administration. He retired to Rapid City in 1998 along with his wife, Pat.

## Cooking with Wine

Belle Joli Winery and Sparkling House is featuring Vietnamese and Asian recipes for their "Cooking With Wine" event on Thursday, October 5th, from 6:00-8:00pm in honor of the Sturgis Big Read. See [Sturgisbigread.com](http://Sturgisbigread.com) for further details



## Volunteers Needed

We still need lots of folks to help us with our Big Read events. Please contact Julie Peterson at the Library 347-2624 or Dorothy Pulscher at 720-5467 if you'd like to be part of the fun.

## Other Events for Veterans

Area events besides the Sturgis Big Read that have to do with veterans:

September 9th and October 14th at 9:00am SD Air and Space Museum, EAFB, Black Hills Veterans Writing Group program. See [www.battlestory.org](http://www.battlestory.org) for more information

September 23rd – 8:00 AM Rochford, 10:00 am Dumont – Black Hills Veteran March and Marathon. See [www.blackhillsveternmarch.com](http://www.blackhillsveternmarch.com) for details.

September 27th and October 25th at 1 PM "Veteran of the Month," Erskine Bldg., 1300 Sherman, Meade County Commissioners' Meeting Room.

October 21st - Sergeant Colton Levi Derr Foundation Gala, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City. See [www.sergeantderrfoundation.org](http://www.sergeantderrfoundation.org) for more information.

November 10th - Meade 46-1 Classrooms. Veteran's Day programs.



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*Karl Marlantes*

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*(P.T.S.D. ... continued from page 5)*

Dr. Michael Fellner, a retired psychologist who served for 29 years at the VA Black Hills Health Care System at Ft. Meade and at a variety of positions in mental health throughout the area, will address the issue of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in “PTSD - Now and Then” on Thursday, October 26th, at 7:00pm, also in the Erskine Building. Dr. Fellner earned his Doctorate in Counseling Psychology at the University of Texas. Originally from New York, He has lived in Sturgis since 1975.

### *The Faces of Agent Orange*

One of the major health issues of veterans who served in Vietnam continues to be the effects of Agent Orange. For the latest information regarding exposure to this herbicide, join us on Saturday, November 4, 2017 for one of two sessions: the first from 9 AM to Noon and a repeat from 1 PM to 4 PM in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room of the Erskine Building, 1300 Sherman, Sturgis, SD, to hear Maynard Kaderlik, the Regional Vietnam Veterans of America Agent Orange Chairman.



Kaderlik, now living in Montgomery, MN, served in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam, was exposed to Agent Orange, and has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. His concern and that of many other veterans is for birth defects in their children, which seem to occur more frequently among the veterans exposed to Agent Orange than to the population at large.