



# Arts In Action

www.sturgisareaartscouncil.org

Volume 38, No. 6

November/December 2017

## 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.

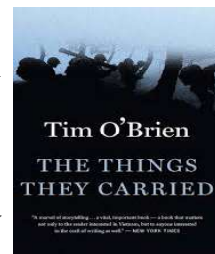
## Closing Program for the Sturgis Big Read

The Sturgis Big Read will share the Veteran's Day Celebration with VFW Post 2730 and American Legion Meade Post 33 at the Sturgis Veterans' Club, 868 Main Street, on November 11th. Please join us in celebrating Veterans' Day with the fellows who earned it as we conclude our nine weeks of exploring *The Things They Carried* and the effects of war wherever in the world it happens.

The ceremonies will begin at 10:00am. South Dakota Secretary of Military and Veterans Affairs Larry Zimmerman will address the assembly following the opening announcements and introductions. At 11:11, the group will venture out-of-doors to fire a rifle volley in honor of the day. A chili feed will follow with a free will offering to cover expenses.

## Motorcycle Museum hosts our last Book Discussion

For those of you who may have missed being in on a discussion of the Sturgis Big Read's featured novel, "The Things They Carried", by Tim O'Brien, we are offering you one last chance!



Others who may have enjoyed at least one discussion are also welcome to come to the Sturgis Motorcycle Museum at 5:00pm on Tuesday, November 7th, to discuss this novel under the leadership of Lisa Katzenstein.

## So MANY Thanks!!!



The Sturgis Big Read has gone from a dream to a nearly finished reality. We feel that together with your help- those of you who supported the programs by your faithful attendance and those of you who helped them become the special events that they were- we have accomplished what we set out to do. That is to get to know our veterans and try to understand what they have gone through in their service to us. Along the way we have learned much more than we expected to and look forward to continuing relationships that were begun while reading *The Things They Carried*, meeting Tim O'Brien, and hearing your reactions to everything along the way. There have been tears, "aha" moments, joy, and laughter. Thanks for everything.

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



South Dakota



South Dakota Humanities Council

## Artists of the Month

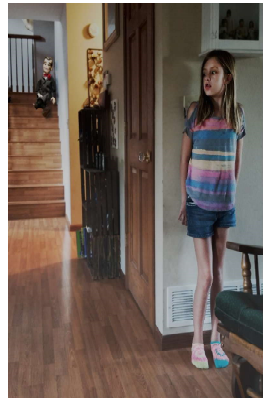
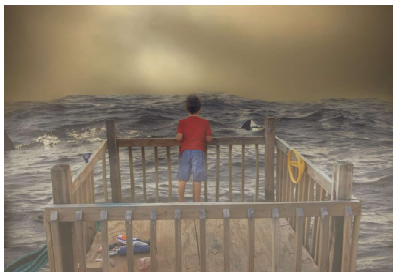


Our November artists are all the folks that contributed to the Sturgis NEA Big Read Community Art Project that we've titled "What Does Peace Look Like?"

During the months of September and October, nearly 170 24 x 24 inch blank puzzle pieces were distributed throughout Sturgis for individuals or groups to create and turn back in to the library for display in November. The idea was to portray what peace looks like to the creator, or the peaceful process of just creating art. The puzzle pieces were provided through funds from the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read grant and the generosity of Bob Davis from Sturgis Photo and Gifts. Some of the community groups participating include the Sturgis Middle and High School art students; The Fort Meade VA Art Therapy program; Black Hills Special Services; and the Sturgis Public Library MakerSpace program. The completed art puzzle(s) will be assembled for display early in November, so there's still time to return your completed work to the Library if you haven't. Stop at the Library during November and see the Peace that we've created here in Sturgis!

Joni Burgess is our December Artist. She brings us "The Travelers" series.

How did you interpret literature as a child? Did you brave the waves, hide from the monsters, or imagine yourself as a princess dressed in a shiny gown? A child's imagination, still free from the chains of reality, runs within the text. Their little minds download the information the page presents to them, allowing bold adventures to take place in secondary worlds they conjure. Joni invites you to tag along with her four children in this series, "Travelers", as they take you to their literary universe to see what they see and, if you're lucky, remember a childish experience of your own.



Sally Mann has been a great influence on Joni. Her work proves that passion can and will inspire wonderfully bold artistic expression. All mothers want to photograph their children, propelled by growing pride and limitless love, as they progress

through the stages of life. Backed by Mann's legacy, Joni believes that such photographs can be marvelous pieces of art that can be both cherished by mothers and admired by others if enough passion for the craft.

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## *Armchair Travelers Book Club*

The Armchair Travelers Book Club has chosen to discuss stories with “odd characters” when it meets on Thursday, November 2nd, at 12:00 noon in the Lushbough room of the Sturgis Library. The librarians will have suggested titles on display at the library if you need ideas on which books to read.

For their Thursday, December 7th meeting, please read any and all books about food – not necessarily cookbooks; but that’s always a possibility. A list will be forthcoming closer to the day and the librarians will display potential reads on that subject as well.

Armchair Travelers is an open-to-all book club for any interested readers. It meets at noon on the first Thursday of nearly every month and discusses books on a predetermined theme. Come on down and join in some bookworm fun!



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

**Thursday, November 2**

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

**Saturday, November 4**

The Faces of Agent Orange  
Erskine Building, 1300 Sherman St. 1:00-4:00pm

**Tuesday, November 7**

Community Book Discussion of  
“The Things They Carried”  
Sturgis Motorcycle Museum, 5:00-6:00pm

**Thursday, November 9**

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

**Saturday, November 11**

Big Read Closing Ceremony  
Sturgis Vet’s Club, 11:00am

**Friday, November 17**

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

**Wednesday, December 6**

Community Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal  
Sturgis Community Center Theater, 7:00pm

**Sunday, December 10**

Community Christmas Concert  
Sturgis Community Center Theater, 2:00pm

**Thursday, December 14**

Sturgis Area Arts Council Meeting  
Dedi’s Home, 5:30pm

*And .... coming in 2018*

**Sunday, January 7**

Auditions for “Everybody Loves Opal”  
Location TBA, 6:30-8:30pm

**February 23-February 26**

“Everybody Loves Opal”  
Sturgis Community Center Theater



## *The Tradition Continues*

### *Sturgis Community Christmas Concert*



For the 39th consecutive year, church choirs from Sturgis and Whitewood will continue to bring the Christmas spirit to the Sturgis area as they join in song on Sunday, December 10th at 2:00pm at the Sturgis Community Center

Theater. The Annual Community Christmas Concert, a favorite holiday tradition, provides a wonderful offering to the local Christmas season.

Area church choirs are now beginning their rehearsals for this special event as they prepare for their individual performances. All of the choirs come together to blend for the concert's final piece which will be directed by Barry Furze, organist and choir director at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Both the audience members and our singers look forward to this gathering of voices from across our community.

All church choirs are welcome to participate in this concert. New choirs are always invited to join and need only to contact Marlene Kotab, concert coordinator, by phone at 347-1375 or by email at kotabgmc@rushmore.com. Any singer who does not belong to a church choir is still invited to sing with the mass group on the final number. The one mass choir rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, December 6th, at 7:00pm in the theater.

Don't miss this enjoyable musical holiday tradition!

## *History at High Noon*

History at High Noon will meet at 12:00 noon on Friday, November 17th, in the Program Room of the Sturgis Public Library. Our program speaker will be Bob Davis. He will be sharing memories of his parents, Dale and Carol, and his grandparents, George and Gail. All four were active in Sturgis and the Meade County area. Be sure to come and hear Bob share some of his family's history.



This will be the last program presented in 2017. Thank you to all our wonderful and faithful audience. we couldn't do it without you. The History at High Noon committee is now working on scheduling programs for 2018. Give Diana Hayes, Bonnie Lange, Rosalee Johnson or Dode Lee a call if you have an idea for a program or would like to share one. 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 History at High Noon 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. The library always keeps the coffee pot on and you are welcome to bring your lunch.

So, we will see all of you on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> and then not again until the New Year!

## *Attention Snowbirds and Movers*

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 to let us know of any and all changes, please ~ we would most appreciate it!! :) )

## *USO Show Fills Sturgis Theater*

Local talent played to a full house on Sunday, Oct. 15 for the Big Read’s USO Show Reenactment. Randy Bender’s portrayal of Bob Hope took the audience back to the 60s and 70s as he guided the audience back in time with Bob Hope-style humor and good fun. Performers joked with Bob Hope and then entertained the audience with songs from well-known singers from the Vietnam Era.


With an imaginative set design by Karen Lynass, the stage had the perfect backdrop for a show reminiscent of USO Shows from the 60s and 70s in Vietnam. The show opened with stupendous band numbers from Dave Martinson’s Big Band. The audience was tapping their toes to well-known tunes as they awaited performances that continued to bring the house down.

Director Marlene Kotab quoted, “It was an honor to be able to coordinate a show with our best local talent. They all wanted to give a gift back to those men and women who served our country not only in Vietnam, but throughout our country’s history. I hope the audience and especially the veterans enjoyed the show and felt the honor and respect we hold for them.”

Performers included: Bob Hope – Randy Bender, Raquel Welch – Ashley Alsup, Phyllis Diller – June Dill, Connie Stevens and Brenda Lee – Hillary Hill and Chris Kaitfors, Sailor Group – Gary Nelson, Christian Kotab, Dan Chapman, Ross Lamphere, Pat Scherer, Ray Kaitfors, and Jason McKee, Nancy Sinatra – Jen Loftin, the Mamas and the Papas – Christian, Gordon, and Marlene Kotab, Dan Chapman, Marcia Potts, Cynthia Scherer, Marge Erion-Johnson, and Tammy Hencke, Ann-Margret – Teresa Forbes, Sonny and Cher – Steve Keszler and June Dill, Elvis Presley – Jason McKee, Buffalo Springfield – Cody Loftin, Dan Alsup, Christian Kotab, Pat Scherer, and Dan Chapman, and Les Brown and His Band of Renown – Dave Martinson’s Big Band. Technical support was by Rudy Moravec and Christian Kotab and accompanists included Dan Alsup, Mike Moken, and Marlene Kotab. The HomeSlice Group provided the USO banner for the set.


*“Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country’s cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause.”*

*.....Abraham Lincoln*



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### A Prank in Three Acts

The Sturgis Players are proud to present their winter play, “Everybody Loves Opal” from Friday, February 23rd through Monday, February 26th at the Sturgis Community Center Theater. Friday, Saturday and Monday performances are at 7:00pm and the Sunday matinee performance is at 2:00pm.

Director June Dill has set auditions for Sunday, January 7th from 6:30-8:30pm.

The locations for auditions hasn’t been determined yet, but we’ll let you know

when we know. June, a veteran director who has recently retired from the Sturgis Brown High School, is now ready to lend her directing skills to the Sturgis Area Arts Council’s productions. She is very familiar with the play having previously directed it. She agrees with the New York Post’s description of the play as “shamelessly entertaining.”

The cast includes 2 women and 4 men. Opal Kronkie, the main character, is a middle-aged recluse, who exists in the general disarray of her home. She totes anything and everything home in her little red wagon and is the eternal and kind optimist. She is set upon by three unsavory characters who concoct a series of elaborate schemes to steal Opal’s fortune. Through it all, unsuspecting Opal radiates kindness, affection, and gratitude.

Plan for an evening of laughs and goofy, enjoyable antics. You’ll leave the play agreeing with the author’s description of “Everybody Loves Opal” as a prank in three acts.

#### CAST BREAKDOWN:

##### Principal Roles:

**Opal** - A middle-aged recluse living in a tumbledown mansion at the edge of the municipal dump. She is an optimist full of unfailing kindness and an abiding faith in the goodness of human nature.

**Gloria Gulock** - On the lam from the authorities, she has designer-like wardrobe, and Hollywood dreams makes her the perfect naive front woman. She has a brashness that compensates for her insecurity. She seems hardened.

**Bradford Winter “Professor”** – On the lam from the authorities, the real brains behind the operation, with his high-end vocabulary, college professor ensemble, and sarcastic sense of humor.

**Solomon Bozo** – Also on the lam from the authorities, he is the big bossman in his fancy fur and authoritative air who talks a big, mob-boss-like game, but there’s something hiding beneath the boisterousness. He is shabby, fat, bald and bug-eyed. He is in an extreme state of agitation.

##### Minor roles:

**Doctor** - Middle-aged. Rather cantankerous.

**Officer Joe Jankie** - A handsome young policeman.



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We post this newsletter on our site, just in case you lose this one and need to take another look!

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