

FROM THE PRESIDENT

50 Years!! Along with Apollo 11, Woodstock, the Vietnam War, and the National Endowment for the Arts, WPAA will also be celebrating a milestone.

The color gold is associated with 50 years, symbolizing wisdom, success and achievement. I believe these words are descriptive of WPAA. Because of the many volunteers who work to keep the association thriving and the financial support of our members, WPAA has been able to reach this point in our history.



Though the years have brought many changes, WPAA is still dedicated to the goal of securing quality programming at an affordable price for this nine-county area. For this 50th year, a \$50 season ticket is

worth every dollar in return for the programs you can attend.

Sincerely, Wilma Mai

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY

Board members are in the process of contacting current members and sponsors for the 50th WPAA season programs. If you have not been contacted or know of someone interested in being a sponsor or member please contact someone on the board member list on page 4 of this newsletter.

ANNUAL MEETING HELD

The annual meeting of WPAA was held February 2. Wilma Mai was elected as president Marilyn Meier, president-elect, Jan Barnum secretary and Betty Hockersmith as treasurer. Eric and Roxey Yonkey are Media Correspondents.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Welcomed as new board members at recent board meetings were Beth Klepper of Bird City and Karl Pratt, Hoxie. The board currently consists of 36 members and an executive director. The hope is that each of the towns in the 9 NW counties would be well represented on the board.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 2019-20

This is our 50th year and you can go to all of these for \$50

This is a tentative schedule and all programs are subject to change.

Sunday, September 8, 3:00 p.m. **THE FOUR FRESHMEN** will share their stunning, beautifully haunting harmonies in a concert of their legendary sound at the Oakley H S Auditorium.

Sunday, September 15, 3:00 p.m. C.T. (2:00 M.T.) **QUEEN CITY JAZZ BAND** from Denver will do a delightful concert of different styles of jazz. Goodland H.S. Auditorium.

Sunday, September 29, 3:00 p.m. The **GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA** will perform a concert of music from the big band era. Cultural Arts Center, Colby

Sunday, October 13, 3:00 p.m. **JANA JAE** first lady of country fiddle and entertainer extraordinaire, will perform western swing and other things with her band. Cultural Arts Center, Colby

Mon., Wed. October 14-16 **WICHITA CHILDREN'S THEATRE** will present "**Three Billy Goats Gruff**" in area schools. Hoxie, Atwood, Winona, Sharon Springs, Colby Quinter

Monday, October 14, 7:00 p.m. public performance of **Three Billy Goats Gruff** free to all attendees. Oberlin H.S. Auditorium

Sunday, October 20, 3:00 p.m. **BACKTRACK** is an award-winning vocal ensemble based in New York City. The five musicians in the group infuse heart and humor into their performances and cover genres from pop to Motown to classical as well as original pieces. Cultural Arts Center, Colby

Sunday, November 3, 3:00 p.m., **DUANE LAFLIN OF THE GRAND MAGIC SHOW** from Branson will do an exciting show of illusion that will be entertaining for all ages. Hoxie High School Auditorium

Sunday, November 10, 3:00 p.m. Guitarist **ADAM GARDINO** & fiddle partner will share a variety of selections. Legion Hall, Bird City

Sunday, November 17, 3:00 p.m. Back by popular demand, **DERIK NELSON AND FAMILY** will do "Seasons" with beautiful pictures and velvety harmonies. Cultural Arts Center, Colby

Sunday, December 1, 3:00 p.m. **TAKE THREE** will perform a holiday show that has a blend of veteran musicianship and youthful energy. It is a kinetic blend and multi-media infused program. An exciting start to the holidays! Cultural Arts Center, Colby

Sunday, January 19, 3:00 p.m. **SHADES OF BUBLE** is a three-man tribute to Michael Buble in a one-of-a-kind headliner show perfect for all ages. Oakley H.S. Auditorium

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MUSIC ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE? *by Wilma Mai*

If you have been thinking about this, then you are right. Songs just are not written the same nowadays

A fiftieth anniversary is a time for looking back, and taking a look back at 1969—the number one hit was “Sugar, Sugar” by the Archies. The lyrics started out: “Sugar, ah honey, honey. You are my candy girl, and you got me wanting you.”

It was a catchy tune, and the beat was just right for roller skating music. The theme is about a sweetness of a romantic relationship.

The number one hit as of March 2019 was “Without Me” by Halsey. The song is about a young woman who helped her boyfriend achieve fame, and he has dumped her. Bitterness and anger are the themes.

The lyrics also contain some objectionable language.

Some research into the popular songs of the last 50 years has concluded that there has been a lot of change in musical taste. There are more negative feelings written in music today: violence, death, sex, alcohol, drugs and financial hardship. This information comes from an article in the May issue of SMITHSONIAN magazine.

Where love and romantic relationships are still the theme of most popular music, that trend has slowly declined over the years and has been replaced with anger, fear and disgust.

Some music today is created entirely by computer, and the prediction is that anger about love relationships will be more common, and more music will possibly be written by a machine. At the same time love and romantic relationships will continue in the lyrics of popular music.

Despite these trends, the past season of WPAA programs emphasized positive feelings, even when SWITCHBACK gave us their original song about a Kansas tornado!

You will find in the listing of programs for the new season that some favorite performers will be returning, and we can also look forward to hearing some new talent.

We have much to celebrate for reaching this point in our history, and for the expectation of more WPAA seasons to come. With gratitude and jubilation let's make this another successful year.

HUMANITIES KANSAS NEWS

A new member of the Humanities Kansas Board of Directors is Roetta Mann from Quinter.

Three events in the TALK Series, Growing Up will be held in Oberlin. All three are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the Golden Age Center.

August 13 -- THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES

September 10 -- MY LAST DAYS AS ROY ROGERS

October 1 -- THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

Season continued

Sunday January 26, 3:00 p.m. C.T. (2:00 M.T.) The popular duo, **ACOUSTIC EIDOLON**, will do their signature acoustic music of Celtic, folk and classic genres. [Sharon Springs H.S. Auditorium](#)

Sunday, February 9, 3:00 p.m. Folk Singer **MOLLIE O'BRIEN** will present a show of varied selections. [St. Francis H.S. Auditorium](#)

Sunday February 16, 3:00 p.m. Fiftieth anniversary celebration show by WPAA Board & affiliates. Reception following. [Cultural Arts Center, Colby](#)

Sunday, March 1, 3:00 p.m. **JAY & LESLIE CADY** will perform juggling and other nonsense in a public performance and two school shows the next day. [Quinter H.S. Auditorium](#)

Sunday, March 8, 3:00 p.m. Branson-based **FOREVER YOUNG** is a musical theater production that takes place in a basement retreat with 5 powerhouse singers. They relive the music of their lives with energetic dancing and loads of laughs on their sentimental journey. [Oakley H.S. Auditorium](#)

Sunday, March 22, 3:00 p.m. A marimba quartet called **MARIMBA SOL de CHIAPAS**, North America's premier professional Mexican marimba ensemble, will perform an eclectic variety of pieces. [Hoxie H.S. Auditorium](#)

Friday, March 27, 7:30 p.m. **NASHVILLE LEGACY** will be a nostalgic show of music from Nashville stars of the past. [Oakley H.S. Auditorium](#)

Sunday, April 19, 3:00 p.m. **BALL IN THE HOUSE** is an R&B/soul/pop a cappella group that makes “music that'll move ya' with beatbox and vocal bass under their cool harmonies. [Oakley H.S. Auditorium](#)

Sunday, April 26, 3:00 p.m. Formerly called En Power & Light, **LEZLEE & PAUL** will perform a variety of pieces. [Atwood H.S. Auditorium](#)

Please check the program booklet which will be printed later this summer for more definite information on performances.

All program times are listed as Central Time and those in the Mountain Time zone are noted. Doors will open approximately 30-40 minutes before each show starts.

POET LAUREATE OF KANSAS

A new poet laureate has been selected for 2019-2021. He is Huascar Medina from Topeka. His collection of poems is titled HOW TO HANG THE MOON, and his book UN MANGO GROWS IN KANSAS will be coming out this year.

WPAA can claim a poet laureate! Ona Mae Ratcliff-Dechert from Atwood received the honor in 1999.

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COMMUNITY CALENDARS

ATWOOD Rawlins Co. H.S. Saturday, July 20, 3 pm and Sunday July 21, 7 pm. Disney's "The Lion King - JR"

COLBY

CCC Frahm Theater; Saturday, July 13, 3 p.m. and Sunday, July 14, 7 p.m. Disney's "Cinderella KIDS"

Picnic in the park at Fike Park Wednesdays at noon to 1:00 through July 17. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket plus a lunch. Music while you eat by various groups.

Pickin' on the plains

July 19-21, Bluegrass and Folk Festival, at Fairgrounds

GOODLAND

Goodland High School; Saturday, July 6, 3 pm MT and Sunday July 7, 7 pm MT. Disney's "Alice in Wonderland - JR"

Carnegie Arts Center

July 20, Carnegie Talent Show

CARNEGIE ARTS CENTER,

Tuesday through Friday 12-4 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

785-890-6442

<http://goodlandarts.org/>

HOXIE H.S Auditorium Friday, July 12, 7 pm and Sunday July 14, 3 pm. Dreamworks' "Madagascar JR"

QUINTER H.S. Auditorium Saturday, July 6, 7 p.m. and Sunday, July 7, 3 p.m. Roald Dahl's "Willy Wonka Kids"

FORT WALLACE MUSEUM

Summer hours thru-October, Monday-Saturday; 9-5, Sunday; 1-5. All times are Mountain Time.

PICKIN' ON THE PLAINS

Yet again, you're guaranteed to enjoy some of the most wholesome entertainment to be had at Pickin' On The Plains 2019. Groups listed are; Rhonda Vincent & The Rage, Kenny and Amanda Smith, Nothin' Fancy, Driven, Colebrook Road, Trinity River Band, Larry Booth, Wiggins & The Dirt Roads Gospel Band and The McLemores. **Junior Showcase/Open Stage** is open to youth under the age of 18, and open stage is open to anyone with acoustic bluegrass instruments. To sign up or get more info on the showcase or the open stage, visit the CVB/POP information booth. The Sunday morning **Bluegrass Gospel Homecoming** show features a great variety of talented musicians under the tent with the audience, everybody, joining in the singing and worship.

<http://www.pickinontheplains.com/>

SUMMER THEATER FESTIVAL

Karl Pratt, executive director of the Main Street Arts Council, Hoxie announced this year's shows for "**A summer to remember: 2019 Main Street Summer Theater Festival**". Area youth ages 5-18 will perform in shows based off musical movie classics on various dates and locations.

July 6, 7, Goodland: Disney's "Alice in Wonderland JR"

July 6, 7 Quinter: Roald Dahl's "Willy Wonka KIDS"

July 12, 14 Hoxie: DreamWorks' "Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR"

July 13, 14, Colby: Disney's "Cinderella KIDS"

July 20, 21, Atwood: Disney's "The Lion King JR,

Participation in the festival is free to all cast members thanks to the generosity of Dane G Hansen Foundation Community Fund Grants received from: Sherman County Community Foundation; Thomas County Community Foundation; Gove County Community Foundation; Sheridan County Community Foundation and Rawlins County Community Foundation.

Tickets are available for purchase online at <https://www.mainstreetartscouncil.com/msstf2019> or at the door

Poet continued from page 2

She served as the fourth president of WPAA from 1976-1978. A prolific writer, she had authored over 2,200 poems. She also edited a comprehensive and informative "A Kaleidoscope of the Arts" newsletter from 1977 thru 1981 for WPAA.

Her works were used locally, nationally and internationally, and formed the lyrics for several composers. She was a leader in many artistic fields and one of her poems found in a previous WPAA newsletter follows;

"JOIN SONGS WITH THE WORLD"

*If all the world were singing
And hearts were gay and free,
The church bells would be ringing
That Heaven had come to be.*

*If all the world were choiring,
Of love to all mankind,
The black, the white, the East and West
Utopia would find,*

*A voice that joins in chorus
With other voices, knows,
There are no real boundary lines
Where music lives and grows.*

WPAA BOARD MEMBERS

Cheyenne County

Bird City; Beth Klepper

St Francis; Helene Landenberger, *Althea Lebow, Marsha Magley

Decatur County

Jennings; Lynn Tacha

Gove County

Grainfield, Denise Packard

Grinnell, *Leona Dickman

Quinter, Denise and Randy Wittman

Logan County

Oakley, Donna Albers, Betty Hockersmith, treasurer, Connie Singer, Shane Stephenson,

Winona, Ruth Smith

Rawlins County

Atwood, Millie Fisher, Charles Peckham, Chelsea Schmitt

Sheridan County

Hoxie, Marilyn Meier, Karl Pratt

Sherman County

Goodland, Curtis Duncan *Eric and Roxie Yonkey

Thomas County

Brewster, Lesa Juenemann

Colby, Jan Barnum, Katina Brenn, Kenneth Gatlin, Kevin Juenemann, Amie Kendrick, Sandy Wilks.

C C C, Pat Ziegelmeier, Executive Director

Rexford; Jolene Hansen

Wallace County

Sharon Springs, William and *Wilma Mai

Wallace, Cecil & Jayne Humphrey Pearce

Weskan, Vernon and Mary Beth Akers

* denotes community contact person

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

www.humanitieskansas.org Humanities Kansas

www.maaa.org/ Mid America Arts Alliance

www.hppr.org High Plains Public Radio

www.colbycc.edu/ Colby Community College

<http://goodlandarts.org/> Carnegie Arts Center



The WPAA Newsletter is Published 3 times yearly by Western Plains Arts Association for its members and friends. We welcome your comments and suggestions. at mailbox@maifarms.com

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