

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Patrons of the Arts,

Our 52nd year for WPAA is on track to be a great one! The slate of programs for this 2021-2022 season is already 16 diverse acts with more in the wings.



I would like to thank everyone who attended shows last year. We did have a couple weather issues and some illness related changes, but all our programs were great. Many of the performers came to Western Kansas for their first shows after taking time off. They were very excited to be here. This coming year will be more of the same.

Thank you to all who help sponsor WPAA. We could not have this many programs without all of the Sponsors, Patron members, Sustaining members, Benefactors, grants and all those individual and family ticket holders. You will find the long list of them in the program books which you will receive when you attend your first show September 11. Our first program of the season will be held at the Cultural Arts Center in Colby.

Music, plays, magic, and more. More Arts are coming to Northwest Kansas!

Sincerely, *Marilyn Meier*

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY

Board members are in the process of contacting current members and sponsors for the 52nd 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.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 2021-22

This is our 52st 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 11, 3:00 p.m. Multi-award winning Nashville duo **DAVE AND DAPHNE**, will bring a variety of selections in their high energy show. Cultural Arts Center, Colby.

Sunday, September 19, 3:00 p.m. The **QUEBE SISTERS** from Texas, triple threat fiddle champions and vocalists, will present authentic all-American music. Oakley H.S. Auditorium.

Sunday, October 3, 3:00 p.m. Managed by Glenn Miller Productions, **JUKEBOX SATURDAY NIGHT**, celebrates America's Swing Era in their performance of big band classics. Oakley H.S. Auditorium.

Sunday, October 17, 3:00 p.m. **HOW SWEET IT IS** features the music of James Taylor as sung by Steve Leslie. TBA

Mon., Wed. October 18-20 **WICHITA CHILDREN'S THEATRE** will perform "**Alice in Wonderland**" in area schools. Area schools

Sunday, October 24, 3:00 p.m. **SWEARINGEN & KELLI**, perform a nostalgic night of outlaw country music from the 60s & 70s called "Country Rewind." It includes music of Merle Haggard, Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn, Willie Nelson, Glen Campbell & more. Hoxie H.S. Auditorium.

October 30, Navy Commodores & Navy Band Cruisers. Tentative show.

Sunday, October 31, 3:00 p.m. **KEVIN & HEIDI CHENG**, a violin and piano duo, will do a variety of selections. St. Francis H. S. Auditorium

Sunday, November 14, 3:00 p.m. Colorado's premier swing band, **After Midnight**, will share their infectious music that is guaranteed to get you dancing, swinging and smiling! TBA

Sunday, December 5, 3:00 p.m. From the producers of Rock-in' Road to Dublin comes the new sensational Christmas season musical, **CHRISTMAS IN KILLARNEY**, an Irish Christmas celebration. Oakley H. S. Auditorium

Sunday, January 23, 3:00 p.m. **R. P. SMITH** of the Home Grown Radio Program will share his cowboy poetry and country commentary. Rawlins County H.S. Auditorium

Sunday, February 20, 3:00 p.m. C. T. (2:00 M.T.) The **NEW ODYSSEY GUY**, a one man show dynamo, will do a high energy show featuring his mastery of 10

BOOK REVIEW by Eric Yonkey

"Fourteen Years Behind the Wall: They Said Thank You" is a short book about the prison teaching career of Diana Spinney, Goodland. This autobiography was written in 2019 six years following her retirement as academic instructor at the Kit Carson Correctional Center, Burlington, Colo., in 2013.

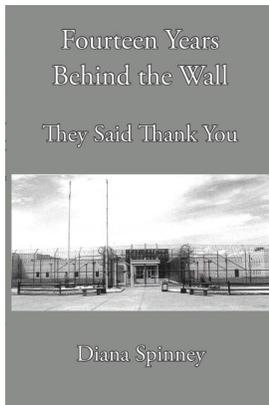
This September will mark five years that KCCC closed after losing its contacts with both the Idaho and Colorado correctional departments.

Spinney was in the first pre-service correctional academy in October 1998 when the Correctional Centers of America (CCA) prison first opened. At the time the experienced educator began her work "behind the wall" with inmates, several of her family members and friends warned, "You can't work in a prison!"

"It has been a privilege to work with hundreds of inmates during this time and be responsible for helping over 800 inmates earn their GEDs," Spinney wrote in her retirement letter at age 72. "....Of all the various positions I have chosen in my working career, I saved the best for the last."

Over this review writer's ten-year career at KCCC, I viewed the positive impact that outstanding educators such as Spinney and her colleagues and their principals had upon the lives of inmates who entered education at various ability levels. While a case manager, I was a part of the jobs board to ensure that all new intakes who had no high school diploma or GED were placed into the appropriate level of education classes until they were successful in achieving their GEDs, paroled or completed their sentence. Principals were charged with providing the necessary assessments to place students in the correct classes.

The first third of the book explains the prison system to those who have never worked inside a prison system around inmates. Except for full lockdown of inmates during sleeping hours or occasional lockdowns that can occur for several days, most prison staff manages inmates from "behind the wall." The middle chapters provide an in-depth look at the school day schedule, the education setup, the various educational programs with a focus on successfully gaining a GED. The second half of the book provides a different category of the prison system, specifically how it relates to education. Chapters 29 through 32 focus on inmate



Review continued next page

Season continued

instruments, music, song and comedy.. Sharon Springs H.S. Auditorium.

Sunday, March 6, 3:00 p.m. **HAWLEY MAGIC**, Jonathan & Trisha Hawley, who were finalists on America's Got Talent will do a Las Vegas style magic and illusion show. Cultural Arts Center, Colby

Sunday March 13, 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. Cultural Arts Center, Colby.

Sunday, March 27, 3:00 p.m. **NASHVILLE LEGACY** will be a nostalgic show of music from Nashville stars of the past. Oakley H.S. Auditorium

Tuesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m. The popular **CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES** troupe will be back with a new hit called **"You Smell Barn..** Oakley H.S. Auditorium

Sunday, April 24, 3:00 p.m. **CUBANISMS** traces the evolution of Cuban music from its African origins to modern days and styles of music including rumba, bolero and salsa. Repertoire includes Spanish, Brazilian, and English songs. Hoxie H.S. Auditorium
Free workshop ahead of program

Sunday, May 1, 3:00 p.m. **PRIDE OF THE PRAIRIE ORCHESTRA** will do a program of varied selections. TBA

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

WORDS OF A FEATHER

To celebrate Kansas poetry and the beauty of spring bird migration, Humanities Kansas is offering free copies of a bird chapbook, **Words of a Feather.**

Request a copy from KH or download from www.humanitieskansas.org

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all *Emily Dickinson*

The annual meeting of WPAA was held February 6. Marilyn Meier was elected as president, Donna Albers, president-elect, Jan Barnum secretary and Betty Hockersmith continues as appointed treasurer. Eric and Roxey Yonkey are Media Correspondents.

graduations, and thank you letters from students and their families. Appreciation from peers are topics this reviewer especially enjoyed reading.

One of the things Spinney was most grateful for to CCA was their attitude concerning a formal graduation for inmates who earned their GEDs. "We had caps and gowns, tassels were ordered for each class, pictures were taken, family could be invited, programs were printed, music was provided, and refreshments would be served." Much like high school graduations, there was a warden's welcome, guest speaker and speeches from the valedictorian and salutatorian as based on GED scores.

"When I look back at all the graduations I was part of and remember all the smiling faces of families and a few crying mothers-and the fellow inmates who could attend and celebrate with their friends, I think of one of my favorite quotes; this one from Ralph Waldo Emerson: 'Scatter Joy'."

Working years as a public school teacher in several districts, it was rare that Spinney received a thank you from appreciative students or their families. She provides a number of sincere letters she so often received. Most were hand written or included inmate art. She even provided a picture of three of her outstanding inmate tutors who provided her one-on-one assistance for students needed some extra instruction.

This book is copyrighted in 2019 by author Diana Spinney. Curtis Becker, formerly of Goodland was her editor, and provided layout and design and cover design for the book. For more information or to obtain this book write: C. Becker Books, 1114 Commerical St., Emporia, KS 66801, curtisbeckerbooks.com. ISBN: 978-0-578-6110-6.

Eric Yonkey is a WPAA board member and a former senior correctional officer and case manager Kit Carson Correctional Center

The man who does things makes many mistakes, but he never makes the biggest mistake of all—doing nothing.

Benjamin Franklin (1706-90)

COMMUNITY UPDATE

GRINNELL; Free Concert/Dance with Jimmy Dee and the Fabulous Destinations at the After Harvest Festival, **Friday night, July 16th**. This is a great band and fun for all ages.

HUMANITIES KANSAS

Humanities Kansas Speakers Bureau presentations and TALK book discussions are ready and waiting for you to bring to your community. Dynamic speakers and discussions leaders are available now for in-person or online events. They're free; HK covers costs for in-state nonprofit organizations.

Engage your community with history and ideas to bring people together and spark conversations. You pick the topic and venue that works best. Host a book discussion in the park, invite a speaker to present over Zoom, or have an event in your meeting room. HK's flexible program formats let you customize events for your community. Bookings can be made at humanitieskansas.org or by phone at 785-357-0359.

Join HK's Movement of Ideas!



THE MAIN STREET ARTS COUNCIL is producing the 2021 Main Street Summer Theater Festival, returning to live theater once again after a year off from the pandemic. Shows are currently in rehearsal in Atwood, Colby, Goodland, Hoxie and Quinter. More than 120 area

youth combined, ages 5-18, are participating in the productions this year, which is FREE for participants thanks in part to the generosity of area community foundation grants, private grants, business sponsorships and tickets sales.

The performance schedule includes:

Peter Pan Jr - Friday, July 2 at 7 p.m. (MT) - [Goodland](#)

Disney's ***The Aristocats Kids*** - Friday, July 9 at 8:30 p.m. - [Colby](#)

Disney's ***101 Dalmatians Kids*** - Saturday, July 10 at 8:30 p.m. - [Quinter](#)

Disney's ***Aladdin Jr*** - Saturday, July 17 at 8:30 p.m. - [Hoxie](#)

Honk! Jr - Saturday, July 24 at 8:30 p.m. - [Atwood](#)

For more information and to contribute to the program, please visit

www.mainstreetartscouncil.com/msstf2021.

Next to the Word of God, the novel art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.

MARTIN LUTHER



WPAA BOARD MEMBERS

Cheyenne County

Bird City; Beth Klepper

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

Decatur County

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,

Sherman County

Goodland, Curtis Duncan *Eric and Roxie Yonkey

Thomas County

Brewster, Lesa Juenemann

Colby, Jan Barnum, Katina Brenn,

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

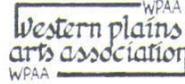
www.humanitieskansas.org Humanities Kansas

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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