

ArtsGram

Monumental Expressions



A Daily Publication of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival
Friday, October 20, 2006

Returning to Celebrate Creative Arts!

What is it about the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival that makes you feel such strong emotions of honor, humility and pride?

Could it be the feeling of camaraderie that military veterans share, the sense of dedication to their art, or the achievements of many who are so talented in their chosen fields? All are present at this annual event.

Each year, there is a mix of emerging talent eager to hold up their standing as the best in the nation. At this year's Festival, there are a significant number of artists and performers who have achieved the distinction of being repeat participants, clearly demonstrating the value of experience.



Marilyn Adamitis from Waukesha, Wis.

winning piece, a hand-hooked rug, is called, "Honoring Mount Rushmore," in tribute to this year's location. She is only half of an artist couple as her husband, Len, has also participated several times. "There was a time in my life that this hobby was all I had to sustain me," Adamitis said. "My husband and I depend on our art therapy to make it, one day at a time. At the lowest moment, I was given a craft kit from Help Hospitalized Veterans and was told I could do it if I tried." Adamitis, a VA volunteer, works with veterans in the day treatment center at the VA medical center in Milwaukee, teaching different forms of art. "I enjoy giving back to fellow veterans," she explains. "It is a great honor."

Honor also plays a huge role in Christine Pointer's participation in the Creative Arts Festival. Pointer, an Army veteran from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., describes how the Festival is of value to her. "The arts aide healing and have helped me work

through the pain of trauma," she said. "I feel so honored and proud to be part of such an extraordinary event. It is humbling and rewarding to be around so many talented veterans who soar above their challenges in life." In Sunday's stage show, Pointer will perform Andrew Lloyd Weber's, "All I Ask of You" from the "Phantom of the Opera," along with singing partner James Sterrett-Bryant, another repeat performer who is, attending the event for the sixth time.



James Sterrett-Bryant from Palmdale, Calif., and Christine Pointer from Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Lionel Marcoux of Milan, Ill., also expresses a feeling of pride. This year, he is participating as part of the chorus in several all-cast production numbers. A classically trained singer, Marcoux has learned to sing in French, Italian, German, Spanish, Latin and Russian. "It feels terrific to again be part of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival," he said. "It is always an honor to represent the American veteran. Attending the Festival is like rejoining a large family – every sentiment known to man is expressed and there are no barriers. Singing and performing are good for the soul, and heals every fiber of your mind and body."



Lionel Marcoux from Milan, Ill.

These are only a few of the many repeat participants who reflect the commitment to their art and its impact on their health, happiness and spirit.



Stage Notes

Craft Care Workshop is Tonight!

While visiting wounded Marines in a Navy hospital, Roger Chapin, the founder of Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV), learned that many were in need of something to help pass the time and the idea of craft kits was born. According to the HHV web site, "Craft kits are not to kill time, but to make time."

Since 1971, HHV has provided craft care kits to veterans in VA facilities across the country. Craft care kits can now be found in 26 military facilities, 161 VA medical centers and 96 state veterans' homes. In addition to its long-standing role as a co-presenter, HHV sponsors a craft session each year at the Festival, which is always an extremely popular event.

This year, the session takes place on Friday, October 20, from 7-9:30 p.m. in the Pactola Room. Participants will have the opportunity to create a leather bag with a gold Creative Arts Festival logo or a sun catcher with Mount Rushmore in the background.



In the visual arts competition, there are 13 craft kit categories. Many veterans first discovered their artistic talents after working on a craft kit provided by HHV while in the hospital. "If it weren't for the craft kits, I wouldn't have started painting again," said Connie Smith, a gold medal-winning Army veteran from Texas. "When you attend one of these sessions, they offer a smorgasbord of ideas that you can take back home with you."



Arts and crafts activities often improve self-esteem, promote independence, improve social interaction and teach new skills through creative expression. They also seem to develop fine and gross motor skills.

This year's session will be led once again by Mia Leber, craft care specialist from the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago. "The entire atmosphere provides people with an opportunity to get together and share each other's talents and learn new ones from others," said Leber. "The casual environment is fun and inspires creativity. We can't wait to share these exciting new kits with our talented veterans."

Thinking Spherical!



Imagine being able to view the world around you with an inside-out perspective on all angles of view. Do this, and you will enter the realm of *Spherical Thinking*. Artist Dick Termes has been putting this unique perspective on his creations of spherical artwork since 1968. This afternoon, Termes will

provide a workshop on his unique approach to interested Festival participants. It will be held in the Sheridan Room (Convention Center II) from 1 - 5 p.m.

The foundation of Termes' artwork is based on what he terms the "six point perspective." He explains, "Imagine yourself inside a transparent ball and you are in a cubicle room. You're inside this transparent ball looking out and there are three sets of parallel lines that project to six equidistant points on the sphere. This is the basis of the six point perspective."

This week marks Termes' first opportunity to share his talents at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Describing the workshop, Termes says, "I hope to help people discover a perspective to create total environment art. It has been enjoyable to show folks how to utilize a larger canvas for their artistic expressions." Be sure to take part in this first time workshop so you can start using that larger canvas today!



A meaningful reunion - Ralph and Phyllis Montgomery last visited the Black Hills on their honeymoon 51 years ago. "I hope Mt. Rushmore has held up better than I," Ralph joked. Although Phyllis doesn't have a particular craft, "she's the critic, I'm the artist," he said. Montgomery won *Best of Show* for his mixed media artwork entitled "A Door to Peace."





If It's Not Made in South Dakota, It's Not Black Hills Gold!

Rose, green and gold leaves, and intricately hand crafted grapes are trademarks of the design and production of true Black Hills Gold jewelry.

Legend has it that a French goldsmith named Henri LeBeauld got lost in the Black Hills during the gold rush days of the mid-1870s. After many hours of wandering around, he fell asleep believing that he was dying of starvation and thirst. While sleeping, LeBeauld dreamed of the beautiful grapevines and grapes from his homeland growing near the sides of a babbling brook. When he awoke, he walked over a rise and found the stream and the grapevines, just as he had dreamed.

To give thanks for his survival, LeBeauld began creating jewelry in the shape of grape clusters with rose, green, and yellow colored gold. These distinctive colors are created by adding silver and copper alloys to yellow gold, and are now the hallmarks of Black Hills Gold jewelry.

This jewelry brings you back in time, and its quality, craftsmanship and design are as much of the tradition

and culture of this region as the history itself. In the 1980s, a federal judge ruled that manufacturers of Black Hills Gold must actually make the jewelry in the Black Hills in order to carry the label. In that decision, LeBeauld's legacy was preserved.

To this day, the intricately hand crafted grapes and the rose and green colored leaves remain the traditional centerpiece of all manufacturers' Black Hills Gold jewelry. Take home a piece and learn whether another legend is true – that good luck comes to the person wearing real Black Hills Gold jewelry!



Volunteers, They Make This Machine Go!



Volunteer Norman Noftsger helps unload groceries in the Hospitality Room.

If you needed any help this week with luggage, directions or preparation for the final stage show, then you encountered some of the Festival's volunteers. Nancy Worth, a volunteer service specialist for the VA Black Hills Health Care System, Fort Meade Campus, is the event's volunteer coordinator. Worth says, "There are over 50 volunteers here this week assisting in many aspects of the event. Some roles include props, costuming, providing food for tours and medical staff, entertainment and much more."

In a supportive and patriotic part of the country, Rapid City and the surrounding communities, have helped make this event a huge success. Dozens of groups, organizations and individuals in this region have donated time, labor, monetary and in-kind donations worth over \$30,000. A huge *thank you* goes to each and every volunteer who has contributed to the Festival and all that they do to support the VA mission. Reflecting on what volunteers provide, Al Johnson, host site

coordinator, sums it up simply, "We could not do this without them. The volunteers have been terrific. They make this machine go!" Worth adds, "There are so many tasks that need to be done; staff could not take care of them all."

One person volunteering time this week is Norm Noftsger. As a participant in five National Veterans Golden Age Games, he has experienced first hand how the VA national events are executed. Impressed with the level of organization and efficiency, Noftsger wanted to give back some of what he had experienced. "When I found out the Festival was happening right here in my backyard, there was no question that I wanted to do something to help



Festival "Clickers and Markers" (from left) Lila Speckles, Shirley Baker, Marsha Boyd, and Marilyn Hobbs show Andy Ruben (media center staff member) what their job is all about.

See, "Volunteers," continued on page 6





Two Tours Offered Today!

Two tours are being offered today. One is to the Black Hills Gold factory, and the other to Prairie Edge Trading Company and Galleries. Performers may select either one of these tours today. Buses for performers leave at 8:30 a.m. Artists will be going to both. Buses for artists load at 9:15 a.m., heading first to the Gold Factory, then proceeding to Prairie Edge. For more information about both of these exciting trips, read on!

Discover the Black Hills Gold – Jewelry that is!



This morning, you can take a fascinating tour through

the Mt. Rushmore Black Hills Gold and Diamond Factory and Outlet Store. Watch up-close to learn the details of how gold jewelry is made, see the ancient process of lost wax casting and learn how diamonds are cast in gold. Skilled artisans will show you the many steps involved in handcrafting a single delicate design. (To find out more about Black Hills Gold, see, “If It’s Not Made in South Dakota...” on page 3.)

Prairie Edge Trading Co. & Galleries

Prairie Edge features the world’s foremost collection of authentic Plains Indian art, crafts and culture. The artists represented at Prairie Edge use many of the same materials and techniques handed down by the Lakota, Crow, Cheyenne, Shoshoni, Arapaho and Assiniboine tribes of the Great Plains. The results are beautiful, handcrafted items that bring history and legend to life.

The first floor of Prairie Edge houses a turn-of-the-century trading company that offers the finest in glassware, pottery,

Pendleton blankets, star quilts, contemporary jewelry, unique clothing, frames, fountains, candles and scents. Visitors to the second floor will find the art galleries that feature the original works of regional and nationally acclaimed artists. The mezzanine levels house a bead library with more than 2,600 different styles, colors and shapes of historic beads, as well as a book and music store dedicated to Native American and western history, education and culture.



Crafters will be especially interested in visiting the Sioux Trading Post, where they will find furs, feathers, shells, teeth, claws, hides, buffalo parts, trade cloth, botanicals plus Italian, Czech and Trade beads. There are so many unusual and exquisite things to see you might think you are in a museum!

Prairie Edge Trading Co. & Galleries is located on the corner of 6th Street and Main in downtown Rapid City in a two story 19th century historic building.

Tour bus schedule:

8:30 a.m. — Performers transported to Prairie Edge or the Gold Factory.

9:15 a.m. — All artists transported to Prairie Edge

10:30 a.m. — All artists picked up from Prairie Edge and taken to Gold Factory.

10:45 a.m. — Performers that are at the Gold Factory and Performers that are at Prairie Edge are taken back to the Ramkota.

11:45 a.m. — Artists are picked up at the Gold Factory and taken back to Hotel



Highlighting some of our medal winning artists and performers.

■ Artist **Kurt Carlson** of Middlesex, N.Y., a combat veteran of the Army during the Vietnam War, tells us that former President Bill Clinton recently bought a piece of his artwork for Hillary, the present Senator from New York and former First Lady. Carlson won first place in the national art competition in the glasswork category.

■ Wheelchair dancer and Navy veteran **Dwayne Scheuneman**, from Clearwater, Fla., co-founded REVolutions Dance Inc., in August 2005 with his dance partner Amie Fishinger. A non-profit professional dance company composed of dancers with and without disabilities, the company focuses on dance and diversity. He and Amie are performing in the Creative Arts Festival stage show for the second consecutive year.





Photos from the Festival

Jammin'!



Guitarists "Hamhock and Slide" jam with John Bigham from Rosemont, Pa., on the piano. Bill Kizer from Knoxville, Iowa, sings along

Rapid City resident Allen Eckman participates in the woodcarving workshop.



Left to right: Ron Tomocik from Denver, Colo.; Patricia Coltrain from Cincinnati, Ohio; and Harry Paul from Fresno, Calif., showcase their musical and artistic talents.

Monumental Expressions from the Festival





Studio Notes

Loosen Up That Tongue!

Certainly not something your childhood teachers probably told you, right?

For our singers and narrators, however, a vocal warm-up prepares the voice for performing. You need to warm up the vocal chords just as you would warm up any other muscle in your body.

To do this, start with some deep breathing. Then, turn the breath into a sigh, expelling the air with a light sound. Keep the sound soft and relaxed. Then turn the sigh into a hum by closing the lips.

Take a deep breath and expel the air with a “sh” sound on a count from one to five. Repeat the exercise with a soft “zzz” sound.

Open your mouth as wide as possible and then scrunch it up as small as possible. Keeping your lips loosely together, blow the air through them so they flap together, like a horse's lips. Stick out your tongue and roll it around. Try to reach your nose, your chin your left ear and your right ear (impossible, but try really, really hard anyway!) This may not be an exercise to try in public.

Try a few tongue twisters, really focusing on your pronunciation and enunciation. Here are some really good examples.

1. Theophilus Thistle, the successful thistle sifter, in sifting a sieve full of unsifted thistles, thrust three thousand thistles through the thick of his thumb. Now, if Theophilus Thistle, the successful thistle sifter, in sifting a sieve full of unsifted thistles, thrust three thousand thistles through the thick of his thumb, see that thou, in sifting a sieve full of unsifted thistles, thrust not three thousand thistles through the thick of thy thumb. Success to the successful thistle sifter.

2. The sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick.

3. Red Leather, Yellow Leather (Repeat this one really quickly over and over. It's also a great warm up for singing.)

4. My bike's back brakes' blocks broke.

Here is one more special tongue twister just for this week: Creative creations creating credible casting cannot cancel creativity for cantankerous cast mates!



Now your mouth should be all limbered up!

“Volunteers,” continued from page 3



Volunteer Annette Bray irons show costumes.

others,” he said. Noftsgger says that volunteering just makes him feel good.

Giving back to others and feeling good about it are primary reasons given when volunteers are asked why they do it. Many of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) members at this event say the same thing. “We’re the clicker & markers and it makes us feel good!” said Lila Speckles, who helps at meals. “Maintaining an

accurate ‘door count’ to the meals is very important as it verifies how many meals are served and how much the hotel ultimately charges the Festival. This is essential to help stretch the Festival budget that much further.”

Another of the many dedicated women representing the ALA is Irene Sears. Sears has worked with many local

organizations to promote and garner support for the Festival. “Volunteering and helping others is great, but the most important thing is to respect and honor our veterans. Volunteering for the Festival helps us achieve this.” She adds that it is easy to advocate for volunteering because it is something that is simply good. As you have likely experienced, the volunteers here are very upbeat, friendly and helpful. Interacting with them is sure to create good memories. Take a moment to thank a volunteer this week for their contributions to helping put the “special” in this event.



From left, Albert Gray Eagle from Oklahoma City visits with volunteer Marsha Boyd in the hospitality room.



F-Y-I



Meet with your team leader every morning (through Friday) at 8:30 a.m. at the designated location determined at Monday night's meeting.

On Saturday, October 21, the team meetings will begin at 9 a.m. On Sunday, October 22, the meetings will begin at 11 a.m.

NVCAF Web site www.creativeartsfestival.org

Would you like your friends and family back home to see what you are doing this week? Tell them to log onto the Festival Web site to check out the daily editions of the *ArtsGram* (on the main home page) as well as individual news releases and photos, located on the "Participant Information" tab.

Medical Suite

The medical support team is located in Room 1702 and team members are available at all times at the hotel and on trips. Please remember to ask for help from your team leader if walking the long hallways at the hotel is difficult for you. If you have a medical concern or health issue, please contact your team leader. We hope you are all enjoying your visit to the Black Hills.



The Hospitality Room (Ramkota Room 1114) will be open today from 9:00 a.m. until midnight. (We're up late tonight!) Stop by to visit.



Veterans History Project interviews

conclude tomorrow. Final interviews will be conducted today and Saturday from 8 a.m. – noon and 1 – 5 p.m. in the Needles Room, located in Convention Center I. If you have scheduled an interview, please be there on time.

Today's Menu



All meals, unless otherwise indicated, will be provided in the Rushmore Room, Convention Center I.

Meal hours are as follows:

Breakfast: 7 – 8:30 a.m.

Lunch: Noon – 1 p.m.

Dinner: 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.

Friday, October 20, 2006

Breakfast

- Bacon Strips, Potato Bake, Scrambled Eggs with Cheese
- Danish Pastries, Breakfast Breads
- Orange Juice, Apple Juice & Tomato Juice
- Milk (Soy Milk Available upon request)
- Oatmeal & Dry Cereal
- Individual Yogurts & Fresh Fruit

Lunch

Italian Lunch Buffet

- Meat Marinara Sauce with Penne Pasta, Cheese Manicotti
- Italian Vegetable Blend
- Romaine, Croutons, Fresh Parmesan Cheese
- Creamy Caesar Dressing
- Bread Sticks and Garlic Toast

Dinner

- Salmon, Chicken Parmesan, Tri Colored Tortellini with Alfredo Sauce, Wild Rice Blend
- August Salad with Iceburg lettuce, Romaine and Spring Mix with Mandarin Orange, Walnuts, Sun Dried Tomatoes
- Cheese Crumbles with Assorted Dressings
- Fresh Vegetable Tray, Fresh Fruit
- Bistro Roll and Butter
- Vanilla Mouse with Chocolate & Raspberry Sauce
- Sugar Free Vanilla Mousse



High: 46° Low: 32°

60% chance of precipitation



Friday, October 20, 2006

7 — 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at hotel — Rushmore Room

8 a.m. Team leaders meet with Katy Ryan — Sheridan Room

8:30 a.m. Team leaders meet with artists

9 a.m. — Midnight Hospitality Room Open — Suite 1114

9 a.m. Board buses for Gold Factory Tour and Prairie Edge

9:30 — 11:30 a.m. Tour Gold Factory and Prairie Edge

11:45 a.m. Board buses and return to hotel

12 p.m. Lunch at hotel

1 — 5 pm. Art Workshop #3 — Spherical Thinking — Sheridan Room, CCII

5 — 6:45 p.m. Dinner at hotel — Rushmore Room

7 — 9:30 p.m. Art Workshop #4 — HHV Craft Workshop — Pactola Room

7 — 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at hotel — Rushmore Room

8 a.m. Team leaders meet with Amy Kimbler — Badlands Room

8:30 a.m. Team leaders meet with performers then board buses for Gold Factory Tour or Prairie Edge

9 a.m. — Midnight Hospitality Room Open — Suite 1114

9 — 10:30 a.m. Tour Gold Factory or Prairie Edge

10:45 a.m. Board buses and return to hotel

11 — 12:30 p.m. Lunch at hotel — Rushmore Room

12:30, 12:45 p.m. Buses leave for theatre—first bus leaves at 12:30, second bus leaves at 12:45

1:30 — 4:30 p.m. Tech rehearsal at Rushmore Plaza Civic Center — all performers — all chorus numbers will be run first and then individual acts — chorus only participants will be able to go back to hotel when chorus numbers are finished

3 p.m. Chorus members return to hotel

4:30 p.m. Individual Act performers return to hotel

5 — 5:45 p.m. Dinner at hotel — Rushmore Room

5:45 and 6 p.m. All performers depart for Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Theatre

6:15 — 6:50 p.m. Performers into costume — NO white shirt needed; NO make-up; sound check for orchestra

7 — 10 p.m. Dress rehearsal with orchestra for all performers

10 p.m. Depart for hotel

Cyber Stop

An Internet Café, sponsored by Hewlett-Packard Company, will be available in the Bear Butte Room, Convention Center I. Computers will be available for participants to access the internet.

Hours of operation: Wednesday, October 17 through Sunday, October 21, 7 – 8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 7 – 9 p.m. (except for Thursday and Sunday evenings).

Schedule legend:

CCI - Convention Center I
CCII - Convention Center II



Please check with your team leader or the posted schedule outside of the Washington Room for any changes or updates to your daily schedule.