

# The *Plaudit*

plau-dit: noun: Enthusiastic expression of praise or approval.

The Creative Arts Council of  
Wells County, Inc.  
211 West Water Street  
Bluffton, Indiana 46714  
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cac@adamswells.com  
wellscocreativearts.com

## Series on the Ouabache Kicks Off with Free Embassy Event

Fort Wayne's Embassy Theater's audiences from then and now can reminisce with Marlyn Koons and Ed Goetz on Sunday, November 15 at 2:00 PM in Balentine Gallery.

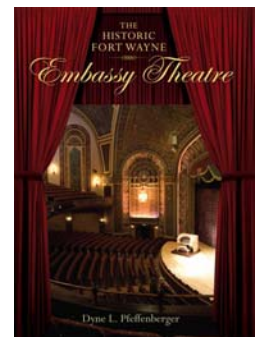
Ms. Koons, who, along with Kathy Skiba, was a contributing editor to the book *The Historic Fort Wayne Embassy Theater*, will share quaint stories from the book with spicy additional tales that were not part of the final print. Mr. Goetz will read selected passages from the grand architectural heritage of the hotel and theater. The program recalls appearances at the Embassy by stars Bob Hope and Jack Benny as well as musicians Dyne Pfeffenberger and Buddy Nolan.



The presenters invite the community (anyone who may have been there for the opening day, or whose wedding took place at the Embassy, or who performed there) to contribute and share their memories in person or to submit recollections in writing ahead of the event, mailing them to CAC, 211 Water Street, Bluffton, Indiana 46714 or via email to [cac@adamswells.com](mailto:cac@adamswells.com)

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*The Historic Fort Wayne Embassy Theatre* book was recently published after five years of research and effort. Copies of the book will be available for sale and for signing by author Koons in plenty of time for holiday gift-giving at \$26 each. Light refreshments will be served.



The program is free and open to the public, thanks to support from The Creative Arts Council of Wells County, Arts United and the IAC. Commission.



Be dazzled! Everyone's invited.  
Enter a decorated tree in the showcase by Nov. 16!

## The 2009 Festival of Trees

Preview & Awards Celebration

\$12 per guest in advance; \$15 at the door

Friday Dec. 4 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Hot & cold hors d'oeuvres, tempting sweets, music of the dulcimer, and the Mayor's awards announcement!

Open House \$3 adult; \$2 child (age 12 & under)

Saturday, Dec. 5, 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, noon to 5 p.m.

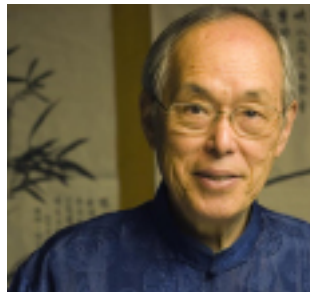
Monday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All tickets available for early purchase or at the door.

## Asian Artist: James Yang Chinese Calligraphy, Erhu Music

On Sunday, November 22 at 2:00pm in a special event in the gallery at the *Arts Commerce & Visitors Centre* Professor James Yang will demonstrate the art of Chinese Calligraphy and the music of the Erhu stringed instrument learned in his youth in the Chinese homeland.

James Yang, Ph.D. is a professor at Indiana University who shares his love for Chinese culture and its disciplines which include calligraphy, playing the erhu, and the practice of various martial arts such as Tai Chi and Kung Fu Fan. Dr. Yang will demonstrate his passion for the ancient art of calligraphy which he characterizes as a performance that leaves a visible record. Later he will explain the erhu instrument (a two-string box often called "Chinese violin") and will offer its delicate, heart-stirring music for the audience to enjoy. Tickets to this event are \$7 before Nov. 20; \$10 at the door. This *Series on the Ouabache* Event is supported by Bluffton Psi Iota Xi.



## In Balentine Gallery

You'll enjoy viewing the Indiana Wildlife Artists Association Exhibit as much as the third graders did who toured Oct. 25. There are sculptures, paintings, photo graphs and scratchboard works featuring flora and fauna. A treat for nature lovers of all ages and priced for purchase in any collection or to begin a collection! The group provides information about their membership for Wells County artists who may consider joining. Hours are 10 AM to 4 PM weekdays, open late to 7 PM on Thursdays and during weekend events. Laura Hill's photo at the left is one of the award winning works on display through Nov. 30. For next exhibit, see page 3 of this *Plaudit*.



## Centerpiece Workshop for Food Bank



**November 10  
all day**

Enjoy your holiday clever creativity at the art center.

Using donated décor items, create centerpieces for clients of Wells County Food Bank. The project will begin Tuesday morning (doors open at 8 AM) until evening cleanup time 7:00 PM. Each year, this project results in delivery of delightful new holiday baskets and centerpieces. Stay to make one or several, as your day allows. Bring your own scissors, glue gun, wire cutter, if you have these items.

No design experience needed.

*Donated items needed include:*

baskets, large tins, sturdy containers, silk florals, floral foam bricks, ribbon spools, evergreen garlands, branches ornaments, toys, unused candles

## Reader's Circle:

### *Water for Elephants*

Join the readers each month on the third Tuesday at noon for a brown bag review. Many thanks to Bayview Reading Club for sharing Ruth Bradley's report about *A Team of Rivals* as the October book review.

**On Nov. 17**, bring your thoughts on the tale of Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth from the story told in *Water for Elephants*.

**On Dec. 15**, a carry-in holiday luncheon is planned accompanied by a brief holiday-themed reading by Kelly Potter. Plans for this menu will be discussed at the November gathering.

Newcomers are welcome on a "drop in" basis - those who enjoy reading current and classic topics. Often a single book is read by the group for a generalized discussion. Other occasions may involve a brief report by a volunteer from the group. This is a casually organized book group!

## Boost your "Quill Skill" *Calligraphy Class*

For those who enjoy the hand-written word, instructor Diane McIntosh will teach a 6-week course in Calligraphy. An experienced instructor, she is now a member of the state calligraphy society. Your signup helps meet minimum needed to form the course!

**Tuesdays 10 AM to noon**  
**Nov. 10, 17, 24 and Dec 1, 8, 15**  
**Six weeks \$100 (\$93 members)**  
**Fee includes a pen and nibs, ink, cleaner, and a practice pad of paper.**



## Pastels Workshop TBA

Artist Lisa Ransom Smith will offer a workshop in pastels. You will create three versions of the same subject using a different surface in creating each one, in order to gain experience in the variations possible with this medium. The workshop is titled, "Exploring the Surfaces." Stay tuned to your inbox for a "*Plaudit-Plus*" update with details.

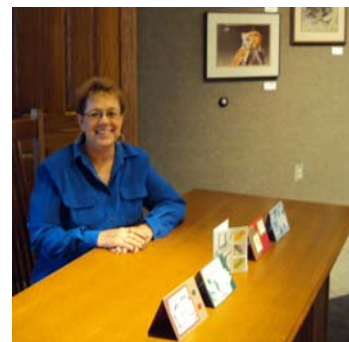


In the photo above, notice the 2009 Street Fair float that won First Place! Applause to Beth Lampton, float director and workers: **Artists**-Dotty Fryback, ,Martha Milholland, Kay Harnish, JoAnn Record, Barb Barbieri, Mary Ellen McEvoy, Carol Stern, Rosemary Pope, Trina Pope, Laura Bertsch, Alice Bauermiester, and Tommye Still; **crew members** B K Campbell, Christine Zadylak and Mary Beth Long; Dotty and Bill Fryback for barn space; **driver** Mike Zadylak; **students** Leslie Witkamp, Emily Elder, Chelsea Rhodes, Esther Higginbottom, Emily Lampton, Krya Zadylak, Ashleigh Premer, Lauren Bodner, Natasha Chemey, Hannah Fisher, Libby Smith, Katie Geimer, Sayda Bower, the petite ballerinas, "Dorothy," Alyssa Kissell, who sang "Over the Rainbow" and her vocal teacher Susie Wood, Murray the dog as "Toto," Jeni Meeks and the parent walkers.

Ms. Jeni is now instructing Creative Expressions and Ms. Susy continues in her teaching role for Ms. Janiece's classes.

Many thanks to Challis Bower for stepping up to decorate the Ballet School's entry in the *2009 Festival of Trees*.

Let  
Barb  
Show  
You  
How!



## *Fashion a Handmade Holiday Greeting!*

Even if you're the "all thumbs" type, you'll enjoy this card-making workshop with a pro! Step by step and easy, Barb Dickson, pictured above, will provide materials and suggestions to help you complete one or two lovely greeting cards. You'll learn where supplies can be found to continue production at home, if you wish. The samples in the photo included Biblical, cute Santa, snowflakes, nature's winter beauty and other motifs.

**Thurs. Nov. 19 Fee: \$7.50, 2 for \$12**  
**Morning 10-12; evening 6-8 pm**  
**REQUIRES REGISTRATION BY Nov. 13**



## *School of Ballet*

All who attended enjoyed "*Show Your Own Style*" November 1 where ballet students modeled fresh fall fashions while sweets and coffees were served. The ticket revenue supports the May 2 ballet stage performance. Kudos to **Dee Yonker** who served as Fashion Show Director assisted by Jane Geimer.



## ***“In Love with London”***

TRAVEL ADVENTURE

Thursday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$6 adults; youth 18/under \$3

See London through the lens of Wells County professional photo journalist Deb Perry: the iconic sites, the shops, world class attractions including the tower, the bridge, the Royal Guard, Prince Albert Hall, Piccadilly buses, Big Ben. You’ll find the royals, the lit, the cuisine, the humor, the culture and the quirky habits of the English from Heathrow to Harrods, to Prince Harry, to Harry Potter.

Deb Perry is the marketing executive for the public library. A photojournalist, she has worked as a news reporter and editor, having won Hoosier State Press Association awards for her high quality products. She is also a fine artist in the medium of photography. She likes to fill her photos with the flow of details that add up to a fabulous story.

Deb says, “My photos have been called complicated.” She is a frequent gallery exhibitor with works sold now in private collections and in Fort Wayne



Museum of Art. She is currently planning a solo exhibition for her home community at the Balentine Gallery in the Creative Arts Center. Her freelance work took her from her farm roots to London, where some of her finest photographs were taken and where the ensuing stories continue to spellbind her audience. Prints are available at <http://debperryphotography.com>

# *Sheep, Lambs, Pastures, Shepherds*

Open call for art for an exhibit in Balentine Gallery Dec. 9 - 28

Inspired by the peaceful, pastoral landscapes of John Constable, the gallery is seeking works of art depicting sheep, lambs, pastures, or shepherds to create a peaceful haven during the hectic holiday season. Artists may offer their original pieces for sale for those searching for unique, excellent Christmas gifts.

Artists are invited to submit work for consideration into this exhibit (selection is by the discretion of the CAC). Contact the office at 260-824-5222 or [cac@adamswells.com](mailto:cac@adamswells.com)



A

*Celebration*

*of Faith & Joy!*

presented by the

Wells Community Choir

on Saturday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, November 8 at 3:00 p.m.

Under the Direction of Arlene Stoller  
Site: First Baptist Church in Bluffton

FREE  
of  
Charge

## ***The Community Christmas Sing***

As a tribute to the late Dee Dee Huffman, Diane Holland has taken up the task of directing a community gathering for joining school children, youth, professional musicians and neighbors and friends to raise your voices in the beloved songs of the season. There will be student choirs, bands, a jazz band, duo digital pianos and the capable Master of Ceremonies, The Honorable Ted Ellis.



**Sunday,  
December 6 at  
3:00 PM**

**Bluffton High School Gymnasium**  
FREE –an offering will be accepted  
Canned goods for the food bank collected.

## ***...Speaking of Fiddles***

It sounds almost like a violin — but not quite. The erhu is a traditional Chinese instrument associated with beggars. The erhu is an instrument with two long strings, played using a bamboo bow strung with horsehair. Sound projects out of the small windows on the back of the instrument's body, which is made of old redwood and snakeskin.

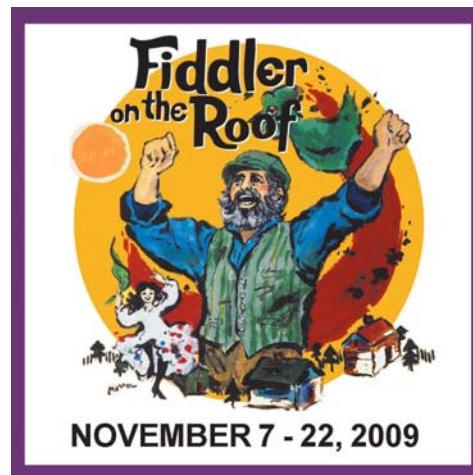
The right hand controls the bow. Press down, and you play one string; pull up, and you play the other.

The left hand always touches both strings.

Without frets, proper intonation is difficult, but the possibilities for tonal flexibility are great.

**Search and listen to erhu online** and you'll want tickets for Nov. 22!

See pg. 1 Plaudit.  
Info. courtesy NPR  
"All Things Considered"



CAC Board Member Theodore E. Chemey, III, will fulfill the starring role in the Fort Wayne **Civic Theater** production of **Fiddler on the Roof**, opening Saturday, November 7 and continuing through November 22. Ted and Ric and Beverly Geist reprise their roles from the local community theater production. CAC wishes them all a smashing success.

Let's have a great Wells County turnout for our talented performers!

**Executive Director:** Maureen Butler  
**Executive Assistant:** Glenda Jones

**Board of Directors**

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 Theodore Chemy III  
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 Nancy Hewitt  
 Roy Johnson  
 David Meek  
 Jeanne Ploetz  
 Ted Smith  
 Susan Williams  
**Associates of the Board**  
 Diane Humphrey  
 Mary Beth Patterson



**School of Ballet**

Director: Beth Lampton  
 Artistic Director & Instructor: Pam Talarico  
 Instructors: Jeni Meeks, Susy Jones & Pam Talarico

**IMPORTANT SCHEDULING NOTE:**

Changes can occur after the *Plaudit's* print deadline. Please confirm dates and times before planning to participate in activities.

**Introducing the New Volunteer Coordinator**

Karen Spichiger has accepted the position of Volunteer Services Coordinator for the Arts Commerce and Visitors Centre. She has completed scheduling of Welcome Staff in the Balentine Gallery for the month of October and has made introductions with the corps of volunteers.



Before her recent retirement, Spichiger completed a career in Customer Services. She and her husband Lloyd Spichiger remain active with home and family. In taking on the Coordinator task, Karen remarked, "I am look for to working with each volunteer in making this an eventful and successful year at the center."

Spichiger replaces Linda Athan who fulfilled the Coordinator's role since 2006. Thank you, Linda, for a wonderful term of service!

**Volunteers are always welcome to sign on** for a shift at the center, welcoming guests who view art exhibits or visit the busy Chamber of Commerce offices. Those interested in being part of the volunteer corps may reach the coordinator at 260-824-4966 or by email [karles1201@att.net](mailto:karles1201@att.net)

**Why be a member?**

**Creative Arts Council of Wells County Membership Form**

Your membership supports artistic and cultural work in the community and makes you eligible for discounts in many CAC activities and events. A free subscription to the *Plaudit* gives you a preview of upcoming activities. Members are invited, but not required, to attend meetings. To join, fill out this form and return to the CAC.

Yearly Membership Type:

- Benefactor: \$500—\$2500+
- Sustaining Member: \$250+
- Senior/Student/Individual: \$35
- Family: \$40 -125
- Patron: \$125/250+

**TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD**

- MasterCard  VISA

Account No: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires: Mo \_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_

Signature for credit card order: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) on membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to volunteer at the CAC? (we will contact you with opportunities): \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you registering for any activities or events at this time?**

Class/Activity: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Class/Activity: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fee enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity or event fee enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment by  
 cash, check or  
 credit card

