

Welcome to the 5th Issue

ExposeKenosha.com Issue 5, October 29, 2007

It's nice to know that people are taking notice and not in a small way. ExposeKenosha has exceeded the expectations of its creators quite literally ten thousand times over. The reason for this is that there weren't any expectations. But now there are. ExposeKenosha expects to continue being the driving force it has become in the very short time since its inception to put the arts community in the forefront of people's minds.

On Tuesday Tamara Merfeld and I will sit down with Lenny Palmer to talk about the necessity of the arts in Kenosha and the impact that a thriving arts community will have on area businesses. Please call in to the show to share your thoughts and support.

Thank you for the huge support you've shown, as a community, for the efforts put forth by the artists involved in this project. Thank you for letting us know, be it via email, a comment on the site, or to our faces, that this is a valued endeavor.

Thank you!

Tammy Peacy

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How Arts Can Change Communities

by Francisco Loyola



Karen Goeschko

Maryo Gard Ewell

"...For more than a century, the university has been guided by the Wisconsin Idea, a tradition first stated by UW President Charles Van Hise in 1904. Van Hise declared that he would "never be content until the beneficent influence of the university reaches every family in the state."

~from the University of Wisconsin Madison website

According to two recent visitors of Kenosha, Maryo Gard Ewell, past Executive Director of the Colorado Council for Arts and Karen Goeschko, Assistant Director for Programs and Services, Wisconsin Arts Board, Wisconsin has a special way of embracing the Arts and Humanities. They believe our widespread community involvement is based on a century old concept called, "The Wisconsin Idea"

"The Wisconsin Idea is a philosophy embraced by the University of Wisconsin System, which holds that the boundaries of the university should be the boundaries of the state, and that research conducted at the University of Wisconsin System should be applied to solve problems and improve health, quality of life, the environment and agriculture for all citizens of the state."

~from Wikipedia.org

It's purpose is captured by this quote from the University of Madison's past president, Van Hise:

“...to assist the ordinary individual as well as the person of talent by carrying light and opportunity to every human being.”

Maryo and Karen stated that this revolutionary idea created a series of initiatives and groups such as the first correspondence schools. More specifically, it helped produce the Wisconsin Dramatic Society, which encouraged all town residents to participate in community plays, and the first Wisconsin radio station, which included a uniquely broad educational, cultural and art programming, intending to spread those three benefits to all the inhabitants of the state, including those living in rural areas.

All of these programs stemmed from the extraordinary “Wisconsin Idea” and were therefore reinforced by their common intentions.

But these programs were in the past. Today, however, while Maryo and Karen see the decline of government funds for Art related initiatives, they also notice the resurgence of community based efforts to promote the arts and humanities as an economic catalyst in the renaissance of Wisconsin communities. They cited AHA! Kenosha as a prominent example.

At the beginning of the seminar, Maryo and Karen asked the participants to think about the slogans and common phrases that are frequently used in artistic circles such as “Arts Build Communities”; “Arts and Social Change” “The creative economy” etc. and they asked What do they mean?, To what end? So what?

I believe now, finally, that the arts and humanities are widely recognized for bringing economic development to the communities which embrace them. However, the main objective for an artistic community must be to nurture individuals in their own potential talent. From this, the Arts and Humanities activities that talent generates, economically and in many other ways, will ultimately result in enhancing the quality of life for both the individual and the society as a whole.

Let there be art!

Karen Goeschko, is the Assistant Director for Programs and Services,
Wisconsin Arts Board

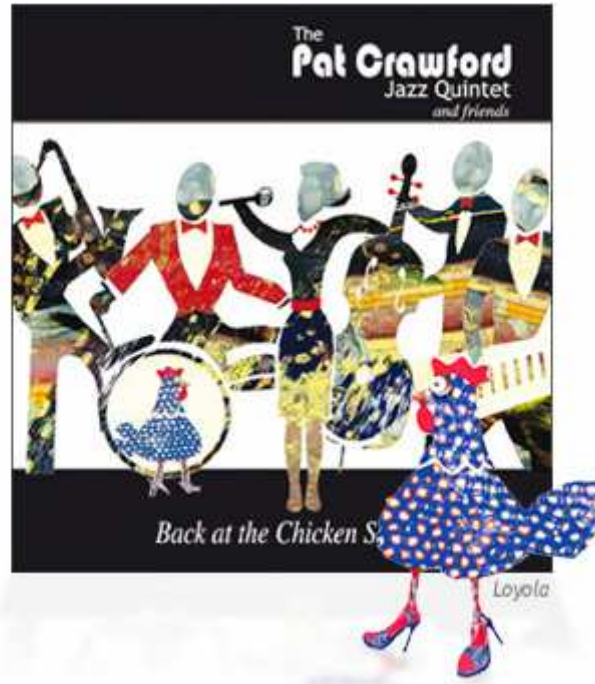
Maryo Gard Ewellis is the co-author of "The Arts and the Small
Community 2006"

This poem, by Robert Gard, concluded the 1969 edition of The Arts in
the Small Community - and was retained in the 2006 edition:

If you try, what may you expect?
First a community
Welded through art to a new consciousness of self:
A new being, perhaps a new appearance -
A people proud
Of achievements which lift them through the creative
Above the ordinary -
A new opportunity for children
To find exciting experiences in art
And to carry this excitement on
Throughout their lives -
A mixing of peoples and backgrounds
Through art; a new view
Of hope for mankind and an elevation
Of man - not degradation.
New values for individual and community
Life, and a sense
That here, in our place
We are contributing to the maturity
Of a great nation.
If you try, you can indeed
Alter the face and the heart
Of America.

“Back at the Chicken Shack”

By Francisco Loyola



Click the arrow to listen to “Back at the Chicken Shack”



“...we were trying to come up with an idea to make it corky and fun, and there is a blue/black gingham chicken standing there with the band, “Back at the Chicken Shack” is a bluesy fun song ...it gives the musicians a chance to jam a little bit, to sound more to what we sound when we are live, its very relaxed...”

When you meet Carole Crawford the first word that comes to mind is “Dynamo”, the second word is “Multitasking”. A natural born promoter, she does not talk about herself, she talks about the Pat Crawford Jazz music emporium, a family affair that she has created with her husband Pat Crawford. That includes the Pat Crawford Jazz Quintet and the Pat Crawford Big Band. Carole is always looking for venues and opportunities when they can play.

The Jazz quintet was formed in 2001, and the Big Band was acquired this past February. You can check their schedule at their website PatCrawfordJazz.com; The Jazz Quintet performs regularly in local venues; the Big Band has performed at Rumpole's in downtown's Twin Lakes and they are scheduled to perform again on Sunday, November 18, 2007.

In a world that includes her family, school schedules, and running her own successful business, Carole still finds time to promote the Jazz Quintet and the Big Band. She is also the producer of their second album "Back at the Chicken Shack".

Carole was recently interviewed by Lou Rugani of WLIP A.M for "The Music of the Stars", she talks about her new CD, the Jazz Quintet and the Big Band acquisition. She also auditioned some of the cuts from the album, including "Back to the Chicken Shack".

Lou and Carole graciously agreed to let ExposeKenosha post the recording of the interview, *Yes, commercials and everything included.*

Thank you Lou, Thank you Carole.

Lou said best Jazz is alive and well in Kenosha, Wisconsin
Yes in Kenosha!

Enjoy the music and the interview.

Click the arrow to listen to "Music with the Stars" with Lou Rugani and Carole Crawford"



Dracula's Fresh Blood

by Matt Smith



New people in a group always bring new perspectives, new talents, new ideas, and a general newness to the group as a whole. I sat down with Meg Walsh and Vince Cook, both first-time actors with the Lakeside Players to chat with them about their journey to Kenosha. I knew how much fun they were on the stage as Mina Seward, the "artery" of Count Dracula's eye, and Boris Renfield, the resident exterminator and living travelogue, but I didn't realize how fun they would be off the stage too.

Matt: I know you've both been acting for quite some time now. When exactly did you start?

Vince: I started acting when I was 12 years old. So I guess about 18 years ago.

Meg: It was my freshman year in high school. I was in a play at school.

Me: When you started, did you have any plans of being the next big thing? The next Jean Claude Van Dam or Angelina Jolie?

V & M: (sudden laughter)

V: I liked the idea of going to the next level, it was really a stress reliever for me though, something of a hobby.

M: When I was younger, I wanted to be an actress, but my parents both told me to get a day job, so I went to school.

Me: What did you study in school?

M: I studied to be a court reporter. It's a two-year technical certificate, but with all the classes you have to take, it usually takes three or four years.

Me: So what brought you to Kenosha, to the Lakeside Players?

V: Well, when I got married, my wife started teaching in Winthrop Harbor. I had been doing community theatre in Chicago and was looking for something a little closer to home. I saw the Lakeside Players were auditioning, so I came out. I didn't know they were actually casting! (Laughter)

M: Some of my high school teachers have played here, so I've known about it since then. In fact, Mrs. Jenkins, one of my English teachers and the director's wife, called me up when the girl originally cast in my part wasn't able to make the performances.

Me: So, you've both been in theatre for a while, how does Rhode Opera House compare to some others you've been in?

M: I love (Rhode)! It's really big and we can do a lot with the space. The sets here are great. I'm really excited about having a dressing room, all the other theatres I've been in, I had to change in the rest room.

V: It's very functional, you know, not too big, not too small, just right for what we do in here.

Me: What things did you do as a kid in order to prepare for theatre and acting?

M: I took some acting classes at the Racine Theatre Guild and voice lessons. Well I started voice lessons, twice actually. The first time, my teacher moved away, the second teacher had a baby. I didn't take any more after that.

V: Looks like they were trying to get away from you! (Laughter)

V: I took some summer school drama classes at Old Orchard Junior High, and my friends and I wrote a play for the talent show called "Nightmare on Sesame Street." We all acted and played in it. I even have an aunt who's an actress, Peggy Roeder, so I grew up watching her in movies around Chicago.

Me: I know you've both done a lot of different productions and acted out a lot of parts, but which ones were your favorites?

M: I loved "Annie Get Your Gun."

Me: Why?

M: Because I got to be the lead, be a little bit of a diva!

V: Can I pick three?

Me: I don't see why not.

V: Ok, first, I would have to say, and I don't even remember his name, but it would have to be the Empress' wicked cousin in "Empress' New Clothes" because I got to dance and wear a moustache. I also like the songs too. Second, I would choose Barnaby Tucker from "Hello Dolly" because the songs were great and I got to wear a 3-piece plaid suit.

M: So you're picking all your favorites because of what you wore?

V: Yeah, somewhat. It was fun. Ok, third, I would have to pick this character.

Me: Boris Renfield?

V: Right. He gives me an excuse to act like a...to act like a goofball. I also like that I get to sing some songs without even singing, it's more like a sing-talk.

Me: Ok, one last question and then I'm out of your hair. What is it about Kenosha that you love the most?

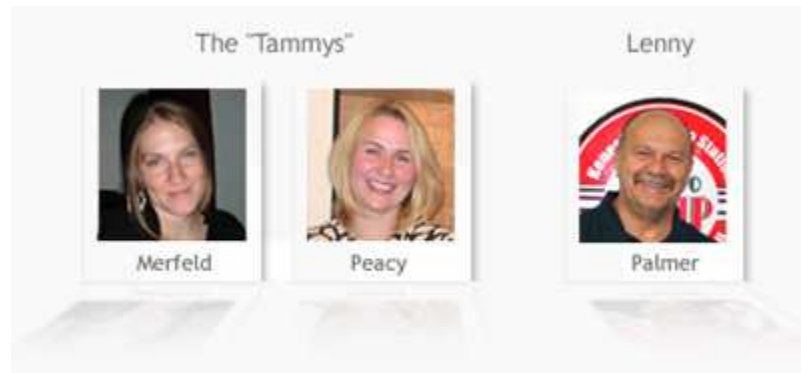
M: Well my dad works here and we do everything here. I'd have to say it's that there's so much to do.

V: I love the Brat Stop and I, well the whole family, we go to the Harbor Market every Saturday.M: Yeah, I love that too, there's always so much to do!

Vince Cook and Mina Seward **you have been "Exposed"**.

Matt Smith lives right in the middle of Historic Downtown. Since moving to Kenosha in July, he has instantly fallen in love with this city.

The Tammy's on the radio



In the studio with Lenny on Tuesday, October 30

Tamara Merfeld, Executive Director of AHA! Kenosha and Tammy Peacy, spokesperson for ExposeKenosha.com, will talk with Lenny Palmer about the importance of the arts in Kenosha on Tuesday October 30 at 9 a.m.

Lenny in the Morning with Lenny Palmer is "The only radio program devoted exclusively to issues that matter to Kenosha". Lenny puts his unique spin on local and national events and takes on callers who often disagree with his entertaining point of view.

Call the studio: (262) 694-1050
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