News Roundup

Summer 2016 was a busy season for the Isle of Wight Arts League, with numerous art and music events. Here are a few highlights:

A well-attended Summer Concert Series concluded its 30th anniversary season with The Tams playing to a packed house at the Smithfield Center on Sept. 2 and the Clay and Nancy Griffin Band at the Smithfield Times Gazebo on Sept. 9.

The Arts Center @ 319 held its annual Open Members Exhibition during July and August. With nearly 60 pieces submitted by 32 participants, it was one of the largest members’ shows ever. In the gallery through Oct. 30 is “Awesome Autumn Art” with 29 works by 15 artists capturing the autumn season in all its splendor from the warmth of late summer through images in the rich colors of harvest and fall foliage to dramatic bare tree branches against the sky.

Works by SHS grad Nicole Vasilauskis are also on display. Nicole is a freshman at Savannah College of Art and Design. The Carrollton resident hand cuts intricate layers of colored paper, resulting in images that are amazing in their complexity and design.

Sundays at Four attracted nearly 100 enthusiastic supporters for the annual Terrific Teen Talent program on Aug. 7. Rising junior Anna Heffington of Windsor presented musical theater pieces. Mezzo-soprano Leah Shewmaker, a graduate of Smithfield High School and the Governor’s School for the Arts, performed art songs and opera. 13-year old pianist Kyle Hu from Yorktown had the audience cheering. 14-year-old Virginia Beach native Eliza Willett is an experienced young violinist. Clarinetist Jacob Cunningham from Norfolk is a freshman at The Cincinnati Conservatory of Music this year, and we will be hearing more of flutist Jared Robles of Chesapeake.

The 2016-2017 season kicked off on September 11 with a program of all-American fare for flute and piano in remembrance of the 15th anniversary of this dark day in American history. Kathleen Winters, accompanied by her mother, noted pianist Ruth Easterling Winters, presented a challenging program by American composers, beginning with a moving performance of the Star Spangled Banner.

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**Smithfield Music** has been busy the last few weeks. Most recently we held our 11th Annual **Aiken & Friends Music Fest** on Sept. 23 - 24. This is our celebration of songwriters and for it we flew in from Nashville two nationally recognized songwriters, **Jack Sundrud** and **Paul Jefferson**. Together with **Mike Aiken**, they did a “Songwriters in the Round” show on Friday night that delighted all. Hearing the back stories to the songs is a unique opportunity and this year was exceptional. On Saturday the beautiful fall day was filled with local and regional original music on an outdoor stage next to Smithfield Little Theatre. That evening inside the theater, the audience was treated to two winners of a songwriting competition held just for this event. **Troy Breslow** of Chesapeake and **Jerry Sowers** from Hampton presented a sampling of their songwriting before **Mike Aiken’s Trio** took the stage and rocked the building.

Smithfield Music is also in charge of music for this year’s **Bacon, Bourbon and Beach Music Festival** Oct. 1 at Windsor Castle Park.

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**Member News**

Welcome to new members who joined IWAL in 2016: Maryann Amato, Chris Bowers, Laura Lee Burk, Page and James Cherry, Susan Cook, Darienne and Buddy DeRyder, Lynette Duncan, Stephany Elsworth, Jack and Mary Ferreebee, Jesse Forbus, James Ford, Erica Glenn, David Gwaltney, Curtis Harrell, Elissa and Walter Hattemer, Marvin and Bonnie Horne, Brenda Lovell, Iris Mamlin, Barbara Lively Mastaglio, Sonja McGiboney, Jacqueline Schryer, Micah Thomas, Nicole Vasiliauskis, Carol Whitaker, Ernest White

IWAL members exhibiting in Halls of Art XVII through Oct. 28 at the Hampton Convention Center are **Tonya Cairns**, **Stephanie Faleski** and **Gary Hess**.

**Dru Stowe** recently performed with the Locrian Early Music Consort at Historic St. Luke’s, The Tomcats Dixieland Band in Williamsburg and backing up The Temptations when they appeared in Hampton. This fall he’ll appear with the Williamsburg Classic Swing Orchestra.

Textile art by **Angelia Armstrong** appeared in the Tidewater Quilters Guild Virginia exhibition and the Annapolis Quilt Guild Show in June. Her work will also be featured in “An Occasion for the Arts,” Oct. 1 - 2 in Williamsburg.

**Alison Chapman** will perform in concert on piano, accompanying baritone Adam Richardson, on Oct. 16. See Sundays at Four on page 4 for details.

**Gary Hess** completed a commission from the Bank of Hampton Roads/Xenith Bank to produce high resolution photographs of the Suffolk Center for the Cultural Arts and the Obici House. The images were incorporated into a wall size mural. Installation is underway at the Godwin Blvd. branch in Suffolk.

A video about Smithfield’s USCG Auxiliary, written, directed and filmed by **Stephanie Faleski** received the National Public Affairs Award for “Best Video” at the 2016 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary National Convention in Phoenix.

Congratulations to all. If you have news you’d like to share in the next issue, please send information to fineart@calico-studios.com by Dec. 20.

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**IWAL on the Internet**

Online options to learn more about Isle of Wight Arts League and make tax deductible donations:

- Our website, [www.smithfieldarts.org](http://www.smithfieldarts.org), lists upcoming activities for the Arts Center @ 319, Sundays at Four, Smithfield Music and the Summer Concert Series. Pull-down menus on the home page provide links to event schedules, classes, exhibits, concerts and ticket information.

- The [Isle of Wight Arts League page on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/IoWArtsLeague) includes photos and announcements for all of our member organizations. The Arts Center @ 319, Smithfield Music and Sundays at Four also have Facebook pages.

- Guidestar.org is the world’s largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. Isle of Wight Arts League currently has a Bronze Level profile on Guidestar. The profile page includes a “Donate” button where you can make online contributions directly to the organization.

- [AmazonSmile](https://smile.amazon.com) is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Select Isle of Wight Arts League as the recipient of your contribution.
Smithfield Music will make a presentation at the October School Board meeting for its annual gift to the music programs of all nine of the public schools in Isle of Wight County. We are thrilled to be giving $12,500 divided among the schools. This money has been raised by selling tickets to our concerts, working at festivals presented by SmithfieldVA Events and by generous donations from friends like you who appreciate music.

**Calendar of Events**

Please visit www.smithfieldarts.org for details and ticket information

Now through Oct. 28
Awesome Autumn Art Exhibit
Arts Center@319

Oct. 8, 1-4 p.m.
Mixed Medium Experimentation
Arts Center@319

Oct. 12, 10:30 a.m.
Docent Tea
Arts Center@319

Oct. 15, 1-4 p.m.
Digital Photography 101
Arts Center@319

Oct. 16, 1-2 p.m.
Framing Fundamentals
Arts Center@319

Oct. 22-23, 1-4 p.m.
Playing with Cold Wax Part II
Arts Center@319

Oct. 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
"Collection of Splendor" Event
Arts Center@319

Oct. 28-29, 1-4 p.m.
Intro to Block Printing
Arts Center@319

Nov. 1 - Dec. 30
Holiday Pop-Up Shop
Arts Center@319

Nov. 3 and Nov. 10, 2-4 p.m.
Pen and Ink Drawing Workshop
Arts Center@319

Nov. 12 and Nov. 19, 1-4 p.m.
Intermediate Photography Class
Arts Center@319

Dec. 4, 4 p.m.
Tidewater Cello Ensemble
Christ Episcopal Church

**Docent Tea**

Oct. 12, 10:30 a.m. Reception for current docents and anyone interested in volunteering. Meet new people and find out what being an Arts Center docent is all about. If you have a few hours each week or each month to help promote the arts and enhance our community in Smithfield and Isle of Wight, please attend.

"**Collection of Splendor**" Event

On Oct. 27, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., join hostess Elaine Dairo for a private showing of the Arts Center’s unique jewelry, art, ceramics, glasswork and silks. Browse, shop, enjoy a glass of wine, and enter a drawing for one piece of “splendor.” Call 757-365-0387 by Oct. 6 to be included on the guest list.

**Fall Classes**

- **Laura Burk** will guide students through “Mixed Medium Fun Experimentation” on Oct. 8, 1 - 4 p.m. $5 donation to the Arts Center requested, plus materials fee.
- **Gary Hess** will present two photography classes: Digital Photography 101 on Oct. 15, 1 - 4 p.m., $35 for members, and a two-session intermediate class on Nov. 12 and Nov. 19, 1 - 4 p.m., $50 for members.
- **Brenda Joyner** and **Ginger Hill** will demonstrate “Framing Fundamentals” in the Arts Center classroom on Oct. 16, 1 - 2 p.m. Free for members.
- **Cil Barbour** on Oct. 22 - 23, 1 - 4 p.m., for “Playing with Cold Wax, Part II.” Have fun experimenting and creating three mixed-media pieces. Members, $120 plus materials fee.
- “**Intro to Block Printing**” with **Laura Burk** will be offered Oct. 28 - 29, 1 - 4 p.m. Develop and print a design using Lino tools. Members, $60 plus materials fee.
- A two-session pen and ink drawing workshop with **Stephanie Faleski** will be held Nov. 3 and Nov. 10, 2 - 4 p.m. $65 for members; all materials included.

For more information please call the Arts Center at 757-357-7707 or visit www.smithfieldarts.org.

**Holiday “Pop-Up Shop”**

The Arts Center’s annual exhibit and sale of handmade holiday ornaments, wearables and gifts begins Nov. 1. Open House Nov. 5. Details and entry form are listed under “**Artist Alerts**” on www.smithfieldarts.org. continued on page 4
On Oct. 16, Smithfield natives Adam Richardson, baritone, and Alison Chapman, pianist, will present a program of opera arias, art songs and music by American composers. Mr. Richardson, a 2005 Smithfield High School/Governor’s School for the Arts graduate, is gaining acclaim for his powerful operatic, concert, and theatre performances. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie Mellon University in 2009, and his Masters from The Juilliard School in 2011. Ms. Chapman is the pianist at Smithfield Baptist Church and a teacher at Hardy Elementary School. We are delighted to present these two musicians together in their hometown for the first time.

On December 4, Sundays at Four will present a benefit performance of the Tidewater Cello Ensemble, featuring 14 student cellists and six violinists directed by Susan and Erin Hines. This ensemble played a candlelight concert at Bruton Parish Church in Colonial Williamsburg last season. 2017 Sundays at Four performances will include a University of Maryland woodwind quintet, a spring choral concert, a solo Youth Recital, a master class, and another Terrific Teen Talent concert.

The Isle of Wight Arts League extends its gratitude for the financial support of the Arts Center@319 provided by these entities: