Encouraging Isle of Wight’s Young Stars

Children and youth take center stage in IWAL’s spring and summer program offerings

For three weeks in April, the Arts Center @ 319 gallery featured artwork by K-12 students from Isle of Wight County public schools.

On May 19, Sundays at Four presented 17-year-old violinist Eliza Willett in a recital at Christ Church to an enthusiastic audience of 85. The former Terrific Teen performer began violin studies at age two. She now serves as concertmaster of the Bay Youth Symphony and has taken first place in numerous competitions. Her recital, including a Bach Partita, Saint-Saëns’ Concerto No. 3, and Brahms Sonata No. 1, received a standing ovation. Her sister Rebecca Willett accompanied her on piano.

On June 14, the Summer Concert Series presented a lively interactive children’s concert with folk singer Chris Campbell. Eager young audience members joined in by singing, clapping and using hand gestures to act out lyrics.

Ricky Goodwyn, Jr. will offer his fourth recital July 14, 4 p.m. at Christ Church in Smithfield. A rising sophomore at James Madison University, Goodwyn’s tenor voice has caught the interest of professionals, schools of music, and a supportive audience that has followed him for almost two years.

Week-long art activity camps for children will be offered at the Arts Center throughout the summer. Instructor Juliette Marshall offers a different make & take project each day. Check the Calendar of Events on page 3 for details.
News Roundup

Natural Virginia Juried Exhibition

35 works by 16 artists were accepted for the Natural Virginia juried exhibition at the Arts Center @ 319, May 1 through June 30. Juror Ed Hatch selected the works to be included and chose the award winners:

First Place: Onion Dance, Annette Thompson
Second Place: Iridescence #2, Stephanie Faleski
Third Place: Summer Lakeshore, Sheila Gwaltney
Honorable Mentions:
Fossil Vitra and Lost Feather, Keith Abernathy
Oaks, Mary Carr Roberts
Wisteria Wins, Sonja McGiboney
Waiting and Watching, Lois West
Resting in the Shadows, Bonnie Horne

The exhibit was well-attended and very successful, with seven pieces being sold. Also on display in the gallery was a tabletop expo provided by the Virginia Master Naturalists. On June 8, Master Naturalist Linda Langdon gave a presentation on local efforts to repopulate Eastern Bluebirds before a capacity audience in the Arts Center classroom.

Sounds of summer

A summertime celebration in downtown Smithfield kicked off on June 28 with two IWAL-sponsored free outdoor musical performances.

At 6 p.m., on Main Street outside the Bank of Southside Virginia, Smithfield Music introduced the five-piece jazz combo Noteworthy, featuring IWAL Board of Directors member Jarad Ford on saxophone. An appreciative audience of approximately 75, plus numerous passersby, danced, clapped and grooved along. A show-stopping rendition of an Earth, Wind & Fire favorite would have concluded the performance, but appeals from the crowd persuaded the band to perform an encore.

They wrapped up just in time for attendees to relocate to the Smithfield Times lawn for a beach music concert by perennial favorites The Rhondels, presented by the Summer Concert Series.

Member News

Shirley Whitenack was awarded first place for photography in Yorktown’s 6th Annual Art at the River on May 5. Diane Milner received third place for 3D work.

IWAL members who participated in the Norfolk Academy Art Exhibit April 27 through May 7 were Cil Barbour, Kazuko Fuller, Diane Greenhalgh, Barbara Harris, Iris Mamlin, Mary Roberts and Don Williams.

We love to hear about our members’ accomplishments! To share your recent or upcoming venues in this column, please e-mail information to fineart@calico-studios.com.
Coming events

Smithfield Music will present Nashville songwriter and Chuckatuck native Tim Buppert in a house concert Aug. 10 in Smithfield. Always a fun night when Tim is in town! Tickets are $20 and must be purchased in advance. Purchase by calling (757) 880-3120 or in person at the Arts Center, 319 Main St., Smithfield or at The Christmas Store, 108 Main St., Smithfield. Proceeds benefit youth music education in Isle of Wight County.

On August 4, Sundays at Four will present its 12th Terrific Teen Talent Recital. Six outstanding teens will perform during this special concert. SAF selects teen performers from recorded auditions, and provides a professional experience for each. A reception will follow this free-will offering concert.

Visit www.sundaysatfourva.org or the Sundays at Four Facebook page for information on the 2019-2020 SAF Concert Season.

Member artist perks

- Open Paint Studio - Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free for members. Bring current projects in various mediums, work without instruction. Enjoy the camaraderie of fellow painters and share tips and experiences.

- Afternoon Beading Open Studio - Thursdays, 1 - 4 p.m. through the summer. Free for members, others $5. Bring your own beads and other materials. Work unassisted in the company of other beaders or contact Diane Milner for a price quote for tools, materials and instruction.

- Morning Model Sessions - third Saturday of each month beginning July 20, 9 a.m. - noon. $5 for each participant. Bring supplies to sketch or paint a model in costume. Standing easels only, no tables. Work unassisted in the company of other artists. Advance signup recommended; space limited to the first 12 respondents. Call (757) 357-7707 or email info@SmthfieldArts.org.

In the gallery

Currently on display is the IWAL Open Members’ Show with a record 89 submissions by 51 artists. People’s Choice voting offered. Next exhibit will be Monochrome II, Sept. 1 through Oct. 26. Artworks in all black-and-white media. Open to members and non-members with entry fee. Submissions Aug. 25-26.

Coming in 2020

IWAL is partnering with the county’s tourism department to present a three-day arts festival on Main St. in Smithfield in May 2020. The event will include a juried outdoor art show, dinner theater and culinary events in town, plus music performances in Windsor Castle Park. Please contact IWAL at (757) 357-7707 or send e-mail to info@SmthfieldArts.org to sponsor an award, volunteer or make other contributions to the event. A call for artists will be posted Sept. 1.

Calendar of Events

July 5, 8 p.m.
York River Band
Smithfield Times Gazebo

July 5 - Aug. 24.
IWAL Open Members Exhibition
Arts Center @ 319
Reception July 12, 5 p.m.

July 8 -12, 9 a.m. - noon
Summer Art Camp
Arts Center @ 319

July 12, 8 p.m.
Flatland Bluegrass Band
Smithfield Times Gazebo

July 14, 4 p.m.
Ricky Goodwyn Jr., tenor
Christ Episcopal Church

July 15 -19, 9 a.m. - noon
Summer Art Camp
Arts Center @ 319

July 19, 8 p.m.
Higher Ground (jazz, gospel)
Smithfield Times Gazebo

July 20, 9 a.m. - noon
Live Model Painting Session
Arts Center @ 319

July 26, 8 p.m.
Sugar Lime Blue (Americana)
Smithfield Times Gazebo

Aug. 2, 7 - 9 p.m. and Aug. 3, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Boardwalk Art Show
Smithfield Station Boardwalk

Aug. 2, 8 p.m.
Little Bit of Swing
Smithfield Times Gazebo

Aug. 4, 4 p.m.
Terrific Teen Talent Recital
Christ Episcopal Church

Aug. 9, 8 p.m.
Sounds of Motown
Smithfield Times Gazebo

Aug. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Tim Buppert (singer/songwriter)
House concert

Aug. 16, 8 p.m.
Jackie Merritt (blues)
Smithfield Times Gazebo

Aug. 23, 8 p.m.
The Company Band (country)
Smithfield Times Gazebo

Aug. 30, 8 p.m.
Clay & Nancy Griffin (country)
Smithfield Times Gazebo
The Isle of Wight Arts League extends its gratitude for the financial support of the Arts Center@319 provided by these entities:

Arts Center @ 319 recreates The Kiss

Twenty-four artists contributed their talents to a recreation of The Kiss by 20th century Austrian painter Gustav Klimt. A 24” x 36” color reproduction of the masterwork was cut into 24 square sections. Each artist paid $5 for a randomly selected section of the painting and a paintable 6” x 6” panel. Panels were rendered in mediums including watercolor, oil, acrylic, pastel, colored pencil, ink and collage. Some incorporate found objects, beads, semi-precious stones, metal and sequins. Participating artists were Cil Barbour, Cami Brooks, Tammy Burgett, Bobbi Canellas, Connie Chapman, Germaine Curry, Diane Greenhalgh, Lily Grubbs, Sheila Gwaltney, Mark and JoAnn Hall, Ginger Hill, Bonnie Horne, Brenda Joyner, Brenda Lovell, Susan Maltby, Juliette Marshall, Barbara Mastaglio, Diane Milner, Yvonne Munson, Elizabeth Orrick, Russell Parrish, Diane Rountree, Pat Swindell and Don Williams.

The framed collaborative artwork is currently on display at the Arts Center, along with a silent auction bid sheet. Phone-in bids (no voicemail or text messages) will be accepted through July 28. In-person bidding will end at noon on July 31. The winning bid will be announced Aug. 1. Proceeds benefit the Arts Center.