

encores!



Thank You, Helen!

Change! For some, that's a troubling word; for others it doesn't occur frequently enough. Most of us, however, are somewhere in between. We like change when it is beneficial and worry about change we don't understand or consider to have no purpose.

Pondera Arts Council has experienced change. Of course, there has been frequent change over the years as board members come and go, movies develop new themes and new performers come to Conrad. But the change meant here is that there is a new president for the Pondera Arts Council! After exercising inspired and dedicated leadership of PAC since its founding, Helen Elliott has chosen to step down as President of the PAC. It wasn't

that she hadn't tried to pass the torch before; she had brought up the idea of a new president several times and no one jumped at the opportunity.

Though she has willingly given of herself, Helen has emphatically said she wants no recognition or party for her years of enthusiastic leadership. However, we are taking this space to give Helen our heartfelt gratitude for the tireless leadership and contributions she has given to PAC in its founding and through the years. She has been a vitally important member of the Conrad community, promoting the arts. Helen may have stepped down from the position of president, but she is still significantly involved—especially, as the chairperson of the Concert Committee. Her on-going contributions remain invaluable.

Thank you, Helen. Thanks also for not "retiring" and only just changing responsibilities!

Supporting the Arts In Our Schools

Wayne Reynolds

Pondera Arts Council supports the arts in schools! PAC is establishing a scholarship for a graduating senior who has actively participated in the arts programs of Pondera county schools during his/her high schools years. While we are still working out the details, this will be a competitive scholarship, which will be decided based on answers on the applications submitted and a student resume. The scholarship will be available for the 2015 graduating class and applications will be available through the school counselor.

Conrad schools have an active arts program with participants in the visual arts, as well as the performance arts of music and drama.

Larry Goyett, new to Conrad Schools, teaches the art program. He is looking forward to an exciting year with the students, which he hopes will include a community beautification project of some sort. PAC plans to encourage the artists by offering to display their work at the Orpheum, once we can determine a suitable location for such displays. We have noticed a decided lack of suitable display space. Before long, we anticipate that you will be able to view Conrad artists' works on the way to enjoying a great movie, or concert.

Speaking of concerts, Todd Truscott is hard at work with the young musicians of Conrad. We have already enjoyed the CHS band at games and the homecoming parade. There will be concerts from both high school and middle school bands and choirs throughout the year, with dates yet to be determined. Keep watching the IO and school schedule for concert activity and prepare to attend and support these musicians and singers.

Beth Ann Bolmeier continues to encourage young thespians by offering a variety of activities to which the public is invited. On November 21, 10:00 AM, Shakespeare in the Schools will be presenting "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Watch for further information. She is also working with her Literary Arts class and will be presenting a Christmas program, date/time yet to be determined. Mark your calendars for the third weekend in March for the CHS school play, always great performances.

In addition, CHS students compete in music and speech/drama competitions. Conrad will be hosting a speech/drama competition in November.

There are a variety of opportunities in our community to encourage and support the young artists, as well as having an enjoyable family activity. Get out and support the arts!



**"The world is a complicated place, and there's a lot of division between people. The performing arts tend to unify people in a way nothing else does."
- David Rubenstein**

A Note from the President

As noted previously, leadership of PAC has changed. While I am new as president of the PAC, I have been involved with the arts for some time. I have sung in choirs since I was in elementary school and played an oboe in high school and college. Four of our five children had piano lessons and played other musical instruments. As a pastor I believe that music as well as drama play an important role in worship and communicating the Bible's message.

The mission of PAC continues unchanged. According to our Bylaws, the purpose of PAC is to "promote cultural development of the performing arts in Pondera County and the surrounding area."

Performing arts include music, dance, opera, theatre and film. PAC has done well in promoting most of those. The film arts are promoted through the showing of movies at the Orpheum; theater, music and dance arts are supported by bringing in various performers and by sponsoring the Missoula

Children's Theater. PAC needs to continue to encourage those arts and do an even better job of that.

But I want to challenge PAC and our supporters to broaden the promotion of the arts by also looking to the visual arts. These include drawing, painting, photography and sculpting. How can we promote these arts too, to deepen a cultural experience?

We are deeply appreciative of the financial support that continues, especially when special appeals are made. This community is generous! We also appreciate the attendance at movies and other presentations. Without that support PAC's task would be impossible and we all would suffer from a decrease of the arts in Pondera County. Thank you for your dollars and presence!

We request that you continue and perhaps increase your support of PAC and the arts in our community. We need each other! If you have ideas for ways PAC can further develop its promotion of the all the arts in our area, please talk to me or one of the board members listed in this publication.

MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Jan Carter

The 2014 production of "Hansel and Gretel" began with auditions on Tuesday April 22 with approximately 30 students participating. Directors Joette Orndorff and Samantha St. Onge spent Tuesday through Friday rehearsing with the students and on Saturday, April 26, the public was invited for two performances. It is truly amazing what is accomplished in those six days. We are very fortunate to be able to bring Missoula Children's Theatre to Conrad and give our youth the opportunity to be a part of this experience.



Several members of Pondera Arts Council played a major role in making this happen. Chaperones were needed for the rehearsals and performances as well as ticket takers, an emcee, and an overall coordinator. In addition, housing and meals were provided for the directors. Many thanks to all who helped make the Missoula Children's Theatre a success! We especially appreciate Marla and Gerald Bruner for opening their home to Joette and Samantha during their stay in Conrad.

Next year Missoula Children's Theatre comes to town on February 9-14 and will present "The Princess and the Pea."

Gift Idea for any occasion!

Looking for a special gift? Gift certificates to the Orpheum Theatre's movie showings make an easy and wonderful gift for Christmas, birthday, anniversary or any occasion. Certificates are available at the theatre.

**Art has an enemy called ignorance.
- Ben Johnson**

**Art is the signature of civilizations.
- Beverly Sills**

PAC 2014-2015 Concert Schedule

The concert season began with Peter and Molly Wilson with Lonnie Baker playing classical, jazz and Irish pieces. Instruments featured were violin, piano, accordion, Irish harp and penny whistles. The talented and versatile musicians also sang ballads and presented an enjoyable program setting a high standard of expectation for the rest of the season.

Up-coming concert schedule:

Nov. 9—Society Swing Sextet at 2:00 PM at the Orpheum. The Sextet showcases a repertoire from the Great American Songbook, an informal catalogue of quintessential compositions spanning the 1930s to the '60s. The playlist includes classics such as "It Had to Be You," "Unforgettable," and "Stardust." Styles include swing, bossa nova, ballads and Latin.

Jan. 26—Chinook Winds at 7:00 PM at the Orpheum; 2:30 PM at Utterback School. As the professional resident wind quintet of the Great Falls Symphony, members of the Chinook Winds Quintet present chamber music and interactive school programs throughout Montana and the Northwest. The quintet has been performing since 1992 and is popular and appealing often including musical surprises in the performance.

Feb. 14—The Princess and the Pea at 3:00 PM and 5:30 PM at the High School auditorium. Approximately 30 students are chosen by audition and practice for five days with directors from the Missoula Children's Theatre in order to present this original musical.

Mar. 23—Mud Bay Jugglers at 7:00 PM at the Orpheum; 2:30 PM at Utterback School. This startlingly inventive troupe juggles genres as easily as objects, weaving theatre, dance, physical comedy, and juggling into a creative and infectious entertainment experience. Based in Olympia Washington the Mud Bay Jugglers work their choreographic and juggling magic to lively music for a mesmerizing and emotional performance.

Apr. 9-12 & 15-18—Desperate Farm Wives 7:00 PM (weeknights); 2:00 PM (Sunday) at the Orpheum. Another original musical from Phyllis Philipps. The comedy tells a tale about a big city girl who marries a farmer and the challenges she faces in adapting to her new life and becoming acquainted with other farm wives.

June 6—Ringling Five at 7:00 PM. The Whoop-Up concert brings back this favorite Western musical comedy group. They are a group of ranchers from the Shields River Valley in southwest Montana. They write and perform their own brand of music about life in the modern west. They sing about the struggles of sorting cows with your wife, trading in your horse for a 4-wheeler, and what if Jesus had been born in Norway. They have been to Conrad before and many have requested an encore performance.



Rhubarb Festival

Mary DeStaffany



Hello everyone! The Rhubarb Festival was another big success for the Pondera Arts Council during this year's Whoop-Up. We made only 68 pies this year and we sold them all very quickly. I have the very best crew of helpers but more are always needed; there is always something to do. For example rolling the crust, making tags, folding boxes, and making sure the pies cook evenly. For the second year in a row, Cadhla Norris won the largest leaf contest while Cindy Koenig won the food contest. Congratulations!

Memorial Program

A gift in memory of a loved one or friend or a gift in honor of your living friend or loved one is a wonderful way to provide a tribute to that individual. Those gifts help support PAC in its encouragement of the arts in this area. To make your tax deductible gift please contact the PAC treasurer, Cheryl Tornga. An acknowledgment will be sent to the person or family that you indicate. Your gifts will help ensure a future of quality arts programs in Pondera county.



"How important are the visual arts in our society? I feel strongly that the visual arts are of vast and incalculable importance. Of course I could be prejudiced. I am a visual art."
- Kermit the Frog

Orpheum Theatre Manager's Report

Shelba Buffum

WOW! We are once again near the end of yet another good year.

We had a successful season with our Summer Matinees. The movies we showed included: *Marmaduke*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins* and *Free Birds*. Thanks to all who donated to make this possible!

This year the Theatre has gotten more involved with the schools. The middle school has an Advanced Reading Program and as a reward for reaching the goals set forth, the students came to the theatre around Christmas and then again at the end of the school year. With the new school year, not only will we continue to work with the middle school, but we are also going to get involved with the elementary school's Afterschool Program.

Some of our blockbuster movies for this past year were: *Frozen (G)*, *Lee Daniels: The Bulter (PG-13)*, and *Despicable Me 2 (PG)*.

Some up-coming movies you won't want to miss include: *Boxtrolls (PG)*, *The Maze Runner (PG-13)*, and *Book of Life (PG)*. Watch the schedule for when they arrive in Conrad.

Looking forward to seeing you at the movies!!

**Check out the Orpheum on line at: www.conradorpheum.com/
You can also find us on Facebook!**



Pondera Arts Council
P. O. Box 564
Conrad, MT 59425

A non-profit organization