

WINTER

ArtsUpdate!

connecting the community and the arts

St. Croix Jazz Orchestra Night at the Grand
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, at 4 p.m.

Grand Ballroom, 301 2nd St., Stillwater

For tickets, call 651-439-1465 or buy online at
artreachalliance.org

A Night at the Grand: Big Band Jazz

The fabulous jazz orchestra in a jazz club concert – a great way to enjoy big band jazz! Join us for an evening of swinging jazz with the St. Croix Jazz Orchestra, Sunday, November 16. This benefit concert supports the programming of ArtReach Alliance – connecting the community and the arts through music, theater, hands-on art experiences, visual arts and resources for artists.

The evening features the St. Croix Jazz Orchestra and special guest vocalist Judi Donaghy. The Stillwater High School Jazz Ensemble I will start the evening off.

The St. Croix Jazz Orchestra is a spectacular 18 piece jazz big band made up of professional musicians who live or work in the St. Croix Valley area. The program is committed to the preservation and promotion of jazz, America's unique music genre. The St. Croix Jazz Orchestra is one of only a handful of professional jazz orchestra's in the Midwest. The evening will feature music ranging from In the Mood, to Dizzy Gillespie, to music from the Ellington and Basie Bands.



A silent auction will feature the work of local artists, theater, cuisine and many other unique items. A great chance to pick up some fabulous holiday gifts!

Tickets for ArtReach Alliance's 4th annual benefit with the St Croix Jazz Orchestra are \$25, and \$10 for students. Tickets can be purchased at artreachalliance.org or by calling ArtReach at 651.439.1465. Tickets will also be available at the door. Cash bar.

Help us connect the community and the arts! Join us to support the programming of ArtReach on November 16th.

Silent Auction includes: original artwork, theater tickets, restaurants, and a Thanksgiving dinner!

 ArtReach
ALLIANCE

Complete list online at artreachalliance.org

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101 West Pine Street S.
Stillwater, MN 55082

Letter from the Chair

In 2008 we were blessed with gifts of time, talent, and funds from individuals and foundations. ArtReach Alliance can continue contributing to community life only with the ongoing support of donors and volunteers, and we thank you for yours.

Your gifts allowed us to host new events, increase our base of volunteers, add staff, and purchase a historic Stillwater home that will become a space for ArtReach Alliance and a center of arts activities in our community. We're eager to begin renovations and occupy the building. It's important to do the best possible job, so we're working with other arts and community groups to understand how to make our facility deliver the greatest benefit. We won't have the results until well into 2009, but believe that this path will deliver greater value in the long run.

My term as chair is expiring soon, and I'm excited to tell you that Bill McCarthy will lead the Board of Directors. I've had the distinct pleasure of working with him as Vice Chair this past year and as a member of the Board prior to that. He is personable, smart, and has proven himself to be an innovative and effective leader at ArtReach and in his profession. Please join me in welcoming him to this expanded role.

-Curtis Dale

Valley Reads 2009 Book Selections

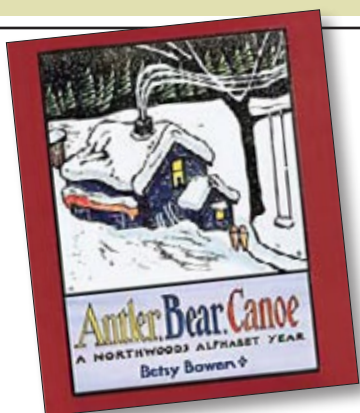
We are looking forward to a great Valley Reads in April 2009! The theme for the books and events will be Wildness! To explore the topic, two books have been selected (with a third to be finalized soon). Valley Reads continues to bring our community together to discuss literature, share ideas and learn from one another. Join us in reading! *Celebrate open books & open minds!*

Valley Reads is a community-wide reading program created to promote the value of reading together, sharing ideas and building community. During April a variety of related programs will be held throughout the community.

How can you and your family participate?
READ THE BOOKS! Attend the events! Join the conversation!

Book discussion groups, author visits, art exhibits and other events will run throughout April. A full calendar of events will be online at artreachalliance.org or valleyreads.org. On the websites you will find information on each of the books, including discussion guides, conversation points on the theme, suggested reading lists of related books, as well as resources for educators. Authors Seth Kantner and Betsy Bowen will be visiting Valley Reads in April. Several art exhibits, featuring the work of the authors as well as the traveling exhibit Paradise Lost, will be on display for the month.

These book selections are perfect for the holidays! Please support our local booksellers. These titles are available at The Valley Bookseller, Back to Books and also at our libraries.



Antler Bear Canoe
by Betsy Bowen
Picture book selection



Ordinary Wolves
by Seth Kantner
Adult/young adult
selection

ArtReach Featured Artist:

Bridge Theatre

The Bridge Theatre was conceived in January 2007 by dramatic arts enthusiasts, their goal - "To create a new theatre in Stillwater that produces fresh, thought-provoking entertainment of high quality that engages our audience and offers artistic opportunities that nourish local talent."

In March 2007 The Bridge Theatre opened with a production of "Lettice and Lovage" at the Black Box Theater in Hudson, WI. Their productions attempt to inject as much local talent as possible. Local actors, directors, lighting specialists and even local grant writers are employed to pull off the comprehensive task of staging a play. Along with James Blaha of Stillwater, the current Chairman of the Bridge Theatre, who acts, Cynthia Elmquist of Marine on St. Croix is directing the current production. Other cast and crew positions are filled with residents of the St. Croix Valley from both sides of the river.

The Bridge Theatre's current production is "The Dining Room," a play by A.R. Gurney. Many know the expression, "If walls could talk, what stories would they tell? How about a dining room suite - what recounting of past events would it narrate?" "The Dining Room" undertakes that very scenario.

"It is both humorous and touching, and is suitable for all ages." Says Blaha who gives the show a PG rating.

"The Dining Room" is set in one room around a table with conversations that span generations. The play unfolds in vignettes that do not follow a conventional chronology. Rather the characters, the time-line and the stories are interwoven with the dining room as the constant element. With



the gamut of conversations that occur among dining rooms, A.R. Gurney certainly had a lot of fodder to chew while writing the script. The narratives he selected should make for interesting viewing.

The Bridge Theatre offers a local option to experience live performances of original plays. Other than providing quality entertainment, the aim is to produce truly local stage fare. To that end they are always interested in local talent to use in their productions.

To follow the current play The Bridge Theatre has selected, "Yips." This show will combine a humorous golf theme in a jazz musical format. "Yips" is set to run in February 2009 and will be staged at a theme-appropriate venue, The Stillwater Country Club.

"The Dining Room" will be held at the Freight House Night-club on Stillwater's waterfront. The show will run for five nights November 11, 13, 16, 18 & 20, at 7:30PM. Tickets can be purchased at the Marine General Store; Daily Grind and River Market Co-op. Advanced seating reservations can be arranged by calling 651-430-0993. Adults \$15, students \$10.

..... by Greg Latham

MEMBER NEWS

Minnesota Women Ceramic Artists Show

This first-of-a-kind juried show features over 50 functional and sculptural pieces by 30 Minnesota artists, including Stillwater potters Dyann Myers and Marjorie Wade, and celebrates the tradition of ceramic art in Minnesota. The show is on display through November 29th at the Northfield Arts Guild Gallery.

Marjorie Wade, member of ArtReach Alliance, was recognized with the Juror's Choice award for functional work and the People's Choice award for her plates with shell pattern (pictured). To view images of the show online, visit www.northfieldartsguild.org



credit: M. Wade



connecting the community and the arts

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In this issue....

Don't miss the St. Croix Jazz Orchestra Nov. 16 – an annual event to raise funds for the many programs ArtReach offers our community.

Stay connected with the arts in our community – sign up for our online community arts calendar! Visit artreachalliance.org

ArtReach Alliance is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide, enhance and promote art experiences. We value your support as we connect artists, arts organizations, and art patrons with the greater community.

Thank you for supporting ArtReach Alliance

Contributions large and small help us spread the word about the importance of art in our daily lives.
Tear off and return this form with your tax deductible gift.

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please add me to the email to receive local art related updates and newsletters Please contact me about volunteering

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ Exp. Date _____ Visa _____ Mastercard

Card # _____ Signature: _____

ArtReach Alliance
101 W Pine Stillwater MN 55082

Visit www.ArtReachAlliance.org to donate online.

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