The Arts Picked Me.....

Words have never been easy for me. Today, I am struggling with them as I try to put into words the many thoughts that are running through my mind. As of January 31, 2021, I will be retiring as Alamance Arts Executive Director. I have spent 40 years of my life as an Arts Administrator. 24 ½ of those years here at Alamance Arts.

This has been an incredible journey. I look around my office, and I am surrounded by mementos that fill my mind with wonderful memories. When I look back, I realize I started this journey when I was a freshman in high school. I was approached by the school’s drama teacher when I was goofing around, and I guess being theatrical. She encouraged me to give theater a try and before I knew it, I was on stage winning a state competition! That one moment changed how I perceived myself and the world around me. That is when it became clear to me that the Arts could make a difference in your life, because it made a difference in mine! Through the years, I have always wanted everyone to experience the wonderful power of art.

I asked my Mother once, “How do you know what job you want to do in life?” The reason for my question was because many of my friends knew exactly what they wanted to be when they “grew up” but I had no idea. My Mother’s response set me on my path to where I am today. She said, “Sometimes it picks you. You just wake up one day and you are doing it.” That was my path. The arts picked me, and I woke up doing what I do, what I love, sharing the arts with everyone around me.

Through my journey, I became a rich man, not in money but in my being. I try to put into words the many thoughts that are running through my mind. As of January 31, 2021, I will be retiring as Alamance Arts Executive Director. I have spent 40 years of my life as an Arts Administrator. 24 ½ of those years here at Alamance Arts.

But the best part of my journey has been the people that I have met and come to know because of my work in the arts. The ones that believed in our creative ideas and worked alongside us to help achieve our goals. The ones that reached into their pockets to give us the much-needed funds to keep us going. The ones that gave us hugs and verbal support along the way. The ones that are there to pick us up when the project did not go as planned. And even the ones that gave us some criticism to make us stronger.

My journey with Alamance Arts may end in January, but my love of the arts will never end. I also will never forget how awesome my life has been on this journey. I am one of the luckiest people alive because of you, my Arts Friends. Thank you for traveling with me. We will part but not say goodbye.
Alamance Arts Welcomes Exhibits by David Stickel & Holt McLean Cleaver

Beginning July 13, the galleries of Alamance Arts will be filled with color and vibrancy thanks to the works of regional artists. David Stickel and Holt McLean Cleaver.

Chapel Hill artist David Stickel’s watercolor paintings are known for representational paintings of reflections—especially of windows. He holds signature member status in the American Watercolor Society (AWS), the National Watercolor Society (NWS) as well as the Watercolor Society of North Carolina (WSNC).

He draws inspiration for his compositions from his beloved North Carolina as well as two years in Africa, trips to China, Europe and throughout the U.S. (Colorado & the Midwest). He agrees with Andrew Wyeth, who said there was enough subject matter in his own backyard to paint over several lifetimes.

Holt McLean Cleaver is currently living in Charlotte, N.C where she owns and operates an art program called “Holt School of Fine Art” for children, teens, and adults since 2009 with over 300 students. She enjoys spending time with her family—Hyde (5), Lyla (7) and husband Matt. Holt continues to paint for various galleries year round throughout the state.

Cleaver wants her artwork to pull people in and make them feel what they see is familiar. The more they look, the more they feel like they have been there. “I want to capture their attention from a distance and pull them into the painting,” she said.

This exhibit continues through August 22.

Alamance Arts is currently closed, but those wishing to see the exhibit or visit Picasso’s Gift shop may call us at 336-226-4495 to register.

Cost for the four online classes is $25 per class for Annual Givers and $30 for non-givers. Alamance Arts is giving a bonus to our annual givers, if you sign up for all four classes you only pay $90.

Classes are:

- **Saturday July 25th, 11:00 am**
  - All American Grill
  - Ice Cream Floats
  - Hamburgers and Sausages
  - Potato Salad

- **Monday, July 27th, 6:30 pm**
  - Steak House Grill
  - Mint Juleps
  - New York Strip Oscar
  - Loaded Potatoes

- **Saturday, August 8, 11:00 am**
  - Mediterranean Seafood Grill
  - Rum Coolers
  - Shrimp Kebabs
  - Salmon with pesto and pistachio
  - Summer tiramisu with raspberries

- **Monday, August 10, 6:30 pm**
  - Outdoor Brunch
  - Sorbet Prosecco
  - Grilled Chicken and pineapple salad
  - Sinful Deviled Eggs
  - Lemon Asparagus

Join Us For 4th Friday Art Walk

Alamance Arts participated in Burlington’s Fourth Friday Art Walk on Friday June 26th.

If you missed the Art Walk you can still take a stroll downtown Burlington and see the participants through June 30th. The works of 10 local artists is displayed at the Paramount Theater (128 East Front Street) and the old Trollinger Floral Shop (301 South Main Street).

Artists exhibiting their work include Caroline Langely, Marina Stewart, Martha Sink, Priscilla Stirling, Rose Wenkel, Sandra Whitfield, Judy Madren, Angela Bostek, Hal Dickerson, and Linda Fowler. The artists are members of Alamance Artisans and Burlington Artist League. All work is for sale and may be purchased by calling Alamance Arts at 336-226-4495.

Alamance Arts will be working with other artists to display their work at the next Fourth Friday Art Walk in Burlington on Friday, July 24th from 5:20 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Art Walk is presented by the businesses of downtown Burlington.
Where Are The Artful Travelers Headed?

Gingerly, we are looking toward travel plans for later this year. We have a few tickets left for Hamilton at DPAC for a Sunday evening in January of 2021, and we can get more tickets depending on the interest.

Premier will be offering select domestic and international tours for 2020, with plans for full operations beginning in 2021. They are offering a no risk deposit passenger assurance plan for deposits received through December 31, 2020 which will be fully refundable until final payment.

The Artful Travelers will head out again when it is safe to do so, and won’t we appreciate those sights, sounds and experiences even more after the last few months of quarantine?!

### Athens and the Greek Islands

Alamance Arts will offer a nine-day trip touring Athens, Mykonos and Santorini at a cost of $3,999 per person. The date is May 4-13, 2021. Space is limited.

### Yellowstone & The Wild West

Alamance Arts will offer a seven-day trip to one of America’s most popular national parks with Premier World Discovery beginning June 18, 2021 for a cost starting at $3,399 per person for double occupancy.

Congratulations To Our Raffle winners!!

Emily Lewis was the winner of the $5,000 grand prize at the Alamance Arts Reverse Raffle June 20. We are excited that the prize money went to Emily and Casey as they are huge supporters of Alamance Arts and awesome artists (Beechwood Metalworks) that make great contributions to our community.

Other winners include:
- Ellen Ludington, Alice Thompson, Andrea Galicia, Peggy Teague, Ted Chandler, Dorothy Blanchard, Karen Carrough, Doris Desario, Lucy Kamidie, Henry Johnson, Barbara Roberts, Dixie Rogers, Lennie Stout, Bobetta Waynick and Angie Hall.

We thank each and every one of you who purchased tickets. This year was a first for us—a complete sell-out, and we raised $45,000 for our arts organization during this pandemic!!

Giles Receives President’s Award

Leanna Giles’ career path and sense of giving back to her community make her an excellent candidate for the 2019 – 2020 Alamance Arts President’s Award for Volunteer of the Year. Our volunteer of the year for 2019-20 Leanna Giles has been a tireless board member who has lent her marketing and financial skills to helping Alamance Arts remain a strong entity.

Leanna’s countess of volunteering her time for Alamance Arts did not start this year but rather when she began her first term on the board three years ago. Connecting needs with resources comes naturally to her. One of her most important contributions to our organization was to spearhead a marketing analysis which in turn led to a complete redesign of our website. Three weeks ago, under her leadership, we added a feature to purchase tickets on the website, and our traffic went up 150 percent in one day!

Her servant’s heart is felt at every board meeting and transcends into the extra effort she provides when lending a hand to set up for the fall fundraiser or hosting an A la Carte dinner. Leanna participates in exhibit openings, and she shares her passion for the performing arts and arts in education. We can count on her to be the first to share any posting from Alamance Arts on social media.

From the inception of the Reverse Raffle Leanna has dedicated her time to plan, prepare and execute the event, even when it means driving home from the beach on the same day to make the start of the event. We joke with our honoree about being our math whiz. We turn to her quite often for grant writing assistance, ironing out fundraising PNLs, financial projections and so much more.

Congratulations, Leanna!

Calling All Coloring Book Enthusiasts-

Alamance Arts is now featuring coloring sheets created by 10 local artists, like Beth Hill, Pat Towery and Carolyn Lamping seen here. You can download and print these sheets from our website as we encourage you to express that creativity!! And please send us your completed coloring sheet—either on Facebook or email arts@alamancearts.org!
Fun For Families From Alamance Arts

For more than nine years, a group of dedicated volunteers has researched, planned, pulled together supplies and welcomed families to the Captain White House for Family Fun on the third Saturday of every month.

The Family Fun committee, headed by Ruby Manning and Diana Miller, reaches elementary-aged children with three to five crafts on Family Fun Day, but they admit that the crafts are also enjoyed by teens and adults. Recycled items like paper towel rolls or CDs are often used. Think of a colorful rain stick with rocks inside the cardboard tube or a shiny round disk which could be a sunflower or a turkey depending on the construction paper or other supplies used.

“Our main goal is to introduce children to art and to promote quality family time,” Ruby said.

Other committee members include Shane Bickley, Doris Jefferson, Elizabeth Fonville, Carolyn Langley, Brenda Reed, Seena Granowski, Melissa Mann, Marlene Joyce and Margaret Muegge.

The third Saturday of the month also includes visit by Arty the Mouse who is the mascot for Alamance Arts and often played by Adam Belcher. Fancy Nancy (Slott) always reads a story to the children, and Cheryl Dixon paints faces. There are even fun door prizes for nearly everyone.

And all for only $3 per family.

The Family Fun Committee has also taken their show on the road, appearing at festivals around town like Carousel, Dogwood and Dickens with their crafts. They have reached out to the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, schools, and scout troops. Sharing crafts with shoppers at Lowe’s Foods in Mebane was a regular gig.

Of course, all of that was before COVID-19 hit. Now Family Fun is virtual. Families can still count on a story by Fancy Nancy, two crafts and some creative movement which has been provided by Burlington Academy of Dance and Walker Dance. Tune in on the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. on Alamance Arts’ Facebook page to get your Family Fun time, or it’s available to view anytime after that.

Another important addition that our Family Fun committee has offered during this time of social distancing is made in Alamance. Shelly Black gave in honor of her sister Caryn Varnell. This was a great three days, and here are just a few things discussed:

Our core values are now Unique, Positive and Empowering

We are working to update our mission and vision statements

We are planning to host a diversity forum this fall for local theatres

We are planning for our 10th season to be something different to celebrate how far we have come in 10 years.

A lot of time was spent discussing the current situation with the pandemic and how Studio 1 can safely but effectively continue programming. The Studio has sadly had to postpone the production of Walk Two Moons due to the mask mandate although there is hope to stream that production later. Also canceled this fall will be the musical Dog Fight, and Shorts for this season. All other productions that were previously announced will be scheduled, but the timing is still unsure.

July 25th Studio 1 will be streaming the fundraiser, Viva la Divas! This will be a battle between 11 of their talented local performers. They are competing to see who can raise the most money for the studio. Tickets are $20 per person viewing. Just use the donate button on the website and say you are buying tickets to Viva la Diva. Then you will be added into the private Facebook group where the event will be streamed. Be sure to say which Diva you want your ticket credited.

In addition to performances that evening, you can purchase raffle tickets for 7 fun baskets with items donated from local businesses and patrons. Tickets are just $5 each, and you choose into which basket you want to put your ticket and to which diva you want your money credited. You can view the baskets on Studio 1’s Facebook group or on the website. You can buy raffle tickets online through the website. Just hit the donate button and in the notes be sure and say which basket you want your ticket to go into and which Diva you want your donation to go towards. www.studio1online.org. Please consider joining on July 25th!!

Thanks for Giving To Alamance Arts

Alamance Arts welcomes contributions in honor of those living and/or in memory of those departed. Memorials are a fitting way of showing love and respect and/or recognizing individuals for their community service or their good life in general. Unless otherwise designated, memorial funds are placed in the Council Endowment fund.

The following gifts to Alamance Arts were received recently.


For June, the Studio 1 board has its annual retreat. Each year this time is used to assess where the Studio is, evaluate how to improve, and decide what is needed to do to reach future goals. It was a great three days, and here are just a few things discussed:

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