



WALWORTH COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL  
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## **APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER**

*The Walworth County Arts Council is non-profit educational organization comprised of individuals and organizations united by an appreciation of the arts and who are interested in supporting and promoting their creation, performance, study and display. The mission of the Council is to foster outlets for creative expression and to encourage a better understanding of the benefits of the arts with a specific goal of expanding all opportunities for the arts in the classroom.*

### **CORONAVIRUS and Stay-At-Home Orders**

All WCAC Board meetings, Quarterly Meetings, tours, Elementary and Middle School Art Show, MSO subscription concerts, etc., have been cancelled during the coronavirus pandemic. When Wisconsin's stay-at-home order is lifted, the Executive Committee will re-evaluate the situation and make a decision whether to meet physically in groups larger than 10. Our decision will be based on facts provided by scientists, doctors, etc. The only priority for our decision is the safety of our members and participants in our various programs.

### **WCAC Scholarships for High School Seniors**

WCAC's Scholarship program is not impacted by coronavirus shutdown. This year there are applicants in the areas of dance, theater arts and visual arts from five high schools in Walworth County. Judging, auditions and interviews will be conducted through video conferencing and other digital tools. Scholarship winners will be announced around May 15.

### **WCAC Winning Words Competition**

Winning Words competition has entries in both prose and poetry from five high schools in Walworth County. WCAC's Winning Words program engaged Walworth County English teachers and high school students despite the closure of schools due to coronavirus.

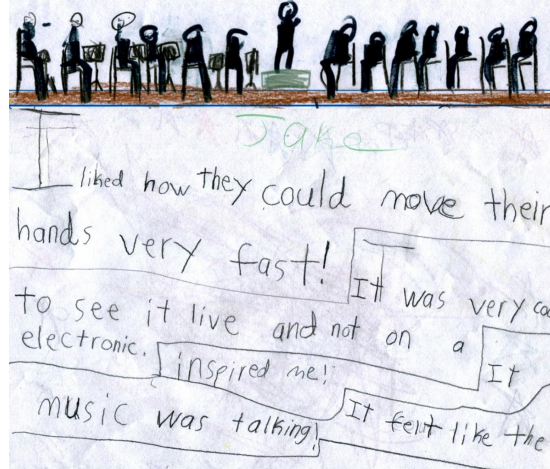
This year WCAC will be awarding cash prizes of \$300, \$200, and \$100 to the first, second, and third place winners in both categories of prose and poetry.

### **MEMBER DRIVE**

WCAC membership begins July 1, 2020 and will run through June 30, 2021. If you've paid member dues anytime after January 1, 2020 your membership will be through June 30, 2021. Your membership dues and additional donations make it possible for the WCAC to provide programming that provides Walworth County residents of all ages access to quality experiences in the arts.

WCAC will be sending member brochures/forms in the next few weeks via USPS mail. Please consider renewing your membership and inviting your friends to join you in supporting the work and programs of the Walworth County Arts Council.

## LGSO School Day Concerts



The Walworth County Arts Council is a sponsor of the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra elementary school-day concerts. On January 24 the LGSO presented concerts at Eastview Elementary in Lake Geneva, Westside Elementary in Elkhorn and at Fontana Elementary school. Shortly after the concert WCAC received an envelope from Fontana Elementary filled with thank-you notes from the students and music teacher, Karen Bullock. In her letter to WCAC, Karen said, "The timing of the concert couldn't have been better. The third through fifth graders had just completed a composing project. It made for a great segue into reviewing the musical instruments and studying some orchestral pieces... As a teacher, it was so meaningful to talk with students who said they were emotionally moved by hearing the music live - and that it was different hearing it live (versus a recording). There was a kindergartener whose face was shining after the performance! Some students, typically more reserved, expressed a lot of enthusiasm... The visit by the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra was a wonderful opportunity for the students to experience music and make what they are learning in the classroom relevant in a new way. Thank you so much for the sponsorship."

## The Arts in Uncertain Times

The arts have a power to sustain humanity through trials, tribulations and celebrations. The coronavirus pandemic has had an impact that is incomprehensible to imagine in the creative, artistic world.

In his welcoming address at the Berkshire Music Center in 1970, Leonard Bernstein said, "*It's the artists of the world, the feelers and thinkers, who will ultimately save us; who can articulate, educate, defy, insist, sing and shout about the big dreams.*" It seems as though all big dreams have been paused at this moment. However, artists, actors, dancers, musicians and the entire

creative community worldwide are finding ways to connect and are sharing significant and powerful messages through the arts.

Nineteen years after his welcoming address at Berkshire, Leonard Bernstein sketched out on a yellow tablet his list of components of happiness:

The Love of Learning  
The Power to Praise  
The Capacity to Change  
The Ability to Love (+to Teach)  
The Gift of Enjoyment  
(The Enjoyment of Gifts)  
The Competence to Speak (+Hear)  
The Competence to Sing, Dance (+Listen)  
The Wonder of Understanding + Being Understood  
The Love of Learning  
The Joy of Gratitude

It is hard to imagine happiness in uncertain and troubling times. Yet, experiencing a multitude of artistic expressions on a daily basis might ease our uneasiness, anxiety, or feelings of loss. The arts we experience at a time like this have the power to help us learn, praise, change, enjoy, speak, sing, dance, and understand what is happening in our world in ways that are beyond a simple expression of words. For the richness of understanding and depths of comprehension the arts provide, I am joyfully grateful.

Nancy Rasmussen,  
President

Leonard Bernstein quotes retrieved April 12, 2020, from <https://www.leonardbernstein.com/>



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