




**DURANGO FRIENDS OF THE ARTS**  
**MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER**

**President's Message:** Did you know that in 2018 the **Top 40 Most Vibrant Arts Communities in America** added 4 new small towns? And Durango was one! Here is part of what they said about us:

The Durango Arts Center is a multi-faceted hub for community arts that hosts and promotes contemporary visual and performing arts, arts education, dynamic exhibits, an active docent program and the annual Durango Autumn Arts Festival. Durango is well known for its extraordinary collection of Western art and a distinctive collection of contemporary and traditional fine art and jewelry; represented artists include Kevin Red Star, Star Liana York, and former U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse. Music also plays a big role, from bluegrass to a fully integrated festival of orchestra, chamber music and young artists' performances in conjunction with Music in the Mountains Conservatory. The Community Concert Hall at Fort Lewis College provides a stage for the eclectic traveling bands and productions on tour, while Stillwater Music and iAM Music provide opportunities for music education and ongoing professional development through training and performing bands. Additionally, the Durango Independent Film Festival takes place every year in February, followed by a number of live theater and musical performances throughout the spring and summer. October 2018 marks the 30th anniversary of the Durango Cowboy Gathering, where nationally acclaimed cowboy poets, storytellers and musicians perform both traditional and contemporary poems and songs. **Because of the diversity of offerings, Durango ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in overall Arts Providers, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the number of arts and cultural organizations.**

We at Durango Friends of the Arts play a big role in supporting the Arts in our community. Thank you for all that you do! 2019 is off to a great start!

*~Debra May, 2019 President*

### ***Forty Thousand Dollars Awarded to Local Arts Organizations***

Congratulations to our members and supporters who helped us achieve amazing fundraising goals during 2018. Thanks also to our Grant Committee for their efforts to review and select the following recipients. Twenty Six organizations will be awarded grants in 2019: I AM Music Institute and I AM Music Scholarship for Youth, BE FRANK Foundation, DAC Creativity Festivity, DAC Holiday Production, DAC Scholarships for Visual & Performing Arts, The Durango Bluegrass Meltdown, The Durango Choral Society Children's Chorale, The Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering Poets in School, The Four Corners Chapter of the American Orff Schulwerk Association, Jeff Solon Live Music in the School House, Merely Players Theatre Goes to School Program, Merely Players Theatre The Humans, Music in the Mountains Family Concert, Music in the Mountains Goes to School Program, Rocky Mountains PBS, San Juan Symphony, Seed Studio, Southwest Civic Winds, Stillwater Foundation Party in the Park, Stillwater Foundation Youth Scholarships, Take the Lead, Thingamajig Theatre Co, 3rd Ave Arts, and Willowtail Springs Nature Preserve & Education Center.

### **FUNdraising Update:** (Putting the "Fun" in Fundraising!)

"**Playing with Words**" hosted by Nancy Macho contributed \$400 to our 2020 Grant Fund. With the delightful DIVAs' amazing success and on-going Book Club incomes, we're off to a good start. Thank you all!

## Upcoming New Events:

### Monthly Mystery Book Club – March 17<sup>th</sup>

DFA Mystery Monthly Book Club welcomes all members and non-members to join us Monday, March 17, 3-5pm at the home of Annette LeMaire, 2018 E 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. \$5p.p. We will be reviewing two books in March: "The Art Forger" by BA Shapiro and "The Lost Carousel" by Juliet Blackwell.

Refreshments will be served. Please bring a folding type camp chair (light weight) as you will need to carry it up a few stairs into her lovely art studio. RSVP to Annette LeMaire at [lemaireart@gmail.com](mailto:lemaireart@gmail.com) by Friday, March 15.

For those of you looking forward to reading our April selection, it is: "Celia Garth" by Gwen Bristow. Please consider purchasing your book locally at Maria's Book Store. You will receive a 15% discount (only on preselected book club titles) when you mention DFA Mystery Book Club. Questions? Please contact, Rani at [rani.holt@gmail.com](mailto:rani.holt@gmail.com)

### "Wine & Art" – March 20<sup>th</sup>

Our own "in-house" Artist, (DFA Member) Annette LeMaire, has offered to donate her artistic and teaching talents for a new income activity, "Wine & Art" to be held at her Studio on **Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.** You will learn to work with Pastels and take home a masterpiece. Even some of our more experienced Artists in DFA may learn a tip or two plus it will be fun and for a good cause. Checks should be made out to Durango Friends of the Arts or DFA, for \$40, and mailed to: Annette LeMaire, **Studio 2018**, 2018 East Second Avenue. Durango, CO 81301. Annette's Studio is behind her home. Note that there are some stairs to reach her Studio's loft.

*Annette's Message: "Come to Studio 2018 on March 20 where we will pour a glass of wine (or tea), take a few bites of delicious hors d'oeuvres, and begin the experience of creating a pastel painting. Bring a bib-apron to cover up and prepare to get your hands a little dirty (no worries; they will wash quite easily). Our hope is to send you home with a completed painting that will require no drying time! You can do this!"* All materials are supplied for this first event. (There may be future classes.) There is only room for eight participants (8), so RSVP soon to guarantee your spot: either [lemaireart@gmail.com](mailto:lemaireart@gmail.com) or text/call 970-317-0873. Note: RSVP directly to Annette to reserve space, for questions, and to mail checks (2018 East Second Ave. Durango, CO. 81301)

### "box." A One Man Performance masterfully written and performed by Broadway Actor Dennis Elkins – June 1<sup>st</sup>. Durango Arts Center – 7 p.m. A benefit performance for Durango Friends of the Arts and the Grief Center of Southwest Colorado. \$35p.p. (Ticket information available soon.)



Dennis Elkins, Equity actor, director and former chairman of Fort Lewis College Department of Drama left that position to finish "box." Triggered by the untimely death of his son, Isaac, when the cremains arrived in a cardboard box, Dennis wrote this wonderful 70 minute play.

"A complex and deeply felt examination of life's unplanned turns, deliberate shifts, blind alleys, devastating losses and late-discovered through lines. Structured to reveal key markers and telling insights, the work balances loss and grief with exuberant shafts of humor." ~Judith Reynolds – Durango Herald Review

"I laughed and cried in equal measure." ~Cathryn Robson, Senior Lecturer University of Westminster, U.K.

**This will be an extraordinary performance not to be missed! "Mesmerizing!" What's in your box?** His only prop a cardboard box. Let's support this fellow creative "Durango-an" for a "benefit" evening performance. "box." Little 'b' and a period punctuation after. "box." **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

To learn more: <https://boxperiodproductions.com/> Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/corrugated.cardboard.bboxes/>

## **"Garden and Tea Party Time along the Animas" – June 6**

Our resilient past President, Kristi Nelson, has incentive to revamp her summer gardens as she hostesses a Tea Party with wine, sherry and live entertainment ... and, hopefully, YOU. Date is **Thursday June 6** from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy a full Afternoon (High) Tea spread. Fancy hats will be available, but High Tea attire is optional. Car Pooling is recommended, as parking is limited, as are the guests, which will be limited to 24.

Location: 13227 C. R. 250, Durango, CO 81301. **RSVP** to [Kristi@frontier.net](mailto:Kristi@frontier.net) by May 26 or call her at (970) 247-4260. Remember limit is just 24 for this quaint, but classy affair. Please bring your checks (made out to DFA) with you the day of the event. \$60 per person, and **All** proceeds go to DFA. Come, sip and enjoy!



## **Revived Income Opportunities:**

**MARCH Wooden Nickel:** Nature's Oasis has generously agreed to include us in their **Wooden Nickel Program** again this year. AND we've the **month of March** to share with one other charity. So shop, Shop, SHOP at Nature's O, especially during the month of March and bring your reusable shopping bags. Remember to get a wooden nickel for each bag used so you may deposit in our DFA jar. We will get mentioned in their advertising in many local papers for a reminder.

**City Market Rewards Card Program:** Initiate or renew your card as soon as possible. In the past you had to renew each year, but after this year, it will now be automatic. Call 1 800-576-4377 and state that you want to donate to Durango Friends of the Arts. They may ask you to verify our address, which is Post Office Box 1281, Durango, CO 81302. Give them your Rewards Card Number or Alternate Number (which is your phone number), and our I.D. Number for Durango Friends of the Arts which is **#PJ251**. It's easy to subscribe this year, and easy money for our Grant Fund.

**Amazon Smile:** When shopping online, go to Amazon Smile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)) and at the checkout process select Durango Friends of the Arts as the benefactor. They give back ½ of 1% of the purchase price to non-profits quarterly and we're on the list. Direct link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-4730656>

**Nancy Macho-** Fund Raising Chair. If you have an idea for an event this year email Nancy at [machoranch@frontier.net](mailto:machoranch@frontier.net).



## **MARCH 14<sup>th</sup> MEMBERSHIP MEETING!**

*Bring a Friend or potential new member— plenty of seating!*

**Durango Arts Center –Theatre – 802 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.**

*10 a.m. Social – 10:30 a.m. Business Meeting followed by program by Brenda Macon – the Executive Director of DAC who is also an active member of DFA. Learn what's new at DAC and what's on the horizon.*

**Membership:** If you haven't already sent in your 2019 Dues, plan to bring a check with you to the membership meeting. \$35 individual, \$50 Family or \$75 Corporate/Business. Membership forms are available at [www.DurangoFriends.org](http://www.DurangoFriends.org) and can be sent along with check to P.O. Box 1281, Durango, CO 81302. (Note: We want to confirm the accuracy of the roster with address, birthday, phone, etc....so it's important to complete a new membership form when you rejoin.) Thank you! To receive an updated copy of the DFA Roster, contact Susie Ammann – [h82fly2@aol.com](mailto:h82fly2@aol.com) (Special Note: If membership renewals are not completed by the end of March, your email newsletter/contact information will be deleted from the roster.) We truly appreciate your involvement!

## **SAVE THE DATE – Upcoming Events – Mark your calendars!**

**May 9 – Membership Meeting** at Holt Sheet Metal – 220 S. Skyline Drive. 10 a.m. (Program: Member Rani Holt will give us a tour and we will discover how art can be produced in unexpected places and unusual ways.)

**July 11 – Annual Summer Potluck /Membership Meeting–** Mary Husemoller's Home – 10 a.m.

**Sept. 27- Last Friday in September – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual – Prospecting for the Arts – a Twilight Affair.**

Prospector’s Hall at Glacier Valley Clubhouse. 4-7 p.m. Great entertainment, food and silent auction. (Last year sold out, so watch for ticketing details soon.)



**Volunteer:** Consider volunteering for a Prospecting committee as we again deliver the mother lode. As a miner, you will have fun, make new friends and contribute your skills to a great cause. Contact Karren Little – (970) 799-2914 email: [littlekarren.little@gmail.com](mailto:littlekarren.little@gmail.com)

**NEWS...Way to go Team!** Thanks to Leslee Shell, publicity chair, for promoting all we do in the community!

**Dancing Divas were recognized for ‘Best Use of Lights’ in the Snowdown Light Parade**

**ARTS BRIEFS**

**Karren Little awarded Volunteer of the Year**

Karren Little was awarded the Durango Friends of the Arts 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award at the group’s membership meeting Jan. 24.

Carol Bruno, last year’s award recipient, presented Little with the award. Little has been a member of DFA since 1999 and served as president from 2002-2004. She is currently heading programs for DFA.

New officers for 2019 are: Debra May, president; Loraine Sufficool, vice president; JoAnn Trimberger, secretary; Georgeann Reitz, treasurer; Susie Ammann, membership; Nancy Macho, fundraising; and Kristi Nelson, communications and newsletter.

**Follow us for Snowdown coverage**

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		➤ <a href="https://twitter.com/jerryphotog">@jerryphotog</a>

*The End!*