

Expressions

FALL 2012

Promoting the creative power in people with disabilities.

Music...

A Universal Language

Each year from September through May, hundreds of VSA Wisconsin choir members in eight Wisconsin communities rehearse regularly and share their musical accomplishments with eager audiences. This spring, John Lenburg of the VSA Choir of Fond du Lac sang his first solo, an enthusiastic rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." One of his most devoted fans is brother Norm of Sun Prairie who praised John and choir director Diane Weigel: "John really rose to the occasion. He sang so beautifully and with such enthusiasm! Diane did a great job preparing him for his solo. I was never more proud of my brother than I was that day."

A semi-retired photojournalist and photography teacher, Norm tells us that John has always had the ability to hear songs, remember them, and then sing them independently. John recently shared his singing talents in another setting. When he and brothers Norm and Bob attended a Milwaukee Brewers game together this summer, John eagerly participated in the seventh inning stretch and robustly sang "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," impressing many baseball fans around him.



John Lenburg

According to Norm, the choir has been a valuable experience for John, who became involved with VSA Wisconsin in Fond du Lac through an art festival many years ago. Norm and his wife are generous donors to the choir, helping ensure that this program continues to be a vital resource for people with disabilities in the community and for members of the public. "I'm grateful that John has an opportunity to participate in the VSA Choir. Being out in the community is a plus for everyone, and it's good for people to hear individuals with disabilities perform in public."

The VSA Choir of Fond du Lac is led by director Diane Weigel who receives assistance from a dedicated corps of volunteers. Thirty members will present their annual holiday concert Tuesday, December 4 at 6 pm at Forest Mall. Information about concerts by other VSA Choirs can be found at www.vsawis.org.



Working together...

This newsletter is intended to keep our friends, donors and participants up to date on our activities. To our wonderful donors and sponsors, thank you for your support of programs that improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. We greatly appreciate all you do!

--The VSA Wisconsin Team

vsa
WISCONSIN
The State Organization
on Arts and Disability

**& News
Events**

Art Exhibitions

Creative Power

20 award-winning works
from across the state

Lakeview Library
Madison
through January 2

Frames of the Northside

PhotoTown photographers

VSA Wisconsin Gallery
Madison
through January 2

Call for Entries

Call for Art

Deadline Feb. 4, 2013
Application found at
www.vsawis.org

International Young Soloist

Deadline Jan. 15, 2013
Application found at
www.kennedy-center.org/IYS

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Through the lens...

A Look at Madison's Northside

"Grab your camera and explore the world around you." That's exactly what the participants in VSA Wisconsin's Photo Town! digital photography class did for three weeks last spring. What did they see when looking through the lens at Warner Park, Tenney Park and the Dane County Regional Airport? To find out, stop by the VSA Wisconsin Gallery now through January 2 to view an exciting exhibition entitled "Frames of the Northside." Gallery hours are 10 am to 2 pm Monday through Thursday or by appointment.

Photo Town! is a very popular class for adults with disabilities. The class was led by VSA Wisconsin teaching artist, Marcia Yapp. She says this about digital photography, "As a visual art [medium], it is an accessible means of expression. Participants can learn about light and composition, which are important visual techniques, choose a desirable scene or moment and have immediate results." Several members of the class say they want to take it again. Community volunteers worked one-to-one with participants and the resulting images taken at landmark Northside sites are stunning. One participant was so interested in photography after this class that he has sought out a mentor to help him further develop his skills.



FRAMES OF THE NORTHSIDE

Thinking of the holidays?

Gallery Gift Shop Now Open

Looking for a meaningful gift? The VSA Wisconsin Gallery gift shop is stocked with a variety of unique items including hand-carved duck decoys, tote bags, silk scarves, t-shirts and more. All items are created by artists with disabilities or feature designs by artists with disabilities. Proceeds from the sale of these items will be used to support a variety of arts programs conducted by VSA Wisconsin.

Among the items for sale are "Boonducks" decoys which whimsically take flight as Wingdings (Canvasback), Ol' Coots (Mudhen) and Quacker Jacks (Mallard). Created by VSA Wisconsin award-winning artist D.S. Sully, each decoy is hand-carved out of barn timbers, fence posts, pier pilings and other weathered wood using antique rasps, riffers, chisels, saws, and other hand tools. Each duck purchased will be accompanied by a complimentary copy of Sully's book (\$16.95 value) Glimpse-A Telling Tattle, which documents his gradual vision loss as a result of early onset macular degeneration.



The gift shop is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 5 pm through December 20. For more information: http://www.vsawis.org/exhibitions_sales/art_for_sale/index.shtml.



Science Discoveries...

A Puppetry Arts Program

Is art science or is science art? Students at DC Everest Middle School, East High School and Horace Mann Middle School in the Wausau area have been investigating this concept during VSA Wisconsin artist residencies for the past two months. Under the direction of teaching artist Pam Corcoran (pictured right), the students explored science-related themes such as inquiry, discovery and change through puppetry and creative drama. The residencies served as an introduction to the properties

of light and its role in creating shadows. During the residency sessions, the students created puppets and learned first-hand what differentiates opaque, translucent and transparent materials. By performing shadow plays, they also learned how light travels and how an object's shadow is affected by the intensity and position of the light.

The general public is invited to an open house and demonstration on December 18 from 10 - 11am at East High School in Wausau.



There are many ways to help VSA Wisconsin!

- Give an annual gift (using the form here or via our secure online giving option at www.vsawis.org)
- Encourage your personal friends to give a gift
- Spread the word about VSA Wisconsin on your social network (Twitter and FaceBook)
- Fill a table of 8 at our annual golf exhibition and luncheon
- Attend one of our many VSA Choir concerts
- Donate to VSA Wisconsin through your workplace giving campaign
- Secure a matching donation from your employer for VSA Wisconsin
- Donate money from your garage sale or car wash
- Contribute all or a percentage of your casino, lottery or scratch-off winnings
- Secure auction items for our annual golf exhibition and luncheon with Steve Stricker
- Visit our gift shop or a VSA Wisconsin exhibition and purchase a work of art by an artist with a disability
- Increase your gift by 50% through Power2Give.org, a recently-unveiled giving tool for Dane County arts projects. Power2Give.org offers a 50% match to online donations made to support VSA Wisconsin projects such as Open Doors Studio, a fine arts class at the VSA Art Center or the VSA Choir of Madison. Visit vsawis.org/support_vsa/donate/ and see the Power2Give.org information to learn more.

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VSA Day: Signing the National Anthem; getting ready to play with the UW Marching Band

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The mission of VSA Wisconsin is to expand the capabilities, confidence and quality of life for children and adults with disabilities by providing programs in dance, drama, creative writing, music and visual art.

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