

Arts Unlimited

Festival showcases talents from 6 area high schools

By Glenna Holloway
Photo by Carl Wagner



Back by popular demand, poet John Dickson will again lead discussions and critique students' work.

Richard Calisch, grinning broadly, listens to the sound of applause. Not that all those hands are clapping for him. Instead, Calisch is in the background while musicians, dancers, poets, actors and other talented people, both professionals and students, draw an enthusiastic response.

Each act, each display and each workshop is part of Arts Unlimited, a month-long event sponsored by Township High School District 214.

The festival, which opens April 10, presents the achievements of students from Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove, John Hersey, Prospect, Rolling Meadows and Wheeling High Schools as well as many seasoned performers such as the Zephyr Dance Ensemble, Chicago Swedish Glee Club, The Chicagoland Banjo Band and the Remains Theater.

John Dickson, poet, and Lyman Shepard, who does costumed impressions of Frank Lloyd Wright and discusses Wright's work, are both back by popular demand. A variety of programs are offered daily in all six area schools through May 11. The public is invited.

Calisch, founder and director of Arts Unlimited 214, conceived the beginnings of the project back when Elk Grove High School opened in 1966. Besides teaching English, one of the hats he wore was that of English and Fine Arts Division chairman. "So with only one administrative head, it was easy to get a few after-school performances together which we called Humanities Week," Calisch said. "Each year it kept expanding.

"In 1976, I went to the Board of Education and asked if they would pay for a festival encompassing all our district schools and they agreed. The first one was in 1977."

The concept broadened and underwent several title changes before becoming Arts Unlimited 214, but the purpose has remained constant: "We want to showcase the students. At the same time, we want to open them to artistic experience they wouldn't get in the classroom," said Calisch. "Each year, about half the 10,000 students in the district actively participate in the program."

Calisch retired in 1986 after teaching English for 30 years. The next day he was hired as the coordinator for talented and gifted students in District 214. Those first programs at Elk Grove were financed by fundraisers, bake sales and the like. Calisch persuaded the board to underwrite new ideas, things like buses to off-campus events, equipment, lighting, guest artists and performers, printed programs and souvenir buttons. There is a small charge to the public for a few of the professional performances, but most are free.

Calisch works with a committee of six members, one from each school. Gary Parker, who teaches instrumental music at Prospect, serves as district coordinator and budget administrator of Arts Un-

limited.

"It's an extremely important program," said Parker, "especially since the state of Illinois has recognized the arts as one of the six areas of importance in a student's well-rounded education. It gives kids the opportunity to attend art events without having to leave the school grounds and without cost."

The state art mandate will go into effect in 1995. Incoming freshman will need an art credit to graduate. Educators feel it makes the festival more vital than ever. But beyond anything required, Richard Calisch, himself a poet, is proud of every ripple the program makes in someone's life.

Other school districts have week-long and day-long festivals alternating between all-professional, and events put on by parents. There is nothing else of the scope and scale of Arts Unlimited 214, which Calisch calls "the most complete high school arts festival in the U.S.A."

Patricia Wright, English teacher and committee member from Rolling Meadows agreed. "Art is a means of communicating, a bridge between different cultures," she said. "Each week during the festival, we provide gallery space for the work of six visual artists. We'll feature the work of 36 young student artists in all here at Rolling Meadows. I've watched how the other students cluster around the displays and talk about them. After they see what their peers have done and what professionals have done, they learn what avenues of expression are open to them. I'm a product of District 214 myself. They didn't do this sort of thing when I was coming along. Dick Calisch has a clear vision of what he wants. He's fun to work with."

"He's a neat guy. He relates to people really well," said Janette Thill, a senior at Buffalo Grove, whose main interest is writing. Thill who has participated in past festivals, plans to do so again this year. "My teacher, Mrs. Fitzsimmons, sent in one of my short stories and it was exhibited last year."

Bruce G. Thill, Janette's father, believes that Arts Unlimited provides "a very wonderful outlet for creative talent to be exposed to a broader spectrum of art. It allows students and their parents to see

what the choices are."

Poet John Dickson was impressed with the lively response to his poetry. He encourages questions, initiates discussions and critiques of students' work, too. He tells his listeners, "You never know what's gonna happen when you write. What comes out may not be what you expected."

Dickson was also impressed by the dedication of Joyce Fitzsimmons, the teacher who sponsored his readings at Buffalo Grove.

"These kids are a lot more interested than I was at their age," Dickson said. "She knows how to bring out the best in a student. Why, I never saw a living poet when I was young. I thought they were all dead."

Taewoo Kim, a junior at Elk Grove, enjoys the architectural tours of Chicago most of all. "It gives us a chance to go downtown and a chance to meet other students and exchange ideas."

Christy Farrelly, a member of Elk Grove High School's Orchestis, said, "I really like performing for other people. We do modern, jazz and ballet dancing." (Each school has an Orchestis dance group composed of students who audition for the course.)

Special all-day programs concentrating on a particular artistic discipline have been very popular with students and public alike. This year's day-long events are creative writing, film, art and photography. Film Day, always a favorite, is Thursday, April 25, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Elk Grove High School. It will focus on the "social problem" movie genre and screenings of "Rebel Without a Cause" and "Permanent Record."

Randhurst Shopping Center, Mount Prospect, East Euclid and Rt. 83, will host The Fine and Practical Arts show daily during business hours, May 14-28. There will be demonstrations of fine arts, interior design, electronics, drafting, wood and metalwork.

This year's 200 offerings also include several plays and concerts, photography, animation, architecture, fashion, foreign language and ethnic exhibits and cuisine.

Anyone interested can contact Calisch's office for a program listing all events, times and locations. Call 708-364-8628.

10/1/14 3048157.142

permanence.”

Lurie’s recent preliminary study of the bluffs north of Waukegan was done for Drobnick Realty, which owns the land. Her report has been submitted to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, which will evaluate it and may recommend that the developer pay for additional archeological studies. Drobnick Realty plans 50 homes on the site but has not yet sought permits.

The Historic Indian Period, with the first written records, begins around 1673, Kullen said, when the first French explorers and traders arrived, and ends in 1832, two years after the Blackhawk War when the last of the Potawatomi were removed from northern Illinois.

This was not a time of great glory in the passing of the north-eastern Illinois people parade. The little prairie people, as the Potawatomi came to be called, were of great assistance to the early French explorers, and the first ox-drawn wagons followed Indian trails across Lake and McHenry Counties. Early settlers to McHenry and Lake Counties noted a half dozen such trails, some of which became wagon roads and eventually major highways. Illinois Highways 31 and 176 follow portions of former Indian trails.

As the white and Indian cultures tried to occupy the same area, trouble was inevitable. There had to be winners and losers. The Potawatomi were the losers. As Kullen describes it in a cultural history: “Tribes were decimated by epidemic diseases introduced by Euro-Americans. Intertribal warfare took its toll, as did Indian



Photo by Tim Boyle

This tooth once graced the mouth of a mastodon.

involvement in the disputes between colonial powers. A rare few of the natives managed to adapt quickly to the Euro-American culture, and they became successful traders or businessmen. Most, however, tried to carry on their traditional lifeways as best they could, even though their subsistence was becoming increasingly dependent upon the food and trade goods distributed annually as annuity payments from treaty concessions. Eventually, the Potawatomi were convinced to give up claim to all lands in Illinois in exchange for these ‘presents.’”

The Potawatomi and others left

behind a rich store of stone artifacts: projectile points, scrapers, knives, drills and ceremonial stones. Thousands of these have been found and collected by residents over the years. There are thousands more to be found, and if you would hunt them, look in fields or places where the topsoil has been disturbed at locations where you think a camp might have been located. The artifacts will be close to the surface, and the best hunting is after a rain when stone objects have been washed clean and are easy to spot.

John Shiel, educational services manager for the McHenry County Conservation District, said that if you find an artifact, you have a moral obligation to report its location so that the site can be noted by professional archeologists for possible further investigation.

Those who find artifacts often speak reverently of the thrill of holding in their hand something that has transcended the centuries from one culture to another. It is somehow like a personal message from long ago, one that defies complete comprehension and one that stays with you forever.

And now the parade comes down to the present and the current citizenry of the area. If you would take your place respectfully and with reverence for your lifetime, you might walk the old Indian trails, or you might climb one of the great glacial kames in Glacier Park near the McHenry-Lake County line, and there on a foggy, spring day, certainly you will hear the whispers of our predecessors. They will tell you incredible things.

FOOD LOVER'S DIRECTORY



THE
BARN

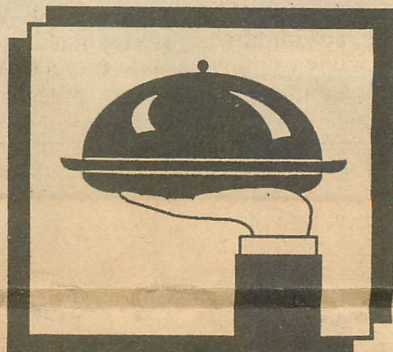
OF BARRINGTON

APRIL
**LUNCHEON
SPECIAL
GINGER
CHICKEN**

With Mushrooms,
Julienne Of Zucchini And
Carrots, With Rice
Boston Lettuce Salad

\$625

A • P • R • I • L



TRY HANS' SPECIAL OF THE MONTH...ROAST LEG O' LAMB
OR LAMB SHANK SERVED WITH RELISH TRAY, SOUP, SALAD
AND POTATO PANCAKE, ONLY \$10.95 DURING APRIL!



HANS' BAVARIAN LODGE

931 N. Milwaukee Avenue • Wheeling • Tel. 537-4141

**HUNAN
BEIJING**

Authentic Hunan - Sichuan
Mandarin Cuisines

**NOW
DELIVERING**

LUNCH SPECIALS

1. Pork with Broccoli	\$3.95
2. Pepper Steak	\$4.25
3. Chicken Vegetables	\$3.95
4. Beef Vegetables	\$3.95
5. Sweet & Sour Pork	\$3.95