

A Roaring Good Time!

Norwalk Arts Center presented its first adult community theatre offering during the weekend of August 6, 2021. The event transformed the Milestone Event Center into a 1928's speakeasy called Ruby's Place. Using the *Funeral for a Gangster* script written from *Mysteries* by Moushey, several local actors presented a fun-filled evening to over 400 guests. The event was presented as a funeral for the late fictional character Vito "The Gut" Marzetti, who was killed by a rival gang.

The show starred local talents Jen Libertowski (Ruby Marzetti), Izzy Ballard (Lena Marzetti), Tom Stoll (Frankie Marzetti), Anthony Robustellini (Joey Marzetti), Rylie Mullen (Agent Farmer) and Tiina Ruffing (Hostess).

Special guest appearances were made by local long-time theatre vet, Ric Hills, and newcomer Carlos Vazquez. Theresa Barcus directed the show, while Vanessa Cook assisted with costume, prop and set design. Mark Libertowski and Miranda Bayless provided technical assistance. Dina Lukasko was the event planner, and numerous volunteers assisted in the event's success. Show sponsors Norwalk Ace Hardware and Justin Ewell of Ewell & Associates Real Estate were incorporated into the show.

Guests were encouraged to dress in their best 1920's costumes, and prizes were awarded to the best-dressed individual and couple. During intermission, the guests were tasked with solving the mystery surrounding the murder of Vito "The Gut" Marzetti, patriarch of the local family "business."

A delicious authentic Italian dinner was enjoyed by the attendees. The prohibition-style bar was open and served up authentic 20's cocktails. Overall, the event was a successful fundraiser for the restoration of the Norwalk Theater, the future home of Norwalk Arts Center. Future theatre events and shows are being planned.



Photo by Arizona Borland

Cast of *Funeral for a Gangster*
Rylie Mullen, Tom Stoll, Jen Libertowski, Anthony Robustellini & Izzy Ballard



Artist's Evolution Speaker Series Builds Supportive Arts Community

We are all a work in progress. The Artist's Evolution Speaker Series has inspired many to embrace our metamorphosis, as it often leads to a surge in creativity in response to the sometimes unexpected and unwelcome changes we encounter.

Artist's Evolution Speaker Series features area artists of all kinds sharing their inspirations and obstacles, their successes and failures, and their humble beginnings and future plans. A collaboration between Norwalk Arts Center and Artists' Open Studio, the series embodies a mutual goal: to foster a supportive community for area artists and to inspire individuals of all ages and abilities to express themselves through art.



The series began with inaugural speaker, Tony Schaffer, on June 28th in the Artists' Open Studio space. Other artists featured have included Cassie King Shella, Karen Opper-Rhoad, and Sherri Nutter. Presentations have been informal and insightful, allowing for meaningful dialogue between artists and guests. New ideas have been shared and friendships formed.

One common theme throughout all presentations is the idea that art involves a certain amount of risk and overcoming self-doubt. Art is inherently human, and to come together in community and

celebrate the creative process is a beautiful thing.

Artist's Evolution Speaker Series will continue throughout the year. Look for upcoming speakers in the events tab of the NAC website. If you would be interested in sharing your journey, email us at NorwalkArtsCenter@gmail.com.



Phase One Restoration Continues To Move Forward

The completion of the total roof replacement at the Norwalk Theater was a huge step in reopening the historic theater. The next task is to replace the front lobby roof and restore the historic marquee, the largest of its kind in Ohio. This is a huge undertaking that will be spearheaded by Damschroder Roofing, in coordination with Wheeler Sheetmetal, Brady Signs and Firelands Electrical. "Our hope is to bring the marquee up to code, with more efficient lighting and much-needed repairs," said Vanessa Cook, Restoration Committee Co-Chair. "It will be great to have something completed that the community can see and appreciate," added Kathleen Sigsworth, Restoration Committee



Co-Chair. The two ladies are also excited to announce the addition of an architectural firm to help develop a master plan for the total reimagining of the theater. "The Board of Directors for NAC have selected Perspectus Architecture out of Cleveland to lead us in the next phases," Sigsworth said.

The hope is also to get Schine's Norwalk Theater listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Preliminary paperwork has been sent in for review and the theater is eligible to be nominated. "The process can take nearly a year to complete, but being on the list will greatly improve our position for funding," stated Cook. In addition to generous local donors, NAC has the opportunity to receive funding from the State of Ohio Capital Improvement Budget. The funds that are being secured through this source will be used to cover the expense of the marquee restoration and architecture fees.

B-I-N-G-O! New monthly offering to support NAC's Mission.

Looking for a fun night out? Want to support a local nonprofit responsible for arts programming in the community? Do you want to see your money go to revitalizing a beautiful piece of Norwalk architecture on Main Street? Look no further than Bingo with NAC! Occurring every second Thursday of



the month starting September 9th, NAC will be hosting charity bingo nights at Milestone Event Center, 11 S. Prospect Street in Norwalk. Doors open at 5:30 pm, with Bingo running from 6 to 8:30 pm. There will be snacks and drinks for purchase, as well as fun side games such as pull tabs and 50/50 raffles. Participants must be 18+ to play, and masks are to be worn by unvaccinated participants. No alcohol is to be consumed during bingo play. These nights out are fully staffed by volunteers who believe in our mission of creating art and building community. Please join us for a fun night out or consider volunteering your time.

Community Arts Outreach Continues

NAC's motto, Creating Art. Building Community, continues to play a significant part in the activities the Norwalk Arts Center offers regularly. Even during the pandemic, art project packets were made available to families to work on in the safety of their home. Volunteer opportunities have been provided to student groups seeking hours, and partnerships with other local arts organizations continue to blossom. As we continue to offer events and classes, the Arts Education team has developed age-specific groups to serve the community. If your child is looking for arts participation and/or volunteer opportunities, please consider Norwalk Arts Center. Look for programming offered in each category under the events tab at NorwalkArtsCenter.org and in the Save the Date section of the newsletter.

Program Names for 2021-2022

- Arts Explorers:** Grades 1-4
- A.I.M. Program (Artists In the Making):** Grades 5-8
- A.R.T. Club (Art Resources for Teens):** Grades 9-12
- Discover Your NAC:** Adult education opportunities
- Artist's Evolution Speaker Series:** Adult speaker series



SPOTLIGHT: Kathleen Sigsworth, NAC Treasurer & Restoration Co-Chair After graduating from St. Paul High School and North Central State College with an Associate's Degree of Applied Science, her career started in the criminal justice field, where she met and married her husband, Paul. After 10 years with the Huron County Sheriff's Office, she developed the criminal justice curriculum at Pioneer Career & Technology Center in Shelby, teaching there until her family began to grow. Kathleen and Paul have a grown daughter and son. Kathleen has held many bookkeeper positions over the years, which has led her to her current position as Office Manager at RKS Power Solutions in Norwalk. Her love of music was instilled early-on, playing trombone in the band and playing guitar at church. She has been actively involved in music ministry at St. Paul's Catholic Church for over 40 years. She also plays in the *Last Call Trio* with fellow board members, Dina Lukasko and Tiina Ruffing. As Co-Chair of the Restoration Committee, she is excited to bring the Norwalk Theater back to its former glory while transitioning it into a multi-use facility that will provide arts and education to the greater Norwalk area for years to come.



SAVE THE DATE:

- Aug 20 & 21:** Roll It Forward Rummage Sale
- Aug 23:** Artist's Evolution: Nora Knople
(7 pm @ AOS)
- Aug 30:** *Peter Pan Jr*-Classes begin
- Sept 4 :** Ribfest and Bagging Day at Miller's
- Sept 9:** Monthly Bingo begins (2nd Thursday
@ Milestone Event Ctr)
- Sept 15:** Artist's Evolution
- Sept 29:** Artist's Evolution
- Oct 16:** Arts Explorers: Grades 1-4 (10a-2p)
- Nov 13:** A.R.T. Club: Mixed Media (Gr 9-12)
- Nov 15:** Fall Appeal Campaign Kickoff
- Nov 19-21:** *Peter Pan Jr* performances

Sponsors and Affiliations:



The winner is...

Congratulations to **Ann Meyer** of Norwalk for being our grand prize winner of the Winner's Choice Raffle! The raffle drawing was held at the conclusion of the *Funeral for a Gangster* show on August 7, 2021. Ann has decided to take her trip to Key West, Florida! Ann stated that a trip to the Keyes was the "best prize ever!"



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Norwalk Arts Center

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- Restoration Co-Chairs: *Kathleen Sigsworth & Vanessa Cook*

NAC Co-founders:

Theresa Barcus & Vanessa Cook

NAC Mission: *It is the mission of Norwalk Arts Center to celebrate and increase advocacy for the arts in the communities of Norwalk and greater Huron County.*

Creating Art. Building Community.