

NAC Names Volunteers of the Year

Norwalk Arts Center recognized Kathleen Sigsworth as 2026 Volunteer of the Year and Sophia Smith as 2026 Teen Volunteer of the Year. Clover Ruffing and Molly McFadden achieved the 100-hour volunteer milestone for NAC.

Sigsworth joined NAC at its inception in 2019 and currently serves as treasurer, managing all bookkeeping, tax preparation and budget oversight and also assists with business decisions, operations input and grant allocations. She is a member of the executive board, as well as the scholarship and fundraising committees.

She has played a pivotal role in the construction decision-making and maintenance of the theater during ongoing fundraising and future rehabilitation efforts. She has also assisted with building stage sets and props for NAC productions, as well as playing in the pit for many shows.

Sigsworth and her husband, Paul, are member of the Norwalk Theater Founders Circle, committing to advancing the arts through leadership and financial support. She demonstrates considerable dedication and invests significant time and effort to support NAC in achieving its goal of opening the theater, thereby providing Norwalk and neighboring communities with increased access to the arts. She was presented with a set of pilsner glasses engraved with her name and newly acquired title.

Sophia Smith, a home-schooled sophomore, has contributed to NAC in multiple roles since 2019. Her acting credits include performances in NAC productions *Peter Pan, Jr.*; *Matilda, Jr.*; *Willy Wonka, Jr.*; *Back to the 80's* and is currently playing the role of Red Cross Nurse/Queen of Hearts in the upcoming *Alice By Heart*.

In addition to her stage work, Smith served as a teen helper for *Seussical, Jr.*, was stage manager for *Finding Nemo Jr.* and assisted with set construction for Arts Explorers special events. She has also helped with fundraising including the pancake breakfast at the Eagle's and grocery bagging at Miller's. Since April, 2024, Smith had dedicated more than 200 hours volunteering for NAC. She was awarded a commemorative plaque by Lisa Bleile, volunteer coordinator for NAC.

Clover Ruffing and Molly McFadden, both sophomores at St. Paul High School, have donated 100 hours to NAC. Both young women have participated in multiple junior and teen productions, served as teen helpers for *Seussical* and *Finding Nemo, Jr.* and fundraising efforts.

They are members of the NAC Teen Association (NACTA) board, with Ruffing serving in the role of treasurer. In recognition of their dedication, each teen was awarded with a certificate and a Sheri's gift card.

NAC Volunteers are essential in facilitating the implementation of arts programs within our community.

We appreciate their dedication and commitment to volunteering!

If you'd like to be part of the NAC Volunteer Group go to <https://www.norwalkartscenter.org/volunteering>



Volunteer Of the Year:
Kathleen Sigsworth awarded
by Lisa Bleile, volunteer
coordinator.



Teen Volunteers: Sophia Smith, Clover Ruffing,
Molly McFadden were awarded by Lisa Bleile,
volunteer coordinator.

Tickets on sale for NAC Teen Theatre's *Alice by Heart*

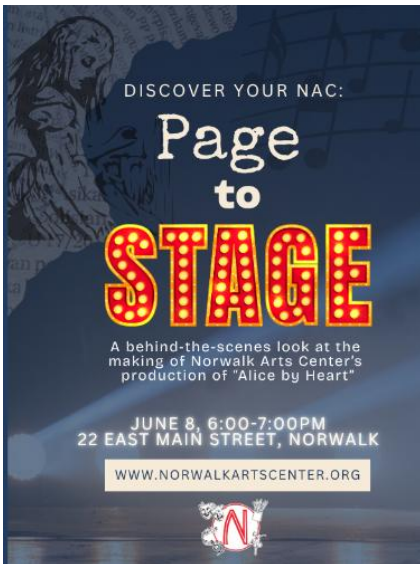
Alice by Heart will take the stage on June 5-7, 2026. *Alice by Heart* will challenge our talented teen performers to dig deep emotionally, embrace vulnerability, and tell a story that mirrors many of their own experiences: navigating change, facing fear, and learning how to let go while still holding on. *Alice by Heart* will give teens the opportunity to grow artistically, connect deeply with one another, and discover the power of ensemble storytelling.

For audiences, *Alice by Heart* promises an unforgettable theatrical experience. Viewers are invited to step inside the story as the performance space is transformed into an inclusive environment that places the audience at the heart of the action. Set during the WW2 London Blitzkrieg it is a compelling story about love, loss and endurance. *Alice by Heart* asks viewers to consider how love endures through change and grief, and how stories help us make sense of the past while guiding us forward.

Audiences will leave inspired, carrying with them a renewed sense of empathy, resilience, and the healing power of storytelling - something we return to in times of uncertainty. Janotta-Herner, Damschroder Roofing and Brady Signs are the premier sponsors for this year's teen theatre production. Tickets are selling fast, grab yours today at NorwalkArtsCenter.org



Discover Your NAC: Page to Stage announces its inaugural event



Theatre magic is a phenomenon those in the industry say happens when all the elements of a production pull together in an indescribable way. Those who have had any experience in theatre notice it, usually during a dress rehearsal or even a first performance. Things may be rocky, but somehow, in the most magical way, all the people and plans behind a production just click and the show rises to the wow factor. Abracadabra—theatre magic!

If you have ever wondered what it takes to make theatre magic, then Page to Stage is just for you! Working with the cast and crew of Norwalk Arts Center's teen production, *Alice by Heart*, the Arts Education Committee is pleased to bring a Discover Your NAC event that will both educate and entertain you. And some great raffle prizes will be available, too!

On Sunday, June 7, the doors at 22 East Main Street will open at 5:30 pm. Each registered guest will receive a VIP bag with special NAC and *Alice by Heart*-themed swag. Also included in the bag will be one raffle ticket for a number of raffle prizes for lovers of the arts, including a cast-signed *Hamilton* poster, a *Dear Evan Hansen* commemorative book, an *Alice by Heart* stained glass keepsake, music lessons and concert tickets from Firelands Symphony Orchestra, and a lotto tree. The grand prize will be a special VIP tour of the historic Norwalk Theatre, the winner's name in lights on our beautiful marquee, and two tickets to *Addams Family the Musical* at Norwalk Arts Center. Additional raffle tickets will be available before the event for \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. with the performance of one of the songs by the cast of *Alice by Heart*, followed by a discussion with Director Vanessa Cook and the talented cast about the dramaturgy of the show. Then, those involved in the creation of the set, lighting and sound, and costumes will present their design process and how their visions came to life in the show. Guests will be given the opportunity to ask questions of the cast and crew and then be treated with the performance of another musical number from *Alice by Heart*. The evening ends around 7 p.m. with raffle drawings and a theatre renovation update from NAC Executive Director Dina Lukasko.

General admission to the event is just \$10 and is limited to 120 guests. Registration links are available on social media and NAC's website. Look for more Page to Stage events to come with all future NAC productions!

Welcome to our new board members

Sharon Harwood, NAC Vice President

Sharon and her husband Jeff have been residents of Norwalk since 1989 and have raised three children here. Sharon joins the board following her recent retirement from service to Fisher-Titus Medical Center (FTMC). She most recently serving as FTMC's Chief Compliance Officer and In-House Counsel. Over her several years in the community, she has assisted several state and local boards and commissions. Serving as a past member and president of Norwalk City Council, past member and President of the Norwalk Area United Fund, and past member and President of the Norwalk Catholic School Board. Sharon is excited to assist in the development of the Norwalk Historic Theatre and NAC's growing arts programs and events.



Brian Lodermeier, NAC Boardmember

Brian is a Certified Public Accountant and Investment Advisor. He was born and raised in Norwalk and returned after marrying his wife, Linnea Lodermeier. They are pleased to be raising their three children in his hometown. He is the CEO of Elevated Accounting & Finance with offices in the nearby towns of Wellington and Willard. Brian has over twenty years experience in public accounting, tax and financial planning.



A Summer of Celebration: 250 Years of America & 85 Years of the Norwalk Theatre

This summer, our community has a rare and meaningful opportunity to celebrate two remarkable milestones at once: the 250th anniversary of the United States in July and the 85th anniversary of the Norwalk Theatre in August. Together, these anniversaries invite us not only to reflect on our shared history, but to take an active role in preserving it for generations to come!

In 1776, the founders of the United States undertook a bold experiment in democracy—one rooted in creativity, independence, and the belief that strong communities are built by engaged citizens. In 1941, the Norwalk Theatre opened its doors, quickly becoming a place where those very ideals came to life through storytelling, entertainment, and shared experiences.

For 85 years, the Norwalk Theatre has been more than a venue—it has been a gathering place, a cultural anchor, and a source of pride for our community. Generations have walked through its doors, creating memories that connect the past to the present. But like many historic landmarks, its future depends on the care and commitment of those who value what it represents.

As we celebrate America's 250th anniversary—a testament to endurance and resilience—we are reminded that preservation is an act of patriotism. Safeguarding places like the Norwalk Theatre ensures that the stories, artistry, and community spirit that define us are not lost to time.

The ongoing restoration of the theatre is more than a construction project; it is an investment in our community's future. It will create a vibrant space for arts education, live performances, film, and events that drive economic activity and enrich quality of life across the region. Every dollar contributed, every hour volunteered, and every voice advocating for this project helps ensure that this historic treasure continues to serve our community for the next 85 years and beyond.

This summer's celebration is also a call to action. Whether you attend an event, make a donation, sponsor a restoration milestone, or simply share the story of the theatre with others, your support matters! Preservation does not happen by accident—it happens because people choose to care.

As fireworks light up the sky in honor of our nation's 250th birthday, let them also serve as a reminder of what we can accomplish together. By supporting the restoration and preservation of the Norwalk Theatre, we honor our past, strengthen our present, and build a legacy for the future generations.

Here's to 250 years of the United States, 85 years of the Norwalk Theatre, and a community committed to preserving what makes it truly special.

Respectfully submitted,
Dina Lukasko, Executive Director

Save the Dates:

NACTors Adult Community Theatre: AUDITION NOTICE *The Addams Family Musical* May 29 & 30 (Open to anyone 16+), Auditions held at 22 Main Street beginning at 6:15p.m..

Discover Your NAC:

- Page to Stage: *Alice by Heart* Sunday, June 7 at 5:30 pm. Learn how this full musical was staged at NAC with insight from the production team and actors. \$10 per person, registration required includes NAC swag bag and free entry to VIP drawing.
- Mirrored Windchime Workshop, Tuesday June 16th 6:00 – 8:30pm at 22 E. Main Street. Make your own eclectic windchime using pieces of the mirrors from the Norwalk Theatre. Registration required, \$30 per person (18+ only).

Teen Theatre: *Alice by Heart* performance June 5, 6 & 7, 2026. Tickets on sale at norwalkartscenter.org

Summer Theatre Camp: NAC & Missoula Children's Theatre Summer Camp "The Frog Prince" performances June 26 & 27, 2026.

Junior Theatre: *Honk, Jr.* Registration open July 27, 2026. Rehearsals begin Aug 24, 2026 (M/W/Th). Open to students grades 2-8. Registration required. Scholarships available.

Junior Theatre: Scholarship applications Open July 1 for *Honk, Jr.* Applications close July 14, 2026.

Visit our webpage for more information about all of our programs and to register! norwalkartscenter.org

AUDITION NOTICE
The Addams Family Musical
MAY 29 & 30TH
Open to anyone 16+!
Show dates: July 31-August 2, 2026

Presented in cooperation with Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW)

Logos for LONZ LAW FIRM LLC and Franklin Monument are included.

It is the mission of Norwalk Arts Center to celebrate and increase advocacy for the Arts in North Central Ohio by providing education, experiences and environment for artistic growth.

Thank you to our generous continuous benefactors:



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Return Service Requested

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