

Southborough Cultural Arts Council

The Southborough Cultural Arts Council (SCAC) oversees the Arts Center programming and serves as the local arm of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The council meets the first Monday of each month (September through June) at 7:15 PM at the Arts Center on Highland Street. Meetings are open to any members of the community who wish to attend.

As representatives of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency funded by the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts, the council awards grants annually to individuals and groups involved in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. SCAC members meet in November to discuss applications and allocate its share of MCC funds. In 2007, the Southborough Cultural Arts Council awarded \$4,150 to enhance the artistic and cultural life of the community. Among the endeavors we funded are Assabet Valley Area Family Network, Assabet Valley Mastersingers, Inc., Audio Journal, Inc. for Cultural Eyes Radio, Charles River Sonfonietta, Hudson Area Arts Alliance, Mary E. Finn School for Protecting Our Water, Metrowest Symphony Orchestra, Northborough Area Community Chorus, Pilgrim Church for its annual Messiah concert, John Root for a senior citizen musical program, Symphony Pro Musica Society, Inc., and Jennifer White for a program called Coolhead Luke and Other Stories.

For many years, the Southborough Cultural Arts Council (SCAC) was responsible for all expenses for the Arts Center building, from oil and electricity to maintenance and repairs. In 2007, we realized that our focus was too much on the physical building and not enough on the cultural programs that we wanted to provide to the community. We went to the Selectmen and the Advisory Committee for help. We are very happy that the town agreed to assume responsibility for the physical building.

In addition, the Recreation Department moved in to share the building with us. The Rec Department is the ideal organization for SCAC to partner with because the two organizations will work together to bring a full schedule of arts and recreation programs and classes to the community.

We were glad that so many of you stopped at our booth at Heritage Day. We had a wonderful day, despite the cool rainy weather, with children of all ages making tie-dye t-shirts. This was made possible thanks to Sarah Kacevich organizing Algonquin students to help at the booth.

Information on all Arts Center programs, events, workshops and classes can be found on our web site at www.southborougharts.org and in our monthly eNewsletter.

Exhibitions & Programs

During the first half of 2007, our exhibition schedule included *My World: A Children's Art Exhibit* featuring work of children from the community. We then enjoyed a wonderful exhibit, *Swing Into Spring Landscape Exhibition*, featuring the work of John Evans, John Nilsson, Ken Northup, and Karla Quattrocchi. In April, we continued our Saturday's children's performances with **When the Animals Danced**. In the spring we hosted the annual and always popular exhibition of work by Algonquin Regional High School students, and in June we had a wonderful exhibit by the Algonquin art department faculty.

During the second half of 2007, we had to cancel our scheduled exhibits due to the elevator not operating. We are very disappointed about this as providing the community with a variety of quality art exhibits is very important to us. We apologize to the volunteers and artists who worked on planning the exhibits that were cancelled. We are hopeful that the town will complete the elevator repairs soon so that we can resume our exhibit schedule. In spite of not being able to offer exhibits, we are continuing to bring other cultural programming to the community with classes, workshops, and children's programs. For a full schedule, visit our web site at www.southborougharts.org.

Classes and Workshops

A variety of classes and workshops were held at the Arts Center for both children and adults. They included: children's painting and drawing classes, life drawing, adult pottery, fabric dyeing, knitting, quilting, appliqué, a parent and child clay workshop, and a series of decoupage workshops. We also sponsored school vacation week art programs and a summer program of drawing, painting, and pottery.

We couldn't do it without our loyal volunteers

We would like to take time to thank our wonderful volunteers, for whom no task is too small or too big. We have a dedicated group of gallery sitters and folks who help with our newsletters and web site.

None of our activities would be possible without the tireless work of our directors in 2007, Ann Northup and Emily van Nort, and our 2007 Council members, Friends of the Arts Center, and other volunteers: Kate Alben, Cheryl Bardetti, Deborah Costine, Sandy Ekberg, Len Gerwick, Marty Henderson, Kay Hendrick, Sarah Kacevich, Alida Krumin, Mary-Ellen Latino, Deb Dufault McIntire, Lynne McKay, Jane Smith, Ginger Ruddy, Julia Schneiderman, Karin Trachtenberg, Mary Walter, Catherine Weber, Erin Wheatley, and John Wiswall.

Membership/Sponsors

Our main sources of income are memberships and business sponsorships. We have about 185 members and we would like to see that number grow. In addition to helping support the arts in Southborough, members receive a discount on classes and workshops. For information about memberships and everything else happening at the Arts Center, please visit our web site: www.southborougharts.org. Thank you to our loyal members as well as our business sponsors, who help defray the costs of publishing newsletters and bringing cultural events to the town.

We need more involvement

We are looking for people who would like to become members of the Southborough Cultural Arts Council. We're also looking for volunteers who would like to plan and hang exhibitions, plan cultural events for both children and adults, and raise money through fundraisers that entertain and bring our community closer together. Contact the Arts Center at 508-481-9351 if you are interested.

Thank you!

- The Southborough Cultural Arts Council