



ArtBeat

A Newsletter of the Lewisburg Arts Council

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The Arts Festival Issue

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Contact Information:

The Lewisburg Arts Council
PO Box 418
Lewisburg, PA 17837
570-524-5221
info@lewisburgartscouncil.co

Celebrating 40 Years of the Lewisburg Arts Festival

The Lewisburg Arts Council celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Arts Festival this year by honoring the Borough of Lewisburg as the featured artist. In researching the history of the Arts Festival, we must honor not just the artists and musicians from Lewisburg who participated in the first festivals in the late 1960s and early 1970s, but also the group of women, in particular, who started a grassroots festival to celebrate local and regional artists. These women and men through their friendship, creativity and hard work, put together what we know of now as the Lewisburg Arts Festival and today includes the Market Street Fair and Lewisburg Live!

The first Arts Festival in 1969 consisted of exhibits of local artists in private homes throughout Lewisburg. But by 1972 a group of women from the Lewisburg Civic Club joined with women of the Arts Council. It is this group of women in these early years that brought the Arts Festival out of private homes and onto the streets of downtown Lewisburg. The first street fair was held in 1972 in the parking lot of what is now the M&T Bank parking lot. This street festival showed works by local and regional artists, including a group of potters from State College. It had a band that performed for entertainment and the Boy

Art at the Festival: A Family Affair

The 2009 Arts Festival will host 125 artists who will display their work ranging from jewelry to pottery to oils, in tents throughout Market Street. Make your way to the corner of S. 6th St. and Market and meet one such artist is Mike Yoder, a local potter from Milton, PA. Mike specializes in making functional stoneware and inspired by the environment surrounding his home, often carves themes of nature into his pottery. With two young children, throwing pottery has become a family affair as well. To involve children in

That's Entertainment: A Day at the Market Street Fair

Not only is the Saturday Market Street Fair full of local and regional artists, it is also full of great entertainment. Set up in three locations: Hufnagle Park, the "Dance Corner" at the Post Office, and in the M&T Bank parking lot, visitors will enjoy a mélange of music and dance. Start at Hufnagle Park and listen to some blue grass with Lykens Valley Blue Grass followed by Hearts of PA and the Bucknell Jazz Band. Continue your visit by strolling down Market Street and enjoying the art. Stop in the M&T parking lot for a bite to eat and listen to the Buffalo Valley Brass and KJ and the Sweet Nothings. Continue your walk down Market Street and perhaps even join in with the Cloverleaf Cloggers at the Post Office Square. End your day at Pioneer Park with the Drum Circle and if time permits, take in the Middle Ages Encampment and their combat demonstration and tournament. We hope that you'll leave feeling inspired and enchanted by all you've seen and experienced in Lewisburg, the heart of the Susquehanna

Yarina: Bringing the Enchantment of the Andes to the Susquehanna Valley ***Entertainment Highlight***

Founded in 1984 by three brothers and their father, *Yarina* has continued to impress audiences with their hauntingly beautiful music. The group, now consisting of nine brothers and two sisters of the Cachimuel family, hails from Ecuador. *Yarina* is known for its incredible repertoire of ancient Andean rhythms to original compositions that incorporate Jazz, Blues, Latin and Classical Western styles.

Yarina means "remembrance" in the native Quichua language of the Incas. The Cachimuel siblings and band mates speak this language to each other. It is their tradition and heritage that inspire and encourage *Yarina* to make music so reminiscent of their culture, yet something totally unique on its own. In a lot of their music, subject matter consists of fighting oppression, cultural and political disenfranchisement, and the historical suffering brought upon indigenous peoples by European intruders. Roberto Cachimuel, instrumentalist and singer in the band, told an audience once, "We should all take very seriously who we are, where we come from and who our parents are."

In February 2005, *Yarina* won the "Best World Music" award for their album "Nawi" at the Native American Music Awards. Also in 2005 they won the "Best Folk Music Recording" at the Indian Summer Music Awards. The group has performed at many cultural and arts events and educational programs throughout the United States since 1991, including the Kennedy Center.

Patrick Gerald Healy of the *Boston Sunday Globe* writes that the most exciting movement to watch can come from the audience, which often transforms into a bouncing circle rising

Arts Festival Workshops

Monday, April 27

Extraordinary Cakes: Cake Decorating and Pastry Demonstration
7-9 pm

Wednesday, April 29

Butterflies and Hummingbirds. . . The Gems of the Garden
7:30-9:30 pm

Saturday, May 9

Contra Dance Workshop
7:30-10:30 pm
Heiter Community Center

Thursday, May 14

Playing with Pens
7-9 pm

Except for the Contra Dance workshop, all other workshops will take place at the Area Agency on Aging on N. 2nd St., Lewisburg.

Space is limited; to register, call 524- 5221

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**Hit the Town at *Lewisburg Live!*:
15 Bands, 13 Venues
Saturday, May 2nd**

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Averie Clark and Cool Blue – Lewisburg Club
Tom and Gina Rosencrans – Purciells Irish Pub
McSween – Temperance House

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Bruce Barr – Mya's Café
Alphonse Ciaccio – Elizabeth's an American Bistro Chicken
Tractor – Cherry Alley Cafe

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Frank Wicher Band – Towne Tavern

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Doug McMinn– Marco's Tapas
Paul Smith Power Trio – Temperance House
Adams & Haynes: The Hammond Brothers – Bucknell Hall –

9:00 pm – 11:00 pm

Folk Justice Band – Lewisburg Hotel
Octavia – Lewisburg Club
Reverend BlueJeans – Brassiere Louie

10:00 pm – Midnight

Sweetbriars– Towne Tavern
Blind Chitlin Kahunas – Bull Run Inn

Community Art Project: The Green Dragon

Artist Rik Nelson will lead community participants in creating a two-dimensional dragon from post-consumer recyclables at the Market Street Fair. Rik Nelson has won numerous art awards for using multi-media and recycled materials in his art. People of all ages are encouraged to show up at Hufnagle Park on Saturday, April 25 to help Rik decorate a 4' high by 6' long dragon using recyclables such as cereal boxes and aluminum cans. The completed "green dragon" will be donated to the Green Dragon Foundation.

**Arts Festival
Line-Up**

Friday, April 24th

**Opening Reception for
the 27th Annual Indoor
Exhibit**

Packwood House
Museum
7-9 pm

**Reception and Award
Ceremony for the
Annual Photography
Contest**

7-9 pm

Saturday, April 25th

**Market Street Arts
Festival**

10 am – 5 pm

Saturday, May 2nd

**Billy Kelly and the
Blah, Blah, Blahs**

Lewisburg Hotel
3 pm

Lewisburg Live!

6 pm – Midnight
Downtown Lewisburg



History of the Arts Festival, continued.

By 1973, however, the fair expanded to the parking lot behind the Post Office between South 3rd and 4th Streets and by the mid-1970s, the street fair expanded onto Market Street where it is held today. As the street fair got larger, the Arts Festival expanded to also include a House and Gallery tour and a Film Festival begun by Bucknell Professor John Beckley and his wife Cathy. Through the 1980s and 1990s the Annual Indoor Art Exhibit and the Annual Photography Contest were added.

This founding group of women met with some resistance when trying to expand the Arts Festival. Downtown businesses feared that the street festival would divert customers away from their stores, but they soon discovered that the opposite proved true. Also, caught in the culture wars of the 1970s, many of the older generation feared what they viewed as a “hippie” influence in their downtown but they too were Festival converts.

It is a true testament to the work of the founders of the Festival; women such as Faye Beard, Nada Gray, Lois Kalp, Cathy Beckley, Donna Pinter, Joan Allen, Marcia Milne, Gloria Pangburn, Irene Mahon, Jacquie Stiefel and they were later joined by Ebby Sekulski and Beth Shutt that the Arts Festival is vibrant and continues to grow. The 2009 Market Street Fair stretches from Soldiers Park by the Susquehanna River all the way down to Sixth Street and around the corner between Hufnagle Park and Bull Run Inn. This years’ Festival will feature 125 artists the most ever in the history of the Arts Festival and Lewisburg Live! will consist of 15 bands playing in 13 venues in downtown Lewisburg. In the early 1970s, the Arts Festival attracted, perhaps, a few hundred people, in 2008 it was estimated that 10,000 enjoyed the Festival. With all of the

Mike Yoder, continued.

in the creative process Mike will guide children in making their own plate or pot at the Arts Festival. For \$10, children can sit down with Mike as he helps guide their hands at the wheel. After shaping the plate, these young artists will be able to either draw something in the plate or even put their hand-print in the plate. Mike’s own two young children will also help guide young visitors in making ceramic picture frames, also for \$10. Mike will then fire the pottery and the young artists will be able to pick up their piece of art at Brushstrokes a week later.

There’s a lot for the “young at art” to do at the Arts Festival. Soldier’s Park is the hub of activity for kids, where LARA will host a Kids’ Activity Tent and where there will be an Arts Encounter experience as well. Kids can also join in the Drum Circle and juggle with the Bucknell Jugglers on Market Street. Also, don’t forget to hear *Billy Kelly and the Blah. Blah. Blahs* the

Summer Preview

Music in the Park

June 3rd – August 12th
Wednesday Nights

Sidewalk Festival

Friday, July 10th

Come to an Arts Council Meeting:

Monday, May 4th, Lewisburg Hotel
Monday, June 1st, Lewisburg Hotel