

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE STARKVILLE AREA **ARTS** COUNCILAROUND & ABOUT
IN THE ARTS

▶ JUNE - JULY

June 28 - September 21**The Baroque World of Fernando Botero**
New Orleans Museum of Art
<http://www.noma.org/exhibitions>**July 8, 12, 19, 26****Starkville Community Market**
7:00 AM - 10:00 AM**July 12****A lecture on Mother Teresa**
Three Generations
324-1507**July 15 - August 30****One-Woman Show of the works of
Tamineh Borazjani**
GSDP Gallery, downtown Starkville**July 17-19 & 24-26****10 out of 10: A Perfect Score**
Musical Fundraiser and Champagne Reception,
Starkville Community Theatre**July 21-22****Auditions for The Importance of Being
Earnest**
Starkville Community Theatre
Lyle Tate, director; 312-3610

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

August 1**Movies on the Green**
The Call of the Wild
6:00 PM**August 2****Sonoma in Starkville**
6:00 PM**August 8-9****Starshine**
Starkville Area Arts Council**September 1 -October 19****Johnny Cash in Photographs**
GSDP Gallery, downtown Starkville**September 11-20****The Importance of Being Earnest**
Starkville Community Theatre**September 26-27****16th Annual Mississippi Delta Tennessee
Williams Festival**
Whiteside Hall, CCC Campus, and Cutrer
Mansion, Clarksdale, MS
<http://www.coahomacc.edu/williams>STARKVILLE CELEBRATES THE 2008
COTTON DISTRICT ARTS FESTIVAL

On Saturday, April 19, thousands gathered in record number for a celebration of art and life at the 2008 Cotton District Arts Festival. With an astounding attendance of 22,000, this year was a record-breaking one for the Arts Festival.

The OCEDA Artisan's Village increased to nearly 100 art vendors, displaying work from pottery and painting to wood carving and sculptures. The Bully Art Auction successfully sold all sixty-five bulldogs, raising money for future festivals and SAAC projects. The newly certified Old Cotton Mill 5K Run saw a boost in participation, while the Pet Parade attracted more four-legged friends than ever before. Both the Juried Art and Student Art Exhibits also experienced increases in work submitted. "How wonderful it was to see booth after booth with true art," said festival-goer Emily Jones.

The day was also a time for sell-outs. The information tent sold out of festival t-shirts, while participating restaurants in the Taste of Starkville sold virtually everything edible in their booths. Both past and present festival memorabilia proved popular, including t-shirts and postcards. Poster artist, Shannon Rhodes, autographed over 100 festival posters, only a small portion of all posters sold.

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

October 1-31**"On the Campus": Paintings by
Betty Jane Chatham**
How Bazaar (next door to Saavy Grape)**October 10****Fall Concert**
Starkville/MSU Symphony Association
Lee Hall Auditorium
7:30 PM**October 16****"Pops on the Plaza"**
Cadence Bank Plaza, MSU Jazz Band**October 17-19****Johnny Cash Flower Pickin' Festival****October 19 - November 10****Works by Dylan Karges from
the Israel digs.**
GSDP Gallery**October 30 - November 8****Company**
Musical by Stephen Sondheim
Starkville Community Theatre**November 10 - December 31****100 under 100
Art Show and Sale**
GSDP Gallery
Just in time for Christmas

"I've been in Starkville and done the festival now eleven years, and this year was, by far the best one yet. It didn't hurt that we sold a ton of food, too. Thanks, Starkville, for an awesome day!" said Jay Yates, owner of the Veranda, Taste of Starkville participant and Server Race champion.

The support of the festival was not only shown through a remarkable turnout from visitors and participants, but also by the Starkville community with a record number of sponsorships. Major festival sponsors claimed four stages, seven villages, three gates and three events. These sponsors included: Arby's, Junior Auxiliary, Greater Starkville Development Partnership, Starkville Kiwanis, Magnolia Outpatient Rehab, Starkville Bank Association, MSU Foundation, WMSV, Starkville Rotary Club, Cotton District and TVA. Other sponsors provided awards, prizes, in-kind donations and various services to ensure the day's success.

Festival volunteers showed their overwhelming support again this year. Returning by the masses, volunteers were eager

Continued on page 3

FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I assumed the presidency of the Starkville Area Arts Council in July 2007, the role was a bit intimidating. I knew that I could rely upon the support of the SAAC officers, board members, general membership, and the Starkville community to have a successful and prosperous year.

I thank each and every one of you for your support, dedication, and many volunteer hours in aiding SAAC in promoting the arts in our community. We have experienced numerous successful ventures this year.

I am quite proud of the many grants SAAC has awarded to the city, county, and private schools this year. SAAC has also awarded numerous summer and college scholarships to students pursuing enrichment in numerous fields of the arts. This year, SAAC continued to sponsor numerous events including Celebrity Chef, the Annual Scholarship Gala, Magnolia Independent Film Festival, Art in Public Places, Cotton District Arts Festival and the Annual Membership Party. We extend a huge thank you to the chairs of these events and to the many individuals that volunteered their time and energy.

SAAC has continued to promote and work closely with numerous organizations... Starkville Community Theatre, Starkville/MSU Symphony & Chorus, Brickfire, MSU Art Department, Mississippi Best Grassroots and the Heritage Museum.

SAAC hired Candy Crecink as its Executive Assistant April 1, 2008. Our office is located in the Greater Starkville Development Partnership building on Main and Lafayette.

As we begin a new year in July, Briar Jones will assume the role of president. I am confident that the growth of SAAC will be tremendous under his guidance and leadership. It was an honor to serve as your president this year. Thank you for a year filled with great memories!

Barb Adkins
SAAC President

American Life in Poetry: Column 168

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE 2004-2006

So often, reading a poem can in itself feel like a thing overheard. Here, Mary-Sherman Willis of Virginia describes the feeling of being stilled by conversation, in this case barely audible and nearly indecipherable.

The Laughter of Women

From over the wall I could hear the laughter of women
in a foreign tongue, in the sun-rinsed air of the city.
They sat (so I thought) perfumed in their hats and their silks,

in chairs on the grass amid flowers glowing and swaying.
One spoke and the others rang like bells, oh so witty,
like bells till the sound filled up the garden and lifted

like bubbles spilling over the bricks that enclosed them,
their happiness holding them, even if just for the moment.
Although I did not understand a word they were saying,

their sound surrounded me, fell on my shoulders and hair,
and burst on my cheeks like kisses, and continued to fall,
holding me there where I stood on the sidewalk listening.

As I could not move, I had to hear them grow silent,
and adjust myself to the clouds and the cooling air.
The mumble of thunder rumbled out of the wall
and the smacking of drops as the rain fell everywhere.

American Life Poetry ©2008 The Poetry Foundation

If you would like to learn more about American Life in Poetry and The Poetry Foundation, email alp@poetryfoundation.org or visit www.americanlifeinpoetry.org

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NEWS OF NOTE

Starkville/MSU Symphony Association

The Starkville/MSU Symphony Association's 2008-2009 Concert Season is coming together. Buoyed by the success of "A Chocolate Affair," the Association Board recently approved a budget that supports an ambitious schedule for the upcoming season. "Pops on the Plaza" is scheduled for Thursday, October 16th at 6 p.m. and will feature the MSU Jazz Band.

The Orchestra will offer four concerts this season in Lee Hall Auditorium all beginning at 7:30 p.m. On Friday, October 10, the Fall Concert will feature the music of Britten, Elgar and Walton. A special Criss Christmas Concert, supported by a grant from MSU's Criss Fund, will take place on Thursday, December 4. The Winter Concert, planned for Saturday, January 10, will present music by Haydn. The final concert of the season, the Spring Concert, is scheduled for Saturday, April 28 and will be a feast for opera lovers.

The Chorus will perform three times this coming season; dates and locations have yet to be finalized. The Fall Concert, "Thankful Gifts," will feature both sacred and secular music for the Holidays. The repertoire for its Spring Concert, "A Broadway Melody," will be drawn from Broadway musicals. The Chorus will also perform in the Symphony Association's second annual "Chocolate Affair" fundraiser, tentatively scheduled for February.

This year's Programs for Children will offer the elementary school-age children of Oktibbeha County a full orchestra concert and will be held on Friday, October 10 in conjunction with the Orchestra's Fall Concert. The Orchestra will perform Britten's "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra" and Walton's "Crown Imperial."

As always, the Association's concerts are open to the public, free of charge. All are welcome. We hope to see many SAAC Newsletter readers in attendance.

Check out the June issue of *Y'all* for a write-up about the CDAF Sweet Tea Competition.

Membership Party

BY CANDY CRECINK

My what a “Colorful Affair” we had on Friday, June 6! Glenda Clark and Robin Fant deserve kudos and more kudos. We also extend a strong round of applause to the SAAC Board for all they did to make this such a success.

There are quite a few in the community to thank, too. Jim Beatty and Backstage Music for the loan of a great sound system; Danny Holland for setting up and taking down the sound system and providing some great music for the evening; Carol McReynolds Davis with all her tremendous artwork and such delightful models; and many more!

The Membership Table was crowded all evening. We had thirteen renewals, ten new memberships and a multitude to take the membership envelope with them to fill out in the cool of their home. Hopefully we will see another thirty to forty new members. The Membership Promotion Piece is now in the Welcome Center of the GSDP Offices. It looks great.

As 250 wonderful guests floated from one amazingly designed table of the most delectable food to another, I watched and listened. I don't think I have ever heard so many “Glad to meet you, be sure and join the Arts Council as there are even more fun things to do” or “Great to see you, glad they had this so we could all get together” as I did Friday night. I also saw so many hugs, handshakes and pats on the back—people reaching out in friendship. It was a nice way to think of the Arts.

FESTIVAL, *continued from page 1*

to give their time and energy to help with the day's events. “Two thumbs up. I can't tell you how many great comments I have heard. We definitely put Starkville on the map,” said Eric Feng, Arby's franchise owner and Canus Major Village sponsor.

The SAAC extends deep gratitude and appreciation to everyone involved in making the 2008 Arts Festival a success, and truly the best yet. Save the date for the 2009 Festival— Saturday, April 18. May the Festival Be With You!

A message from SAAC President Barb Adkins: “The 2008 Cotton Districts Arts Festival made me proud to be a resident of Starkville. The festival drew record crowds. It was extremely enjoyable to walk the crowd and see smiling faces, smell the wonderful aroma of the vendors, listen and enjoy the variety of musical entertainment, enjoy a diversity of cultures, and view and purchase quality artwork. A successful event such as the CDAF takes a huge collaboration of the community. I sincerely thank each and every one of you for your commitment to the arts through the annual Cotton District Arts Festival. We hope to see you in April 2009!”

Congratulations to the 2008 Festival Winners

The OCEDA Artisan's Village *Best in Show:* Main Street Art, *Award of Excellence:* *Gentle Awakenings* by Keith Burns Wood Turning, *Honorable Mention:* photographer Jeremy Murdock, *Honorable Mention:* painter Mandy Buchanan.

Juried Art Exhibit *1st Place:* Michael Maxwell, *2nd Place:* Joe McGown, *3rd Place:* Robert Long, *Honorable Mentions:* Jerry McLennon, Frank McGuigan, David Lawrence. *Merit Awards:* Stan O'Dell, Michelle Neuman, Jacques Murphree, Shoshana Brackett, Nel Slaughter, Mary Jane Everett, Dott Bailey, Becky Ray, Dylan Karges, Jonathan Feng, Jerry McLennon.

Student Art Exhibit 4th and 5th Grade—*1st Place:* Joy Linyue Fan, *2nd Place:* Marshall Adair, *3rd Place:* Catherine Buffington, *Honorable Mentions:* Victoria Sellars, Anna Hoyt, Colby Rivers, Tequan Goliday, Pooja Shaunak. **6th Grade**—*1st Place:* Brandie Brooks, *2nd Place:* Carolina Lugo, *3rd Place:* Zeb Rice, *Honorable Mentions:* Dasha Bondarenko, Alex Ross, Chon'tel Walker, Adina Harri, Savannah Young, Kristina Berch, Jasmine Mangual, Chetia Harris, Samantha Shurden, LaDorrious Pittman.

Placemakers Exhibit Victoria Wolfe, Tripp Parker, Webb White, Rob Toombs, Tim Cooke, Lindsay Atkins.

The Rotary Club Chaucer Village Poetry Slam 18 Years Old and Under—*1st Place:* Dasha Bondarenko, *2nd Place:* Ali Naqui, *3rd Place:* Katya Gilbo. **19 Years Old and Over**—*1st Place:* Leslie Adams, *2nd Place:* Rob Harland, *3rd Place:* Sarah Naqui.

The Magnolia Outpatient Rehab Phidippede's Village 5K Run *Male Overall Winner:* Todd Hagadone, with a time of 16 minutes 16 seconds; *Female Overall Winner:* Meggan Franks, with a time of 19 minutes 4 seconds.

Taste of Starkville Harvey's, the Veranda, Dave's Dark Horse Tavern, BIN 612, Rock Bottom, Barnhills, Trace Grill, Bops, Sno Biz, Chill Factor Creations.

Server Race The Veranda, with a time of 2 minutes 20 seconds.

Sweet Tea Challenge Rock Bottom, Ross Williams, Shaherazad's.

For more information on the Cotton District Arts Festival or how to join the Starkville Area Arts Council, contact the SAAC office at 662.324.3080 or www.starkvillearts.org.

WHAT IS A MEMBER TO DO?

There are so many events coming up and so many ways for our members to play a vital role:

- **The Gala:** Decorations, reservations and Silent Auction
- **Cotton District Arts Festival:** Volunteer coordination, publicity and village chairs
- **Office Staff:** Data input, graphic design and member contact
- **Starkville-MSU Symphony:** Ushers, traffic control and ushers for school concerts
- **Starkville Community Market:** Vendor reservations and market day volunteers
- **Starkville Community Theatre:** Costume or prop assistants, backstage crew, house managers, stage managing, working lights or sound, set construction and more

If any of these positions catch your attention and you want to help out, please call the Arts Council office at 662-324-3080.

NOTES FROM SAAC OFFICE

The SAAC office is now open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday–Friday. Located in the Greater Starkville Development Partnership building at the corner of Main Street and Lafayette Street, the entrance is the double doors on the Lafayette Street side. Please come by, sign the guest register, say hello and catch up or catch us up on all the activities going on in the world of art. Don't forget to look in on the continuous art exhibit in the GSDP Welcome Center.

The office is in need of one more piece of furniture, an older cabinet piece stained light oak. It needs to be six to eight feet long, one foot deep and between three to five feet high. The piece needs either doors, drawers or slide doors on the front and two to three shelves on the interior. The office needs storage space and this cabinet would be perfect.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

“A Distant Country Called Youth” and “Blanche and Beyond” starring Richard Thomas (Emmy Award Winner of *The Waltons*). These plays about Tennessee Williams will be presented in his birthplace, Columbus, Mississippi, September 5–6. Call 662-328-0222 for more information.



STARKVILLE AREA ARTS COUNCIL

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ATTENTION:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR FALL ISSUE: **September 1.** Information for future newsletters should be given to Kittye Delle Robbins-Herring, SAAC News editor, by email at kdrh@bellsouth.net or by phone at 323-3113.

STARSHINE 2008 FEATURING CHEF CREEHAN

The Starkville Area Arts Council is pleased to announce its 5th Annual StarShine Scholarship Fundraising event, to be held August 8-9, 2008, at the Mississippi State University Rasket Flight Research Center.



StarShine heats up Friday night with a competition between local area chefs for a good ol' fashioned southern cook-off. Celebrity Chef Tim Creehan will be the honored guest headlining this year's culinary affair. It continues Saturday morning with cooking classes led by the always animated Chef Creehan. The two-day event sizzles into Saturday evening when Chef Creehan prepares an exceptional four-course dinner, a meal truly fit for royalty.

As the owner of two Destin restaurants, author of two cookbooks and caterer to the stars at the 2008

Sundance Film Festival, Executive Chef Creehan is a true talent with a passion for food and a spirit for the arts. "I'm always looking for a new challenge and I strive to be the best chef I can be," says Creehan in his book *Simple Cuisine*.

Beginning at the age of 14, Chef Creehan's accomplishments are as amazing as they are astounding. His love for cooking and zest for life has earned him the privilege of serving in restaurants around the world, appearing as guest chef in some of the most honored culinary events and personally cooking for celebrities such as Amy Grant, Cybill Shepherd and Timothy Hutton. Creehan's unflinching energy and drive for success have earned him titles of "Youngest and Most Accomplished Certified Executive Chef in the US", "Shining Star Chef" and "Celebrated Chef".

Chef Creehan has also opened a new Culinary Center in Destin, patented a non-stick grilling instant marinade and has been a frequent host of culinary

television shows, including Beach TV's "Emerald Coast Chefs". He has instructed culinary students of all ages and has donated his time, food and talent to many charitable organizations. In addition to his live performances, the Chef's recipes have been featured on Emeril Lagasse's TV show and in endless publications across the country.

Chef Creehan is a true gift to the art of cooking. His creations and talent have touched lives across the globe for the past thirty years. The Starkville Area Arts Council is honored to continue Chef Creehan's influence and bring his legacy to the residents of Starkville. More detailed information about the StarShine Fundraiser will be released in the coming weeks.

