

# Arts Center sets aside Saturdays for families

ESCANABA — FUNdamentally FUN! Family Time will start in February at the William Bonifas Fine Arts Center in Escanaba and continue every second Saturday of the month through May. The two classes in the program are for children and their parents both.

"It's a great opportunity for them to come and play, and experiment with art," said instructor April South-Olson.

Pasqua Warstler added, "With hands-on activities from start to finish, they always leave with something!" Warstler is the Center's executive and gallery director.

"Toddle-Round Gallery" Toddle-Round Gallery is a class made specifically for toddlers and their parents. It will meet for 30 minutes and includes time for snacks too!

The toddlers will move through three different stations, "where the kids will be able to experience different

art materials and just get their motor skills working," South-Olson said. Each station offers a variety of things to work with including markers, crayons, watercolor, glue and salt. A favorite, the easel station introduces them to tempera painting.

"I'm really excited about it," she said. "I'm an artist and I have toddlers, and I just wanted to bring those experiences to other toddlers and other families. Kids love doing that kind of thing."

'Art Trek-Art Journaling' Art meets writing in the second of her two classes, Art Trek-Art Journaling. That class is for children ages five and up, although all those under 10 must be accompanied by adults. In it, students will repurpose old kids' books for use as journals.

South-Olson explained saying, "We put gesso [whiting] over the pages, so they're ready to go for collage, paints, crayons — all the dif-



Artist April South-Olson displays the kids' book project slated for the Art Trek family fun sessions.

ferent art materials — and then they can write on them. They're creating journals, but

they're also adding drawings, doodles, their own poetry and their own thoughts." She

said, "The journaling is something I got interested in myself. It's just a neat way to

express yourself in a personal way."

Register online Both the "Toddle-Round-Gallery" and Art Trek-Art Journaling classes will meet in the studio at the Arts Center Saturdays, Feb. 8, March 8, and April 12. Toddle-Round-Gallery will run 10 to 10:30 a.m. each of those days. Art Trek-Art Journaling will follow immediately afterwards, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

FUNdamentally FUN! Family Time is sponsored by the General Federation of Women's Clubs-Escanaba Woman's Club. Their generous sponsorship enables the Bonifas Art Center to offer these family oriented, developmental classes for only \$2 per person or \$5 per family and includes the cost of materials.

Register online, at [www.bonifasarts.org](http://www.bonifasarts.org), at the Center, 700 1st Ave. S., or by calling 906-786-3833.

# Fiber arts show winners named

ESCANABA — Winners of the juried show "Fabrications IV: U.P. Fiber Arts," at the William Bonifas Fine Arts Center in Escanaba, were honored with a reception Jan. 23 at the Center.

They are: in first place, Amber Lippold of Escanaba, for her quilt, Measuring the Wind; second, Maureen Mousley of Sault Ste. Marie, for a hooked rug, Fishbone; and third, Diane Kribs-Mays of Rock, for a vest, Manipulation into Submission. Honorable mention went to: Sally Zimmer of Rapid River, for a wall hanging, What Do They Open?; and Leslie Toombs of Ontonagon, for a tapestry, Call of the Crane.

"I'm honored to have my piece selected," Lippold said. The design for the top-prize-winning quilt grew out of her twin interests in art and sailing. She said it's her interpretation of the Beaufort wind scale used to measure wind speed at sea. One of the two panels is an "abstract depiction of what it would look like if the wind was blowing that strongly"; the other is "more water related."

Mousley said she took the inspiration for her vibrantly colored rug from the blues of Lake Superior and from the fish bones scattered on the beach near her home at the east end of the Upper Peninsula. She described the piece as an "abstraction of memories," crafted from wool she hand-dyed herself.

An Oriental influence is obvious in Kribs-Mays' vest. The fiber artist is also a martial artist. She said the vest incorporates her hand-dyed fabrics and button closures made of fabric-covered washers. The color, she said, is a "mixture of blacks and creams with hot pink and red accents."

Earth tones dominate Zimmer's quilted wall hanging, which features a couple dozen keys from her collection. She said she's been accumulating old keys for about 40 years, explaining, "I use a lot of things that I find and collect in my wall hangings."

The paper yarn introduced to her by a Swiss weaver inspired Toombs's tapestry. She said, "The paper yarn, when it becomes unfurled, looked like a crane to me." The piece is woven of wool, bamboo and paper yarns in what she described as a Japanese palette.

The winners received awards from the show's sponsors. Lippold was given \$350 cash and a \$50 gift certificate, Mousley \$200 from Tebear Sewing Center in



Rapid River artist Sally Zimmer accepts her honors from awards judge Sharon Fosmo at Thursday night's Meet the Artist Reception for Fabrications IV, the Bonifas Art Center's regional fiber arts competition.

Escanaba, Kribs-Mays \$75 cash and a \$100 gift certificate, and Zimmer and Toombs each seats in two advanced quilting workshops.

Entries on exhibit Entries in the "Fabrications IV: U.P. Fiber Arts" show are on exhibit on the upper level of the Arts Center's Alice Uren Powers Gallery. Submissions to "Making the Cut, an Art Quilt Invitational" can be seen on the lower level.

"Viewers will find original art that ranges from traditional to modern styles — all creative," said Pasqua Warstler, executive and gallery director for the Center. Some of the pieces are for sale.

On display at the same time are antique sewing machines from the Tebear Sewing Center collection.

Both exhibits will continue through Thursday, March 6, at the Center, 700 1st Ave. S. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays Fridays, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays.

Brown bag it Wednesdays Also, while the exhibits are in place, fiber artists and quilters will be the featured speakers in the Center's Brown Bag series Wednesdays in the studio. Warstler said, "Join us at no charge, and don't forget to bring a lunch and a friend."

Speakers and their topics follow by date and time.

- Jan. 29, noon-1 p.m.: Glenna Arkens, "Art Quilt Design Process: From Concept to Finished Product"

- Feb. 5, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.: Martha Fieber, "Innovative Fiber Arts: Fieber's Own Techniques"

- Feb. 12, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.: Theresa Ross, "Trends in Marketing for Quilting and Sewing"

- Feb. 19, noon-1:30 p.m.: Tena Thibault, "Weaving on Small, Portable Looms"

- Feb. 26, noon-1:30 p.m.: Mary Tulppo, "Quilt-As-You-Go Quilts for Soldiers"

- March 5, time to be determined: Kathy Jensen, "Fiction For and About Quilters"

In addition: - The public is invited to a free Gallery Walk at the Arts Center at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18. Guide will be art lover and art historian Pat Frueh.

- The second of two artist-level quilting workshops will be held 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, in the studio at the Arts Center. This one, titled "Make the Cut! An Introduction to Free-Form Cutting and Design," will be taught by quilter Pam Beal of Mass City. Cost is \$38 for a member or \$48 for a non-member. Register and find more information online, at

[www.bonifasarts.org](http://www.bonifasarts.org), at the Center, 700 1st Ave. S., or by calling 906-786-3833.

Sponsors thanked Warstler said, "The Bonifas Arts Center's history of supporting the art of quilting and broader fiber arts has been established with a long run of exhibitions." She listed those from Studio Art Quilt Associates, The Michigan Quilt Invitational, The Dairy Barn Art Center's Quilt National, Fiber Arts Network of Michigan, the Martha Fieber retrospective "Landscape in Thread," and the Alberta House Arts Center. "Accompanying each exhibit has been our own call for entries, where we strive to showcase the best of regional contemporary fiber art."

Supporting the Center in building the prize awards are: Alley Kat's Quilt Shop, Marquette; Bay de Noc Quilt Guild of Delta County; Becson Embroidery & Screenprinting, Escanaba; Ben Franklin Craft Center, Marquette; Embroidery Wear House, Marquette; Marquette County Quilters Association; Portage Quilt House, Houghton; Quilters Haven, Menominee; Quilts 'n Stuff by Glenna, Escanaba; and Rapid River Quilt Guild. Warstler gave a special thanks to Tebear Sewing Center.

## Special Event

# Arts Center hosts cabaret, concert

ESCANABA — The beat goes on at the Bonifas, in two musical events set for next month. Coming Feb. 7 is the Fine Arts Center's first cabaret of 2014, "It's About Time." The cabaret will be followed on the Feb. 16 by a concert by folk singer Bill Staines.

"The theme of the cabaret was inspired by the new year and making use of our time," said Cindy Bender, special events coordinator at the Center. She said the vocalists, all from the Escanaba area, will sing time-related songs by artists from rocker Cyndi Lauper to classicist Leonard Bernstein.

"Some of the performers are very experienced and some are newer on the performance scene," she said, "so it also brings in new talent and, with it, new audiences."

Those who will be taking the stage are: Brad Bender, Sam Bendér, Kendra Bloom, Pat Feldhusen, David Hopp, Heather Grimes, Rick Kenyon, Bill Lawrence, Phil Lynch, Brennan Richardson and Bill Rinne.

New Hampshire native Bill Staines will return to Escanaba for the Feb. 16 concert, during about a month-long tour of the upper Midwest. Staines, who bills himself as "one of America's great troubadours," comes recommended not only by many in the music press but by music lovers locally.

Bender said, "He's a very good entertainer, very engaging. He's certainly had a great deal of experience."

Staines has been crisscrossing the continent for more than 40 years, singing and telling stories about life on the road. Described as a "modern-day Stephen Foster," he's written more than 300 songs, published three

songbooks, and recorded 26 albums. He was an early regular on "A Prairie Home Companion" with Garrison Keillor," heard over National Public Radio, and the 1975 winner of the National Yodeling Championship. Staines continues to perform more than 175 shows a year, logging nearly 70,000 miles annually.

Tickets on sale now

Both the cabaret and the concert will be held in the studio at the William Bonifas Fine Arts Center in Escanaba. The cabaret will begin at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and a 50/50 raffle will be held. Tickets are now available: \$12 to members and \$15 to non-members. New premium seating is now available for \$20.

The Bill Staines concert is at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, with doors opening at 6:30. Tickets are \$10 and are available now. Tickets to both events can be purchased online, at [www.bonifasarts.org](http://www.bonifasarts.org), at the Center, 700 1st Ave. S., or by calling 906-786-3833.



Staines