



ART AT THE HEART OF FINDLAY

By BRENNA GRITEMAN LIFE EDITOR

If you want to see exceptional art from around the world, you could visit the Louvre Museum in Paris or the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

You should, in fact.

But while you're here in Findlay, make it the Fisher/Wall Art Gallery at the

Marathon Center for the Performing Arts. The crowds are minimal, admission is free, and the exhibits rotate every six to eight weeks.

"Performing arts' is in our title, but there's more to it than what's happening on the stage," executive director Heather Clow says of the MCPA.

Indeed, the spacious second-floor gallery attracts creations by artists near and far, representing any and all media. Recent exhibits have included glittering, handcut works by Hawkes Crystal of Tiffin; elaborate wood carvings; themed art

quilts by Studio Art Quilt Associates; and encaustic paintings made from heated beeswax. The Ohio Watercolor Society's annual juried show makes an appearance in the gallery each year, as does the Hancock County Student Showcase: Advanced Student Exhibit, featuring artwork by county and city high school students in advanced art classes.

"We have just had so many different Continued on pg. 3



Heather Clow, Executive Director and Wenda Quanrud, Operations Director

ART GALLERY

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Continued from pg. 1

types of art here, which I think is very cool," says Wenda Ouanrud, operations director with the MCPA.

December's exhibit, like so many others, connected viewers to far-away places they might only dream of someday visiting by way of Tokyo artist Asako Iwasawa. Her paintings depict dreamy garden scenes and ask viewers, "What do plants dream of?"

Quanrud says international artists such as Iwasawa are often referred to the gallery by Findlay native Paul Calendrillo, who owns an art gallery in New York City.

From Jan. 5 through Feb. 24, artist and Bowling Green State University professor Janet Ballweg will display a collection of prints in which inanimate, everyday objects are used to present a narrative of shared experiences.

Quanrud says exhibits are already booked through May 2020 and, since the gallery's opening in December 2015, no artist or exhibit has been repeated — aside from the annual watercolor and student exhibits.

"There really are just a lot of fantastic artists out there," Quanrud says.

The Fisher/Wall gallery's existence was actually not in the original plans for the performing arts center. What became the gallery space was initially designed as an open walkway overlooking the atrium until donors Bev Fisher and Jim Wall stepped in. Quanrud says the gallery's namesakes both felt strongly about adding a visual arts element to the community gathering place and specified that they'd like the space to feature both local and international artists.

Fisher and Wall have gone on to become some of MCPA's most outspoken advocates, Quanrud adds.

Gallery exhibits are overseen by a committee of seven people — including Quanrud — representing a diverse cross-section of the community. In reviewing potential displays, Quanrud has found it interesting to see how an artist's collection affects people on the committee differently, even emotionally.

Artists chosen to showcase their work at MCPA are encouraged to display smaller, more affordable pieces alongside their high-ticket items. Quantud says most of the art displayed in the gallery is for sale, and many visitors do make purchases. One recent painting displayed by Florida artist Kevin Grass sold for \$10,000, she says.

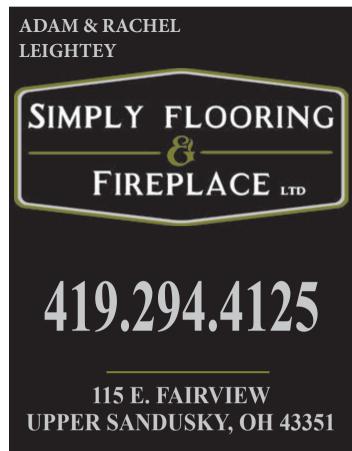
The gallery is open during normal box office hours — 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays — and one hour prior to showtime and during intermission on performance days. Its central location in Findlay makes it a simple way to slip away from the rigors of daily life during a lunch break or between classes.

The gallery space is also available for rent, and has housed board meetings and dinners, weddings, receptions and baby showers. A local yoga instructor regularly leads classes in the gallery, Clow says.

Artists wishing to display their work in the gallery may contact Quanrud at wquanrud@marathoncenterarts.org for a submission form.









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Humans of Findlay is a documentary project based on the blog "Humans of New York." The project was created to introduce many of the unique people of Findlay, Ohio. The man behind the lens and the project is Dave Morrow. Morrow has interviewed over 600 people of Findlay, ranging from age 5 to 102 years old, with a wide range of diversity and backgrounds.

On April 4, 2018, a proclamation was signed by Mayor Lydia Mihalik designating the day as "Humans of Findlay Day." Each of the stories have been read up to 30,000 times, and can be located on humansoffindlay.com, Humans of Findlay Facebook page, as well as in this monthly magazine. Know someone that you feel should be featured? Send a nomination on the Facebook page.

JOSH ELCHERT



Photo By Jenna Wilkins

Can you imagine being a young child, going to school, dealing with all the difficulties and nuances that come with growing up in today's work and then adding to that, not knowing where your next meal will come from? Hunger is a real thing and it's a problem right here in the city of Findlay.

Josh Elchert, owner of Heavenly Pizza on North Main Street in Findlay, was moved after learning of this need and motivated by the founders of the neighboring Little Free Pantry, which is also working to end hunger locally. Josh felt that his proximity to several local schools and the gift of owning his own pizza shop should be shared and he is doing just that.

Josh and his team have started their own pay it forward program in response. Every day from 4-7pm and on Saturdays from 11-1, children can some into the shop for a free slice of pizza and a bottle of water. They are welcomed with a warm, safe place to sit and quench their hunger after school.

To support this ongoing effort, Heavenly Pizza offers customers the chance to participate in their Pay it Forward program by adding onto their orders by as little as \$1 (the split cost of a slice) or by purchasing a second pizza for the program, or anything in between. They also sell merchandise, shirts and coffee mugs, the proceeds of which go toward the program.

Approximately 30-40 kids each weekday take advantage of the generosity of Josh's pizza shop.

When Josh is not at work he is busy with church at New Life Assembly of God and with his wife and five children. Just as Josh grew up in his fathers pizza shop in Tiffin, he's enjoying the same with his kids. Josh's 12 year old daughter is a regular helper at Heavenly Pizza.

Most important to helping mold Josh into the caring business owner that he is today, were his dad, grandpa and father in law.



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Buckeye Dip

Ingredients

- 8 oz. cream cheese softened ½ cup of butter softened
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
 2 cups powdered sugar
- 3 T brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla

- 1/4 cup all purpose flour
- 1 ½ cups mini semi-sweet chocolate chips



With a hand mixer beat the cream cheese, butter and peanut butter until smooth. Add in the powdered sugar, brown sugar, flour and vanilla. Using a wooden spoon mix in the chocolate chips. Store in the refrigerator until serving. (Can form into a cheeseball shape, if desired.) Serve with graham crackers or apples.



Beer Punch Ingredients

- 4 strawberries, chopped ½ cup blueberries
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 T grenadine

- 2 T fresh lime juice
- 2 (12-ounce) bottles beer, cold (recommended: Corona or a pilsner)

Directions

Combine strawberries, blueberries, sugar, grenadine, and lime juice in a bowl. Stir to dissolve as much sugar as possible. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour, stirring a couple of times. When ready to serve, divide the mixture among 4 low ball glasses. Pour 6 ounces beer into each glass and give a gentle stir.



Texas Tailgate Torpedoes (a.k.a. Jalapeno Poppers)

Ingredients

7 fresh jalapeno peppers 8 oz cream cheese 1/2 cup of shredded mexican-style cheese 14 slices of bacon

Directions

Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees. Rinse peppers and cut length-wise and remove seeds. Combine cream cheese

and shredded cheese until mixed well. Stuff each pepper with cream cheese filling then tightly wrap with one slice of bacon. Place bacon wrapped peppers on a foil lined baking sheet. Bake wrapped peppers for 20 - 25 minutes. Turn oven up to 425 degrees and continue to cook peppers an additional 10 - 15 minutes until bacon starts to become crispy on the outside. Remove peppers from oven and place on a paper towel to drain grease and cool. Serve warm.

Pretzel Ring Beer Cheese Dip

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 c. shredded cheddar cheese, plus more for sprinkling
- 1/2 c. shredded mozzarella cheese 8 oz. cream cheese softened
- 1 1/2 T Dijon mustard nish
- 2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1 can Pillsbury Grands biscuits
- · Coarse salt, for sprinkling
- 1/4 c. beer
- 2 T baking soda
- Egg wash, for brushing biscuits

• 2 T chopped chives, plus more for gar-



Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Cheese Dip: In a large bowl, combine cheddar, mozzarella, cream cheese, Dijon, chives, garlic powder, and beer and season with salt and black pepper.

Pretzels: In a small saucepan, bring 2 cups water and baking soda to a boil. Reduce to a simmer. Cut each biscuit in half and roll into a ball. Slice an X across the top. Drop into simmering water with baking soda and let cook 1 minute, then remove with a slotted spoon and transfer to a cast-iron skillet, forming a ring along the inside edge. Brush biscuits with egg wash and sprinkle with coarse salt.

Transfer cheese dip to the center of the skillet and smooth top. Sprinkle with more cheddar. Bake 30-35 minutes until biscuits are golden. Garnish with chives and serve.

MEATBALLS

Ingredients



- 1 can (14 ounces) jellied cranberry sauce 1 bottle (12 ounces) chili sauce
- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- 3 T lemon juice
- 1 package (32 ounces) frozen fully cooked Homestyle meatballs, thawed

Directions

In a large saucepan over medium heat, combine the first four ingredients; stir until sugar is dissolved. Add sauce and meatballs to a 4-qt. slow cooker. Cook covered, on low 2-3 hours or until heated through. Stir occasionally.



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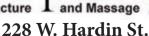




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DR. ROBERT SCHUTZ

Dr. Robert Schutz was brought to our attention for his compassion and kindness towards his patients. We met just such a man as we interviewed him. Dr. Schutz has been practicing for 30 years, a graduate of the University of Toledo for medical school. He is an undergraduate in Biology from the Ohio State University.

Dr. Schutz loves the branch of medicine he practices and the relationship he develops with his patients. He has delivered around 3500 babies. He keeps busy with as many as six deliveries in a day and a record total of 16 in one weekend. He is loved by his many patients and in some cases is delivering second generation babies.

He is married and has 6 children. He spends his time as a "homebody," loving time with family, watching soccer and attending church.

One of his role models is Mother Teresa who said "In this life we cannot do great things, we can only do small things with great love."

(The response to this story was phenomenal. There were 32,000 reads in 24 hours.)





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What's on in January?

This is just a highlight of events around town this month, and some you may want to get tickets for ahead of time. Find the details and visit the full calendar at www.socialfindlay.com/events

Sunday, January 6th 1:30-3pm: Funday Sunday: The theme for this month's event at the Mazza Museum is "Off to Neverland." There will be related activities, refreshments, story-telling, and more.



Saturday, January 19th 10am - Wreaths Across America: Join other volunteers to help collect wreaths from the graves of veterans at Maple Grove Cemetery. The wreaths were placed in December. No need to RSVP - just turn up ready to help.



Sunday, January 20th 11am-1pm - Community Dinner: Churches around town take turns hosting a community meal every Sunday. This week's host church will be St. Andrew's. Check the website for the rotating schedule. All are welcome, and there is no charge!



Thursday, January 24th 7pm - We Banjo 3: You may have heard this Irish folk group perform at Logan's in the past. This time, they're taking to the stage at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts.



Saturday, January 26th 6-11pm - Fire & Ice Gala: Head to the Hancock Hotel for this event hosted by Camp Fire NWOH. Food by Mancy's, entertainment, and fun activities. Tickets required.



Saturday, February 2nd 10:15am - Oiler Hall of Fame Ceremony: 4 athletic Oiler alums will be honored at Winebrenner: Kirby Overton, Bridgett Bunn, Antonio Guerra, and Bill Kotterman. Registration required.



In Case You Missed It: Some new businesses have come to town recently. Visit socialfindlay.com for more information on some of them.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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United Way of Hancock County provides a user-friendly resource for connecting volunteers to organizations serving our community through the Volunteer Hancock County website.

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