

  
**Cultural Centre**  
*A Community that Inspires*  
**Bird Island, MN**



Volume 4 Issue 1

**THANK YOU**

Renville County Public Health

Renville County Sheriff's Dept

Firefighters/First Responders

Renville County Food Shelf

Medical Staff

Educational Staff

All Essential Workers

City Leaders

Spiritual Leaders

Community Members

**WE ARE RESILIENT...**

We are planning for the future! Join us in 2021 as we focus on getting back together as a regional community. Of course, the Cultural Centre will continue to adhere to the COVID-19 protocols, but many of the events will be held outdoors; come rain or shine! In **MARCH**, our first exhibition is "Selfies" by Krystl Louwagie from Marshall, Minnesota. I first viewed Krystl's work on Facebook and realized her self-portraits reflect the human condition. The task of doing a self-portrait is difficult unto itself, but to create contemporary self-portraits which speak to complex human emotions is the mark of an artist. Krystl, a multi-media artist, is skilled in the use of the Sharpie. Her body of work reflects, contemplation, determination, accomplishment – who we are independently and collectively. Go to [www.birdislandculture.com](http://www.birdislandculture.com) and click on *classes/ events* for the dates of Krystl's Zoom class, "The Art of Cartooning", being offered in October.

Just as we, Minnesotans, in **APRIL**, ponder planting, week-end retreats to the lake or into nature; the Cultural Centre encourages you to take a moment to view and be inspired by the skilled artistry and craftsmanship of Trisch and Jim Beilke of Morgan, Minnesota. Trisch, a two-time recipient of PLRAC/McKnight Emerging Artist Grants creates sculptural as well as traditional baskets while Jim's handcrafted boats are functional, beautiful and durable. To contact Jim or Trisch go to [www.birdislandculture.com](http://www.birdislandculture.com) for a link to their websites.

In **MAY** become part of Don Sherman's exhibition. Don, a "Plant-based Papermaker", along with Jason Frank will be teaching the Art of Plant-based Papermaking simultaneously with the Art of Papermaking Exhibition. "Meet the Artists" reception will be on Sunday, April 2, 2021 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. For registration information regarding the Plant-based Papermaking Workshop go to [www.birdislandculture.com](http://www.birdislandculture.com) and click on *classes/events*. Please register early to ensure your slot for this creative workshop.



**JUNE** is the month of Bird Island's, "Island Days Celebration". To kick off the celebration we are honored to introduce sculptures made from found objects. This first gallery exhibition of Pat Amberg and his sons, Jason, age 13 and Landon, age 11, emphasize the importance of family and the relationship between father and sons.



Starting, Wednesday, **June 16, 2021**, from 4:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. "**The Renville County Market**" will make its debut. This community celebration is sponsored by "Developing Roots" and the "Cultural Centre in Bird Island" and will be located on the green space of the Cultural Centre. This is an opportunity for food vendors, fresh fruit/vegetable stands, fund-raisers, craft vendors, musicians etc. to sell their wares and share their talents. We encourage Renville County community members to come celebrate and appreciate each other's distinctive attributes. An Art Corner where children will experience the arts ranging from rock painting to origami to paper plate weaving will be offered. Please visit [www.birdislandculture.com](http://www.birdislandculture.com) for more details.

## **WE ARE WORDSMITHS...**

*"Over the last year COVID has decimated so much of what the Cultural Centre Community is all about. Last May the Cultural Centre planned for a Mother's Day weekend of poetry featuring Margaret Hasse and Athena Kildegaard. Margaret Hasse is the author of Stars Above Stars Below, Earth's Appetite, Milk and Tides, In a Sheep's Eye Darling, and Between Us. Athena Kildegaard is the author of Bodies of Light, Cloves and Honey, Course and Ventriloquy. The two poets had recently co-edited Rocked by the Waters: Poems of Motherhood. COVID forced the cancellation of this event. At the same time our writers' group was planning a night of reading stories about fathers during our town celebration which always occurs on Fathers' day weekend. COVID also ended this event.*

*The best predictions are hopeful about COVID vaccines and herd immunity bringing us closer to safe community events by July. We are jumping the gun by two weeks. This year we want to celebrate three things during Island Days on **June 20, 2021**. First, we want to celebrate the beginning of the end of COVID lifestyles. Second, Athena Kildegaard has agreed to return to Bird Island and will focus on a celebration of Motherhood through poetry. Third, and this is not a competition, the writers' group will be presenting **Tall Grass Tales: Stories of our Fathers**. Dan Jacobs, Lyle Lundstrom, Cathy Baumgartner and Paul Heyl will be reading. We invite you to participate with your own stories of fatherhood! Please contact: [paulhey1@hotmail.com](mailto:paulhey1@hotmail.com) if you wish to participate." By Paul Heyl*

In **July**, the creative, woodworking talents of Jim Brooks, Olivia, Minnesota will be exhibited in the gallery of the Cultural Centre and he will demonstrate woodturning on the green space. Jim creates beautiful wooden bowls and detailed wood sculptures. For more information go to [www.birdislandculture.com](http://www.birdislandculture.com).

## 2021 Exhibitions (continued)

The Cultural Centre welcomes home McKenna Lilja in **August**. McKenna is a BOLD graduate whose creative works range from mixed media compositions to the fearless use of oil, acrylics, found objects and textiles. Her course study at University of North Dakota has increased her medium knowledge and use. She continues to perfect her creative flair of turning the mundane into the extraordinary. Go to [www.birdislandculture.com](http://www.birdislandculture.com) for information.

## WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT GIVING THINK LOCAL

Just as we support our local businesses in purchases of supplies and groceries, we ask for your continued support of local artists and programs of the Cultural Centre in Bird Island. Your support of the arts and culture throughout this region is critical. Culture encompasses art, customs, foods, music, work practices, beliefs, health and wellness. Most importantly, culture is designed to meet the needs of all age groups, all ethnicities and all belief systems forming a thread of dignified humanity. Thank you for your support. If you have not gotten a membership, or made a contribution this year, please complete the enclosed form and send it in today. You may enroll or contribute on line at [www.birdislandculture.com](http://www.birdislandculture.com) Your contribution is tax-exempt.

### MEMBER CONTRIBUTION FORM SEND TO - CULTURAL CENTRE, PO BOX 434, BIRD ISLAND, MN 55310

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

I appreciate the arts and intergenerational services provided by the Cultural Centre in Bird Island.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM SEND TO - Cultural Centre, PO Box 434, Bird Island, MN 55310

\$30 – Individual \$50 – Family \$250 – Lifetime (Includes your name plaque on the donor wall.)

Membership Category \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

The **August Newsletter** introduces the exhibitions of Nan Karr Kaufenberg, Dona Larkin, Sheila Jacobs and the Fall class/programming schedule. Go to [www.birdislandculture.com](http://www.birdislandculture.com) for more information.

**Strive to Inspire**



# OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE by DESIGN by leta

Resiliency forces innovation and we have redesigned our website to serve our regional community now and into the future. We hope you'll join us.

[www.birdislandculture.com](http://www.birdislandculture.com)



  
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