



THE SPOTLIGHT



West Boylston Arts Foundation, Inc.

"Keeping School Arts Strong"

December 2010

The Happiest Time of the Year



December is one of the West Boylston Arts Foundation's favorite months. We love the holiday goodwill and fun, but the reason that we really love December is to see a major part of our work come to fruition. This is the month that the Major

Edwards and Middle School bands get a chance to shine, and the WBAF's work all year long really counts. The WBAF is made up of dedicated parents and volunteers that believe art, music and theater are critical to children's educations. Just like Santa, we work throughout the seasons to bring happiness to our students (and parents) by making sure that they have the chance to create, act, and play music. The WBAF raises and donates thousands of dollars to contribute largely to the Major Edwards Elementary School and Middle School bands by helping to fund Ruth Mayhew, our extremely talented instrument instructor and band director. While we also provide additional help to Leia Roberts, the elementary and Middle School art teacher; fund supplemental arts programs; and provide activities and events for the community, our main thrust has been to raise funds for the bands. Then, in December (and again in May), we get to see and hear our schools' students' hard work pay off as they perform for their

families and friends. It makes it all worthwhile for the volunteers and supporters of the WBAF. The pride and joy of the band students, parents, and teachers, truly makes December the Happiest Time of the Year for the WBAF's arts & music education supporters. Happy Holidays!

Origami for Kids



Explore the secrets of the ancient Japanese folk art of paper folding with Lisa Owanisian in this introductory workshop to origami. Taking a simple piece of paper, Lisa will guide children through the steps to transform it into cool creations that they can show off to their friends and

family. Learning origami is fun and amazing, as kids learn how the geometry of basic folds can make boxes, animals, flowers and of course, paper planes. Children ages 7 and up will have the chance to make up to 4 basic origami creations in this workshop.

Origami for Kids will be held 11am to noon in the upstairs Story Hour Room at the Beaman Library on Saturday, December 11. Cost is \$5; materials and supplies will be provided. Space is limited to 12 children and pre-registration is required. Email arts@wbaf.org or call Mark Baldi at (9508) 835-6489 to register.

Get a Handle on Candles



Tammy of Wachusett Candle Co. will lead this candle making workshop to create your choice of scented container candles, perfect for the holiday season for the home or as

gifts. The workshop will be conducted 6:30 – 8:00 pm, in the Stiles Room at the Beaman Library on Wednesday, December 8. Cost is \$25 and includes all materials. Pre-registration is required. Email arts@wbaf.org or call Mark Baldi at (508) 835-6489 to register.

WBAF Christmas Ornaments



West Boylston Arts Foundation is proud to present the second annual “Christmas in West Boylston” ornament, created by West Boylston potter Becky O’Brien of RJ Arts, for sale this holiday season. This year’s limited edition ceramic ornament is a unique and handcrafted snowman made by Becky. The ornaments will be available for sale for \$5/ea. at West

Boylston Insurance Agency, Dizzi’s Donna’s, Wexford House, and Whitetail Greenery. As always, proceeds will be used to support school arts & music education.

WBHS Theater

If you could say anything you wanted, without any consequences or judgment, just what would you say? Based on student responses from around the country, *What I Want to Say But Never Will* explores this simple but intimate question, offering a glimpse into teenagers’ most private thoughts. Told through monologues and anecdotes from the playwright himself these confessions range from a rant on an art teacher’s bad breath to a touching piece of advice from a brother leaving for the Navy to a realistic plea of a young man

to have his parents accept him as he is without reservation.

A cast and crew of thirty WBHS students look forward to sharing this semester’s production of *What I Want to Say But Never Will* by Alan Haehnel. Please join them at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, December 3 and/or Saturday, December 4.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$7.00 general admission. Mild adult language and content.



Uke 101+



Ukulele’s are hot, hot, hot! With the explosion of events such as Ukestock, Ukepalooza, and Ukefest, the lowly uke has resurged to redeem itself as an everyman’s instrument that is fun to play and easy to learn. Jim Webster of Nashua River Instruments will lead a workshop to teach ukulele playing fundamentals (and beyond). Jim is a master craftsman that builds beautiful ukuleles, guitars,

mandolinettos, and his own creation the “pandolele” – a uke that uses an enameled bread pan for its body. Ukele’s are affordable, versatile, and great entertainment. A tip of the hat to Don Ho, but this is not your grandfather’s ukulele.

Uke 101+ will take place from 10:30 – 12:30, Saturday, January 15, in the downstairs Stiles Room at the Beaman Library. Participants should bring their own uke if they have one; if not Jim will have ukes, and possibly pandolele’s for use also. The workshop is free for teens. Cost is \$10 for adults with proceeds used to support school arts and music programs. Email

arts@wbaf.org or call Mark Baldi at (508) 835-6489 to pre-register.

To find out more about Jim and Nashua River Instruments, please visit him at www.nashuariverinstruments.com

Happy Birthday, Edgar!



The WBAF will honor the birthday of Edgar Allan Poe in macabre style with the New England Horror Writers on January 19. Authors Daniel G. Keohane, Morven Westfield, and Tracy Carbone will share their preternatural

insights on the dark art of horror writing.

Along the lines of the *DaVinci Code*, Dan's novel *Solomon's Mine*, nominated for a Bram Stoker Award, tells the tale of a homecoming of a minister that uncovers a dark religious mystery lurking beneath the surface of his small hometown (could it be West Boylston?). While Morven, a National Novel Writers Month award winner, drags her vampires of the *Old Power Returns* and *Darksome Thirst* from the crypt into the computer savvy 21st century to do battle with modern day wiccans and geeks. Lastly, in Tracy's young adult thriller, *Man of Mystery Hill*, centering around Mystery Hill of Salem, NH (aka America's Stonehenge), an inquisitive nine-year old Abby

McNabb learns the strange truth about her lovable, oddball dad.

The creep show begins at 6:30 on Wednesday, January 19, at West Boylston's Beaman Memorial Library. It's free, and sure to make you question what terrors may await you. Not for the faint of heart.

You can find out more about the New England Horror Writers at www.horror.org/ne

December Meeting

In the October, the WBAF Board elected Deb Corbett to replace Mitch Sanders as Vice President. Deb is a West Boylston artist and WBAF volunteer that has become involved over the past two years, and we look forward to having her onboard. Mitch has been a key player and one to the WBAF founders. With children that are directly involved in WBHS theater, Mitch has been a staunch supporter of school arts. Unfortunately for the WBAF, Mitch has other endeavors that require his attention at this time. We hope to continue to enjoy Mitch's support and look to see more of him in the future.

The December WBAF meeting will be held at **7:00 pm, Tuesday, December 14**, in the Faculty Room at the West Boylston Middle/High School. As always, all are welcome to attend and share ideas to help keep school arts and music education strong.