



THE SPOTLIGHT



West Boylston Arts Foundation, Inc.

“Keeping School Arts Strong”

January 2012

www.wbaf.org

It’s the End of the World as We Know It



Watch out! Does the Mayan calendar which supposedly stops in 2012 portend the end of the world? Or did they just get tired of it, figuring they took it far enough, and if someone else wanted to continue they could. With their language, math, and art, the Mayans transmitted their thoughts and culture hundreds of years into the

future. It is this ability to transfer knowledge, emotions, and events that makes the arts so powerful. In the new millennia, we have even tamed bits and bytes of binary zeros and ones to paint pictures, record symphonies, and capture the comedy & tragedy of performance. This transmission of culture binds the past, present and future. The arts create the links in the chain of humanity stretching back to prehistory while the current generation breaks new ground, forging their links to the future. It is unlikely the world will end in 2012, but the work of artists, musicians, and storytellers of today will last long after it.

Drawing & Painting Birds with Barry Van Dusen

This half-day, indoor workshop, to be held from 10:00 am – 2:30 pm, **Saturday, January 21**, at the Beaman Memorial Library, will focus on birds, and the methods artists use to depict them with drawing tools and paint.

Starting with some basic drawing exercises, the class will progress onto a discussion of avian structure and anatomy - exploring ways



of seeing, understanding and interpreting the bird’s form. Through “follow-along” drawing demos, the workshop will explore the variety of birdlife, with lots of practical drawing tips. Barry will also describe his field methods and demonstrate how he uses optics to work from live birds in the field. The second half of the class will delve into the realm of color, reviewing watercolor basics and seeing how a sequence of

watercolor washes can be used to create lifelike bird portraits.

This workshop is aimed at students with some painting experience (but don't be intimidated – all skill levels are welcome). A detailed list of materials will be sent to each registered participant. This 4 ½ hour class includes a lunch break, so participants should bring a lunch if they choose. The class fee is \$35 for adults and \$15 for students. Pre-registration is required. To register, please contact Mark Baldi by phone at (508) 835-6489 or by email at arts@wbaf.org.

Afterschool Ukes



Over this past year, the WBAF has organized some open ukulele classes for the general public which have been well received. The WBAF and this past summer's "Ukes on the Common" instructor, Mark Goodney, have teamed up to offer a structured, sequential instruction program for students to learn and master playing the ukulele.

The ukulele is a fun, portable instrument that is growing in popularity (see the success of the recent album of uke songs by Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder), and with a little practice is easy to play. Afterschool Ukes will use the "Ukulele in the Classroom" method developed by James Hill and J. Chalmers Doane which has been widely used in Canadian schools for years to teach musical literacy. Mark Goodney has extensive experience in music and theater as a director and actor with the Worcester County Light Opera Company and the Worcester Men of Song.

Afterschool Ukes will be offered as a 10-week course on Tuesday afternoons from January 17 through March 27 for fourth and fifth graders at Major Edwards Elementary School, and for grades six through twelve at West Boylston Middle/High School. The Middle/High School class will be held

from 2:15 pm – 3:05 pm; the Major Edwards class will run from 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm. The course fee is \$75 and includes the first lesson book. Although ukuleles may be borrowed from Mark Goodney for a \$75 deposit, students are encouraged to purchase their own ukulele (a good ukulele may be purchased for as little as \$40 to \$65); a digital tuner is also recommended. Pre-registration is required. To register contact Mark Baldi at (508) 835-6489, or by email at arts@wbaf.org.

Reservoir Art Ride

The West Boylston Arts Foundation is organizing and sponsoring a self-guided art tour of artists and artisans' open studios, workshops, galleries and homes to promote all the great local art in Wachusett Reservoir towns of West Boylston, Clinton, and Boylston. The tour will occur on **Saturday, February 4**, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, just in time to find the perfect one of a kind Valentine's gift. Currently, the tour includes West Boylston artists **Mark Waitkus, Lynn Babineau, Robert Enhaus, Cathy Nickerson, Emily Boosahda, Kevin Nee, Kathy Angell, and Becky O'Brien; Collins Artworks, Coffeelands World Gifts Espresso Café, Sunrise Boutique & African Art Gallery, and the Museum of Russian Icons.**

The Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton is offering a discounted admission of \$4/person (regularly \$7) if you mention the event, and has offered to schedule a docent tour of the museum. A minimum of 10 people are needed for the docent tour, please contact Mark Baldi at by email at arts@wbaf.org if you would like to participate.

The Reservoir Art Ride is an excellent opportunity to meet local artists and support their work. Please get out a take a ride around the Reservoir to enjoy this special event. Locations and directions for all participating artists can be found on our Google Map at <http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=215977564177252663685.0004b517fb318e9bad4fd&msa=0>

Winter Family Fun Show Keith Munslow & Tim the Magician



Meet Keith Munslow - singer, storyteller, comedian and cartoonist – who will amuse and entertain kids of all ages on **Saturday,**

February 11, at 2pm in the West Boylston Middle/High School Auditorium. With two Parents' Choice Awards under his belt for his CDs *Accidentally On Purpose* and *Dressed Up For the Party*, Keith has entertained thousands of children and adults. In his highly interactive triple-whammy show, Keith delivers fun, funky music, lightning-fast cartooning, and hilarious stories that will have grown-ups laughing as much as the kids. Reflecting the real life experiences of kids and families, he combines his quick wit and on-the-spot improvisations to create a wacky, kid-friendly experience.

Opening for Keith is the amazing Tim the Magician. It's all great fun for kids, parents and grandparents to enjoy an afternoon of magic, music, and comedy. Admission is \$5/person or buy 3 and get a fourth free.

Hypnosis Gone Wild

Don't believe in hypnotism? Come be amazed and amused by hypnotist Dan Candell. Recently featured in a full page article in the Sunday Telegram & Gazette, Dan is coming to the West Boylston Middle/High School

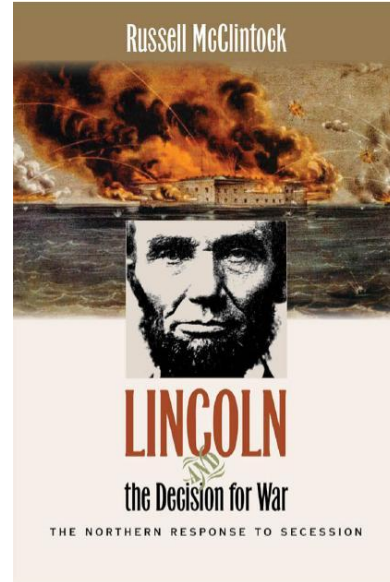


Auditorium on Thursday, February 9 at 7pm. Dan has been performing since 1999, and constantly updates his material to include current pop material. His show appropriately titled "Hypnosis Gone Wild" is the perfect blend of comedy and audience participation. "I can't believe you got me to stand up and sing 'My Heart Will Go On' by Celine Dion in front of hundreds of people... it was AWESOME",

says one fan. You or your friends could be the next Celine or... maybe Lady Gaga.

Guaranteed to be a great show, proceeds will be shared by the West Boylston Arts Foundation and the WBHS Class of 2015. Come support school arts and the students. Admission is \$7 for students, and \$10 for adults.

Lincoln Goes to War Author Russell McClintock



During this sesquicentennial of the United States most wrenching experience that tested our republic and 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, the WBAF hosts Russell McClintock, historian and author of *Lincoln and the Decision for War* to commemorate Lincoln's birthday at 6:30 pm, **Thursday, February 16,** in the

Stiles Room at the Beaman Memorial Library. *Lincoln and the Decision for War* explores the reaction of the common citizens to the secession and the lead up to the Civil War following Lincoln's inauguration through the firing upon Fort Sumter. A violent, turbulent time that puts into perspective the relatively tame disagreements our country's current political parties may have, Mr. McClintock brings the period to life with accounts that illustrate how politicians, the media, and citizens were driven to arms when reason failed. The talk is free.

January Meeting

The WBAF's next meeting will be 7:00 PM, Tuesday, **January 10,** in the faculty room at WBHS. Please come and share your enthusiasm and ideas to support school arts & music education.

Keep up with the West Boylston Arts Foundation with **Facebook** to share updates, comments, and ideas. Please look up West Boylston Arts Foundation and "like" the WBAF on Facebook to be a Friend.