



national heritage area

Winter/Spring 2013

HERITAGE *Happenings*

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LIVE OAK ART FESTIVAL



Art in all of its forms, a wide range of musical entertainment, local food favorites, and a unique collection of shopping treasures await visitors to the fourth annual Live Oak Arts Festival on Saturday, May 11, 2013, in downtown Pascagoula. Classic cars, how-to clinics, a children's area with lots of fun things to do, non-stop entertainment, and the Farmer's Market on Victory Lot offering a varied selection of local produce will greet festival goers. From 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. downtown Pascagoula will be the place to be.

Headlining the entertainment is Nashville recording artist Misha—a native of Pascagoula signed to Sully Boy record company. The December release of “Pink Flamingo Morning,” her five-star debut solo CD quickly became a Pop/Country Top Album on iTunes. Misha Lingle Robeldo’s style has been described as “Linda Ronstadt-meets Sade-meets-Stevie Nicks.” In 2009, she became the female vocalist for the popular Americana group Brother Slade. Accompanying Misha is another star in his own right—Mark Haining. Haining is best known for creating the role of Mort on CBS’s long-running “Knots Landing” and as Norman Peterson in “The Young and the Restless.” Now a resident of Nashville, Mark is still active as an actor and radio personality, but spends most of his time as a singer/songwriter, publishing his music from his Sonnyville Songs publishing company.

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Popular husband/wife acoustic duo, sugarcane jane, will rock the crowd with their energy, harmonies, originality, and talent. Savana Crawford sings and plays guitar while Anthony plays primarily guitar but also picks up other stringed instruments. Fans of bluegrass or other acoustic roots music will not want to miss this.

Local author Valerie Winn will be signing copies of her debut novel, "Forsaking Mimosa" under the sponsorship of Pascagoula library. The former high school teacher of art and journalism has penned an unusual coming-of-age novel that reflects her Southern roots. Released in April 2012 by Dogwood Press, it reflects the angst of a teenage boy in a most unusual situation. In 2009, she was the recipient of a literary arts fellowship from Mississippi Arts Commission. She has recently been appointed director of the Literary Arts Program of the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center in Ocean Springs.

Recognizing a heritage oak each year on the eve of the festival is the heart and soul of the Live Oak Arts Festival. This year's tree dedication ceremony will honor the Palmer on Washington Avenue. The ceremony will be held on Friday, May 10, 2013, at 6 p.m. Through history, planting and preservation, LOAF hopes to bring awareness to these magnificent trees. Make plans to attend the Fourth Annual Live Oak Arts Festival, Saturday, May 11, 2013 in Downtown Pascagoula from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Article submitted by Jen Dearman, City of Pascagoula.



The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area has undergone a few changes since the fall issue of our newsletter. We are restructuring our commission, formalizing some of our administrative processes and evaluating our future goals for the betterment of our Gulf Coast. We will continue to strive to tell our region's story and how we have helped shape our great nation with our culture and heritage.

We will be celebrating our heritage with many festivals to be held throughout the six coastal counties in upcoming months. On the front page of this newsletter is one festival that does just that. The Live Oaks Arts Festival, held in downtown Pascagoula, is alive with music, art, food and fun. On the eve of the festival, one of our mighty oaks will be recognized. The live oak, found in our heritage area logo, symbolizes the rich history and resiliency of our culture and our people. Some of the oaks here on the Coast have seen decades of history taking place and have withstood many storms. What a mighty tree, and what better way to celebrate its glory than the Live Oaks Arts Festival.

And, let's not forget about the on-going activities taking place throughout the year. The Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center in Ocean Springs and the 100 Men D.B.A. Hall in Bay St. Louis both have a lot of history in their buildings and a lot of richness in the cultural events they showcase each month. Articles on both can be found on the pages of this newsletter.

For nearly six years, the heritage area has been printing and distributing *Heritage Happenings* to herald the many wonderful heritage events and places Coast-wide. We would like to continue this tradition, but would like to offer a "greener" alternative to our readers. If you would like to start receiving our publication via e-mail, please e-mail our newsletter editor at susan.perkins@dmr.ms.gov.

Joe Jewell is the interim director of the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Office of Coastal Management and Planning. He can be reached at (228) 523-4072 or joe.jewell@dmr.ms.gov.



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Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center brings art to Community

The year 1927 was the beginning of Ocean Springs Public School and the making of a historical center. The 1927 building eventually became the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center—the core of the public arts community in Ocean Springs. Located in the historic Ocean Springs Public Building on Government Street, the center provides a diverse set of programs and facilities for arts and education. According to local historian Ray L. Bellande, in 1987, the 1927 Ocean Springs Public School was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The designation came when five historic districts of Ocean Springs were accepted by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). By 1998, the building had begun to raze by neglect to the extent that it was designated as one of “the 10 most endangered” historic buildings in the state.

On October 9, 1999, the building was dedicated as the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center of Arts and Education by the City of Ocean Springs. Mary C. O'Keefe (1893- 1980) was school superintendent of Ocean Springs Public Schools from 1929 until her retirement in 1945. Mary O'Keefe was the first woman in the state to achieve this status.

The center has been rescued from devastation and put to great use as the focal point of the public arts community in Ocean Springs and surrounding areas, and has been removed from the National Register of Historic Places Endangered list. This historic building provides an environment for artistic activities such as music, visual, literary and performing arts and education. Walter Anderson tiles are located within the restrooms at the building; there are also handmade paper creations by Stan Hemby. The Friends of the Mary C. O'Keefe are accountable for the administration and operation of the center. Individuals or organizations can schedule special events, meetings, recitals, and many more activities.



Visit

www.themaryc.org

for more information on
upcoming classes and
events!



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100 MEN D.B.A. HALL

At the end of Union Street in Bay St. Louis, you'll find a blue building with 100 Men D.B.A. just under the roofline, a place with years' worth of history and a stage that held acclaimed blues artists decades ago. In the 1940s, if you'd strolled into the Hall, Etta James, Big Joe Turner or Guitar Slim would've been on stage any given night. Though those days are distant memories, the original stage and floors have been restored and music can be heard playing throughout the building thanks to the creativity of Jesse and Kerrie Loya.

The One Hundred Men Debating Benevolent Association came to fruition in 1894 when a group of African American residents from Bay St. Louis drew up by-laws. The newly formed social organization vowed to "assist its members when sick, bury its dead in a respectable manner and knit friendship." In 1922, the wood-framed building was constructed, however it was an open air structure with screening for a roof, hence the name "The Pavilion" as it came to be known by the locals. Eventually the building was weatherproofed and became known as the One Hundred Men Hall. The Hall was the center of African-American social life; families rented out the facility for wedding receptions and parties and promoters used it for bringing in musical acts.

Throughout the 40s, 50s and 60s, many Chitlin' Circuit performers were booked by agent Frank Painia of New Orleans-famed Dew Drop Inn. Every great blues act from Fats Domino to Earl King and Bobby Blue Band performed at the Hall, but by the close of the 70s, the building once so full of culture and life lay vacant. In the mid- 80s, the local landmark was purchased by a Disabled American Veterans chapter and remodeled as a bingo hall. Then in 2004, the building changed hands again but was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina shortly after. In 2005, Jesse and Kerrie Loya saved the Hall from demolition with the help of a grant from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

They were able to salvage the Hall's original framework, wood floors and stage. Jesse, an L.A. native and musician, handmade the windows which currently occupy the building, while Kerrie created a cozy home on the property for her family. By 2011, a new board of directors was formed and on June 17 of the same year, the One Hundred Men DBA Hall was officially added to the Mississippi Blues Trail.



Photo Courtesy of Emily Hawkins



THE HALL

By: Ken Murphy

For musical lineups and upcoming events, you can find 100 Men DBA Hall on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube or call Kerrie at 228-342-5770.

www.100menhall.org

Today the Hall's foundation is awaiting the completion of a documentary film detailing its rich history and culture and they have performances scheduled on the second Saturday of each month.

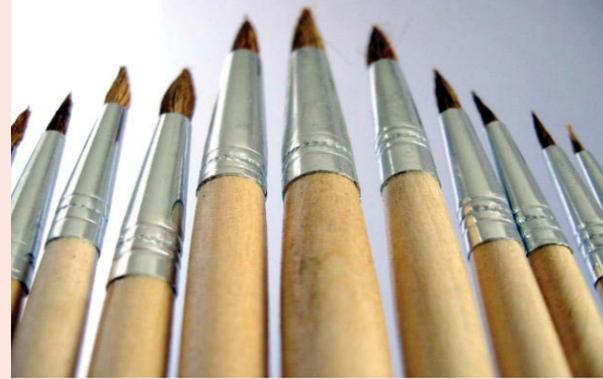


Photo Courtesy of Emily Hawkins



Photo Courtesy of 100 Men Hall

Artist Spotlight



Artist: Mary Hardy
Hometown: Ocean Springs, Miss.

"As far back as I can remember, I have always loved to 'make things'...I never really considered doing anything else...art has never been what I do, it is what I am."



"Falling Stars" by Mary Hardy

Q:What are your inspirations?

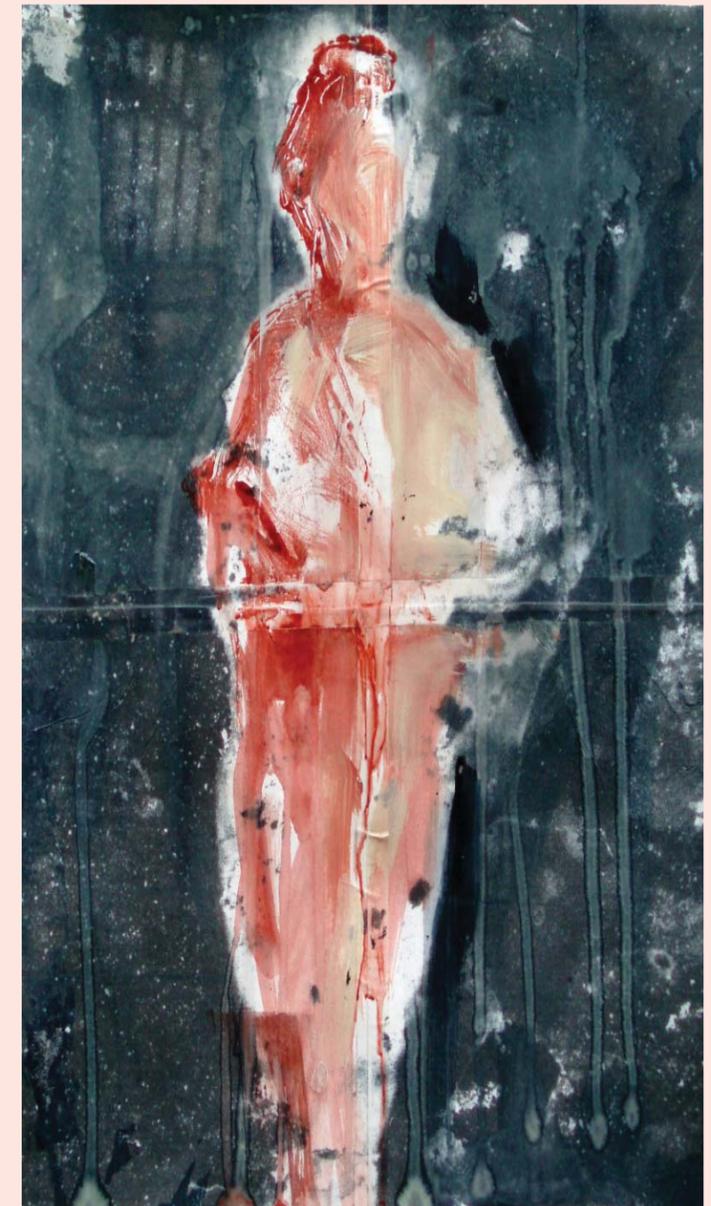
A: My "inspirations" come from my need to explore those "what ifs;" to make visible or tangible emotions, notions, thoughts and fragments of memory. Also, other artists' work can be an inspiration. I am always amazed at what someone thinks of or "comes up with." Creativity, being a never ending destination, is what excites me...there is ALWAYS more.

Q:What medium/technique do you use most often in your art?

A: I use mixed media in my work which consists of collage elements, photo elements, and drawing materials, as well as paint. It allows me to work quickly in trying to capture those fleeting moments of emotions, notions, thoughts and fragments of memory. I love to create surface and texture that gives the piece a tactile appeal to which mixed media lends itself.

Q: What do you love most about the Mississippi Gulf Coast?

A: What do I love about the MS Gulf Coast...hmmmm...that's a hard one ...maybe its resiliency...not having been born here, but having been here through Hurricanes Camille, Fredrick, Elena, (I'm sure I have conveniently forgotten a few) etc... AND Katrina, I have watched the devastation of the Coast and seen its ability to grab its "boot straps," lift up and come back.



"Blurred Memory" by Mary Hardy

www.maryhardyart.com



Mississippi Gulf Coast
National Heritage Area
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530



May 4-5

Inaugural D'Iberville Crawfish Festival, Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday, noon-6 p.m., west of I-110 bridge, intersection of Tally St. and Boney Ave. Family fun for everyone. Food, crawfish, kids' activities and more. Admission: Spectators free. Details: (228) 860-1806

May 10-11

2nd Annual Swamp Boogie Blues Fest, Friday, 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, noon-midnight, Hancock County Multi-Purpose Arena, 1484 Kiln Delisle Road, Kiln. Two-day festival featuring food vendors and over 10 bands playing boogie, blues and more! Admission charged. Details: (504) 905-9765

May 18-19

18th Annual Gulf Coast Wooden Boat Show, Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Schooner Pier Complex, 367 Beach Blvd, Biloxi. Join us as we applaud historic, antique, classic and contemporary wooden boats at the largest gathering of watercraft on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The Wooden Boat Show features exhibits, demonstrations, music, children's activities, good food, contests, prizes & much more! Admission charged. Details: (228) 435-6320

May 24-26

3rd Annual St. Clare Seafood Festival, Friday, 6 p.m.-11 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Sunday, Noon-6 p.m. St. Clare Catholic Church, 236 South Beach Blvd, Waveland. Festival features fantastic food of all kinds and of course seafood, rides, live music, crafts, silent auction, raffle and much more! Don't miss this exceptional festival as it returns to the beach! Admission: Spectators free. Details: (228) 467-9275

May 31-June 2

84th Annual Blessing of the Fleet and Fais Do-Do, Friday, MS Seafood Cookoff, 5 p.m., Slavonian Lodge, 159

Maple Street, Biloxi; Saturday: Fais Do-Do Festival, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Biloxi Town Green; Saturday: Coronation of the Shrimp King & Queen, 5:30 p.m., Biloxi Town Green; Sunday: Blessing of the Fleet, 2 p.m., Biloxi Channel. Admission: Spectators free. Details: (228) 435-6339

June 1

Red, White and Blueberry Festival, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., downtown Ocean Springs. Event offers an assortment of antiques, crafts, fresh produce, plenty of blueberry products, open houses for downtown businesses & more! Admission: Spectators free. Details: (228) 875-4424

July 4-7

65th Annual Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, Gates open at noon daily, Jones Park, Highway 90, Gulfport, Barksdale Pavilion. Billed as the largest family-friendly fishing rodeo in the world, the event will feature fireworks, fishing, fellowship, vendors and fun! Admission: \$5 admission for all four days; children under five are free. Details: (228) 863-2713