

ENTERTAINMENT DIGEST

'Maria Project' Performed For USD Tonight

VERMILLION — "The Maria Project" will be presented onstage at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion at 6:30 p.m. tonight (Friday).

"The Maria Project" is a groundbreaking solo theatre performance by Marcella Goheen that surprises, provokes and invites the audience to unleash their inherited secrets, while telling the story of a Spanish-American family's legacy around a family secret. This performance examines the reverberation of a family secret over three generations giving voice to Maria Salazar for the first time in 80 years.

This piece tells the story of a lineage lost through family violence & triumphantly reclaims a family history that includes a journey through South Dakota.

To order tickets at brownpapertickets.com. Search for "The Maria Project," click on the drop-down box, then select available performance dates.

A portion of the ticket sales will benefit South Dakota Coalition Ending Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

For more information, contact Brenda Hill at brenda@sdcdvsa.org or visit www.themariaproject.com.

'Forum' Auditions Slated For April 10-11

Auditions for the Lewis and Clark Theatre Co. (LCTC) production of "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" will be held at the Dakota Theatre on Sunday, April 10, and Monday April 11, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

"Forum" was written by Stephen Sondheim and is the first show of the LCTC's 50th season.

Loosely based on three ancient Greek comedies, this hilarious musical tells the story of a household slave trying to gain his freedom by helping the son of his family woo the woman who works next door. ("Next door" happens to be a brothel!)

Yankton native Marc Merrill will direct the show, and he needs a cast of about 10 males and 10 females. The cast does not include children.

While prepared numbers are welcome, auditions will mainly be cold readings, so there is no need to prepare anything.

For more information, call the Dakota Theatre anytime at 605-665-4711 and leave a message with a name and best contact number. The call will be returned as soon as possible.

Regular office hours are noon-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Yankton Area Writer's Club Meet Monday

The Yankton Area Writers Club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, April 11, at the Yankton Community Library, 515 Walnut.

The Yankton Area Writer's Club is comprised of people in Yankton and the surrounding area who have a passion for writing and a desire to help aspiring writers by offering readings, critiques, conferences and monthly lessons. It's open to all ages, and there are no dues.

The club meets on the second Monday of each month. For more information, contact Nancy Burk at 605-664-6582, e-mail yankton.area.writers.club@gmail.com or visit <http://www.iw.net/~nnburk/>

YHS Choirs Receive Top Ratings

The Yankton High School Choirs and choir dtudents have been busy this spring singing in various Regional I contests.

Many individuals participated in the small group contest held in February at Yankton High School. Fifteen students received Superior ratings on solos and 10 received Excellent ratings. Fifteen small groups performed all receiving Superior ratings and 11 groups received Excellent ratings to round off a great day.

On March 6, four choirs, including approximately 140 students, traveled to Vermillion High School to participate in the Region I Large Group Contest. Acappella, Choraleers, and Girls' Choir all received Superior ratings, while Concert Choir earned an Excellent rating.

The choirs will perform at the Yankton High School Spring Choir Concert held in the Main Theater at YHS/SAC at 7 p.m. Friday, May 6. It is open to the public.

YALC Fundraiser Open House Set

The public is invited to the Yankton Area Literacy Council (YALC) open house "Celebrating Home" fundraiser to be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, at Yankton's Books & Beans, a coffeehouse and bookstore at 104 W. 3rd Street.

YALC will receive 35 percent of the sales from the open house to apply to student/tutor materials and administrative costs.

"Celebrating Home" offers products for entertaining, home décor and home fragrance. The company also features a variety of dinnerware and stoneware collections.

Anyone wishing to support YALC and participate in the open house may place orders during the open house, by contacting a YALC board member, or place an online order using order code yanktonliteracy166508 at www.marysbiz.com. Some cash-and-carry items will be available at the open house.

Additional information about YALC or the fundraiser is available by calling the YALC office at 605-665-3048 or yalc@iwi.net

Tri-Valley Barbershop Chorus Show April 16

VIBORG — The Tri-Valley Barbershop Chorus Annual Show will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16, at Viborg High School.

This 61st annual show will also feature two guest quartets: Skyline and The Nashville Singers.

For more information, contact Duane Larsen at 326-5387.

Poetry Slam At Yankton Community Library

The Yankton Community Library has partnered with the Yankton Writer's Club to host a Poetry Slam on Saturday, April 16, running from 2-4 p.m.

This event will be an informal afternoon of fun as people read the poetry they have written. Everyone may read up to three of their poems of choice.

At the present time, eight people have registered to read, but organizers would like to have 20 readers. If you're interested in reading, contact Kathy Jacobs at the library, 668-5275 or kjacobs@sdln.net.

Old-Time Gospel Show At Gayville April 16

GAYVILLE — Gayville Hall presents "An Evening of Old-Time Country Gospel," starring John and Susan McNeill, Owen DeJong, and Nick Schwebach, at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 16, in Gayville.

The show will feature old-time gospel classics that folks remember fondly from bygone times, according to Gayville Hall proprietor Doug Sharples.

The McNeills, of Springfield, have performed together more than three decades and have been the musical hosts at Gayville Hall since 2001. John McNeill is pastor of the Springfield Community Bible Church.

Schwebach will play lead and steel guitars and DeJong fiddle. Both perform regularly at Gayville Hall and are leaders of the band Poker Alice. They are from rural Wakonda.

Gayville Hall is located at 502 Washington Street in Gayville. Call 605-267-2859 for ticket information.

RiverWalk Auction And Gala April 29

The Yankton RiverWalk committee has set the date for its first gala and auction. It will be hosted at the Riverfront Event Center at 6:30 p.m. April 29.

The 10 RiverWalk sculptures currently on display in our downtown streets will be auctioned. Live music, an array of hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction are also planned.

The gala and auction is a fundraiser for the RiverWalk project, which began bringing public art to Yankton in 2010. The goals of RiverWalk are to add art to Yankton that will inspire and entertain, to give visitors a new way to spend time in Yankton and to beautify our downtown. While the current sculptures will be taken down for our auction, plans are under way to install 13 new sculptures in May. Visit www.YanktonRiverWalk.org to read more on the RiverWalk project.

Tickets are now available for the gala at the Yankton Chamber and Visitors Center and at Yankton Area Arts. Contact Michelle at riverwalk@yanktonarts.com or (605) 665-3636 for more information.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

MMC Hosts GP Writers' Tour Tuesday

Liebler, Lewis, Goeden Set For Marian Auditorium

Detroit author and performance poet, M.L. Liebler, Moby Grape founding member Peter Lewis, and Nebraska musician, Chris Goeden will combine their talents on stage at Mount Marty College's Marian Auditorium at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 12.

The free Great Plains Writers' Tour performance is an interesting marriage between music and the spoken word providing the listener with a unique opportunity to hear two seemingly different kinds of art blended together in a way that is at the same time both contemporary and historically remarkable.

Named St. Clair Shores' first Poet Laureate, M. L. Liebler is internationally known and recognized. He is a professor at Wayne State University and has performed his work in Israel, Russia, China, France,

United Kingdom, Macao, Italy, Germany, Spain, Finland, Turkey, and most of the 50 states. He has also received many awards and was most recently selected as Best Detroit Poet by *The Detroit Free Press* and Detroit's *Metro Times*. He was also awarded the Barnes & Noble Poets & Writers for Writers Award in 2010.

Son of the legendary Hollywood diva, Loretta Young, Peter Lewis was a founding member of the band Moby Grape. The group's first ground breaking self-titled album is now rated by *Rolling Stone* magazine as one of the 10 finest rock albums ever made. Many rock historians whose writings are still accessible have documented their thoughts about Moby Grape including David Fricke and Joel Selvin to name a couple.

At present, Peter lives on the California Central Coast and performs regularly live. In the past few years he has released two solo records, the first of which was self titled and earned a 5-star review from the *Rolling Stone* magazine. His second "Live in Bremen" album was also released by Taxim records in Germany. A third solo album is now being finished and will soon be released.

Chris Goeden is an electrical engineer and recording artist from Lincoln, Neb. His work is heavily rooted in rock-n-roll tinged Americana. He is the founding member of the band, 13 County, whose album has been met with critical acclaim. He plays solo in and around the Midwest.

This Great Plains Writers' Tour event is free and open to the public.



COURTESY PHOTO
The 'Big and Heavy Art Show,' featuring the sculpted works of Yankton's Scott Luken, is now on display at the G.A.R. Hall Gallery in Yankton.

'Big And Heavy Art Show' Featuring Luken's Work At G.A.R. Gallery

The sculpted works of Yankton artist Scott Luken are currently on display at the G.A.R. Hall Art Gallery.

Born in Yankton in 1968, Luken began his journey into the stone industry via "the family business" Luken Memorials, Inc. Learning along the way the intricacies of working stone, he also immersed himself in art classes in his youth which led him eventually to an associate's degree in commercial art at the Colorado Institute of Art.

While trained in various medium and styles of illustration, painting and sculpture, Luken prefers an impressionistic approach. Influenced by artists such as painter Paul Cezanne, and sculptor Isamu Noguchi.

Luken belongs to several artist leagues, such as the Connecting Artists, a group of local artists and artisans that gather for camaraderie, art lesson and critique, and the School of Hard Rocks which is a group of stone carvers from across the nation that meet every year to learn new methods of sculpting granites.

In addition to an invitation to join the American Institute of Commemorative Art, Scott has won several first place design contests in the memorial industry and has been appointed a seat on a design correspondence board for the Monument Builders of North America.

The exhibit is sponsored by Yankton Area Arts. The show runs through April 26.

USD Theatre To Present 'Spelling Bee' April 15-19

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota Department of Theatre will present the popular musical, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," April 15-19, at the Wayne S. Knutson Theatre.

The play is a priceless tale of overachievers' angst and chronicles the experience of six adolescent social outsiders vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime. These young people are overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves as the musical explores the concepts of winning and losing.

A hilarious spelling bee, the musical is interspersed with jokes, songs and flashbacks revealing character and plot. The contest is moderated by busybody Rona Lisa Peretti, played by Gabrielle Cross of Brewster, Minn., judged by high strung Vice Principal Douglas Panch, played by Nicholas Wineman of Cut Bank, Mont., while Mitch Mahoney, played by Chris Johnson of Crown Point, Ind., "comforts" the losers in order to fulfill his court-mandated public service. Spellers include the painfully shy Olive Ostrovsky (Nichole Jorgenson of Tea), confidence lacking Leaf Coneybear (Will Cornay of Yankton and Tim Huggenberger of Sioux City, Iowa), overconfident William Barfee (Allen Jones of Miller), adolescently aroused Chip Tolentino (David Hernandez III of Huron), over-achieving Marcy Park (Brianna Wetrosky of Brandon), and

stressed-out Logainne Schwartzandgrubbeniere (Natalie Polisson of Cedar Lake, Ind.).

Rounding out the cast are Olive's Mom (Rebecca Barczak of Clarksville, Ind.), Olive's Dad (Devin Basart of Sioux Falls) and Jesus (Patrick Beasley of Lincoln, Neb.).

The cast is joined onstage by volunteers from the audience who are recruited to compete as guest spellers. Each performance offers a new set of spellers and guarantees a new set of hilarious and unexpected experiences. The production also features a team of student designers, including set designer Nicholas Amundson of Vermillion, costume designer Tiffany Lent of Henderson, Nev., and lighting designer James Hovland of Yankton. Matt Nesmith of Vermillion, assistant professor of theatre and coordinator of the Musical Theatre specialization, directs both the music and stage action, while assistant professor Patricia Downey is choreographer.

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" contains mature themes and parental guidance is recommended. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on April 15-16 and April 18-19 and at 2 p.m. on April 17. Advanced reservations can be made online at www.usd.edu/theatre or by calling the USD Theatre Box Office at (605) 677-5400. Walk up sales begin today (Friday) with hours from noon to 5 p.m. weekdays.

MMC Presents 'Breadth Of Heaven' April 18

Mount Marty College's Theatre Department, in cooperation with Campus Ministries, will offer a special Lenten performance, "Breadth of Heaven," on Monday, April 18, in Marian Auditorium. The program will be held in Marian Auditorium on the Yankton campus beginning at 7:45 p.m. and run approximately one hour.

The presentation of Jesus' last days will include a traditional Living Last Supper followed by a contemporary Way of the Cross. The 14 Stations of the Cross will be presented through images, sound and light.

The performance is under the direction of Andy Henrickson, Director of Theatre; with scenic

& lighting design by Stephen English, Designer/Technical Director; costume design by Keryl Brady, adjunct theatre faculty; and sound design by student Nicholas Rokahr. The cast includes Jordan Foss, Jordan Salvias, Leonard Risinger, Josh Driver, John Hodson, Ben Harmon, Andrew Tschosik, Mitchell Zenk, Kevin Cosman, Jacob Dawson, Stephen Klekas, Steven Hoff, Samantha Tobey, Amanda Houska, Piper Wegener, Alyssa Duncan, Amanda Uthe, Amy Gubbels, Julia Schrier, Liz Bowers, Kiley Beste, Kayce Olson and Technical Assistant Megan Arens.

The evening performance is free and open to the public.

'Jazz Nightly' To Leave SDPB Radio Schedule In June

VERMILLION — South Dakota Public Broadcasting today announced that its nightly radio program, "Jazz Nightly with Jim Clark," will be leaving the air in early June. Jim Clark, known to listeners as "Uncle Jimmo," will be leaving his hosting duties on June 8.

SDPB Radio will continue airing jazz programming on weeknights. "Jazz Nightly" presently airs from 8-11 p.m. (7-10 MT) on weeknights.

"Our commitment to jazz programming remains strong. We are in a situation where we have to come up with a more cost-efficient way to provide that programming," said Joe Tlustos, director of SDPB Radio.

Clark has hosted "Jazz Nightly" since 2001. SDPB Radio first aired jazz programming beginning in March of 1956 when

Sonja Stewart presented "Something Cool," and has had some jazz programming on the air since then.

"This unfortunate change to our schedule was precipitated by cuts passed during the recently concluded legislative session," said Julie Andersen, executive director of SDPB. "We were required to eliminate a number of positions at the network and we're sorry that those budgetary requirements will result in Jim, and a number of other wonderful, dedicated individuals, being laid off effective at the end of the fiscal year."

Cuts to SDPB by the Legislature amounted to about 16.6 percent of the network's budget. SDPB also has eliminated the network's Education & Outreach Department, and made cuts in engineering, television and marketing.

Yankton Children's Choir Concert May 1; Auditions Set

At its recent meeting, the board of the Yankton Children's Choir set future dates for singers past, present and future.

The final formal concert of the season will be held at the First United Methodist Church in Yankton at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 1. A reception will follow and prizes will be awarded to conclude the ongoing raffle project.

The singers will undertake their Singing Tour after school's end, which will take them to the Redlin Art Center concert hall in Watertown as well as to Valley Fair concert venue and amusement park in Minnesota. They will also participate in Yankton's Sesquicentennial on June 5 as they perform at the Cramer-Kenyon Historic Home Garden Party.

Also, auditions for the 2011-2012 season will be held at 5-7 p.m. Monday, May 16, at the United Church of Christ, Yankton. Singers must be entering grades 3-8 and may be attending any school in the greater Yankton area. Present

choir members need not audition. If the above date is not convenient, an appointment may be made by emailing trentsch@south-eastjoblink.org. It is not necessary that those who audition can read music.

A scholarship opportunity is available for YCC alums, through the Founders' Scholarship, named in honor of Lea Ann Schramm and Margaret Lyons, who were instrumental in visualizing and creating the organization. An applicant must be an alumnus of the choir and be a junior or senior in college, pursuing a degree with a major or minor in music or music education. Applications must be submitted by May 31 and are available by emailing trentsch@south-eastjoblink.org.



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