

FRIENDS Connection

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Joanne Shird: Sharing her Art with Friends



When Joanne Shird decided to make spaghetti sauce while in grad school, she didn't use a recipe. "I remember thinking, 'I can do this. I'll make it like my dad did,'" she recalls. "I didn't have to think about it. It was just part of me."

Joanne, who has cooked the Kickapoo Valley Reserve Friends' Friday night

Pasta Suppers since the second Dam Challenge in 2004 and the KVR Friends' Appreciation Dinners for about 10 years, loves to cook and has no problem preparing for 200-plus people.

She attributes that love and knowledge to her family. "I was surrounded by cooking all my life," she says. "I grew up in Fredonia, N.Y., near the Pennsylvania line. My mother's mother and sister lived with us. We didn't have a lot of money. We had hand-me-down-clothes. But we never pinched pennies on food." The family had a huge garden in back and canned from it. "We always had fresh ingredients, and we did what's now called 'slow cooking,'" Joanne says. "Our suco (spaghetti sauce) would cook from 8 in the morning until 1 p.m. when we ate."

All the women were good cooks, she says. But it was her father, Bartholomew Adragna, who truly inspired her: "In Sicilian families, everyone would get together. Whether five people or 25, my father would take whatever was there and make a feast. He was an artist."

Joanne enjoys preparing the pasta supper, but she says the Friends Appreciation Dinner for about 65 people is her real love: "I read all these cookbooks and decide on a menu and do all the dishes – appetizers, the main dish, side dishes and desserts." Her favorite dish of those she's cooked for the Friends is briciole, which she describes as a huge round steak pounded thin, surrounded by slices of salami covered by ground meat mixed as you would for meatballs, all rolled with hand-boiled eggs in the center and cooked in homemade spaghetti sauce for hours. Her other favorites, she says, are the butternut squash and Sicilian lasagnas.

For the pasta supper, Joanne makes the sauce in two six-hour days, in four two-foot tall pots. As the sauce contains meat, she needs to cool it quickly so she fills the bathtub with cold water, and one of the guys from the Reserve comes over with ice and helps her carry the heavy pots into the bathtub. When they're cool, she puts the sauce into five-quart ice-cream buckets and puts them in the freezer.

She begins baking about 30 loaves of bread two to three weeks ahead, freezing a few loaves each day. Her neighbor Regina Jeffers saves a shelf in her freezer for the loaves Joanne's freezer can't hold.

She bakes dishes for the Friends' dinner in the Senior Center convection oven. When they're ready, she and Carolyn Steinmetz, who Joanne describes as her "right-hand woman," cover them with towels to stay warm and get help to carry the big pans to the nearby Community Center where the dinner is held.

At home, Joanne cooks for her husband Freddie. "I'm grateful my husband doesn't like to cook," she says. "I wouldn't want to vie for time in the kitchen." During the day, she thinks about what she's going to make for dinner. And she says, "If I'm feeling down in the dumps or lethargic, I go to the kitchen and make something."

While riding her bike one day, she put together flavors for what has turned out to be their favorite pizza: "You spread pesto on the bottom; then cooked spinach, sautéed mushrooms and cheeses. I knew those ingredients would go well together, but our first taste was like 'hallelujah!' The tasting was the revelation."

Her favorite meal to cook at home is a simple one: Italian chicken cutlets with frozen corn from the garden, potatoes and homemade bread. "Every evening meal to me is a sacred time," Joanne says.

Members of the Friends ask if they can help Joanne prepare the big meals. Although she is deeply grateful, she usually says no. "If you asked painters if you could brush some strokes on one of their paintings, they would most likely say no. To me these are not just meals, but really works of art."



Contributor Joan Kent is a retired journalist who lives in Stark township with her husband Don and their cats Liza and Misty.

Gift Shop under New Management!

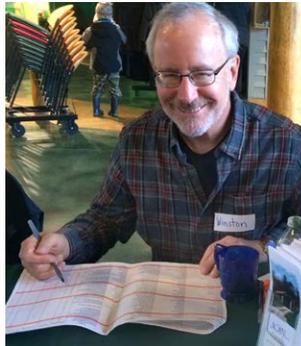
The Friends Board welcomes Paula Howard as our new Gift Shop Manager. Paula grew up in La Farge, went off to college, and then proceeded to spend her adult life in a “nomadic military lifestyle.” Her work took her to England, Idaho, Colorado and Stevens Point. She and her husband moved back to La Farge last fall. Involvement at KVR is helping her settle back into life in the Kickapoo Valley.

While Paula will provide continuity for Gift Shop operations, she needs *help from Friends members!* A newly forming Purchasing Committee will do product selection three times a year. If you love to shop, please consider serving on this team. Contact Julie Hoel (julievhoel@icloud.com) if you are interested. Paula is also looking for people who could give an hour weekly or bi-weekly to dust, rearrange and stock the shelves. This could be done at your convenience. If you would like to help in this capacity, please contact Paula directly (paula.howard22@gmail.com).



Friends Celebrate Winter

The 2016 Holiday Happening featured many local musicians, Friends crafters, and a fabulous Cookie Walk. Winter Fest saw a record crowd for lectures, outside fun and the auction. Thanks to all Friends who supported these events.



Terry Beck and Emily Sytsma share their talents, and Winston Ostrow assists with memberships at the Holiday Happening.



Over 60 Friends made contributions for the Winter Fest. They donated food or auction items, worked at the concession stand, sold raffle tickets, and assisted with outdoor activities.



FRIENDS EVENTS

Old Hwy 131 Trail Open for vehicles 4th of July Open House Tuesday, July 4 Noon-4 pm

Enjoy a leisurely drive through the Reserve on Old Hwy 131. One-way traffic only from south to north! To enter, follow Seeleyburg Rd. to Corps Rd. Stop in for cookies and lemonade at the Visitor Center. Call 608-625-2960 for more information.

Dam Challenge Pasta Supper: Friday, Oct. 6 Race: Saturday, Oct. 7

Over 100 volunteers are needed to support the race and the Pasta Supper. Mark your calendar now to be part of this great event.

Annual Photo Contest Entries Due Oct. 10

Submit photos of the KVR Sept. 1-Oct. 10 at the Friends website, www.kickapoofriends.org. Judges select 12 finalists; vote for your favorite Nov. 1-26 with People's Choice winners announced at the Holiday Happening. Adult and Youth winners receive a \$50 award. Photos will be shown in the traveling display in 2018.

Appreciation Dinner & Annual Meeting Saturday, Oct. 28 6-8 pm

Celebrate Friends' achievements throughout the year. Evening offers a social hour, annual meeting, and homemade meal by Joanne Shird at the La Farge Community Center.

Holiday Happening Saturday, Dec. 2

Cookie Walk, local musicians all afternoon, crafts for sale by Friends members, silent auction of holiday arrangements, and a soup and salad meal for purchase. Photo contest winners will be announced.

Gardeners Welcome!

Join the Garden Committee every other Tuesday at 5:30-7 pm as they bring the Circle and Star Valley gardens to life. Contact Maureen Hysel, 608-625-2887; Joan Kent, 608-625-2339; or leave your name and number at the KVR Visitor Center.



Friends Help Rebuild Ciiporoke

Ciiporoke (*pronounced "chee-poe-doe-kay" in Ho Chunk*) means "round lodge/dwelling" in English. The current Ciiporoke at the KVR was built and designed in 2011 with help from the Ho-Chunk Nation, Nicholas Gale (KVR Instructor), and members of the public. Though traditional Ho-Chunk construction methods and materials were used in the project, the design varied some from traditional Ciiporoke structure in an attempt to have the KVR structure last for many years, and accommodate large numbers of students. Traditional Ho-Chunk peoples moved their communities around to follow patterns of seasonal wildlife and plants allowing resources to replenish themselves, and their lodges were built to accommodate seasonal moves.

The KVR Ciiporoke has been a very popular "outdoor classroom" for many years but now its age is showing and it's time to rebuild. With financial support from the Friends of the KVR and help from the KVR field crew, Nicholas Gale will lead a team of volunteers March 31 and April 1 to replace the structure in time for the busy spring school group season. Check out the "new" Ciiporoke during Spring Fling or the next time you are at the Visitor Center.



Mary Szepi and students from La Farge 4K use the Ciiporoke.

Grants for Projects that Enhance the KVR

Friends Board President Julie Hoel announced at the October 2016 Annual Meeting that funds were available for extra projects that would create or enhance programs and activities at the Reserve. At the February Board meeting, \$5,000 was set aside for this purpose. The Friends Board invites members to submit their ideas in a one-to-two page proposal which includes:

- Your idea – what it is, how it improves the KVR, and who will do it
- Timeline for completion
- Cost estimate for goods and labor

Submissions must be received at the Visitor Center by June 2, 2017. Applications will be reviewed at the June Board meeting and recipients will be notified on June 15.

2016 Photo Contest Winners

Over 60 photos were submitted for the 2016 Friends' Photo Contest. The winners, Timothy Hansel (Best-of-Show, Adult) and Calum Gantt (Best-of-Show, Student) were announced during the Holiday Happening by Joan Rohlf Peterson.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Friends Board is happy to report a record high for memberships in 2016!

A big thank you to all renewing members in 2017 and a warm welcome to the following new members (Sept. 2016-Feb. 2017)!

Francesco Accomando
 Peder & Lily Arneson
 Sue Badger
 Jacqueline Baschiera
 Donna Bauernfeind
 Patricia Bevers
 Mark & Jennifer Brave
 Jill Carroll
 Phillis & Katee Christenson
 Polly Cisco
 Alissa Corrow & Teague Reynolds
 Fred & Renee David
 Justin Dorschied
 Driftwood Inn Motel
 James & Anglia Felds
 Todd, Kara & Wren Gebhardt-Tessman
 Aimee Getter
 Susan & Harlan Gleason
 Steve & Geri Hall
 Steve Hanson & Sue Hulsether
 Bruce Harvey
 Jeff & Allyson Hastings
 Marnie Hofmeister-Pooley
 Paula Howard & Mark Glattfelder
 Jon & Suzie Howe
 Bill Hughes
 Shel Hyatt
 David Jabconowski
 Patricia Jenkins
 Jessie & Mark Johanneck
 Barb & Joe Kruse
 Donn & Laurie Lind
 Scott Lind
 Kate Lyman & Jack Longert
 Judith Main
 Jennifer McGeorge & Charles Angell
 Jessica McGinnis & Rodney Calkins
 Nora McLaughlin
 Juli Nevers & Kaleb Pleuss
 Sarah and Gary Nickelatti
 Jason O'Brien
 David Oldenburg
 Nat and Linda Page
 Linda Parrish
 Brian & Shannon Parsons
 Gary and Donna Peterson
 Steven & Martha Querin-Schultz
 Paul Raab
 Bonnie Rath
 Mark & Sue Running
 Richard & Bonnie Running
 Peggy Skemp & Russell Dace
 Victoria Strauser
 Beth & Ashley Thayer
 Terry & Carol Theis
 Steven & Martha Timm
 Jeffrey Turinske
 Greg & Carolyn Vanek
 Vernon Communications Cooperative
 Ken Weinberg
 Alicia & Craig Woodhouse
 Heidi Young

Something for Everyone at Spring Fling on April 29!

The annual Spring Fling will be held at the KVR on Saturday, April 29 from 3 to 7 pm. This fundraiser is a combined effort of the Friends of the Reserve and the Richland Center Sister City Project with the Chacocente Wildlife Refuge in Nicaragua. This family-friendly event has something for everyone to celebrate the season – we hope you will join us!

For a full schedule of events, please visit www.kickapoofriends.org.

- 3 pm **Plant Walk** with Cathy Chybowski
- 3-4 pm **Fly Casting** with Winston Ostrow
- 3-5:00 pm **Llamas from Midwest Llama Packing**
- 3-6:30 pm **Silent Auction**
- 3:30-4:30 **Interactive Hula Hooping** with Danielle Lee
- 4 pm **History Hike** with Brad Steinmetz
- 4 pm **Poets of Merit** from the Earth Day Poetry Contest
- 4-5 pm **Fly Tying** with Winston Ostrow
- 4:30 pm **Saving the Monarch Butterfly: National Surveys and Conservation Programs** with Dr. Emily Weiser
- 4:30-6:30 **Let's Eat!** Grilled burgers and brats with a huge buffet of homemade salads and desserts; meal cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 6-12 and children under 6 eat free. Live music provided by Steve Hall.



- 5 pm **Sister City Project** Presentation
- 6:30 pm **Family Friendly Nature Walk** with Aaron Wunicke and Jane Furchgott
- 7 pm **Bat Chat** with Ben Johnston
- 8 pm **Stargazing** with John Heasley and Driftless Stargazers
View the waxing crescent moon, Jupiter and its moons



Steve Hall entertains and Peg La Martina, Joanne Shird set up the buffet supper at Spring Fling 2016