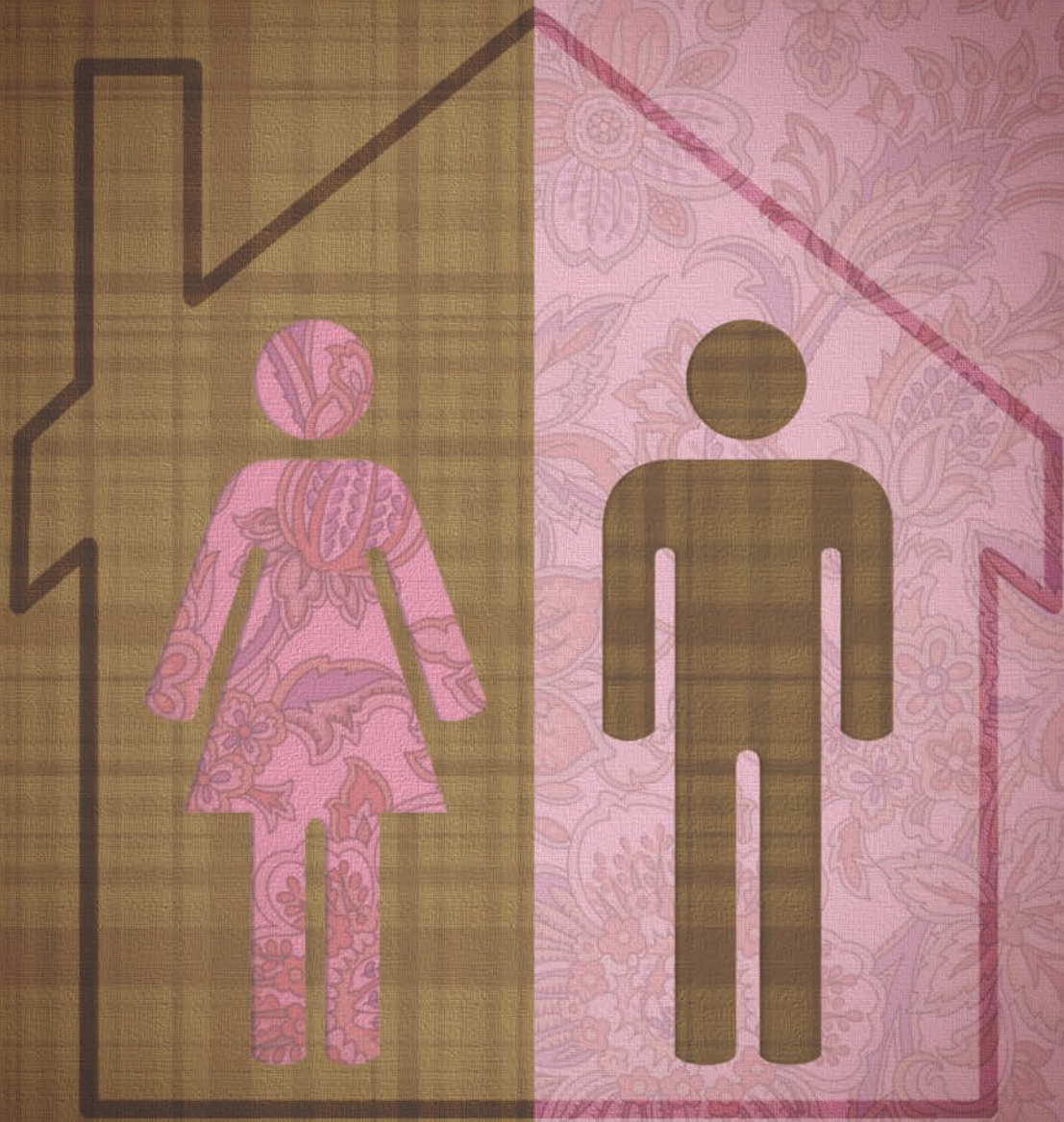


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# FoxCities Magazine

*Celebrating the Place We Call Home.*



foxcitiesmagazine.com

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### Dueling Design

Accommodate two opposing design points-of-view to achieve style harmony in your personal sanctuary.

By Andrew Scholz

## foxcitiesmagazine.com

- Get even more **tips from local experts** on creating a stylish space that both you and your partner can enjoy.
- Visit our blog every Friday for our **Weekly Round-Up** of the area's best events and happenings.
- Looking for the perfect place to take your Valentine to dinner? Our **online Dining Guide** offers information on hundreds of area restaurants.



### PLUS...

- **Expanded Calendar Listings** Our online events calendar is updated daily with concerts, classes, exhibits and more. Find out "What's Going On" every day of the week.
- **Downloadable Edition** Did you know FOX CITIES Magazine is available for download on our website? Simply click on the magazine cover!

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### Arts & Culture

#### Reel Knowledge

At two Appleton learning institutions, filmmaking is being used as an educational tool that reaches beyond the classroom.

By Amelia Compton Wolff



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#### Revamp the Reception

Contemporary couples are ditching tradition to make way for their own take on post-ceremony parties.

By Amelia Compton Wolff



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- 30 the place we call home



## artist spotlight

Daniel Green accredits his success in painting to his determination.

"If I got discouraged every time I was let down, I would have quit a long time ago," Green says. "I just kept going."

Green is an emerging artist who decided to pick up a paint brush as a way to release excess tension five years ago, and he hasn't put it down since. His Hilbert home's extra kitchen makes a perfect studio for Green. He keeps it decorated with motivational quotes including an ironic "Top 10 Ways to be Miserable as an Artist" list.

"Motivation is very important," Green says. "Don't worry so much about what other people think."



Whitewalls

February, is a collection of paintings Green decided to create after obtaining a vintage book about one of our most monumental presidents, Abraham Lincoln.

"I want to show the many faces of Lincoln, there was so much more to him, not just the politician side."

Green's creativity keeps him constantly on the lookout for new ways to display his work, having shown his collections at many venues, from craft to car

shows. Once he even displayed his art in a barn with just one wall separating it from the livestock.

"You have to market yourself and be open to try new things," Green says. "You stand out in unexpected venues, rather than getting lost in the sea of artists."

Green currently has a wall display at College Avenue's Studio 213 and won first place in this year's "Farm to Plate" exhibit at the Trout Museum of Art. One of Green's biggest goals is to never quench his thirst for knowledge.

"I hope to always be a student," he says. "When an artist is done growing their work is no longer evolving. I don't ever want to become a machine."

—By Sonia Zimmerman



Name: Daniel W. Green  
Residence: Hilbert  
Medium: Oil & acrylic  
Price range: \$200–900



Lincoln Portrait

"I get nervous when everything is completed," he says. "I'm stable when I have many things going on."

The subjects of his paintings come from a broad range of inspirations and are the result of an inquisitive eye.

"For instance the red [of a] stop light may strike me in a way that will make me want to express its depth and beauty," Green says.

The Lincoln Project, which will be on display at the Appleton Public Library in

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correctly answered Fox Valley Lutheran  
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—**John Bergstrom**

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### arts events

- 2 | **Mendelssohn's Scottish**  
7:30pm. Weider Center for the Performing Arts, Green Bay. 435-3465.
- 3 | **Piano Duet Recitals**  
12:30-5pm. Harper & Shattuck Halls. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 3 | **Flying Forms Baroque Concert**  
Harper Hall & Lawrence University host music from the Baroque era. 3pm. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 4 | **Anderson & Roe Piano Duo Guest Recital**  
Adrenalized classical concert. 8pm. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 5 | **BBC Concert Orchestra**  
7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.
- 6 | **Lord of the Dance**  
7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.
- 8 | **Jeff Dunham**  
The Disorderly Comedy tour by ventriloquist and comedian. 8-10pm. Resch Center, Green Bay. 494-3401.
- 8-16 | **You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water is Running**  
The Attic Theatre at the Thompson Community Center presents this series of Three One Act Plays. 7pm; Su, 2pm. Thompson Community Center, Appleton. 225-1700.
- 9 | **ArtWalk**  
Learn the basics of pottery, woodturning, textiles, jewelry-making & other crafts, visit an Artisan Marketplace & participate in a judged collection of artwork. 10am-2pm. Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Green Bay. 498-5400.
- 9 | **Spirited Songs: A Celebration of Choral Music**  
Featuring the Appleton Boychoir, Lawrence Academy Girl Choir & White Heron Chorale in honor of the venue's 10th Anniversary. 7pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.
- 9 | **Green Apple Hoot (open stage)**  
Six local musicians and/or groups will perform 20 minutes sets of their favorite folk tunes. 7-9:30pm. Harmony Cafe, Appleton. 982-2890.
- 9 | **UW-Green Bay Jazz Fest**  
A guest jazz artist performs w/ UW-Green Bay Jazz Ensemble & 2 outstanding high school ensembles perform. 4-6pm. Weidner Center, Green Bay. 465-2400.
- 10 | **Music @ the Library**   
Featuring a Fox Valley Symphony Brass Quintet in concert. Families welcome. 2pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.
- 10 | **Trina Reynolds Steinway Grand Piano Dedication Concert**  
Featuring Anthony Padilla, piano; Hillary Reynolds, voice & piano; & The First Congregational Sanctuary Choir. 3pm. First Congregational UCC, Appleton. 733-7393.
- 10 | **Sunday Concert: B. Ruzicka Trio**  
2-3pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.
- 11 | **Faculty Recital**  
David Bell, clarinet, w/ guests Thomas Kluge, viola & Judith Jackson, piano. 8pm. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 11 | **Coffee House Series**  
Jeffrey James, singer/guitarist, performs. 9pm. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 14 | **L.A. Theatre works' Pride & Prejudice**  
7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.
- 16 | **VOCA PEOPLE**  
Over 70 a cappella & beat box versions of songs you love, including favorites from Madonna, Queen & Mozart! 7:30pm. Weidner Center for the Performing Arts, Green Bay. 800-895-0071.
- 16 | **Conservatory Opera "Albert Herring"**  
This lively, poignant chamber opera, by Benjamin Britten, filled w/ comical characters charts the meek & stumbling Albert's journey from a fearful & submissive son, to one who steps out into the world, & is transformed. 8pm. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 16 | **Rising Stars**  
Winners of the 2012 Concerto Competition perform w/ the Green Bay Civic Symphony. 7:30pm. Meyer Theatre, Green Bay. 432-4676.
- 17 | **Composition Studio Recital**  
Lawrence University & Harper Hall focuses on composition in this afternoon concert. 12pm. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 17 | **Lora Deahl Guest Recital**  
Piano recital at Harper Hall 8pm. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 17 | **Rick Murrell Guest Recital**  
Baroque trumpet recital at the Lawrence Memorial Chapel. 8pm. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 17 | **Artist Music Series Concert: Sproule & MacKenzie, The Music of Ireland & Scotland**  
Both of these acclaimed multi-instrumentalists use their talents to revive Irish music & make a place for it in today's popular music. 3-5pm. Silver Lake College Chapel, Manitowoc. 686-6183.
- 18 | **Appleton Boychoir's Young Men's Chorus Festival**  
Some 200 singing men from Appleton East, North & West High Schools join the pure treble voices of the Appleton Boychoir to present this very special concert. 7-8:30pm. Appleton West H.S. Community Auditorium. 955-2224.
- 18 | **Jazz Small Groups**  
Harper Hall hosts varying styles of jazz in this evening concert. 8pm. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 19, 21 | **Philadanco, Dance by African American Choreographers**  
The Performance Series will include Harris' new ballet, Wake Up, in which the dancers trade their slippers for sneakers. 6:30pm. John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan. 458-6144.
- 21 | **Jazz @ the Trout: Steve March-Torme, Vocal Jazz**  
Classic standards, original songs & personal stories from his never boring life. 7:30-9pm. The Trout Museum of Art, Appleton. 733-4089.
- 22 | **Winter Choral & Instrumental Concert**  
Performances from the Silver Lake College Concert Choir, Chorale & Children's Choir as well as Jazz, Wind & Handbell ensembles. 7:30pm. Silver Lake College Chapel, Manitowoc. 686-6184.
- 23 | **Viking Choral Fest**  
8-9:30pm. Lawrence University Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 23 | **Lawrence Symphonic Band**  
8-9:30pm. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 23 | **The Magic of Bill Blagg Live!**  
Witness over 90 minutes of live interactive, action-packed magic & illusion performed by the country's most prominent magical star! 7:30pm. Weidner Center for the Performing Arts, Green Bay. 800-895-0071.
- 23 | **Saturday Night Dance**  
Featuring Carol and the Keynotes. 7pm. Thompson Community Center, Appleton. 225-1700.
- 23 | **Death Ahoy! Interactive Murdery Mystery Theater**  
Silver Lake College students & alumni will mingle w/ guests to discover who murdered the Cruise Director aboard the legendary Carnival. 1pm & 6pm. Silver Lake College Cafe, Manitowoc. 686-6163.
- 24 | **Music @ the Library**   
Featuring Rob Ransom performing classic rock, country & gospel tunes. Families welcome. 2-3pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.
- 24 | **Symphony Orchestra Concert**  
Come to the Lawrence Memorial Chapel to catch the Symphony Orchestra in this afternoon concert. 3-4:30pm. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 24 | **Lawrence Academy of Music Student Recitals**  
12:30-5pm. Harper & Shattuck Halls. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.
- 24 | **Improvisation Group of Lawrence**  
Featuring Lawrence dance professor Rebecca Salzer & her students. 8-9:30pm. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.



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D.W. Bergstrom

## Neenah 101: The People Behind the Places

Did you know Neenah means "water" in the Ho-Chunk language?

Aspiring history buffs have two more opportunities to learn the history behind Neenah's most recognizable names through the Neenah 101 series. Co-sponsored by the Neenah Historical Society and Neenah Public Library, the series explores the lives and influence of some of the city's famous figures including D.W. Bergstrom, James Duane Doty and Theda Clark.

"These are names that are in the Neenah vocabulary, but we don't know what they mean and sometimes

we don't even know they are names," says Jane Lang, director of the Neenah Historical Society. "We want to help people tune into their surroundings and recognize who was here before. These were real people who lived real lives with challenges and struggles."

The series, which started last September, was conceived by Lang and Program Coordinator Joshua Ranger in hopes of giving residents a better idea of the people behind the names of local parks, streets and historical sites. With so many significant names to choose from, Lang hopes to see Neenah 101 continue next fall.

Wally Bergstrom, a Neenah Historical Society board member, will present "The Story Behind D.W. Bergstrom" on Thursday, February 21 at 7pm in the Shattuck Community Room.

The 2012-13 series will conclude with historian and author William Brehm presenting "The Connections Between Many of the Familiar Names in Neenah" on Thursday, March 21 at 7pm. Brehm will discuss how many of Neenah's most recognizable names are linked by marriage, business partnerships or both.

For more information, contact Mike Thomas of the Neenah Public Library at 886-6315.

### 25 | World Music Series

Lawrence University & Harper Hall Music-Drama Center host music from around the world, featuring Peter Phippen, World Flute Specialist. 8-9:30pm. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.

### 26-28 & 1-3 | The Addams Family

7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

### 27 | Jazz Band Concert

Lawrence University & the Stansbury Theatre host an ensemble of jazz in this evening concert. 8-9:30pm. Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.

### 27 | Music @ the Library

Featuring bluegrass music. Families welcome. Co-sponsored by Lawrence University. 6:30-7pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

### 28 | "These Shining Lives"

University students perform Melanie Mamich's play. 7:30-10pm. UW-Green Bay. 465-2400.

### 28 | Faculty Recital

Featuring Carl Rath on bassoon. 8pm. Harper Hall @ Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.

## exhibits

Allen Priebe Gallery, UW Oshkosh. 424-0147

A Collector's Passion for Durer's Secrets: the MAGJEKL Collection Feb 4-Mar 27.

Annex Gallery, UW-Oshkosh. 424-0147

### Mollie Oblinger

thru Feb 25. The overlooked, whether teeming underfoot or concealed by modern society, is at the center of this work. The artist forms a kind of composite environment.

Appleton Public Library. 832-6173

### The Lincoln Project

thru Feb 28. Paintings by Daniel W. Green.

### ARTgarage. 448-6800

### Light and Love

Feb 2-27. Photos by Shaunae Teske.

The Aylward Gallery, UWFox, Menasha. 832-2626

### Paintings

Feb 11-Mar 8. Works by Thom Uebelherr.

Baer Gallery at Bush Art Center, St. Norbert College, De Pere. 403-3370

### 2012 Annual Juried Student Art

thru Feb 21.

Bergstrom-Mahler Museum, Neenah. 751-4658

### The Legacy of Littleton: Harvey Littleton & His Students

thru Feb 24. Features early students of Harvey Littleton who have carried on his legacy by further developing & sharing glass as a studio art.

Gardens of the Fox Cities, Appleton. 993-1900

### Art in the Gardens

Feb 19-Mar 2. The Trout Museum of Art & Designing Women offer this non-juried exhibit of plants as found in nature or gardens.

History Museum at the Castle, Appleton. 735-9370

### Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion

thru Feb 3. The exhibit presents 40 full-scale machines that were built by a group of scientists & skilled craftsmen in Florence, Italy, using the same materials that were employed during da Vinci's lifetime.

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## Coffeehouse Brew

Chole White has been presenting on the social culture of coffee houses and the history of coffee for nearly five years, traveling all over the Midwest to historical events, museums and schools telling the tale of how coffee became an integral part of our social fabric. White is the historian and proprietor of C Black Coffeehouse, the historical recreation of a coffeehouse that she displays at her demonstrations.

On February 9, White will give a free presentation on the history of coffee to area residents at the New London Public Museum. Visitors will be given the opportunity to immerse themselves in coffee by smelling, tasting and even grinding their own beans.

The history of this beverage mainstay dates all the way back to the 1600s, when it was first introduced to English speaking countries, and has brought people of diverse backgrounds together. White has studied the influence of contemporary coffee houses as well as those from the 18th century and discovered that not much has changed. People then and now use the



coffee house as a place to relax, read the newspaper, listen to music or talk business with an associate.

"Coffee has had a social impact on how people are exposed," White says. "The poor get exposed to newspapers. The wealthy who've been detached from society get to sit down and talk to an average blue collar worker."

White's presentation, which will detail how coffee has brought people together through social and food traditions, begins at 10:30am. Call the New London Public Museum at 982-8520 for more information.

—By Sonia Zimmerman

John Michael Kohler Arts Center,  
Sheboygan. 458-6144

**Dr. Charles Smith: The Ties That Bind**  
thru Feb 17. Presents major sculptures from the art environment created by Dr. Charles Smith in the yard of his Aurora, IL, home.

**Levi Fisher Ames: Animals, Wild, Tame.**  
thru Feb 24. In the years following the Civil War, Levi Fisher Ames created a shadow-box menagerie of over 600 animal carvings.

**Kate MacDowell: Fragile Endurance**  
Feb 10–Sep 22. With clay as her medium, MacDowell highlights both the impermanence & the fragility of natural forms in a dying ecosystem, while paradoxically using a material that can last for thousands of years.

Miller Art Museum, Sturgeon Bay. 746-0707  
**Show and Tell**  
Feb 2–Apr 15.

Mosquito Hill Nature Center,  
New London. 779-6433.

**My Pinhole Camera at Mosquito Hill**  
Feb 1–Mar 31. Photography by Nick Dvoracek.

Neville Public Museum, Green Bay. 448-4460

**Portraits of Hmong Women By Kou Vang**  
thru Feb 3. This exhibit showcases photographic portraits of Hmong women in traditional & contemporary dress, along w/ their fascinating stories. If a picture is worth a thousand words...what will these women say? Ignite your curiosity at this exhibit!

New London Public Museum.  
982-8520

**History of the Barbie Doll**  
Feb 18–May 18. A look at an American Icon w/ guest curator & Barbie Doll expert Sharon Korbeck-Verbeten

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Art Gallery, Green Bay.  
498-5487

**Scott Menzel**  
Feb 4–Mar 29.

Paine Art Center & Gardens,  
Oshkosh. 235-6903

**Calm Before the Storm**  
Feb 8–Apr 7. Calm before the Storm brings together a selection of extraordinary artworks chosen for their contrasting extremes in weather & mood.

**Rooms of Blooms**

Feb 28–Mar 3 & Mar 7–10. From single artistic arrangements to elaborate table settings & entire room installations, the show will be an extraordinary delight of spectacular sights and aromas.

Silver Lake College Art Wing,  
Manitowoc. 684-6691

**Paintings of Hannah Irlbeck**  
thru Feb 22. The northeast Wisconsin artist presents an aerial series of abstracts loosely based on favorite places near her childhood home.

**Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum exhibit**  
thru Feb 13. Selections from the Museum's permanent collection, as well as original handmade books created by Stephanie Carpenter, Assistant Museum Director.

## community & cultural events

2 | **Leave No Family Inside: Snoeshowing for Beginners**

Join naturalist Jessica Miller as she guides you through the easy process of learning how to snowshoe. 12:30–2:30pm. Mosquito Hill Nature Center, New London. 779-6433.

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- 9 | **Seroogy's Valentine Run**  
5K & 15K. 8am. De Pere. 338-8741.
- 9-16 | **2013 USA Curling National Championships**  
Times Vary. Cornerstone Community Ice Center, Green Bay. 494-9931.

- 14 | **Death by Chocolate** ☎  
Downtown Appleton becomes a dessert-lovers' paradise as local restaurants feature their tastiest chocolate treats. 4:30-8:30pm. College Ave & Downtown Appleton. 954-9112.

- 15 | **Owls of Navarino**  
Walk/snowshoe while listening/calling to owls & other wildlife. 9am. Navarino Nature Center, Shiocton. 715-758-6999.

- 16 | **After Dark Snowshoe Walk**  
Enjoy this self-led excursion through the nature center's lowland forest lighted by tiki torches. 6:30-9pm. Mosquito Hill Nature Center, New London. 779-6433.

- 16 | **Snow Snakes & Snowshoes: Winter Open House**  
Snow snake, snow golf, arts & crafts, board game room, skiing, sledding, snow person contest & winter geocaching. 9am-1pm. Navarino Nature Center, Shiocton. 715-758-6999.

- 16-17, 21-24 | **VHBA's Winter Parade of Homes**  
Tour 41 new construction homes built by members of Valley Home Builders Association. Weekends, 11am-5pm; Weekdays, 5-8pm. Various locations. 731-7931.

- 20 | **Fox Valley Embroiderer's Guild Meeting**  
Pulled Thread Pincushion led by Grace Pable. 7-9pm. Trinity Lutheran Church, Appleton. 993-9171.

- 22 & 23 | **Candlelight ski/snowshoe hike**  
Snowshoe or ski the one mile loop across the boardwalk & back by the light of the stars, moon & candlelight. 5-7pm. Navarino Nature Center, Shiocton. 715-758-6999.

## fundraisers

- 16 | **The Arc Fox Cities 10th Annual Tea Party & Fashion Show** ☎  
A fun family event for children, parents & extended families. All proceeds benefit the Arc & its programs. 11am-1pm. Bridgewood Resort Hotel, Neenah. 725-0943.

- 23 | **Vintage in the Valley** ☎  
Join the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley to celebrate an evening of wine, food & friends, to benefit more than 14,000 local youth. General admission event, 7-10pm. Fox Cities P.A.C., Appleton. 730-3760.

## lectures, readings, discussions & presentations

- 2 | **Winter Escapes, Summer Dreams**  
Learn how to make your garden dreams a reality next summer. 8am-3pm. Reeve Memorial Union, Oshkosh. 725-8168.

- 2 | **Thelon River Expedition: A Dream Come True** ☎  
Join Don Baumgartner & Jean Klein as they travel down the Thelon River in the Northwest Territories & Nunavut in the Canadian arctic. 1pm. Mosquito Hill Nature Center. 779-6433.

- 2 | **Outagamie County Master Gardeners**  
Exploring Common Plant Problems. 10-11:30am. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

- 4 | **On the Road w/ Master Gardeners**  
Wisconsin wildflowers. 7pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

- 4 | **Author Lecture & Book Signing**  
Join author Dave Crehore as he discusses his book, *Bailey's Harbor Bird and Booyah Club*. Signing to follow. 2-3pm. Nennah Public Library. 886-6315.

- 6 | **Downtown Book Club**  
Discussion of *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. 12-1pm. Harmony Cafe, Appleton. 832-6173.

- 7 | **America's Music Series**  
Swing Jazz: Excerpts from "Ken Burns' Jazz: Episode 6, Wing, the Velocity of Celebration" & a short film "International Sweethearts of Rhythm" followed by a discussion. 6:30pm. Warch Campus Center Cinema @ Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.

- 8 | **Lunch @ Lawrence: The Psychology of Mindfulness Meditation** ☎  
Professor Lori Hilt will explore the practice of mindfulness meditation & the research on its effectiveness for mental health. 11:30am-1pm. Warch Campus Center, Appleton. 832-7019.

- 9 | **Using Essential Oils w/ Children** ☎  
Essential oils have been proven to be effective against colds & flu, even as a preventive or immunity booster. 1-3pm. Mosquito Hill Nature Center. 779-6433.

- 9 | **The Life of Birds** ☎  
Join Aves Wildlife Alliance w/ their live program birds on a journey through the life of a bird. 1-2pm. Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, Menasha. 720-9349.

- 9 | **History of Coffee**  
Join Chole White, owner of Black Widow Coffee, to explore the early history of one of America's favorite drinks. 10:30am. New London Public Museum. 982-8520.

- 14 | **Lawrence University Economics Colloquium: The Institutional Revolution**  
Lecture from Douglas Allen of Simon Fraser University. 4:30-6pm. Thomas Steitz Hall of Science @ LU, Appleton. 832-6739.

- 14 | **America's Music Series**  
Latin Rhythms from Mambo to Hip Hop: Excerpts from "Latin Music USA: Episode 1, Bridges" & "From Mambo to Hip Hop: A South Bronx Tale" followed by a discussion. 6:30pm. Warch Campus Center Cinema @ Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.

- 16 | **Saturday Learning Series: Woman in the History of the U.S. Lighthouses**  
Lighthouse historian John Enright will teach about the adventurous lives of more than 20 female keepers—hard working women who served their country and brought safety to the mariners who sailed within the range of their lights. 1-2pm. Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Manitowoc. 684-0218.

- 18 | **Team of Rivals Book Discussion**  
4-5pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

- 21 | **Neenah 101: Behind the Names**  
Learn the true story of D.W. Bergstrom. 7-8:15pm. Neenah Library. 729-0244.

- 21 | **Third Thursday Lecture Series: The Attraction of Wood Ducks** ☎  
Steve Jordan has been attracting wood ducks to his property on the Wolf River for nearly 30 years. 9:30-11am. Mosquito Hill Nature Center, New London. 779-6433.

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## Go Global

The N.E.W. World Cinema Series, in affiliation with the Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center, strives to educate the community on diverse cultures by bringing films from around the world to Northeast Wisconsin.

On February 17 and 18 the series will premiere the German film "Mostly Martha" at UWFox Valley in Menasha, says chairman Terry Dawson. The 2001 romantic comedy, which was filmed in Hamburg, Germany, and Italy, was written and directed by Sandra Nettelbeck.

The film follows a perfectionist, workaholic chef named Martha who struggles with relationships outside of the kitchen. After a family crisis, Martha is thrust into situations beyond her control and must learn how to balance her new life with her work. "Mostly Martha" won the Créteil International Women's Film Festival Grand Prix Award, the Goya Award for Best European Film in 2002 and was nominated for the German Film Awards Outstanding Feature Film.

Screenings will be held on Sunday, February 17 at 2pm and Monday, February 18 at 7pm. Call 734-0013 for more information about these monthly film screenings every third weekend.

### 21 | Creative Community

Bring your latest crafting project & supplies to the library & enjoy an evening of hanging out w/ other crafty types. 6-7:45pm. Little Chute Public Library. 788-7825.

### 21 | America's Music Series

A screening of "The History of Rock'n'Roll: Episode 6, Plugging In" followed by a discussion. 6:30pm. Warch Campus Center Cinema @ Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6612.

### 23 | Distinguished Lecture Series

Dr. Mara Brecht discusses "Miraculous Beginnings: A Theological Reflection on the Birth Narratives for the Buddha, Jesus Christ, and the Prophet Mohammad." 9-11am. Door Community Auditorium, Fish Creek. 868-2728.

### 25 | Soup & Travel Talks: Oman

Alan Blake will do a presentation of his travels in Oman. Time TBD. Gardens of the Fox Cities, Appleton. 993-1900.

### 26 | Winter Survival

Participants will learn about different winter shelters & fire starting tips. 12-2pm. Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, Menasha. 720-9349.

### 27 | Barbie Doll Show & Tell

Bring your favorite Barbie Doll & let expert Sharon Korbeck-Verbeten tell you all about it. Then stop by the museum to see the new Barbie Doll exhibit. Limit 3 Dolls per person. 4:30-6:30pm. New London Public Museum. 982-8520.

### 28 | America's Music Series

Documentary discussion of High Lonesome: The Story of Bluegrass. Co-sponsored by Lawrence University. 6:30pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

### 28 | The Killeen Chair Lecture Series: Michael J. Naughton

Naughton, a professor of Catholic social thought at the University of St. Thomas, will lecture on "Working for the Common Good: Do I Have to Leave My Job to Do It?" 7pm. Ft. Howard Theater, Bemis International Center, De Pere. 403-3932.

## films

### 7 | Thursday Afternoon @ the Movies: Retro Classics

Featuring The American President. Rated PG13. 4pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

### 11 | Monday Matinee: Hope Springs

1pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315.

### 14 | Thursday Night @ the Movies

Featuring Bully. Rated PG13. 6pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

### 17 & 18 | Mostly Martha (Germany, 2001)

Presented by NEW World Cinema. Su, 2pm & M, 7pm. UWFox Valley, Menasha. 734-0013.

### 18 | Monday Matinee: The Trouble w/ the Curve

Rated PG13. 2-4pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3690.

### 21 | Thursday Afternoon @ the Movies

Featuring Argo. Rated R. 4-6pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

### 22 | Movies @ The Door

Title TBD. 7-9pm. Door Community Auditorium, Fish Creek. 868-2728.

### 28 | Patriocracy

Directed by Brian Malone. 5pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3661.

## classes & workshops

### 2 | Art Activity Day: Valentines Day Fun

Make a glass pendant for your Valentine & other Valentine's Day projects. 10am-1pm. Bergstrom-Mahler Museum, Neenah. 751-4658.

### 5 | Creative Journey

Writing on the spot. 10am-12pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

### 6 | Culinary Journeys: Soups Around the World

St. Norbert College Language Services is offering a non-credit cultural cooking class series. These hands-on classes will give participants a chance to prepare & taste authentic foods from around the world, while learning about different cultures along the way. 5-8pm. National Railroad Museum, Green Bay. 676-3195.

### 7 | Imagination Connection

New program organizational meeting. 6:30-8pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

### 7 | Small Business Success: Best Practices

A fast-paced, informative discussion on a small business issue or topic. 7:30-9am. DJ Bordini Center, Fox Valley Technical College. 996-2946.

### 9 | Basic Wireworking w/ Jo Brinkley-Chaudoir

Learn the basics of handling wire & the tools to make it easier. 12-4pm. ARTgarage, Green Bay. 448-6800.

### 9 | Give Spinning a Whirl

How to spin yarn on a top-whirl drop spindle & basic knowledge on plying. 9am. ARTgarage, Green Bay. 448-6800.

### 11 | The E-Seed: Innovative Entrepreneurship Training

Be successful & build a business that works. 1pm & 6pm. DJ Bordini Center, Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton. 996-2949.

### 12 | Intermediate Flameworking: Shaping Beads

Use tools, heat & gravity to manipulate & control molten glass. 10am-1pm. Bergstrom-Mahler Museum, Neenah. 751-4658.

### 12 | Creative Journey

Anniversary party & brainstorming session. 10am-12pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

### 16 | Introduction to Oil Painting

In this class we will cover the basics of materials, mixing, applications & cleaning procedures. 9:30am-12pm. ARTgarage, Green Bay. 448-6800.

### 18 | Knit2Together

Multigenerational knitting circle. All levels welcome. 6:30-8pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

### 19 | Creative Journey

Booked-based bookmarks. 10am-12pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

### 22-23 | Beginning Chinese Brush Painting on Silk

Traditional motifs of bamboo, a bird, chrysanthemum, & cherry blossoms on a silk canvas. F & Sa 9am-2pm. ARTgarage, Green Bay. 448-6800.



Photo: Michael Leschisin, Image Studios

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**23 | Master Dance Classes w/ Christina Briggs & Edward Winslow** ☎  
10am–4pm. Valley Academy for the Arts, Neenah. 279-1578.

**26 | Creative Journey**  
Art activity/free play. 10am–12pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

**28 | Shatter the Myths about Starting Your Own Business**  
This seminar series will help you understand the myths surrounding business ownership. 6–10pm. DJ Bordini Center @ Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton. 735-4798.

## children's events

**ongoing | Little Bunny Winter Read to Me program** ☎  
The challenge is to read 100 books to your little bunny, ages 2–5 y.o., during the month of February. Month long program. Neenah Public Library. 886-6335.

**2 | Winter Gala**  
Enjoy golf, cross country skiing, children's activities & snow sculpting during this fun winter event sponsored by the Menasha Parks & Recreation Department. 12–3:30pm. Smith Park, Menasha. 967-3640.

**5 | Clifford the Big Red Dog book Party**  
Meet & shake paws w/ Clifford. Then join in activities, crafts, games & treats based on the popular series. 6:30–7:15pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3670.

**6, 13, 20, 27 | Family Story Time**  
Discover new books, enjoy music & rhymes & share warm times interacting w/ your child. 10:15–10:45am. Little Chute Public Library. 788-7825.

**7, 14, 21, 28 | Family Story Time**  
Discover new books, enjoy music & rhymes & share warm times interacting w/ your child. 10:15–10:45am. Kimberly Public Library. 788-7515.

**8 | Dinosaur Day**  
Dinosaur storytime, crafts, games, & songs to celebrate those fascinating giants of prehistoric times! 10–10:30am. Menasha Public Library. 967-3670.

**9 | Valentine's Family Festival**  
Valentine cookie decorating, games, arts & crafts, a photo booth & a live DJ. Free for children 12 & under & their families. 9:30am–12:30pm. Maplewood Middle School, Menasha. 954-7210.

**10 | Miles of Smiles**  
Explore how a healthy mouth is part of a healthy body during this daylong festival spotlighting how to get moving, to eat healthy & to take care of your teeth. Miles of Smiles Day is generously sponsored by Delta Dental. 12–5pm. Building for Kids Children's Museum, Appleton. 734-3226.

**12 | Turtle Tots Preschool Adventure** ☎  
Who is out & about at Heckrodt in winter? Let's find out by taking a hike through the wetland! Make & compare your own tracks in the snow. 9:30–11am. Heckrodt Wetland Reserve, Menasha. 720-9349.

**12 | Alice in Wonderland Party**  
Follow us through the rabbit hole to fun adventures in Wonderland, w/activities, crafts, games & treats based on the popular classic. 6:30–7:15pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3670.

**12–16 | Storybook Stars w/ Maisy**  
We will read "Maisy, Charley & the Wobbly Tooth" & create a special craft to celebrate Children's Dental Health Month. 10:30am. Building for Kids Children's Museum, Appleton. 734-3226.

**14 | Teen Movie: Snow White & the Huntsman**  
Rated PG13. 4–6pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3690.

**22 | Stuffed Animal Storytime & Sleepover**  
Drop off your favorite stuffed animal or teddy bear for a sleepover @ the library & join us for a pajama storytime w/ your pet. 4–4:30pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3670.

**26 | Teen Movie: Battleship**  
Rated PG13. 4–6:15pm. Menasha Public Library. 967-3690.

### More on the Web

#### ► Expanded Calendar Listings

Our online events calendar is updated daily with concerts, classes, exhibits and more. Find out "What's Going On" every day of the week.



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**GARDENS, LAWNS and LANDSCAPES**



# Reel

By Amelia Compton Wolff

## KNOWLEDGE

*Two local educational institutions use the film medium as a gateway to greater learning*

**M**ore Americans are streaming and sharing videos than ever before. According to the Pew Research Center, 71 percent of online Americans in 2011 used video-sharing sites such as YouTube and Vimeo. With the advent of smartphones and improved mobile networks, video has become the media of choice for many reasons — it's a fast, effective means of obtaining information as well as entertainment and it has the ability to spread like wildfire.

Two local educational institutions are preparing students for a film-obsessed world by using the medium to teach not only production techniques, but a few other important lessons along the way.

### FILM AS CAREER PREP

Anna Young is a 17-year-old junior at Appleton's Renaissance School for the Arts. She wears large, dark-rimmed glasses. Her golden brown hair falls past her shoulders in a natural, wavy texture. When she speaks, it's with a gentle confidence rarely seen from a high school student, but that's not the only way Young appears to differ from your average teenager. During a hour-long conversation, she doesn't fumble for a cellphone once. Not one time check, text or tweet (or at least no obvious ones).

In a world obsessed with constant chatter, Young believes silence is still golden.

"Our society is very noise-filled and we don't value silence perhaps as much as it used to be valued," she says. "But there's a certain aspect of silence that's necessary for humans to develop."

Young became intrigued by silence, a concept not often associated with our nation's youth, after

reading James DeVita's dystopian novel "The Silenced" in her 9th grade civics class. Young obtained the rights from the author to adapt the novel for the stage and spent her summer break working on the script. That experience combined with one of the Renaissance School's course offerings, music composition for silent films, planted the idea of producing a silent film in Young's head.

Young began writing a script for a 30 minute film, but was advised against it by Frances Perkins, assistant professor of communication theatre arts at UW-Fox Valley in Menasha, who was recruited to assist with various facets of the film's production such as cinematography, lighting and post-production.

"Thirty minutes is an awkward length. It's too long to be online; it would be hard to distribute and get people to watch it," Perkins says. "The number one way to share video is online so ideally these films should be 10 minutes or less."

Young began drafting scripts last fall for three 10-minute silent films all revolving around the theme of silence. For instance, in one story Young explores the danger of silence in an abusive relationship.

Young and one of her mentors, faculty member Michael Pekarske, plan to incorporate Renaissance School student artists in all aspects of the film's creation, from the score to the actors.

"Anna's working on the script, one of our advanced fashion classes will be creating outfits, acting classes will talk about silent acting," Pekarske says. "Next fall we will shoot it and then give the rough version to Matt Turner [musician

faculty member] so he can start composing music. Then we'll start editing it in the spring and it will all come together."

Perkins believes a collaborative film project such as this will not only teach students the technical aspects of filmmaking, but will also show them how careers in the arts function beyond the classroom.

"They will learn that most of the arts are collaborative," she says. "The lone artist sitting in their garret isn't something that really happens. If they want to tell their own stories, they have to be able to do it with other people."

### FILM AS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Civic Life Project, which piloted on a tutorial basis at Lawrence University (LU) in January, is an educational initiative that engages students in civic action through the use of documentary filmmaking.

Students will explore the role of documentary video in public life, the way in which new digital media are reshaping communities and the potential of video as a medium of democratic engagement. They will investigate social issues affecting the Appleton area, conduct research, interview community members and create a short documentary that details what they discover.

Dominique Lasseur, co-founder and executive director of the Civic Life Project (CLP), believes film can be a tool to engage a dynamic audience.

"For young people, most of the way they apprehend the rest of the world is through media. The visual quality of video is something they are very comfortable with, it's what they grew up with," he says. "It's a good way to engage them. The methods of learning are much less passive then."

Lasseur and his partner Catherine Tatge, both award-winning documentary filmmakers, first launched the project at Hotchkiss School, a small private school in Connecticut three



### GET IN ON THE ACTION

Public screenings of the Renaissance School's short silent films will be held in the spring of 2014. The

Civic Life Project is anticipating community screenings of the student-made documentaries in May. Stay tuned to [foxcitiesmagazine.com](http://foxcitiesmagazine.com) for screening dates and times.





Dominique Lasseur

years ago and it is now being taught across the state at public high schools. Tatge decided to pilot the project at the university level by returning to her alma mater.

"We thought [LU] would be the perfect place to pilot the program in an undergraduate, small liberal arts college that is

ensconced in a community where there's that division, the bubble of the university and the community around them," says Tatge, a 1972 Lawrence grad. "In some ways, [the CLP] breaks down that barrier."

LU senior Camilla Grove has worked with Tatge, who is in her second year as LU's artist-in-residence, on various film projects.

"Film is the new, big thing. For my generation, I feel film is the best way to communicate," she says.

"That's all people are doing with YouTube and all the ways to come in contact with film, that's what people are interested in."

Grove, an English major and film minor, hopes to investigate homelessness in Appleton as part of the CLP this semester. She believes investigating this issue through film will allow her some powerful advantages.

"Film tells a more whole story, one that the filmmaker wants to tell. Artistically there's different elements to work with that use more of your senses," she says.


Provost and Dean of the Faculty David Burrows, who has been involved in the expansion of the university's film studies program, is a supporter of the CLP in part due to its timing.

"Several things have emerged at the same time," he says. "One of them is obviously film and video. The second is an increased awareness of community engagement on the part of students. I think film provides a tremendous energy and facilitation for it."

Burrows believes that documentaries in particular are a natural fit for students obtaining a liberal arts education which emphasizes gathering and evaluating evidence. Lasseur adds that these are also the skills necessary to tell a story effectively and with civility.

"The skills you need to be a good documentary filmmaker — curiosity, ability to see both sides of an issue, empathy — are the qualities that you need to be a good citizen," he says.

In the next school year, Lasseur and Tatge hope to bring this project to the Appleton Public School System. They hope that eventually the CLP will replace the civics requirement in public high schools across the country as well as have an impact on communities beyond the classroom.

"It would be wonderful if LU and Appleton become a model for how other small cities can learn and be together and nurture each other in a positive way, using young people as a catalyst," Tatge says. 



Catherine Tatge

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Photo courtesy of Bellwether Interior Design.

# DUELING Design

By Andrew Scholz

*If your home is your castle, then it must be fit for royalty — an oasis to which modern day monarchy retreat — but sometimes even a king and queen can disagree on what constitutes good style.*

*Fortunately, with a little ingenuity, you and your partner can enjoy a chic home without either party needing to compromise their unique design sense. The only battle might be who gets to take credit for the finished product.*

## AVOIDING ALTERCATIONS

Let's face it, with different genders come different design tastes. While there may be some give and take, you don't always have to sacrifice your own style for the sake of your partner. Christa Vogt and Leslie Wilson, owners of Bellwether Interior Design in Neenah, are well-versed in keeping the peace between sexes.

"Having a gender-neutral space is the goal for most couples," Vogt says. "Our job is to mesh both styles as seamlessly as possible. When working with couples they have to understand that compromise is key."

Vogt says some design elements, such as color and shape, can be stylish without being gender-specific.

"Using a neutral palette and geometric patterns can lend to both sexes," she says. "Design is subjective; we always take into account lifestyle, purpose of the room and other variables when completing a project."

For any remodel, the budget is always a source of contention. Keep peace in the kingdom by starting with small, inexpensive projects.

"Painting a room is the easiest and least expensive way to spruce up a space," Wilson says. "Purchasing new bedding and off-the-rack curtains is also an easy way to breathe new life into a room. You can purchase window treatments for as low as \$10 a panel at stores like Home Goods."

Getting the best deal for the penny-pincher while maintaining a certain panache for the style-conscious may seem like a stretch, but it is certainly attainable. Cory Hathaway, founder of Appleton-based furniture, consignment and retail store, Milo Milo, says investing in a few statement pieces is a good compromise.

"Less is more as far as accessories," she says. "I'd rather have one wonderful and unique point of interest than 10 so-so pieces."

## MAKE IT MEANINGFUL

One surefire way to appease both individuals in a relationship is to design a space that's meaningful to each. Katie Hoffman of Oshkosh worked with Bellwether Interior Design to create her dining room which now serves as a tribute to both her and her husband's families.



"I inherited my great-grandmother's dining room set after she passed away recently," Hoffman says. "Bellwether distressed it, painted it and made it more causal. They also made a photo wall, kind of a collage of both our families, so now it has meaning for [my husband] too."

Incorporating family heirlooms from both sides helps add a personal touch to your design aesthetic as well as honor both people in a relationship.

"For our kids to have all their great-grandparents on the wall is really special," she says. "The design helped us create a shared meaning."

## ECLECTIC INVASION

One way to spruce up a space lies in catching and maintaining interest from soon-to-be jealous admirers. A quick and easy way to achieve this is through diversifying the decor. Hathaway suggests mismatching accent pieces to take a room from drab to debonair.

"I have a love for antiques and all nostalgia," Hathaway says. "What we like to do at Milo Milo is marry old with new."

Reclaimed materials are a great way to add a touch of old-world charm to your modern space. Whether it's a barn wood table or a dresser designed from old pinewood, bringing resources back to life can add drama to a room. Mixing the elegant feel of handmade furniture with the rustic quality of aged wood is a great way to please both genders. Incorporating various textiles, whether bedding or rugs, can help soften furniture with hard lines.

"We're definitely eclectic and I think doing something with a surprise is really what people are leaning towards now-a-days," Hathaway says. "Different textures, different furniture are always of interest."



Photo courtesy of Bellwether Interior Design.

## CREATING ARTFUL AMBIANCE

Splashing an array of framed art to add some distinguishing charisma around your walls is a simple way to revitalize any space. The only obstacle is that it can be difficult for two people to agree on a certain aesthetic. Getting art to accent the room's design rather than vice versa will maintain the overall flow and spark a visual interest sure to please both parties.

"Art is a great element to add to any space, real art is always preferable," Vogt says. "If you can't afford to buy it, make your own!"

Are you a realist but your partner prefers abstract art? Try mixing and matching both to achieve that trendy, eclectic feel.

"When you have a neutral palette on your walls, art can add a pop of color," Vogt says. "Art can also evoke the style of the homeowner, whether it's modern or traditional."

Lighting is another way to subtly or dramatically, depending on your preference, enhance artwork or architecture. Vogt says there are few things more important than lighting when setting a mood.

"Lighting is one of the most important aspects in design," she says. "Whether highlighting a beautiful tile backsplash with under cabinet lighting or using dimmer switches for overhead lighting to set the mood. Without a well designed lighting plan, key design features will not be highlighted."



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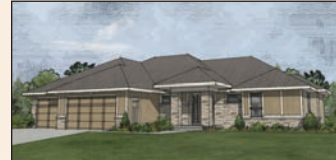
**Bradd W. Syring LLC**  
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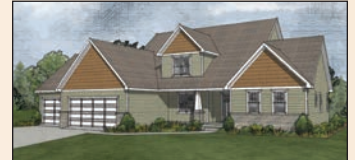
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- For most people, Social Security will not, by itself, provide enough income to live in retirement. This means that one will need to accumulate assets to maintain one's standard of living in retirement.

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# Revamp the Reception

By Amelia Compton Wolff



Photo courtesy of Sound Decision.

*Newly-minted marrieds are bucking tradition by saying sayonara to tired wedding reception conventions (that means you, garter toss). When it comes to contemporary post-ceremony parties, the focus is on each couple's unique style with an emphasis on creating a memorable experience for guests. From roving performers to onsite artists, wedding receptions in 2013 will be filled with unexpected updates.*

## Lounge Appeal

Couples today want their receptions to feel more like an exclusive party rather than a rite of passage. Creating distinct lounge areas is a surefire way to keep the atmosphere lively, inspire movement and add an element of class. Forgoing tall cocktail tables and opting for more intimate seating can help achieve the feel of an urban night club.

"These areas have a feel of something more casual and comfortable with lounge furniture or plush seating, either brought in or provided by the venue," says Samantha Dennis, owner and event stylist at Styled Accordingly in Appleton. "It allows wedding guests to stay and enjoy the entire night."

The Warch Campus Center at Lawrence University in Appleton has caught onto this trend. The Nathan Marsh Pusey Room right off the main reception space, with a Fond du Lac stone fireplace, coffered ceiling and clean lined furniture, can be rented by couples hoping to create that lounge atmosphere.

Lounge areas get guests away from the dinner table, but provide a refuge for those who avoid the dance floor. Some couples will even

incorporate an activity, like a cigar rolling station, within the lounge setting.

"As couples get married later in life, it really allows them to put themselves in the guests' shoes



Warch Campus Center's Nathan Marsh Pusey Room.  
Photo courtesy of Lawrence University.



and remember what they liked and didn't like when they attended weddings," Dennis says.

## Light It Up

"Right now the hottest thing is lighting," says Sue Diehl, owner of Visuelle Productions in New London. "With a remote control, couples can change their venue's ambiance from warm to cool during the reception. It really changes the look and feel."

Brides and grooms are paying attention to every detail of their wedding day, including light design. Besides accentuating architecture and enhancing decor, the right lighting can play a part in keeping guests entertained and engaged.

Daniel Draves, owner of Sound Decision in Menasha, manufactures and rents a lighted dance floor that can turn a standard wedding venue into an instant night club.

The dance floor serves the practical purpose of helping to light the space, but it also encourages interaction as it tends to draw guests toward the action for a closer look.

"We set one up last year at a wedding show and it went over really well," Diehl says of the dance floor. "It helps create a lounge feel that many couples are desiring."

## After-hours Eats

Serving guests a late-night snack not only fuels them through the after-party, it can highlight a couple's personal tastes and traditions. Some couples hire a food truck to park outside their venue and serve departing guests a favorite treat for the road. It's a thoughtful touch

that expands your options beyond your venue's offerings.

"Some venues are limited to their own catering efforts. If what you want isn't their thing, you could have the food truck provide that afterwards," Dennis says.



Not to mention, hiring a mobile food vendor often means shopping local. Kangaroostaurant, Grilled Tease and Jambalayas Authentic Cajun Catering are a few options in the Fox Cities.

"As a society we have become more conscientious about supporting local businesses and that's another way to incorporate a little bit of who you are as well as a local business," Dennis says.

## Unexpected Live Music

Denise Ellenbecker, owner of Elegant by Design in Kaukauna, is finding more of her clients are leaning toward live reception music that ties into their wedding theme or showcases a part of their heritage.



Photo courtesy of Sound Decision.



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"Live music is becoming more popular again and not just at ceremonies," she says. "Couples might use a combination of live music during cocktail hour and a DJ later. I even had a bagpiper at one event."

Set the tone with a mariachi trio, steel drum band or sitarist to give your cocktail hour a distinct flavor. For outside-the-box musical entertainment that's still affordable, Ellenbecker suggests tapping into Lawrence University or UW-Oshkosh student performers.

Local music stores often have employees who also perform on the side, Ellenbecker says, and may be able to provide entertainment that's off the beaten path.

### Interactive Games

Keeping guests entertained throughout the day has become top priority for many wedding couples.

"Contemporary couples are really trying to engage their guests between the ceremony and reception or during cocktail hour with unique, different things," says Casee Meach, sales and marketing director at Branching Out & Company in Appleton.

One way to do this is by offering games for guests of all ages to partake in during downtime while wedding party pictures are typically being taken.



Photos by Kim Thiel Photography.

"We've seen a lot of cool things at summer weddings at North Shore Golf Club [in Menasha]," Meach says. "They have a green space where a couple last year set up bean bags with game boards customized with their wedding logo and monogram and a vintage croquet set."

Personalized games give wedding attendees a glimpse into your life as a couple, in addition to encouraging interaction and mingling between families.

"I think guests enjoy, and are even starting to expect, unusual twists from the standard wedding day," Meach says.



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# Reception Recreation

## Location as Entertainment

Savvy couples are stretching their wedding budget by having their reception venue itself double as the entertainment — think dinner in an airplane hanger at Oshkosh's EAA Museum or the Paine Art Center in Oshkosh where guests can tour the gallery and gardens.



## Fun Food

Get your guests in on the action by offering interactive eats like a build-your-own hot chocolate and s'mores bar. Reconsider a traditional cake and supply guests all the fixings for a customizable sundae station instead. Fox Valley Candy Buffet in Wrightstown can create a high end candy spread for guests to indulge in.

"Food stations gives guests something to do and keeps them moving," Diehl says.

## On-site Artists

Dorsey Entertainment in Appleton is a one-stop-shop for couples looking to spice up their reception entertainment. From caricature artists and belly dancers to mimes and magicians, couples can hire the performer of their dreams to add an element of surprise to their party.



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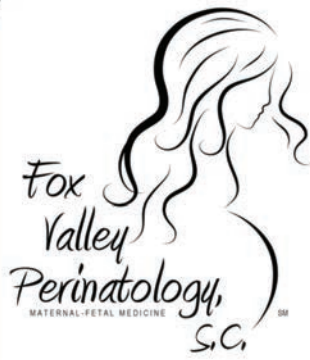


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# CUSTOM CUISINE

By Samantha Zinth



Appetizer plate created by Fratellos chef Sam Pakala. Photo courtesy of Michelle Dillon.

## ***It wasn't just a meal. It was the moment.***

So when Rob and Michelle Dillon of Appleton sat down to dinner at Fratellos in August, things had to be perfect.

Expecting their first child in December 2012, the Dillons wanted to do something special to unveil their baby's gender. Something intimate. Something out-of-the-ordinary. And something inherently personal to them.

"I remember thinking that there had to be a more meaningful and memorable way than finding out in the doctor's office," Rob recalls. "I wanted something more romantic, something more representative of who we are... it was such a big moment."

The Dillons, like many Fox Cities foodies, are looking to creative cuisine as a means to customize their special occasions. They're relying on the expertise of local restaurants and chefs to make their mouthwatering vision a delectable reality.

## **Gender Reveal**

To help deliver their expectations, the Dillons worked with Fratellos chef Sam Pakala to create a custom five-course menu that would reveal the gender of their unborn baby. Each course was a

culinary adventure and fact-finding mission, offering subtle clues on whether they could expect a boy or a girl.

"It wouldn't be a very fun meal if everything was revealed on the first course," says Pakala. "We tried to create an element of suspense... things that could suggest either gender at the beginning."

For the first course, Fratellos crafted two non-alcoholic martinis—one pink and one blue—followed by an appetizer plate containing crab cakes, ahi tuna lollipops and a cheese platter.



Michelle and Rob Dillon

"The appetizer plate drove us crazy," Michelle recalls. "Ahi tuna is pink... it must be a girl! But there's bleu cheese... it must be a boy! It was fun to pick apart the mix of appetizers to try and guess what he was telling us."

For the third course, the Dillons were served a mixed green salad tossed in a very light pink raspberry vinaigrette—so subtle they barely noticed it until the waitress came to take their plates away.

"There was just the tiniest trace of pink left on the bottom of our plates," says Michelle. "We just sort of looked at each other like 'do you think?'"

All was revealed shortly thereafter though, when waitress Joy Laczny served them the definitive course: bright pink bowls of strawberry soup.

"We were certain we were having a boy," Michelle says. "To see the vivid pink was such a shock!"

The Dillons rounded out the meal with their

favorite course—pink salmon over orzo with raspberry coulis—as well as a dessert plate covered with fresh raspberries and strawberries.

Although the concept was their idea, the Dillons credit Pakala for giving them the dining experience of their dreams.

"We considered a couple of different restaurants, but many of them didn't understand what we were looking for," Rob recalls. "Sam really got our vision. He'd recently had a baby girl of his own, so that emotion and excitement was fresh in his mind."

## **Rustic Wedding**

A traditional ballroom wedding reception with a nondescript chicken dish for dinner didn't appeal to Appleton couple Lee Snodgrass and Christoph Wahl. So in planning their 2012 nuptials, the pair sought to do something a little more unique.

After securing the perfect, one-of-a-kind location—a rustic Sherwood-area barn with unfinished wood floors—the couple knew they needed a specialized menu to match, but they didn't want just any caterer, nor the standard banquet menu that accompanies most wedding receptions.

"We wanted a menu that would fit the setting—casual, local, unpreserved, homegrown, and, of course, high quality," Snodgrass says. "We wanted to plan around what was in season and available."

Their search for something fresh and delicious led them right to the Fox Valley's own "cookery on wheels," Kangaroostaurant. The mobile food truck has made quite a name for itself since coming on the scene in 2011, producing inventive, high-quality fare using local ingredients whenever possible.

"They were a natural partner for what we were looking for," Snodgrass says. "They got our vision almost immediately."

The soon-to-be-marrieds worked with Kangaroostaurant to create an entirely custom





Custom cupcakes by Kangaroostaurant.  
Photo by Tobin Campbell.

co-owner of Kangaroostaurant. "It's such an honor to become a part of the celebration in such an intimate way."

### Tween Scene

In planning her daughter's twelfth birthday party, Sarah Carney wanted to do something special.

"It's a big birthday," Carney recalls. "No longer a little girl, not yet a teenager. I wanted to do something age-appropriate that would really reflect her and her interests."

So Carney partnered with Sarah Zimmerman of BAKE Cupcakery & Catering in Appleton to create some sweet treats that would encompass her daughter's transition into young adulthood. Inspired by the recent remodel of Jasmin's bedroom, Carney crafted a birthday party concept that evolved around her daughter's blossoming sense of self—and burgeoning sense of style.

"Jasmin's at the age where she wants to assert who she is and who she wants to become," Carney says. "She's so creative and she loves to express herself, so we came up with the idea for a 'tween glamour girl' party... lots of bold colors, glitz, sparkle and fun!"

What resulted was the ultimate girls night, including manicures and pedicures, a fashion show, and, of course, cupcakes. Drenched in bold colors and encrusted with edible sugar gems,

Zimmerman's custom cupcakes distilled the essence of the celebration into a delectable and memorable dessert.

"The cupcakes were the centerpiece for the entire event," Carney says. "They were the first thing the girls noticed when they walked in... they set the tone for the rest of the evening."



Photo courtesy of BAKE Cupcakery & Catering.

menu, including pork belly sliders with haystack onions and razorback rib sauce, chicken salad pate a choux (think savory éclairs), and vegan curry with jasmine rice. The staff at Kangaroostaurant also incorporated several small, personalized touches for the couple, such as pickled veggies (the groom's favorite) and cured meats presented on wooden serving boards, handcrafted by the groom himself.

"This is the best part of what we do," says Kelly Barnes,



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## ask Chef Jeff

Have a culinary question? Send us an email or go to our website and click on Your Input.

**Q.** My wife says you aren't supposed to wash mushrooms with water, but wipe off the dirt with a brush or towel. I don't think they get clean without a good rinse. Who is right? —Javier, Appleton

**A.** It's really uncomfortable for me to get in the middle of a debate between a husband and wife. I'd feel terrible to be responsible for a divorce! So, when it comes to washing or not washing mushrooms, let's say you're both right!

Mushrooms are a very wet vegetable, with some sources listing them as high as 93 percent moisture. So if you think about it, they really can't absorb much more moisture than they already contain. Most



professional cooks wash their mushrooms, but they also observe a few cautionary rules in the process. One rule is that they rinse or wash them very quickly with cold water. By rinsing or washing them quickly, they are exposed to water for a very short time and thus will absorb a minimal

amount of water, if any at all. Another rule is to only rinse or wash your mushrooms right before you plan to use them. This will help the mushrooms to maintain their freshness as long as possible. Once they are rinsed or washed with water, they will begin to deteriorate rapidly.

The use of a brush or a towel is an acceptable way of cleaning mushrooms, as long as you can remove all the soil that is attached to them. Mushrooms are grown in soil that usually contains a high concentration of manure, so you'll want to get them cleaned thoroughly. I can't imagine wanting to have manure as a "secret ingredient!"

Javier, I hope you and your spouse can accept that in this case, you are both right!

*Chef Jeffrey Igel is the chair of the Culinary Arts & Hospitality Department at Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton. "Chef Jeff" has spent his entire career in the restaurant and hospitality industry, serving in many capacities.*

## DRINK OF THE MONTH

Recipe courtesy of:  
Gameday Sports Bar,  
Darboy

Simple, yet tasty, this ladies night favorite is the go-to drink for those who request "something fruity." The drink was born when bartender Jeremy Jonen grabbed two of the fruitiest liquors he could think of and mixed them with cranberry juice. The concoction quickly spread and is now asked for by name. "Can I have a Pango please?"



### PANGO

1 oz Malibu Passion Fruit rum  
1 oz Malibu Mango rum  
Cranberry juice

Fill a pint or highball glass with ice. Pour both liquors over ice and top with cranberry juice. Garnish with your favorite fresh fruit.

## DEATH ROW DINNERS

**S.A.L.T., a De Pere restaurant** which opened late last year, specializes in modern comfort food — locally-sourced recreations of the dishes nearest and dearest to our hearts such as gravy fries, macaroni and cheese and meatloaf.



One of the clever ways comfort food can be realized is through S.A.L.T.'s Death Row Dinners. At these dinners, the chef team creates a multi-course tasting menu around one diner's most epic list of (hypothetical) last meal requests.

"As chefs, we always talk about this when we get together. What would you eat and drink at your last meal?"

Chef Ben Raupp says. "The idea is to make it as personal as possible, maybe based off childhood favorites or places you've traveled to."

One of the restaurant's U-shaped bars makes a perfect communal dining space for up to 20 people and is the setting for these customized meals. From a swanky cocktail party to passed family-style dishes, Raupp says diners can also choose the method in which their Death Row Dinner is served.

Diners interested in walking the plank can contact S.A.L.T. to begin planning their final feast.

## Getting Personal


Options may abound in creating custom cuisine, but where's a Fox Cities foodie to start? Chefs and clients agree that understanding your own expectations is the most important step in the process.

"Knowing the general tone of the event and broadly what you're looking for is immensely helpful," Pakala says. "This includes things to avoid, like food allergies, as well as must-haves that will help personalize the occasion."

With a firm understanding of your own expectations, you're better equipped to find the chef or caterer who can help you achieve your unique vision. Don't feel bound by the standard menu—talk openly about creating things that are meaningful to you and your celebration.

"It never hurts to ask," Rob advises. "In our experience, the chef was so excited to be creative and try something new."

In any adventure, culinary or otherwise, perhaps the most important advice is to sit back and enjoy the ride. Try not to micro-manage the process, and let the experts do what they do best: cook.

"My best advice is to be open-minded," Snodgrass says. "Don't be afraid to put your trust in someone else's hands and try something different." 

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**Cena** 125 E. College Ave., Appleton 830-7820. Cena of Appleton is charming downtown Appleton with its contemporary interior and fine, locally-sourced cuisine. The casual eatery features a weekly fresh-never frozen fish special. Enjoy intimate live performances of jazz, blues and other musical genres each and every weekend, for which they won FOX CITIES Magazine's Golden Fork Award for Best Live Entertainment! Relax with a local beer on tap or homemade red sangria. Kitchen hours: Tu-Th, 5-9pm; F & Sa, 5-10pm. [cenarestaurant.net](http://cenarestaurant.net)

**Grand Meridian** 2621 N. Oneida St., Appleton. 968-2621. Grand Meridian is the place to be for Sunday brunch! Our legendary brunch buffet is served every Sunday morning from 9:30am to 1:30pm. The buffet features full breakfast selections and entrees such as our fabulous broasted chicken, baked haddock, sage dressing, breakfast meats, scrambled eggs, pancakes and cheesy hash browns along with a fresh salad and dessert bar. Reservations are recommended for groups of 8 or more. [www.thegrandmeridian.com](http://www.thegrandmeridian.com)

**Van Abel's of Hollandtown** 8108 Cty. Hwy. D, Kaukauna. 766-2291. A Valley & Green Bay favorite since 1848, Van Abel's is located 12 miles from Hwy. 441 and five miles east of Kaukauna on Cty. Rd CE. Featuring a large menu and serving fish fries Tu-F. All-you-can-eat broasted chicken served Tu-Sa evening and all day Sunday. We also have banquet facilities and private rooms for 50 to 500+ to serve your party, wedding or business engagement. Does the party need to be at your place? If so, call our catering service for carryout. See what the Valley has been raving about for more than 160 years. Tu-Th & Sa, 4:30-9pm; F, 11am-1pm & 4-9:30pm; Su, 11am-8pm. [www.vanabels.com](http://www.vanabels.com)

**Vince Lombardi's Steakhouse** 333 W. College Ave., Appleton. 733-8000. Located inside the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel. Honored with the NFL's Most Valuable Property (MVP) Award in 2009. Extraordinary Steaks, Superb Wines and Legendary Service. Enjoy world-class dining set among Coach Lombardi's personal memorabilia and photos. Experience a commitment to excellence in food and service that is commensurate with the standards of our namesake. The award-winning restaurant features extraordinary USDA prime cuts of beef and a wine list that Wine Spectator Magazine has named "one of the most outstanding in the world." [vincelombardisteakhouse.com](http://vincelombardisteakhouse.com)

**Zuppas** 1540 S. Commercial St., Neenah (in the Shops at Mahler Farm, next to Copps Food Center). 720-5045. Our top-flight chef team led by Chef Peter Kuenzi, urban cafeteria setting, and penchant for local ingredients ensure that your food is creative, fresh and ready fast. For breakfast, lunch and dinner, Zuppas Café offers chef-prepared soups, sandwiches, salads and more. Enjoy handcrafted pastries and desserts with coffee or take home a variety of prepared salads and entrees from our deli. Zuppas Green Room is perfect for intimate weddings, rehearsal dinners, meetings, family gatherings, and birthday parties. M-F, 8am-8pm; Sa, 11am-3pm; closed Su. Visit [zuppas.com](http://zuppas.com) for daily specials.

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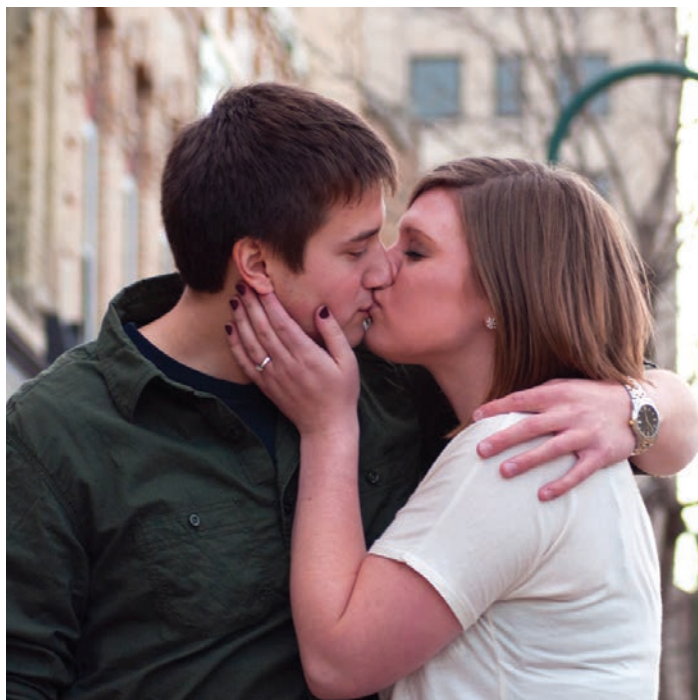
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