

Creative 360 Inaugurates New Partnerships in 2010

What: Classes and event highlights at Creative 360 in Midland, January – April 2010

Where: Creative 360 (formerly Creative Spirit Center) at 1517 Bayliss in Midland.

For more information: Call (989) 837-1885 after January 4th, or visit www.becreative360.org any time.

Midland -- Creative 360's winter/spring 2010 offerings welcome some vibrant new groups to the building at 1517 Bayliss Street in Midland, and continue the center's popular wellness suite. Underscoring its interest in left brain/right brain arts education, the center offers a series of free activities for all ages during Brain Awareness Week, March 15 – 21.

Highlights:

On February 1, Creative 360 inaugurates a partnership with the **Flying Pig Theatre Academy**, an initiative of Meta4, founded in 2009 by Darcy McMahon, Kristina Pilnik, Denyse Clayton, and Christine Brillhart of Midland. Flying Pig's 14-week series in theatre experiences for 7–14-year-olds integrates many different arts in a curriculum that includes improvisation, pantomime, and stage design. Classes are taught by **Denyse Clayton** and **Kristiina Pilnik**, who have extensive experience locally and abroad in planning, teaching and directing children's and adult performing arts.

Midland's popular "Mrs. Santa," Bonnie McManus, leads a **Grandparents' Camp** on March 16, from 6.30 – 9 pm. Participants will learn how to hold their own "camp" for grandchildren. First rule: no parents allowed! Craft projects, mystery field trips and making memories included.

On Shakespeare's birthday, April 23, and on April 24, Midland's new **Restoration Theatre Group**, directed by Carol Rumba, presents Shakespeare's "The Tempest" in the Creative 360 gallery, amidst the installation of Rosalind Berlin's fiber forest. Dana Fey, one of the group's founders, says "Three friends – Marissa Martin, Christina Westbury and I – bound together by a seriously geeky love for theater and history, formed Restoration Theatre Group in the summer of 2009 with a mission of providing an opportunity for individual participation in, and growth from, exposure to historical theater. We look forward to the artistic, literary, and cultural growth of production participants and audiences from Midland and the surrounding communities, through the process of exposure to and interpretation of great historical works. "

Opening on April 29 is an art exhibit of jeans painted by local teens in a show of **Traveling Pants**, with the theme of R-E-S-P-E-C-T in male-female relationships. This exhibit is offered in partnership with Shelterhouse, to mark Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April. Traveling Pants was envisioned by Midland's Jo Winchester after she experienced the work of arts educator Nancy Raia at the Eastern Shore Art Center in Mobile, Alabama. And on April 22, Earth Day, the **Eco-Chic Fashion Show**, inaugurated at Creative 360 in 2008, will showcase talented young designers in runway modeling of wearables made from recyclable materials.

Art exhibits:

Three Women: Color, Wit, and Imagination. The art of Chris Erskine, Lisa Owen, and Molly Warren-Haycock will be on exhibit January 8 – February 24. Exhibit visits and a public reception at 7 pm on January 15 are free to the public. A members-only reception with the artists will be held on January 13 at 7 pm.

Outsider artist Chris Erskine is known for her shrines/*nichos* (*retablos*). Her assemblages use religious and pop images framed in objects such as cigar boxes and lozenge tins. Lisa Owen's instantly recognizable art features fascinating portraits of women, using unorthodox colors to capture an array of emotions and moods. Molly Warren-Haycock often paints both the front and the back of the canvas, because there is more than one side to every story. Molly finds humor in everything she does; in her art, making light of a serious situation is a way of making it more tolerable.

Growing Green in the Forest Glen, an installation by fiber artist Rosalind Berlin of Saginaw, is on exhibit March 5 – April 23. Exhibit visits and a public reception at 7 pm on March 5 are free to the public. A members-only reception with the artist will be held on March 4 at 7 pm.

In this exhibit, over 200 woven trees take root in the gallery at Creative 360. Berlin has been hand-weaving her forest for over 30 years. It began as an inspiration to weave a tree for the doorway of her young son's room in response to the book "Where the Wild things Are." Once she started weaving trees, she did not stop. Berlin says that the magic and mystery of the woven forest has awakened in her a desire to protect and preserve the natural environment that we have inherited, and that she hopes visitors to the installation will be similarly inspired. Several special events will take place in the woven forest during March and April, including Forest Glen Gatherings -- Reading among the Roots. Every Monday from 10 am to noon, March 8 – April 19, parents and caregivers are invited to bring in their charges and read to them.

Events:

Art Sweetheart Luncheon honoring Ruby Iwamasa

Each year since 2003, Creative 360 has honored a mid-Michigan arts advocate who has made significant contributions through exceptional vision, leadership, and commitment to the arts. The Honor Roll of Art Sweethearts includes Dorothy Yates, Virginia (Ginny) Morrison, Barbara Prince-Sovereign, Sally Moss, Judy Rapanos and Nancy Barker of Midland and Janet I. Martineau of Saginaw. This year, Ruby Iwamasa of Midland has been named Art Sweetheart. The event is a fundraiser for Creative 360, with registration of \$45 due by February 9th. The luncheon is 11.30 am – 1 pm, Friday, February 12, in the Creative 360 gallery.

Blue Tears in Concert

On Friday, February 5, B.B. Winslow, Jerry Meier, Kris Curtis, and John Tree give a performance without borders, fusing raw blues, rock 'n' roll and country with soaring, twanging guitars and a powerful rhythm section. Winslow says, "We bring our audience great music of remarkable yet lesser-known songwriters, including members of the band."

Dow High School and Jefferson Middle School Jazz Bands and Vocal Groups -- 3rd Annual Jazz it Up! Concert

Award-winning performers from Dow High include two jazz bands and La Voz, a contemporary *a cappella* jazz ensemble. Jefferson brings to the stage their jazz band, Vocal Showcase, and jazz choir. Friday, April 30 at 6.30 pm.

Spring Artist Luncheon with Jim Hohmeyer

Well-loved Midland musician Jim Hohmeyer is honored at an April 28 luncheon, where he will talk about his creative process and career highlights, including his accomplishments as singer, performer, teacher, composer, conductor, and musical director. Jim will have recently returned from a concert tour with the Hollywood Concert Orchestra, "A Night at the Oscars with Shirley Jones." Plenty of music is on the agenda. This is a fundraising event for Creative 360, with \$45 registration due by April 19th.

Brain Awareness Week / March 15 – 21:

Creative 360 joins a worldwide celebration of the human brain with free events for all ages. In learning about the brain, we get to know the raw material of our creativity. Information about Brain Awareness Week is at <http://www.sfn.org/BAW>. Visit www.Dana.org to sign up for free publications in lay language about new discoveries in neuroscience.

Babies	Sensations in the Forest Glen. Any time the gallery is open.
Ages 3 – 5	How big is your brain? What does it feel like? Saturday, March 20 / 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Ages 6 – 12	Neuroscience for Kids – Activities and games to help you learn about the nervous system. Monday, March 15 / 10:00 – 11:00 am
Ages 13 – 17	Brain Bee – Are you brain-savvy? Friday, March 19 / 3:00 – 4:30 pm
Adults	Xponential – Free creative play in the art of your choice. Friday, March 19 / 10:00 am – noon and 1:00 – 3:00 pm

All Brain Awareness Week activities are free but require pre-registration 7 days in advance.

Wellness Classes

For those who want to maintain the health benefits of fitness and agility, the popular series in yoga, tai chi, nia, and belly dancing for all ages and all fitness levels continue. Wilma Carter, Janet Love, Jan Fromhold, Stephanie Ciriha, and the Belly Dance Divas lead classes beginning on January 5th. Details can be viewed at www.becreative360.org/classes.htm.

About Creative 360

Creative 360, formerly known as Creative Spirit Center, is a not-for-profit community arts and wellness organization founded in 1994. The Center's mission is to create an environment for people of all ages to experience the creative process through ongoing classes, art exhibits, events, concerts, speakers and outreach programs; and its goal is to enhance the development of physical, mental and spiritual wellness through the arts and humanities. Visit

www.becreative360.org for more information about the winter roster at Creative 360, or call (989) 837-1885 to request a mailed copy.

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