

Artstline

Spring 2010

Director's Notes

The Irish playwright, George Bernard Shaw, once wrote: "I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can."

In my first three months as DAC's executive director, I've seen a revitalization of community members who have stepped up to ensure that the **DAC is back!** I want to thank some special people who've helped make this happen:



Thank you, Don and Judy Hayes.

Judy and Don Hayes are remarkable people, who, when I first met them, told me they moved here from Austin, Texas because of the Durango Arts Center. They recently made a \$25,000 unrestricted donation to ensure that the DAC could continue to keep its doors open for those who love the arts, and they have also volunteered to help with continuing fundraisers and to bring new people to the DAC community.

Mary Lyn and Richard Ballantine have matched the Hayes' contribution and agreed to be part of the partnership to raise more money and instill in people the added value the Durango Arts Center brings to our community. The Ballantines are stalwarts in our region for reaching out and helping so many nonprofits, and they understand the importance of the arts and have been an integral part of the Durango Arts Center for years.

Jeannie and Steve Wheeldon are two others who are reaching out to the DAC. When contractual agreements could not be fulfilled with the Wheeldots for the purchase of the Melodrama, they agreed to figure out how to make things work for the DAC. They have renegotiated a new contract that the DAC can fulfill. Jeannie, a nationally known theater director and producer, will also do some productions in the future at the DAC.

Community supporters Laurie and Rod Barker also want to help. When the Henry Strater Theater decided to produce a melodrama this summer, the Barkers wanted to ensure this did not hurt the DAC in any way. A partnership was developed to co-op on ticket sales at both venues. Rod and Laurie have also made a significant donation to further their commitment and support.

Diane Panelli, past president of the DAC board and volunteer extraordinaire, has donated significant funds and continues to volunteer over 40 hours of her time each week. She is one of the most singular board members I have ever worked with. Diane also matched a donation from Christina Erteszek and Fritz Geisler, two others who are part of the DAC community.

The board of directors, under the competent leadership of president Terry Swan, is a true working board, and every one of our board members is doing some heavy lifting and supporting me in every possible way. Special hugs to Scott Hagler who stepped up during tumultuous times to provide leadership for the DAC. The three staff members who hung in there during the darkest hours, Jeannie Berger, Caitlin Connaughton-Cross and Leah Shelley, define the very best of what you want from employees.

Lastly, people are recognizing that the Durango Arts Center receives the majority of its funding from memberships and donations. Unlike other organizations, we do not receive federal, state, county or city funds. While we do get grants, these are usually earmarked for specific programs. However, I'm amazed, as we focus on doubling our membership, at all the people who are helping us with this goal. Again, thank you to everyone who is making the Durango Arts Center what the early founders always envisioned—a place to serve all people who love the arts!

Sheri Rochford Figgs
Executive Director

A Message from the Board President

Could you afford to give your Durango Arts Center 10 cents every time you use your debit card? Can you imagine how much money the DAC would collect in a year if every one of our over 500 active members gave this donation each time he or she made a debit card transaction? Can you imagine the increased programming we could support in our gallery, in local elementary schools and in after-school and weekend programs and events? I can imagine this because it could happen! Alpine Bank is offering the Durango Arts Center the opportunity to participate in its Loyalty Check Card program. Here's how it works: when DAC members open an Alpine Bank checking account, they can sign up for the Alpine Bank VISA debit card and specify their preference for the Alpine Bank Arts Card. The bank will donate 10 cents per transaction to the Arts Card every time they use their debit cards. Wow! I already have my VISA Arts Debit Card, and I get a secret thrill every time I use it knowing I'm earning money for the DAC. Please consider taking advantage of this special offer. I did, and I'm glad! Sign up for the VISA Arts Debit Card so that you too can start earning money for your Durango Arts Center.

Terry Swan
DAC Board President

Always...Patsy Cline Comes to the DAC

Always...Patsy Cline opens on the DAC theater's stage June 11 and will continue playing every weekend through September 18. The musical play, complete with down-home country humor, true emotion and even some audience participation, includes a repertoire of Patsy's unforgettable hits such as "Crazy," "Sweet Dreams," "I Fall to Pieces" and "Walking after Midnight" ...27 songs in all.



Always...Patsy Cline is more than a tribute to the legendary country singer who died tragically at the age of 30. The show is based on a real story about Cline's friendship with Louise Seger, a fan from Houston, who befriended the star in a Texas honky-tonk in 1961. The show's title was inspired by Cline's letters to Seger, which were consistently signed "Love Always...Patsy Cline."

DAC's production will star actress and singer Traci Lyn Thomas, who has appeared in over 25 professional theater productions all over the United States. She starred as Fantine in a national tour of *Les Miserables* and last year delighted audiences as Annie in Sandstone Production's *Annie Get Your Gun* in Farmington, New Mexico. Tickets will be available April 1 on line or at the DAC box office. DAC members receive a discount. Get your tickets early — *Patsy* always sells out!

Thank You, Volunteers

In 2009, volunteers at the Durango Arts Center gave over 6000 hours to the continuing and daily operation of the organization. The Independent Sector, a coalition of corporations, foundations and private voluntary organizations that works to strengthen America's nonprofit organizations, estimates the dollar value of volunteer time at \$20.25 per hour. Based on this figure and the number of hours reported by DAC's volunteers last year, this represents an in-kind donation of \$121,500. These figures are useful for a number of purposes and also recognize the tremendous support given by volunteers to the organization.

As astonishing as these numbers are, in addition to staff, it realistically takes as many as 800 to 1000 volunteer hours a month to keep the doors open and to conduct the DAC's many programs and events. Your help is always welcome, and you are invited to join the team. Call Jeannie at 259-2606, write jeannie@durangoarts.org or check the web site under "DAC Needs You! — Volunteer" for more information.

Grant Writer Needed! If you would be able to help with grant writing on a volunteer basis, please let us know!