

Rotary Arts Minute for 4/8/2024 Information provided by the FREE EVENTS



[Bonnie Jo Campbell Exhibit @ Kalamazoo Valley Museum](#)

January 20 - Jun 30, 2024

Presented by [Kalamazoo Valley Museum](#), 230 North Rose Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49003

Award-winning local author Bonnie Jo Campbell brings her history, as well as many personal items from her writing world to the Kalamazoo Valley Museum in a mini-exhibit that showcases “What It Means to Be a Hometown Writer.” Bonnie was born in 1962 in Comstock, Michigan, and grew up on a small farm with her mother, Susanna, and four siblings (and neighbors and cousins) in a house her grandfather Herlihy built in the shape of an H. Her first collection of stories, *Women & Other Animals*, won the Grace Paley Prize in 1999, and her book *Q Road* was a Barnes & Noble Best New Writers selection. Her next novel, *American Salvage*, was a National Book Award Finalist and won a National Book Critics Circle award. *Once Upon a River*, released in 2011, was a national bestseller now published in nine languages and has been adapted to film. Her new novel, *The Waters*, takes place in a Southwest Michigan swamp and was chosen for Oprah’s list of Most Anticipated Books of 2024, the *Saturday Evening Post* Ten Reads for the New Year, and the Apple Books List. The exhibit, through photos, awards, souvenirs from her travels, and other items, showcases her work as well as her inspirations for writing.



[Washington Ave Arts+Culture Crawl \(WAACC\) April 13](#)

Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 02:00 pm

Presented by [Edison Neighborhood Association](#) at Edison Neighborhood, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Hosted by the Edison Neighborhood Association (ENA) and its partners, this project aligns with the ENA’s mission to enhance the quality of life for its residents through place-making efforts involving arts, culture, and the environment. Audiences and artists alike are able to showcase and express themselves through this free, community-focused, family-friendly event. People of all backgrounds and skills are encouraged to participate. This includes underground, amateur, and under-represented artists in all mediums with a focus on welcoming culturally diverse and historically excluded populations such as black, indigenous, people of color and the queer community.

Participating partners and venues include:

Move With Joy Dance School

Fire Historical & Cultural Arts Collective

812 Gallery

SugarBowl Bar & Grille

Open-Air Space at WashCam Junction

Jerico Creative Community

Clover Room

ModeShift

Questions? email WAACC Program Director Eana Agopian: eana@edisonneighborhood.com

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[Southwest Michigan Makers Network meetup](#)

Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 3:00 pm

Presented by [Serendipity Spot](#) and [Kzoo Makers](#) at 1102 E. Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI 49048

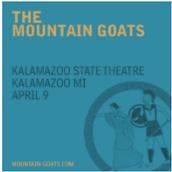
The Southwest Michigan Makers Network meetup will be held twice a month on Sunday from 3-5 pm. You will have a chance to introduce yourself and a maker-related topic, then mingle and participate in a group activity. Bring a project if you have one you'd like to share.

You are invited to come down and see who is in your network. Connect on

Discord <https://discord.gg/mT86YZXm33>

Looking forward to seeing you there!

MUSIC



[The Mountain Goats](#)

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 8:00 pm

Presented by [Kalamazoo State Theatre](#) at [Kalamazoo State Theatre](#), 404 S. Burdick, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Doors: 7:00PM | Show: 8:00PM

Get ready for an electrifying night at the Kalamazoo State Theatre, as we proudly present the legendary indie rock sensation, The Mountain Goats, on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Prepare to be swept away by the vibrant energy and unique sound that have catapulted The Mountain Goats to the forefront of the indie music scene. Experience The Magic of The Mountain Goats:

For decades, The Mountain Goats have enchanted the music world with their distinct blend of narrative songwriting and evocative melodies. At the helm is John Darnielle, a visionary artist whose lyrical prowess has garnered a passionate and devoted fanbase. The band's ability to tell stories through music has set them apart in the indie rock genre, earning them not just fans but avid followers.

Their latest album, "Jenny from Thebes," is a testament to their evolving artistry. This narrative-rich album offers a deep dive into themes of individuality, societal norms, and the quest for resilience. With its lush soundscapes and poignant lyrics, the album marks a significant chapter in The Mountain Goats' ongoing musical journey.

Event Highlights:

When: Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Doors Open: 7:00 PM

Show Begins: 8:00 PM

Where: Kalamazoo State Theatre, 404 S. Burdick St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007



[Home Free: Crazy\(er\) Life Tour](#)

Friday, April 12, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Presented by [Kalamazoo State Theatre](#), 404 S. Burdick, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Doors: 6:30PM | Show: 7:30PM

The Kalamazoo State Theatre welcomes country vocal group **Home Free** back to their historic stage Friday, April 12, 2024.

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All-vocal Country entertainers Home Free have made their mark on the music scene, racking up nearly 600,000 album equivalents globally; embarking on major international tours; amassing 630+ MILLION views and over 1.6-MILLION Subscribers on YouTube; and being declared “Country music fans’ favorite a cappella group” (*Taste of Country*). In 2023, they continue a global tour in support of their most recent studio album, *So Long Dixie*, (released November 2022) and will embark on their *Home Free for the Holidays* tour this Winter. *SO LONG DIXIE* vaulted to the top spot of the Billboard Charts for Country Album Sales and Independent Album Sales in its release week, topping some of the biggest names in country music. The release extends their run of Top-5 Billboard Country chart appearances total to 7 in the last 6 years. The 2023 holiday tour will showcase songs off previous albums, including *WARMEST WINTER* (2020, Home Free Records), which features 12 festive staples, memorable collaborations and Home Free originals – all guaranteed to get you in the holiday spirit. With praise rolling in from the likes of *Billboard*, *Rolling Stone*, *FOX & Friends* and *American Songwriter* the extraordinary showmen have continued to build a loyal fanbase with their harmony-laden versions of hits by John Mayer, Blake Shelton, Keith Urban, Maren Morris, the Oak Ridge Boys, and more. Join us for a perfect evening mixed with upbeat, Nashville-dipped pop hits, country and western standards, incredible harmony, and quick-witted humor.



[An Evening of Opera | Kalamazoo Symphony](#)

Friday, Apr 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Presented by [Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra](#) at Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites Arcadia Ballroom, 100 W Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

An Evening of Opera | Symphony Fundraising Dinner

Savor the sounds of captivating arias with singers from *Tosca* and operatic favorites by musicians from the Kalamazoo Symphony. During this three-course, candlelit dinner, YOU will have the opportunity to choose the music of the night in the Auction of Arias: your bid determines which soaring melodies will be brought to life. One-of-a-kind KSO experiences, only available to those in attendance, will be up for grabs throughout the night. Every ticket guarantees a night of incredible music while supporting the vital role of music education and the magic of live symphonic music in our community. All tickets are \$125 per person.



[JJ GREY & MOFRO: The Olustee Tour](#)

Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 8:00 pm

Presented by [Kalamazoo State Theatre](#), 404 S. Burdick, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Doors: 6:00PM | Show: 7:00PM

Kalamazoo State Theatre is thrilled to announce an electrifying evening with the celebrated rock group, JJ Grey & Mofro. The event is set for Wednesday, March 27, 2024 with special guest Judith Hill. Fans can get early access to tickets during an online-only local presale happening this coming Thursday, November 9. General public ticket sales begin on Friday, November 10, at 10 AM.

About JJ Grey & Mofro

From his early days playing cover music behind chicken wire at a west side Jacksonville juke joint while still working at a lumberyard, to playing sold-out shows at some of the largest venues and music festivals in the world, JJ Grey has always delivered his soul-honest truths. Since his first album, *Blackwater*, back in 2001, Grey has been releasing deeply moving, masterfully written, funkified rock and front porch Southern soul music.

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Now, with *Olustee* – his tenth album and first in eight years, and the first he has self-produced – Grey is back, singing his personal stories with universal themes of redemption, rebirth, hard luck, and inner peace. With his music, Grey also celebrates good times with friends, oftentimes mixing the carnal with the cerebral in the very same song. Fueled by his vividly detailed, timeless original songs spun from his life experiences, Grey’s gritty baritone drips with honest passion and testifies with a preacher’s foot-pounding fervor. With *Olustee*, JJ Grey has once again pushed the boundaries of his own creative musical, lyrical and vocal talents, delivering an instant classic. Many of the songs are steeped in the mythical Southern stories of his ancestral Florida home and filled with people from JJ’s life. The songs are told through the eyes of a poet and sung with pure, unvarnished soul. Grey’s message is simple and strong – respect the natural world and always try to live in the moment. And never forget the importance of having a good time!



[Queensrÿche with special guest Armored Saint](#)

Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 8:00 pm

Presented by [Kalamazoo State Theatre](#), 404 S. Burdick, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Doors: 7:00PM | Show: 8:00PM

The Kalamazoo State Theatre, one of the city’s most storied entertainment landmarks, is excited to announce the upcoming concert featuring the legendary metal band Queensrÿche. Joined by the powerful lineup of Armored Saint, this promises to be a night of intense riffs and epic performances. The event is set for Saturday, April 13th, with doors opening at 7PM. Tickets for this electrifying show will be available starting with an online-only presale on Wednesday at 10 AM, giving the most eager fans a chance to secure their spot ahead of time. General ticket sales will begin on Friday at 10 AM. With ticket prices ranging from \$29.50 to \$49.50, fans are urged to act quickly to witness this iconic band’s visit to Kalamazoo. Queensrÿche, known for their progressive metal sound and groundbreaking albums such as “Operation: Mindcrime” and “Empire,” continues to deliver their signature mix of thought-provoking lyrics and complex musical arrangements. For this performance, the band will be performing their debut EP and critically-acclaimed album “The Warning” in full. They will be taking the stage with Armored Saint, a band that has been at the forefront of the metal scene with their raw, powerful sound since the early 1980s. And for the first time ever, Queensrÿche will be performing both classic releases in their entirety as part of ‘The Origins Tour.’



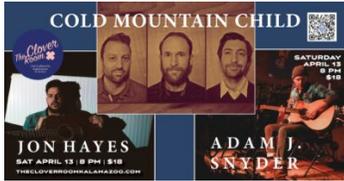
[Kalamazoo Concert Band "Across the Universe" Free Concert](#)

Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Presented by [Kalamazoo Concert Band](#) at [Chenery Auditorium](#), 714 S. Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Just like the universe, our imagination is full of wonder and mystery. It is a vast expanse of uncharted territory, waiting to be explored and discovered. It is a place where anything is possible, where the laws of physics and reality don’t apply. It is a place where we can let our minds run wild and free, and explore the depths of our own potential. But the same can be said of our universe. Such will be the musical journey we take with Astrophysicist Paul Pancella on our final concert of the season. Integrated into this excursion will be the winner of the 2024 Youth Soloist Competition, Julianna Staufer, a Flute player from Kalamazoo.. You’re sure to love this concert to the moon and back!

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[Cold Mountain Child, Jon Hayes, Adam J. Snyder at The Clover Room](#)

Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 8:00 pm

Presented by [The Clover Room](#), 1501 Fulford St, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Cold Mountain Child is a dream-folk trio writing songs inspired by the histories of indie-Americana, shoegaze, lo-fi, psychedelic, and Latin American protest music. Their work explores leaf-to-loam tangles, nightworlds, inner/outer journeys, grief, and nectar of the heart. The first time you hear Kalamazoo-based songwriter Jon Hayes you are immediately reminded of John Mayer. With his soulful tones and storytelling ability reminiscent of Bon Iver and NEEDTOBREATHE, this musician carries an unwavering commitment to authenticity and honesty. He released his first record “Between You & Me,” last year which includes the previously released “Nursery Lie” which garnered 10,000 streams in its first six months and the title track “Between You & Me,” which has been received well by fans and indie-folk playlists alike as well as other acoustic driven tunes. It’s an album that embodies honesty, seeking to drop the facade and opening up about our true thoughts and feelings. He continues to perform across the Midwest month to month and is happy to be coming back to the Clover Room. Adam J. Snyder is a guitarist and songwriter based in Ypsilanti, MI who draws influence from a broad range of folk, rock, and blues artists. Snyder’s original music consists of thoughtful lyrics, soulful melodies and upbeat intricate guitar work.

THEATRE



[SpongeBob SquarePants](#)

Thursday – Sunday, April 5 - 14, 2024 at 2:00 pm (SUN) & 7:30 pm (THURS – SAT)

Presented by [WMU University Theatre](#) at [Western Michigan University - Gilmore Theatre Complex](#), 1921 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008

An exciting new musical featuring irresistible characters and magical music, this deep-sea pearl of a show is set to make a splash with audiences young and old. Plunge into this stunning all-singing, all-dancing, dynamic stage show! When the citizens of Bikini Bottom discover that a volcano will soon erupt and destroy their humble home, SpongeBob and his friends must come together to save the fate of their undersea world. With lives hanging in the balance and all hope lost, a most unexpected hero rises. The power of optimism really can save the world!



[Pants](#)

Friday, April 12, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Presented by [Crawspace Comedy Theatre in Historic First Baptist Church Building](#), 315 W. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

We’re not slacks, and we’re definitely not trousers—but we are Pants! Sewn from friendships made at Crawspace Theatre in Kalamazoo and The Comedy Project in Grand Rapids, Pants formed one leg at a time to deliver on-the-fly comedy that seamlessly combines the absurd, the eclectic—sometimes even letting out the taboo. For a complete improv comedy experience, Pants has got you covered from the waist down. Buckle up!

Show Date: April 12th

Show Time: 7:30-9p

Tickets: \$15

Doors Open: 6:30p

Rotary Arts Minute for 4/8/2024 Information provided by the VISUAL ARTS



[American Realism: Visions of America, 1900-1950](#)

Jan 20, 2024 - Apr 14, 2024 at 11:00 am

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

American Realism: Visions of America, 1900-1950 looks at this period through the paintings, drawings, and prints that sought to capture the new American experience, especially within the nation's burgeoning and rapidly evolving urban centers. Drawing primarily from the collections of three Michigan museums—the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Flint Institute of Arts, and the Muskegon Museum of Art—the show begins in the early 1900s and continues through the 1940s, highlighting artists whose work sought to define the era. The exhibition also explores the contributions of women and artists of color active during this period, to share a deeper look into the stories and lives of those who did not always receive widespread attention during that era.



[Kyungmi Shin: A Story to Finding Us](#)

Jan 20, 2024 - May 12, 2024 at 11:00 am

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Kyungmi Shin: A Story to Finding Us continues the artist's explorations of the historical narratives embedded in painting and ceramic practices flowing between the East and West. For this unique exhibition, Shin selected works from the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts' Chinese ceramics collection.
Sponsors: Joy Light East Asian Art Acquisition and Exhibition Fund



[High School Area Show 2024](#)

Mar 30, 2024 - Apr 28, 2024 at 11:00 am

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Since 1982, the High School Area Show has often been the first opportunity for high school artists throughout Kalamazoo and the surrounding region to enter a juried exhibition and see their artwork on the walls of a museum. Students have the opportunity to win scholarships and prizes. Last year, \$1,776,000 was offered by art schools and colleges throughout the Midwest.

The KIA is proud to support future artistic talent, helping further these high school artists' access to the arts and art education.

The High School Area Show welcomes submissions from high school artists residing in Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren counties. Please email MuseumEd@kiarts.org with any questions.

Rotary Arts Minute for 4/8/2024 Information provided by the



"Hogan-Minded": Race and Place in Georgia O'Keeffe's Southwest

Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#) 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

A native of the DC area and a graduate of Bowdoin College, James Denison recently completed his PhD in Art History at the University of Michigan. During the summer of 2023, he joined the KIA and Kalamazoo College as the Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow.

In a talk drawing on his dissertation research, Denison will argue that past interpretations of Georgia O'Keeffe's New Mexican paintings have obscured her engagement with Southwestern Indigenous cultures. He will highlight the influence of tourist contexts and period racial thinking on her work, describing how it relied upon and perpetuated romantic stereotypes about those cultures circulating within interwar New Mexico and the Manhattan avant-garde. Ultimately, her paintings and writings make clear that she saw the region much as countless others had before: as both deeply informed by the presence and history of its Native peoples and as open, empty, and ripe for claiming.

This ARTful Evening is presented jointly by the KIA and Kalamazoo College. The lecture is free to attend, but preregistration is encouraged!