

Red, White & Blue

Josh Blue, the celebrated comedian who uses his own affliction with cerebral palsy as part of his routine, will perform at Lafayette College's Williams Center for the Arts in Easton at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2016. The event is presented by the Lehigh Valley Arts Council, in cooperation with the Williams Center for the Arts and the Disability Friendly Community, and marks the culmination of Arts & Access, the yearlong celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The program was designed to raise awareness and to assist local arts organizations in serving more individuals with disabilities.

Blue was a winner of NBC's *Last Comic Standing* and is a favorite on the college comedy circuit. He is known for his ability to improvise and to encourage his audience to overcome preconceived notions about people who are labeled as "disabled."

A recent Lehigh Valley Research Consortium survey revealed that more than thirteen percent of the Valley's population has a disability and that this population grows by about three percent per year.

"Josh Blue is the ideal ambassador for greater inclusion," says LVAC Executive Director Randall Forte. "We are overwhelmed at the success of the first

year of Arts & Access, particularly with the enthusiasm of our participating arts organizations."

Since June 14 is also Flag Day, the program has been tagged "Red, White & Blue." Invitations are in the mail to Arts Council members and to the clients of social service agencies with low vision, hearing impairment, autism, and cognitive limitations.

Red, White & Blue will be interpreted by an American Sign Language practitioner and will be audio-described; the printed program will be available in Braille and large-print versions. The Arts Council offers arts groups assistance through training and marketing, and by lending out the special equipment needed for audio description.

As a result of Arts & Access 2015–2016, thirty cultural organizations have teamed with social service agencies over the past year to provide greater accommodation at more than fifty disability-friendly events, including sensory-friendly performances for children with autism, movement classes for Parkinson's patients, and audio-described and open-captioned theatrical performances, lectures, exhibitions, poetry readings, film screenings, and public meetings. As a result of Arts & Access, 589 people with disabilities attended those events, accompanied by 705 family members and friends.

Arts Council Announces Project Stream Grant Workshops

The Lehigh Valley Arts Council is presenting three complimentary workshops in Lehigh, Northampton, and Carbon counties in an effort to support applicants in the planning stages of the 2016–2017 Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA) Project Stream Grant application process.

PPA is a program of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the Project Stream Grant is a critical source of state and federal funding for eligible individuals, community groups, and nonprofit organizations interested in

conducting arts projects with a clear public component. The deadline for submission is June 20, 2016.

"As our region's partner, we have accepted as many as sixty requests in any given year," states Randall Forte, executive director of the Arts Council. Grants have been awarded to a variety of community projects, including exhibitions, films, and performances that impact a wide range of constituents from young children to senior citizens, regardless of ability, ethnicity, culture, or socioeconomic status.

ARTS COUNCIL MATTERS

Keeping Up

Art is all about the new, and artists are keen explorers in search of more ways to express themselves. The Arts Council offers seminars that feed that curiosity and introduce the arts community to new technology and marketing savvy, or give a firsthand glimpse into the creative process. Join us for one of these upcoming and inspiring events. Class size is limited, so register soon at our website, LVArtsCouncil.org.

May 21, 2016: *An Introduction to 3-D Printing.* Presenter Brian Slocum, managing director of Lehigh University Design Labs, will give an overview of this cutting-edge technology and coach you through the design process and your personal creation. Location: Lehigh University, Wilbur Powerhouse Prototyping Lab, Bethlehem. Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fees: LVAC

members pay \$25 plus \$50 lab fee; nonmembers pay \$50 plus \$50 lab fee.

June 25, 2016: *The Personality of a Collection.* Join Bruce and Pamela Loch as they lead you on a private tour of their new Bauhaus-inspired house, designed by well-known architect Larry Berman. The house showcases their collection of oil paintings, watercolors, prints, and bronze and glass sculptures, spanning a twenty-year history of accumulating more than eighty works from around the country. Location: Address in Lower Macungie will be included on your ticket. Time: 10:30 a.m. to noon. Fees: LVAC members pay \$15; nonmembers pay \$25.

July 12, 2016: *Call for Artists: Are You Ready to Answer?* This seminar will guide the emerging artist with instructions on preparing the necessary components of a successful submission, including the right marketing materials and contractual requirements. Presenters are sculptor Dan Kainz and Nicole J. O'Hara, Esq., Gross McGinley. Location: Butz Corporate Center, Second Floor Conference Room, Ninth and Hamilton Streets, Allentown. Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fees: LVAC members pay \$25; nonmembers pay \$45.

Inside the Arts is a bimonthly publication of the Lehigh Valley Arts Council, 840 Hamilton St., Suite 201, Allentown, PA 18101.

Editor-in-Chief: Randall Forte

Call for submission guidelines. News items must be received by the fifth of the month preceding publication.

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Our Mission:

To promote the arts; to encourage and support artists and their development; to assist arts organizations; and to facilitate communication and cooperation among artists, arts organizations, and the community.



The Lehigh Valley Arts Council is a Pennsylvania Partner in the Arts, a program of the PCA.

Grant Workshops *(continued)*

The keys to successfully navigating the Project Stream application process lie in a deeper understanding of content, format, and fiscal expectations set forth by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. By attending one of the following workshops, applicants will gain an understanding of review criteria, suggestions for constructing compelling and comprehensive narratives, and guidance in building detailed project budgets.

Applicants are encouraged to RSVP and attend one of the following workshops:

- May 10, 2016
Lehigh Valley Arts Council
840 Hamilton Street, Allentown
4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.
- May 12, 2016
Anita Shapolsky Art Foundation
20 West Broadway, Jim Thorpe
4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.
- May 24, 2016
Touchstone Theatre
321 E. Fourth Street, Bethlehem
4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

For more information regarding this opportunity, please contact Randall Forte at rforte@lvartscouncil.org or 610-437-5915.

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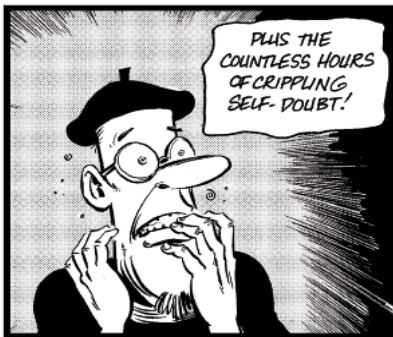
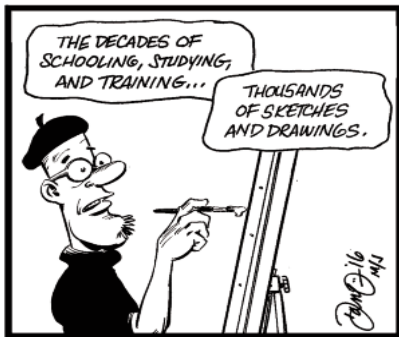
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THE INSIDE TRACK

Michael Reese Much, FRMS, of Bethlehem, had a 10-page article published in the March issue of the Royal Microscopical Society's *infocus Magazine*. The article described Michael's techniques for cross-polarization photography of pharmaceuticals through the microscope, and it featured seven of his micrographs.

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Fine artist and cartoonist **John Stinger** was recently interviewed in the April 22nd edition of *Antiques And The Arts Weekly* regarding his new book of cartoons, *The Lighter Side of Collecting* (Tanner Publishing, 2016).

For a listing of disability-friendly events, go to ARTSandACCESS.org.

NEW MEMBERS

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- William Hubscher
- Susan Jordhamo
- Joanna Keels
- Sal Villano

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- William Garfield

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- American Monarch Theatre Company

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Business

- Frame Your Image
- Tangent Crafts

ONE LAST THOUGHT

I believe in fairness and equal access and in serving the common good. That has been my philosophy as executive director for the Lehigh Valley Arts Council for nearly seventeen years. It informs the Arts Council's arts advocacy, research, and marketing; it governs the administrative role we take in the PPA Partnership, Arts & Economic Prosperity Study, and most recently, in the Arts & Access Program.

Being a regional organization is a challenge—since regionalism is more of a concept than a reality. Nevertheless, the health and sustenance of the arts industry is of regional concern, not limited to the purview of an individual community. What I provide to one cultural organization, I feel I am compelled to offer to all my nonprofit members. And sometimes that means saying no to everyone. For the record, the Arts Council does not give out its mailing list to cultural organizations; nor do we ask our member organizations to give us their lists. We respect the proprietary nature of that information. However, the Arts Council does offer access to that audience via our advertising opportunities in the newsletter and through our Audience Analytics program. Both of these vehicles respect the cooperative relationships we have proudly nurtured throughout the years.

Randall Forte