

Leelanau Community Cultural Center
Old Art Building
Newsletter - May 2018



Once in Love with Amy.... (from Broadway show "Where's Charley")

Once in Love with Amy
Always in love with Amy
Ever and ever fascinated by her
Sets your heart on fire to stay ...

The Story of Amy Chatfield, as told by Scott Craig in his "Story Next Door"

Amy Chatfield was a sprightly woman who lived in a large white house on the main street of Leland. Inside her house were the reminders of a life well lived lovely antiques combined with some remarkable paintings.



Amy grew up in Cincinnati, the daughter of a well-to-do business man. She had three sisters and a brother. Each summer the family vacationed in this part of Michigan, escaping Cincinnati's stifling heat. They rented in different locations, finally buying in Leland in 1939.

Upon graduating from college during World War II, Amy became one of the first female air traffic controllers for the FAA. She guided cargo planes in and out of Cleveland and Chicago. Soon after the war, she met a returning Vet named Bill. He had fought in the D Day invasion. He had an artistic bent. He loved to paint, and he was good at it. Bill was an apple-cheeked guy. Mischief danced in his eyes. Amy liked what she saw. After a short courtship, they married in 1946.

Over time, both had a variety of jobs in Cincinnati, finally settling on opening an antique shop. Bill painted on the side. It's hard to characterize his art. Some say it was surreal. Others that it had a whimsical quality. Whatever, it was one of a kind. Folks prized his work.

Bill and Amy had four children ... three boys and a girl. As her parents had done, Amy made sure the young family summered in the northland. They loved their Michigan time. One day Bill said to her, "Why don't we live here permanently? We can just as well deal in antiques here." With that they sold their Cincinnati home, bought the Leland house, shouted "Yippie" and fit into village life. They never regretted the decision.



Their shop provided a living and Bill continued to find time to paint. Their business had a successful run and eventually they sold it and retired. After nearly 50 years of marriage, Bill died in 1993.

So that's a story of a life... but there is more about Amy. And for that I need to digress a bit. There is a charming building in Leland pretty much in the center of town on the bank of the river. It has a white frame face, dark green shutters and classic small pane windows. A local women's club under the leadership of Allie Mae Best built it in 1922, with the hope that it would become a venue for traveling theatre groups, musicians, and lecturers. But the Great Depression dampened those plans and the building sat unused. Then in 1939, the women's club donated the building to Michigan State University. For fifty years it was used as a summer art school educating hundreds of aspiring artists. It became known as the Old Art Building.

By 1989, that program had run its course. Again, the building sat vacant. It was old and run down. Some folks in town thought something should be done to save it. Amy agreed.



A group was formed, they raised money, and talked MSU into leasing it to them. They created the non-profit organization known today as the Leelanau Community Cultural Center. Amy was one of its founders.



Today the Old Art Building has been beautifully restored and is a hub of activity. There are arts and crafts classes, exercise and dance classes for all ages, lectures, films, musical performances and exhibits year-round.

From the very beginning, Amy saw that the once glorious gardens surrounding the building had deteriorated. She made that part of the restoration her personal challenge. Summer after summer, she, and others, spent long hours turning the garden into something quite magical. After more than 20 years of service in the garden, and on the Board of the LCCC, Amy decided it was time to step down. She continued to be involved however, and in 2017 was recognized as the

Volunteer of the Year for her weekly visits to the office to stuff envelopes, make pennants or whatever the job was that day. She was always up for an adventure, especially if it involved costumes and dancing. Even in her later years she was always at the front of the conga line!

Early in the fall of 2014, people were invited to a party in the main room of the Old Art Building. Amy was there. Wine and cheese were consumed. Then the president of the organization, Dan Lisuk, made an announcement. The party was in honor of founder and long-time board member, Amy Chatfield. She was completely surprised. Then Dan went on to ask everyone to go outside. There, against the backdrop of the splendid gardens, he unveiled a sculpture created by noted Leelanau artist, Bob Purvis. It is formed from a sheet of Corten steel. There in silhouette is Amy, looking as if she had just stepped out of the background. She is in gardening attire with a floppy hat and pair of clippers in hand. There was applause, laughter and tears. Amy was touched.

The next day, she went back alone to really look at the sculpture. She needed time, by herself, in the beautiful gardens she had been so instrumental in creating, to absorb it all. She was pleased with what she saw and how she felt. Her son Malcolm says he finds the thought of his mother's likeness being in that spot forever very moving. So do we all.



On February 15th, shortly after telling her granddaughter Abby "I'm ready to move on" Amy passed away peacefully. There will be a celebration of Amy's life on July 8th in the garden behind the Old Art Building.



Never a Dull Moment at the Old Art Buiding

Even in the winter months, there is plenty of fun for everyone!

December ~ Winter Solstice Concert



We were entertained by Hillary Voight's Leelanau Dancers performing to live music from Mezraq Ramli. Afterwards, a musical performance from Mezraq where he shared his favorite songs and encouraged everyone to sing a long.



Dancer photos courtesy of Shannon Scott Photography



January ~ Casablanca Film Night



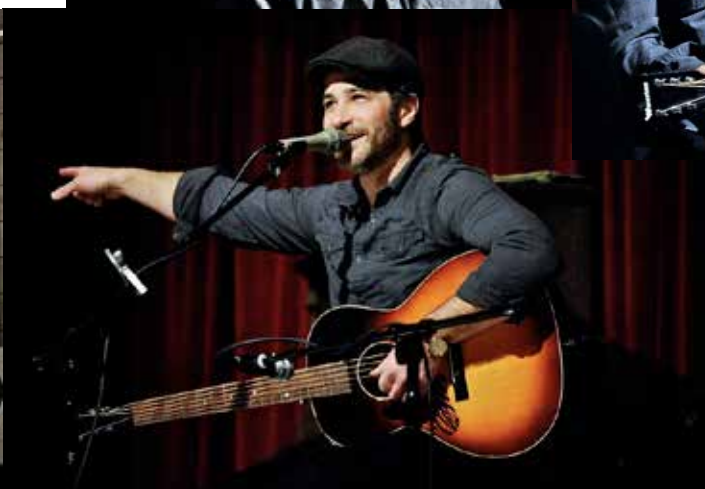
It was the dead of winter, but here at the Old Art Building we took off to Casablanca! Complete with Rick's Cafe, a fine piano player, our favorite bartender/post office workers and of course the main charactors Rick and Ilsa. After some mingling and piano music we enjoyed the movie. What a great way to chase winter away.



February ~ Josh Davis

Valentine's Day Weekend and Joshua returned to the Art Building Stage with his Good Love Lasts concert. Champagne & Chocolate and Joshua's sweet voice pleased our full house crowd. Come "Back Home" any time Joshua.

We ♥ You!



photos courtesy of
Shannon Scott Photography

March ~ Winter Picnic



Bring your picnic & family, we provide beverages, games, and music. A good time was had by all. A special thanks to Eminor and Hot N' Bothered for providing live music !



April ~ Art Continues

As of this writing there is still more to come as the winter finally moves into spring (we hope!!).

- Color Catchers - A fine Art Photography Exhibit will be on display until April 23.
- Exposures - Leelanau Student Art Exhibit, celebrating 30 years. April 27 & 28.

Just some of the highlights coming our way May

Derby Party~May 5



Come celebrate the 144th Kentucky Derby televised on the big screen. Wear your big hats and bow ties. Place your Bets! All proceeds to benefit the Old Art Building. Tickets \$15



The B Williams Experiment ~ May 18



B Williams Photos Courtesy of Myrna Jacobs

The B Williams Experiment takes the stage with their Detroit Jazz. The Old Art Building will be transformed into a comfortable club and the jazz will drift through the air. Tickets \$20

Note: A CD of last years show at the OAB will be available for purchase.



‘Leland Air’ A Plein Air Event ~ May 26



Our Annual Plein Air event. From 8 am - 4 pm artists can be seen all over Leland and beyond painting the local scene. That same evening join us for a "Fresh off the Easel" sale. Tickets for the Sale \$10

Note: Artists interested in participating contact the Old Art Building.



June

Moxie Strings ~ June 7



The Moxie Strings arrange melodies from many traditions, resulting in a genre-blurring blend. Their high-energy show and unique sound have quickly made the band one of the country's most promising instrumental acts. Tickets \$15



The Great Chair Project Kick-Off ~ June 9



Turn cast-off and neglected chairs into works of art as a community art project and fundraiser to benefit scholarships and children's programs at the Old Art Building. All Ages and talents are welcome! This kick off includes chair registration & chair adoptions.



2018 A.I.R ~ Megan Hildebrandt Exhibit ~ June 22 - 24



This exhibition, **My Time is Yours**, will explore autobiography, the passage of time, illness narrative and recovery from trauma via repetitive marks, abstracted drawings and paintings, and animation. The works serve as touchstones to mark a life both interrupted and reinvigorated.



Mother & Daughter by Megan Hildebrandt

Art of the Garden Exhibit ~ June 28 - July 1



Back by popular demand and in collaboration with the Leland Little Garden Club, this exhibit will offer artists renditions of the flora and fauna of the garden.



Mark Your Calendars!

Save the Date!

**2018 Art Leelanau Exhibit Benefit and Sale
July 27 from 5:30 - 9 pm**

Artwork from over 80 Leelanau Artists

Food from Bayside Gatherings

Music from The Lucas Paul Band



Kid Creator Camp

Kid Creator Camp is our newest children's summer arts program for children 5 - 8 yrs old. Each week there will be a theme that will guide each day's events. Tie Dye t-shirts for the 4th---build a space ship---learn a song--go on a nature hike--are just a few of the activities that children will participate in. For parents there are options. Each session/week runs Monday - Thursday 1 - 3 pm. starting from July 2 to August 9. Register for a week(s), or sign up for a day(s). We ask that you please preregister your child so that we have the current contact information, but drop ins are welcome if there is room. Each class is limited to 12 students, so don't procrastinate!

a summer arts program for kids ages 5-8 at the Old Art Building

Mondays - Thursdays, 1 - 3 pm

WEEK 1: July 2 ~ 5 "Patriotic Palooza"
Tie-dye, bike decorating and more activities—all things red, white and blue!

WEEK 2: July 9 ~ 12 "Little Passports"
Explore arts and cultures from around the world. Each day will focus on a different part of the world through stories, art, music and language.

WEEK 3: July 16 ~ 19 "We are Leelanau"
In collaboration with the Leelanau Conservancy, explore Leelanau's incredible natural beauty and create your own memories.

WEEK 4: July 23 ~ July 26 "Operation Awesome"
Discover your inner scientist and astronaut through a variety of Outer Space themed projects and activities.

WEEK 5: July 30 ~ August 2 "Art Leelanau for Juniors"
Hear from some of the peninsula's best artists how they work and then create your own masterpieces.

WEEK 6: August 6 ~ 9 "Musical Munchkins"
Write songs, sing and move in a week full of rhythm and fun with Norm Wheeler and Patrick Niemistoi to share their talents with you for a musically fun week!
This week will conclude in a talent show for parents, family and friends!

Cost:

\$20/day (\$18 -- member), \$60/wk of 4 days preregistered (\$54 -- member)
Summer-saver: \$50/week when registered for three weeks or more by June 1st

TO REGISTER

Visit our website at oldartbuilding.com, Call the office at 231-256-2131, or stop in at 111 S Main Street Leland. But please register—space is limited!

Ages: 5-8 (limited to 12 kids/day)

See our full catalog or go online to see other kids classes available for kids age 9-12
www.oldartbuilding.com, 231-256-2131

Yea! Sponsors!

Thank you sponsors for your generosity
and continued support



Edmund F &
Virginia B
Ball Foundation



BIGGS 
CONSTRUCTION, INC.



Trish's Dishes



If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact us at 231-256-2131
or becky@oldartbuilding.com

It's Membership time

While the Old Art Building will always remain open to everyone, we depend on community.

Your Support Makes Good Things Happen All Year Long!

Become a Member

- Invitations to special openings & events
- Discount pricing on classes, workshops & performances
- Member listing in our Annual Report
- Old Art Building decal



PLEASE SEE THE ATTCHED ENVELOPE FOR LEVELS OF SUPPORT

Why be a Member?

Why do we have membership? Yes, it offers benefits to you as a member and gives you the "inside scoop" on all that goes on at the Old Art Building, but there is more to it than that. Have you ever wondered what it takes to have the doors opened at the Old Art Building?

- On average 55 people visit the Old Art Building Everyday
- On average it Costs \$760 to operate the Old Art Building Everyday

That is what it takes to keep this wonderful building and all its programs open and available to you.

Programs Like:

- 555 Classes for Adults and Children
- 28 Community Events
- 10 Performances
- 17 Exhibits
- 15 Special Events

Your membership dollars
and other donations
are what make it all possible.



Leelanau Community Cultural Center

111 S. Main St., P.O. Box 883
Leland, MI 49654
231.256.2131
info@oldartbuilding.com
www.oldartbuilding.com

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Traverse City, MI
Permit No. 568

Board of Directors

Dan Lisuk - president
Tom McConnell - vice president
Logan Hardie - treasurer
Kerry Satterwhite - secretary
Judy Frederick
Jane Kiernan
Marlis Mann
Nancy Miller
Zach Mikowski
Susan Oliver
Alexia Post
John Scott
Mary Stewart
Trudy Underhill
Hillary Voight

Founding Members

Sally Biggs
Amy Chatfield

Community Cultural Curators

Bob Biggs
Scott Craig
Judy Livingston
Sada Omoto
Martha Ryan

Staff

Becky Ross - Executive Director
Linda Sprout - Assistant Director
Earlene Hill - Administrative Assistant
Dick Krahn - A/V Specialist

Did you get your 2018 Summer Catalog?

The summer class catalog was in the mail on April 20
If you missed it check it out at www.oldartbuilding.com

