

Photo gallery opens at the Internet Cafe in Sun City

The new year is here and the Internet Cafe is opening a new photo gallery with very large framed photos on display. The inaugural hangings feature "Open Monochrome" by Jim Newkirk, Wes Odell, Carlos Rio and Glenn Rudd.

The Sun City Photography Club is hosting the gallery which is located in the Sun City Computer Lab-Coffee Lounge. The Lounge is at 1 Texas Drive and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday to Friday. The public is invited to enjoy the artwork. Tell the Computer Lab Monitor you are viewing the artwork.

Each exhibit will hang for two months.

Library art

As the saying goes, "Variety is the spice of life" and the Capitol Art Society members will give you a glimpse of "The Spice of Life" with their artwork. The new exhibit features rich and colorful palettes in various styles and media on display in the library's second floor gallery from January 5 through February 15. The artist reception is 4-6 p.m., Friday, January 6.

The Capitol Art Society was founded in 1965 and is the oldest active visual arts group in Austin. It is a juried organization of 35 professional artists who exhibit as a group in venues in central Texas.

Brianna Timourian brings "Eclectic Synergy" to the library's cafe gallery beginning



ART SCAPES

Ellen Greeney

January 5 through February 15. The artist reception is 1-3 p.m., Sunday, January 8.

She studied Studio Art and Kinesiology at Southwestern University in Georgetown and decided to become an art teacher. She taught four years at Hopewell Middle School in Round Rock ISD and now teaches at Benold Middle School in Georgetown ISD. She enjoys spreading her love of art with others and helping students find their own creative way to express themselves.

Truewood Gallery

Anca Thomas is the featured solo artist at the Truewood Gallery from January 5 to February 2. Her exhibit features fiber and mixed media art. The gallery is located 4907 Williams Drive.

Art Center

A masterclass on Creative Surface Landscapes with Sue Bishop is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, January 13 and 14. The two-day acrylic workshop emphasizes composition, value, color and creativity in painting a landscape.

The Georgetown Art Center is located at 816 South Main Street. Call 512-930-2583 for more information and registration.

Congrats

SMU DataArts recognized the Round Rock arts community as one of the Top 40



"Toadstools" by Carlos Rio is on display at the new Internet Cafe in Sun City.

Arts-Vibrant Communities of 2022, citing their creativity and support of the arts.

On Saturday, January 14, Framers' Gallery owner Kimi Chapman celebrates the 10th anniversary of business ownership. The gallery offers professional services from museum-quality framing service to gallery space to showcase artisans with new artwork arriving monthly. It is located at 610 South Main Street. Visit kimisframersgallery.com for more information.

Events

Williamson County Art Guild meeting, 6:15-8 p.m., January 3, at the Library
 "Texans, Flora and Fauna" reception, 6:30-7:30 p.m., January 6, at the Museum
 "Spice of Life" artists' reception, 4-6 p.m. January 6, at the Library
 Brianna Timourian artist reception, 1-3 p.m., January 8, at the Library
 "Fantastical Fiber Art" reception, 6-8 p.m., February 3, at Texas State University Round Rock

Exhibits

WCAG winter/holiday exhibit, on display through January 5 at Truewood Gallery

Hill Country Art Club exhibit, on display through January 6 at the St. David's Healing Arts

WCAG exhibit, on display through January 10 at the Jester Annex

Rob Neff "Animals Being Themselves," on display through January 20 at St. David's Impressions

"Texans, Flora and Fauna" exhibit, on display January 3 through January 31 at the Museum

Anca Thomas exhibit, on display January 5 through February 2 at Truewood

WACG exhibit, on display through February at the Palace Playhouse

"Winter Wonderlands" exhibit, on display January 2 through February 14 at Mulligan's

"Spice of Life," on display January 5 through February 15 at the Library

Brianna Timourian exhibit "Eclectic Synergy," on display January 5 through February 15 at the Library

"Food for Thought" exhibit, on display January 11 through March 3 at the Downtowner Gallery

Correction: City Post owner Kevin Cummins was incorrectly named in a photo caption with the December 25 Art Scapes.

ArtScapes is a weekly column for and about local artists and art enthusiasts. Send info to ellen@wilcosun.com.

New year off to a busy start at the Georgetown Public Library

If you are searching for something to keep you occupied in January, fear not, the Georgetown Public Library has you covered with our first month of 2023 programs.

Storytime resumes this week after a brief hiatus at the end of December. There are several different storytime options throughout the month including a storytime with a focus on STEM, a Baby and Me storytime aimed at children aged 0-18 months and Sensory Storytime, which is specifically designed for children with autism spectrum and sensory-processing needs. Check the events calendar for exact dates and times of each storytime at library.georgetown.org/events-calendar.

The library will host two new art exhibits beginning January 5 that run through February 15. Capitol Art Society's "The Spice of Life" will be on the second floor and explores aspects of the natural world in styles that range "from impressionistic impasto to delicate watercolors to detailed realism." Downstairs, Brianna Timourian's "Eclectic Synergy" uses a variety of mediums and invites viewers to "create their own story behind the pieces."

If one of your resolutions this year includes growing and preserving your own food, be sure to join us for a talk on urban homesteading presented by Claudia from In Harmony Gardens on Friday, January 6, at 7 p.m. Explore the ideas that can make your urban homestead possible including determining the lay of your land, seeing what you can grow, where you can grow it and how to make the best of the space you have. Learn how to sow and save seedlings, dehydrate herbs for tea and make fruit leather using a dehydrator. This event is part of our Adultish program and is open to adults ages 18 and over. Admission is free and no registration is required.

On Tuesday, January 10, at 10 a.m. join the youth

BIBLIOFILES

Ann Evans

services team for Homeschool Happenings to learn about dinosaurs in Texas with The Junior Master Naturalists, from the Goodwater Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists. Space is limited and tickets are required. Tickets can be picked up at the Children's Desk in the kids room one hour before the start of the program. This program is best for kids ages 5-10.

Our first GPL World Cinema of 2023 will screen "Banshees of Inisherin" on Wednesday, January 11, at 6:30 p.m. A black comedy, the film follows two young men living on a remote Irish island and the aftermath when one decides to end their lifelong friendship. The film is rated R, and all GPL World Cinema screenings are recommended for ages 18 and over as they contain mature themes, events and language. Admission is free and popcorn will be provided.

The first tween and teen events of the new year will be an Uno tournament on Saturday, January 14. Snacks will be provided with tweens (ages 9-12) competing at 1 p.m. and teens (ages 12-18) competing at 3 p.m. The winner will secure bragging rights as GPL Uno champion.

The following day, Live Music at the Library will feature Roman Rudnytsky, an American concert pianist of Ukrainian background who has played concerts in over 100 countries. This free concert will begin at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 15. Registration is no longer required, but seating is limited to 200 attendees. Thank you to the Friends of the Georgetown Public Library who sponsor this program every month, allowing us to bring music into our building.

We hope to see you soon at a library event!

Ann Evans is the Adult Services Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.

Freedom's eve celebrations!

On New Year's Eve, many African Americans attend church for Watch Night Service. The night of prayer, commemoration and celebration ends at midnight with the new year.

Watch Night Service is a Christian tradition that began in the Czech Republic and was adopted by congregations around the world. Services took on special significance to African Americans on December 31, 1862, known as Freedom's Eve. Blacks came together in churches and homes across the nation to await news that the Emancipation Proclamation had become law. At the stroke of midnight, all slaves in the Confederate States were declared legally free. The news was received with prayers and songs of joy.

A painting depicting Freedom's Eve once hung outside the Oval Office. In it, enslaved Black men, women and children crowded around a pocket watch, waiting for the clock to strike midnight for the Emancipation Proclamation to take effect.

Sadly, enslaved Black residents of Galveston and other areas had to wait more than two years after President Lincoln's decree to receive word on June 19, 1865, that they were free. Juneteenth became another day to celebrate emancipation.

It's been over 150 years since that first Freedom's Eve but the celebrations continue with reflections on the history of slavery and freedom.

A celebratory meal may take place on New Year's Day with culinary traditions influenced by West Africa. Foods and traditions are diverse within the African American community. Eating collard greens represents the promise of prosperity. Other common dishes include candied yams, cornbread, potato salad and macaroni and cheese.

Black-eyed peas with pork is also a staple for New Year's Eve. Stories about how the bean came to be so important to African American culture dates back to slavery. In the South, black-eyed peas grew easily. When slaves gained their freedom, they took dried beans with them to be planted in new locations. The black-eyed pea became associated with good luck, new beginnings and wisdom.

In the Southern United States



TASTES OF THE TOWN

Linda Dwyer

Hoppin' John, made of black-eyed peas, is New Year's Eve fare said to bring good luck. This dish of peas, pork and rice has graced holiday tables since the 1800s. The origin of the name is uncertain. Some say a hobbled hoppin' John became known for selling peas and rice on the streets of Charleston. Others say children hopped around the table in anticipation of the dish.

The original ingredients of Hoppin' John are one pound of bacon, one pint of peas and one pint of rice. The earliest appearance in print seems to be in *The Carolina Housewife* in 1847 and everything was cooked together in the same pot.

"First put on the peas, and when half boiled, add the bacon. When the peas are well boiled, throw in the rice, which must first be washed and graveled. When the rice has been boiling for half an hour, take the pot off the fire and put it on coals to steam, as in boiling rice alone."

The following recipe from History.com website also cooks in one pot. It looks like a delicious way to ring in the New Year.

NEW YEAR'S HOPPIN' JOHN

2 tablespoons olive oil
 1 cup red onion, chopped
 1/2 cup celery, chopped
 1 cup red bell pepper, chopped
 2 jalapeños, stemmed and deseeded, chopped
 1 tablespoon chopped garlic
 2 smoked turkey thighs, skin removed
 1 pound black-eyed peas, soaked overnight and rinsed
 1 quart low-sodium chicken stock
 1 bay leaf
 3 sprigs fresh thyme (or 1 teaspoon dried thyme)
 1 teaspoon salt
 Salt, black pepper and cayenne to taste
 1 cup green onion, chopped
 4 cups freshly steamed white rice

Heat the olive oil over medium-high heat in a large soup pot or Dutch oven. Add the onion, celery, bell pepper, jalapeños and garlic, and cook until opaque and lightly browned, about 8 minutes. Add the turkey thighs, peas, chicken stock, bay leaf, thyme and a teaspoon of salt. Simmer for 40 minutes or until peas are creamy and tender. If liquid evaporates, add more stock or water. Adjust seasonings, and garnish with green onions. Serve hot over rice.

dwyer@wilco.com

What's going on in the library?

January 3, 10 a.m.: Baby and Me Storytime

January 6, 4-6 p.m.: Capitol Art Society: "The Spice of Life" reception

January 6, 7 p.m.: Adultish: Let's Grow Georgetown Urban Homesteading

January 8, 1-3 p.m.: Brianna

Timourian: "Eclectic Synergy" reception

January 10, 10 a.m.: Homeschool Happenings

January 11, 6:30 p.m.: GPL World Cinema

January 14, 1 p.m.: Tween Uno Tournament

January 14, 3 p.m.: Teen Uno

Tournament

January 15, 2 p.m.: Live Music at the Library Roman Rudnytsky, pianist

For more information about these and other library events, visit library.georgetown.org/events-calendar or call 512-930-3551.

THE SUN

CLARK THURMOND — LINDA SCARBROUGH
 Publishers

Kathryn Manasco, General Manager accounting@wilcosun.com
 Matthew Brake, Production Manager production@wilcosun.com
 Dawn Steele, Advertising ads@wilcosun.com
 Rodney Schwartz, Lead Pressman 512-930-4824

Nicholas Cicale, Managing Editor editor@wilcosun.com
 Kate St. Clair, Reporter kate@wilcosun.com
 Katherine Anthony, Reporter katherine@wilcosun.com
 Bridgid Cooley, Reporter brigid@wilcosun.com

How to get your letter in

We and our readers value your letters. Letters should not exceed 250 words. **Please include the source of your information.** Letters are edited for length and clarity. Include your name, address and a daytime phone number. Submissions

become property of *The Williamson County Sun*.

Email your letter to opinion@wilcosun.com and put your letter in the body of the email in plain email type. We do not open attachments or accept letters written in capital letters.