

News from the Ludington Area Arts Council
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Story on Stage Event Planned for October 22 at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts

LUDINGTON—*Story on Stage*, short stories and songs in performance, will be presented in the gallery of the Ludington Area Center for the Arts on Friday, October 22 at 7 p.m.

The event is a joint project of three groups, which call the Center for the Arts home –Ludington Visiting Writers, the Center’s music program, and the Lakeside Civic Players.

“We got the idea from the NPR Radio program Selected Shorts,” said George Dila, Ludington Visiting Writers Director. “In that popular weekly show, professional actors read short stories by contemporary American writers. They do it before a live audience in New York, and it’s immensely popular.”

The *Story on Stage* program will present three or four short stories by Michigan writers, read by local Ludington actors. The short stories will not be acted out. Each story will simply be read out loud by one actor. There will also be songs that tell a story, performed by local musicians.

“We often have readings of short stories,” said Dila, “but the reader is always the writer who wrote the story. We think it will be a very different experience, for the writer as well as the audience, to hear these stories read by a trained actor. They should certainly add a different, intriguing dimension.”

Heather Venzke, administrator of the Lakeside Civic Players, was enthusiastic about the project.

“It gives our members an activity between major productions,” she said. “It should be a real challenge for them interpret each story, to bring out the drama in it.”

Story on Stage will bring a musical component to the event that the NPR radio program doesn’t have.

“So many songs tell stories,” said Mike Lenich, chair of the music program. “We’ll be looking for three or four local performers to do a story-telling song or two. It’s a unique opportunity, for sure.”

Dila is putting out a call for submissions for short stories to be presented. Stories should be no longer than 2500 words. He hopes that all of the short stories presented at *Story on Stage* will be by local writers, but will be accepting the best of what he receives.

Usually, story-telling time means stories for children, but that is not what *Story on Stage* is.

“It should be emphasized that we are not looking for children’s stories,” Dila said. “This is not an event for kids. We’re open to all genres, though – everything from literary fiction to fantasy. We just want to find the best stories to present.”

Terry Murphy, Director of the Ludington Area Center for the Arts, was also excited about the program.

“This is one of the first programs we’ve had that is a collaboration between different groups that call the Center home,” she said. “We’d love to see more of it. The results of these collaborations can be unexpected and wonderful.”

Details for submitting stories can be found at the Ludington Visiting Writers website – www.ludingtonwriters.com. Or query Dila by email – george@ludingtonwriters.com.

Adult actors interested in being considered for this event should email Heather Venzke at hvenzke@yahoo.com. Musicians with a story to tell in song should email Mike Lenich at lmlichen@juno.com.

The Ludington Area Center for the Arts is located at 107 S. Harrison in the historic former home of the United Methodist Church in downtown Ludington. The Center is open Tuesday-Saturday, noon-5:30 p.m. Information for Center events is available on its website:

www.ludingtonartscouncil.org or by calling 231-845-2787. Parking for Center events is available in the public lot south of the Center at the corner of Harrison and Loomis streets.