

2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

This year Blackwood Arts awarded a total of \$22,500 to the 9 students listed below. Over the past twenty years, a total of \$358,500 in scholarships and grants has been awarded to 108 high school students who have spent countless hours in study and practice to acquire skills that are AMAZING!

THE 2020 BLACKWOOD ARTS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:

Rowan Belt- Home Schooled – Piano

Leila Fanién- Mt. Lebanon HS – Violin

Maggie Knisel- Claysburg-Kimmel HS – Alto Sax

Brett Miller- Pennridge HS – Theater Organ

Carolyn Carr- North Allegheny HS – Violin

Cuna Kim- Fox Chapel Area HS – Violin

Goefrey Madge- Chartiers Valley HS – Oboe

Stephanie Petinaux-Seneca Valley HS – Piano

Rio Scarcelli- Penn-Trafford HS – Clarinet

BLACKWOOD ARTS continues to be an all-volunteer organization. OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE THE GREATEST. Some contribute much because they know the multitude of tasks that need to be done. Willing hands are always welcome to share the journey, for we work as a team . . . as friends.

Last year, many local merchants shared in our outreach work through contributions of food or other support. We thank them for their generosity and care. Please take note of their names:

Busy Beaver, Grove City

Family Traditions, Harrisville

Max & Erma's, Cranberry

Springfield Group, Mercer

Chili's, Butler

Giant Eagle, Slippery Rock

Mercer County State Bank, Harrisville

Texas Roadhouse, Butler

County Market, Grove City

Iron Bridge, Mercer

Sam's Club, Butler

Walmart, Grove City

Kudos - **Bill Vrscak**, who has the honor of being one of the elite "signature members" of the American Watercolor Society, received the cover feature in the February issue of Watercolor Magazine. He also won a monetary award in the Niagara Frontier Watercolor Society.

Michael Mitnick, a 2002 scholarship winner, was the screenwriter for the 2019 film "The Current War" – a film about the rivalry between two famous inventors, Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse. Of interest - Michael originally conceived this as a musical when he was a graduate student at Yale in 2010.

Condolences - It is with sorrow that we inform you of the loss of some long time Blackwood friends, four of whom were Charter members: Augie Badali, Bob Emery, Charlie File, and Gail Litwiler.

August Badali – Augie's life revolved around music – as a band and choir director for the Moniteau School District. He was a great friend, volunteer, and supporter of Blackwood and its music programs.

Wilma Cavill - Wilma was Grand Marshall of both Slippery Rock University and Blackwood – where she wrote a Proclamation for Make-A-Wish and made a grand entrance dressed in a blue Wizard's outfit seated in a two horse vis-a-vis carriage.

Robert Emery – We first met Bob at a Blackwood Make-A-Wish concert in the early 1990s. He was very active in the construction of several buildings on the property including the Spring House and Clock Tower and anything mechanical.

Charles File – Charlie loved music especially-- the Hammond organ and the violin, which he played with the Venango Chamber Orchestra. He introduced many of his friends to Blackwood - to share the beauty of the music and grounds.

Gail Litwiler – For thirty years, Gail served on the Hampton Twp. School Board, and was a devoted member of the North Hills Community Baptist Church. Gail and her husband Tom were friends of Blackwood even before the first concert, where they sat on teetering folding chairs on the sloping hillsides, in front of the cottage where the organ was originally installed.

William Russell – Bill was the brother of long time Blackwood friend Luanne Russell. He enjoyed attending the concerts with her – especially the silent films.

"Some days there won't be a song in your heart. Sing anyway." -Emory Austin