

# Celebrate

## Wood River

### Performing Arts & Entertainment Series

**Free Admission to all performances**  
thanks to the generous support of our sponsors.  
A freewill offering is accepted at the event to make  
future programs possible.

Be a part of our email list to receive updates about upcoming  
events and emergency announcements by emailing:  
[celebratewoodriver@gmail.com](mailto:celebratewoodriver@gmail.com)

*In case of inclement weather contact Georgene Smidt at 308-583-2606.*

#### **Performances made possible by:**



*Donna Lee Moyer  
Performing Arts Gift*



**Wood River High School Theater**  
13800 W. Wood River Road, Wood River, NE 68883  
[www.wrcommunityfoundation.com/celebratewr](http://www.wrcommunityfoundation.com/celebratewr)



# The 2022-2023 Performing Arts Series



## Comedian Magician Gayle Becwar Sunday, 9/18/22 2:30 p.m.

Gayle's high energy, quick wit and audience participation makes his show a favorite across the country. Growing up in a family of magicians, Gayle Becwar's first introduction to entertainment came as a child in 1967, performing with his Dad's traveling magic show. He has performed in front of thousands of audiences all over the world with his unique brand of clean, interactive, fast-paced magic and comedy for all ages. Laughter does wonders for your health so don't miss this great show!



## Offutt Brass Sunday, 10/23/22 2:30 p.m.

We're thrilled to bring a brass ensemble from the United States Air Force Heartland of America Band to our stage. Offutt Brass, is comprised of two trumpets, horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion. With a diverse repertoire featuring classical selections, patriotic favorites, jazz and popular music, new compositions and distinctive arrangements, the world-class musicians of Offutt Brass showcase the Air Force's excellence and precision in every performance. In addition to community concerts, Offutt Brass performs patriotic music and fanfares for military ceremonies and important civic events throughout Nebraska and other areas of the Midwest. As professional Airmen, Offutt Brass is committed to inspiring our American public, communicating our Air Force core values, and honoring our nation's veterans through the power of music. They are proud to represent our nation's Airmen who fly, fight and win in air and space.



## The Statue of Liberty The Amazing Rest of the Story Sunday, 2/19/23 2:30 p.m.

Darrel Draper, a self-identified "edutainer" has performed costumed recreations of Theodore Roosevelt and Peter Sarpay for us in prior seasons. This time, Draper will provide a fascinating 45 minute program about the Statue of Liberty and the "rest of the story" that many people don't realize. There will be time for questions following his presentation as well. His humor and knowledge of history have delighted audiences aged 8 to 80, explaining why he was one of the most requested speakers in the Nebraska Humanities Council's Speakers Bureau Program prior to his retirement.



## The Toasted Ponies Sunday, 4/16/23 2:30 p.m.

The Toasted Ponies combine the best of both traditional and contemporary Bluegrass music. Look for great harmony singing and hot instrumentals in a typical Ponies performance. These musicians are seasoned professionals who love playing their music and it shows. They will play everyone's Bluegrass favorites along with a fun mix of Cajun, Western Swing, Gospel and Celtic tunes just to keep things interesting. Just try seeing the Ponies show without tapping your toes — it can't be done!

## LOCAL ARTS

### Christmas Cantata Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022, 2:30 pm

Appreciate the sounds of Christmas as this central Nebraska choir presents their annual cantata event. The Christmas Cantata will be at St. Mary's Catholic Church (1108 Dodd St, Wood River).

### Easter Cantata Sunday, April 2, 2023, 2:30 pm

Get swept away in the majesty of Easter during this central Nebraska choir's cantata presentation. The Easter Cantata will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church (1108 Dodd Street, Wood River).

### All School Play Date: TBD

The spring 2023 production from Wood River High School's Music & Drama Department is guaranteed to entertain you. The details are TBA at the time of this printing so watch [www.woodrivereagles.org](http://www.woodrivereagles.org) for updates.

## Saturday Friendship Gatherings - all at 9:30 am

### Medicine on the Lewis & Clark Expedition October 15, 2022

Come hear Dr. Richard Fruehling tell the story of healthcare during this early 1800's expedition. Also known as the Corps of Discovery Expedition, President Jefferson commissioned this select group to explore and map the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase.

### WWII NE POW Camps April 22, 2023

Listen to local historian, Michelle Setlik, detail the history of WWII Prisoner of War Camps in Nebraska and their impact on the region.

Follow the Celebrate Wood River Facebook page for more information and updates. You can also join our email list by sending a request to join to: [celebratewoodriver@gmail.com](mailto:celebratewoodriver@gmail.com)

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