

*Friends of the Burchfield  
Nature & Art Center*

***NEWSLETTER***



**Winter 2017**

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**On January 5th, structural defects caused the Town to close the BNAC building to enable further inspection and determination of how to restore or repair the building.**

**We regret the inconvenience caused to the public and exhibitors.**

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## **CENTER UPDATE**

Paula Minkle



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We are mourning the loss of use of our building but it does not deter Friends of Burchfield Nature and Art Center from continuing to meet and make plans. Thanks to the hospitality of the West Seneca Senior Center, the volunteers and leadership committee keep meeting and planning for activities that can be held on the BNAC grounds, or carried out from alternative locations.

Unfortunately this year's art exhibits had to be cancelled, creating immeasurable loss of a part of life in our community that has become treasured by many. Residents, out-of-town visitors, school groups, and others in the larger WNY community who were regular attendees at BNAC exhibits will have to forgo those visits until the building is again functional. Fortunately, many of the artists and groups who met at the BNAC have been welcomed to "carry on" their scheduled activities at the Senior Center. This allows Burchfield Woodcarvers, Common Threads spinners, Cross Town Quilters, South Town Gardeners, and others to continue their meetings and activities.

The West Seneca Art Society plans to hold their Spring Show at the Senior Center during the month of April. Watch for it and plan to attend. It will likely provide an opportunity to enjoy the Senior Center as well as a terrific exhibit!

We encourage the public to continue to explore and enjoy the park, and to keep abreast of building updates via our Facebook page, BurchfieldNAC and website at [BurchfieldNAC.org](http://BurchfieldNAC.org)

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## A Walk in the Park

Carol Yetter

The winter months offered many pleasant days to take a walk in the park. Footprints in the snow showed that many people took advantage of the opportunities. High winds rearranged some tree limbs, but there was no significant loss.

In the late fall, the park received 14 new trees. Thanks to **EdBauer Construction**, the new trees were properly planted and staked. Many are near the parking lot where emerald ash borer infected trees had to be removed. As they grow, those trees will form a beautiful new street scape. Several trees were also planted in the center of the park.

The **daffodils** have started peeking up to usher in the coming spring. That means it is **time to start planning for park maintenance and improvements**. An Eagle Scout project will be adding a book sharing post, graveling paths and touching up signs. The volunteers may not have a building to work in, but we have GARDENS. Weeding and planting will begin in April. We are going to be focusing on several invasive plant species this year. Getting them under control will add to the beauty of the gardens and will be appreciated by the wildlife who prefer our native vegetation.

On **Saturday April 22, 2017** we will host the annual **EARTH DAY celebration**. Everyone is invited to come to the park for this annual day of picking up and clearing out. There will be a winter's accumulation of litter to remove and fallen limbs to haul out. Many hands make light work. Be part of making the BNAC a great place to visit.

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## 2017 BNAC Summer Concert Series

The Summer Concert Series is in the planning stage. This year we will feature:

<b>Wednesday July 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Carnival Kids Steel Band</b>
<b>Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>My Cousin Tone</b>
<b>Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Doug Yeomans Band</b>
<b>Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Pyramid Band</b>

If you, or someone you know is interested in sponsoring our concert series, please email the BNAC at [Burchfieldnac@gmail.com](mailto:Burchfieldnac@gmail.com). This is a great way to promote a business or organization and contribute to your community.

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## Volunteer Hours

Nancy Pufpaff

Our year started in October 2016 and concluded (for now) on moving day February 2017. Our total volunteer hours include, Photo Contest and Reception in November, Volunteer meetings in October thru February, Christmas decorating and Christmas Open House in December. In February there was also a Leadership and Volunteer meetings to discuss our moving forward options. And then moving day.

**All of the hours we accrued during the last months totaled 1300 hours.**

## Primeval Poetic Place: A Creek Runs Through It

Doreen Panzarella

### The Symbolism/Romanticism of Charles Burchfield and William Blake

Charles Burchfield was the first American artist to use symbolism. Poet/Painter William Blake created verse and art using symbolism. Symbolists showed greater concern for the internal life than the external reality. The emphasis of Romanticism was on the imagination rather than reason. Symbolism in the visual arts had its sources in early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The emotional, visual complexity of Burchfield's work, expresses an undercurrent life force closely characteristic of the Romantic Poet/Painter/Mystic William Blake.

In 1918 Burchfield created a geological image titled **Sun and Rocks**. In 1950 it was transformed to a mystical scene with aesthetic stimuli from William Blake. In **Sun and Rocks**, Burchfield describes "the great star – the Sun- coexists with the rocky landscape referencing an Ancient time. **Sun and Rocks** was an attempt to depict a scene of a Primeval time in early Spring, when conflicting forces of Nature hold sway and seem to fill the earth with violence and chaos. A great cliff shaggy with ferns juts up into the Sky. From it, forced loose by the relentless process of erosion, huge boulders have tumbled down the hillside. Among them Hemlocks, torn and twisted by violence of wind and storm – have managed somehow to sustain life. Shining forth from the deep blue cavernous sky, the Spring Sun – our great daytime star – floods the scene with brilliant light that will heal the wounds of the Earth and bring forth new life.

After the time of the dinosaurs, hundreds of thousands of years ago, giant glaciers slipped down from the North and covered North America. These vast ice sheets and subsequent warming periods helped carve the countryside of West Seneca. West Seneca lies in what was once the Buffalo Creek Reservation. Buffalo Creek flows through West Seneca to the Buffalo River. Creeks are part of the grand hydrologic cycle that funnels water between atmosphere, land and ocean. The ecosystem is complex in structure and chemistry supporting an immense array of organisms from snails and beetle larvae to amphibians, fish and wading birds. The health of a creek is reflected in conditions throughout the watershed.

Go with the Flow – support Burchfield Buffalo Creek and local waterway ecosystems.

He Whose Face Gives No Light – Shall Never Become A Star .....William Blake

## Membership

Nola Stutz

The Friends of the BNAC would like to applaud your continual support and invite you to join our organization. **Your support is especially important now as we await news of progress toward getting the BNAC building restored.** Memberships provide us with the resources to continue with activities on the center's grounds. Hop on board and enjoy our holistic approach to life embracing nature, the arts, education, relaxation and exercise. A "get away vaca day" at the BNAC will make you smile. Check out our beautiful park and bring a friend. Please check our website and facebook postings.

**The BNAC no longer has phone service, so if you would like to reach us, contact us through our email at [Burchfieldnac@gmail.com](mailto:Burchfieldnac@gmail.com)**