



Rahn Hutcheson

Executive Director

Averitt Center for the Arts

P.O. Box 926 • 33 East Main Street

Downtown Statesboro • (912) 212-2787

www.averittcenterforthearts.org

rhutcheson@averittcenterforthearts.org

New Year, Old Favorites at the Averitt

The New Year begins with some down-home country music as talented local singers Brandi Harvey, Christie McLendon and Rachel Elkins, a five-piece band and a few special guests will help you stroll down memory lane in the Emma Kelly Theater on January 7-10.

The talented trio and band will cover popular tunes from some of the most influential female artists of 1930s to the 1990s in the **Lady Legends and Guests** concert. The 30-song set includes music from The Carter Family, June Carter, Kitty Wells, The Davis Sisters, Patsy Cline, Wanda Jackson, Dolly Parton, Jeannie C. Riley, Tammy Wynette, Loretta Lynn, Bobby Gentry, Lynn Anderson, Tanya Tucker, Barbara Mandrell and Reba McEntire.

Harvey has been dubbed the Sound of Downtown and has been a popular musical voice in the area and on the Averitt stage for many years. She also is a music editor of Discovering Bulloch magazine and performs relentlessly with her band Moss City Groove.

McLendon, also a local favorite, hails from nearby Metter. She is probably most famous for the Andylna Darling character that she portrays with her Mayberry tribute shows. The bubbly blonde also plays a myriad of characters (Dolly Parton, Lucille Ball and Lilly Tomlin) and performs in local churches, singing solo or with her vocal trio One Voice.

Elkins works double duty, selling you a ticket as the Averitt's box office manager and then performing in the show. The Warner Robins native burst onto the local scene with a magnificent performance as Missy in The Marvelous Wonderettes. She also is the lead singer of The Ripleys, a local band formed by local music legend Jerry Roberson.

The **Lady Legends and Guests** show is sponsored by Renasant Bank, Ellis Meat Market and Hoke Brunson.

A dark-blue vase filled with red-tipped flowers is the subject of this month's **Paint-n-Party**, sponsored by borotakout.com, which will be on Jan. 8th from 6-8 p.m. at the Roxie Remley Center for Fine Arts on East Vine Street. No experience is necessary! Just come and have fun with friends and your favorite drink! (21+ to drink). The price includes a 16 x 20 canvas and art supplies that you will use to create your very own masterpiece. Our instructor will guide you through the steps to paint your version of this neat scene.

The folk art of **Lincolnton native Leonard Jones** will be on display and on sale in the Averitt Main Gallery beginning on the 14th.

His images are snapshots of rural Southern life, where the figures often face away from the viewer or have their faces obscured by the brims of hats, as if "caught unaware of the painter."

Jones paints by spreading large blocks of color across his scrap wood or roofing tin with enamel house paint and a large house painting brush. He then paints the subjects in with his fingers, leaving his fingerprints visible in many of his paintings. For smaller subjects or greater detail, he uses a stick or sometimes the handle of a brush.

The exhibition is sponsored by Bill and Virginia Anne Franklin Waters.

The next night, the annual **Behold Here Cometh The Dreamer** event will feature an evening of African-American poetry, music and spoken word performances in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Held this year in the Emma Kelly Theater, **Behold** promises to be a stirring tribute to the late civil rights leader on what would have been his 92nd birthday.

Organizer Mical Whitaker has assembled local artists and the area's most distinctive voices to bring to life the words of poets such as Langston Hughes, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Maya Angelou and Jill Scott. The featured speaker is Dr. Stacy Smallwood, an associate professor in the Georgia Southern University Department of Health Policy and Community Health.

Behold is exclusively sponsored by Attorney Francys Johnson, Davis Bozeman Johnson Law.

Bluegrass music comes to the Emma Kelly Theater on the 23rd with the first annual **Bluegrass Jamboree**. Featured bands are The Runnin' Rich Band, which is fronted by local legend Jerry Roberson, and the Evan Rose Band. The **Bluegrass Jamboree** is exclusively sponsored by Dabbs, Hickman, Hill and Cannon.

The Averitt Center offers a wide range of classes for children, teenagers and adults in dance, theater, visual arts and music. The third session of the Visual Art and Theater courses begins January 11 while there are new and existing youth and adult classes in Dance.

All meet in the late afternoon or early evening (homeschool classes meeting in the late mornings or early afternoons) at one of the three Averitt campuses and meet once or more per week. Classes are grouped by age and ability level. Class tuition varies and members do receive discounts.

For Bulloch County School parents who have chosen Virtual Learning for their children this school year but don't want them to stay home all day, the Averitt Center offers an option... the **Averitt Online Academy**.

Students can bring their Virtual Learning equipment to the Averitt and "do school" in an arts-education environment, which is led by Averitt childcare instructor Michelle NeSmith.

Staff members are on site to answer questions and encourage students to meet their academic goals. Students will also participate in fun art activities. Weekly, daily and drop-in options are available.

Currently there are six full-time students in various grade levels. Enrollment is limited by social-distancing requirements but spaces are still available so call Averitt Superintendent of Education Tony Phillips at 259-9228 to register. COVID-19 safety procedures are strictly observed.

To purchase tickets and enroll in classes or workshops, simply visit the Box Office at the Averitt Center Main Gallery (open 7 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday through Friday), call 912-212-2787 or go online at www.averittcenterforthearts.org for more information.