



FalmouthPatch

ARTS

Wine and Music Wednesdays

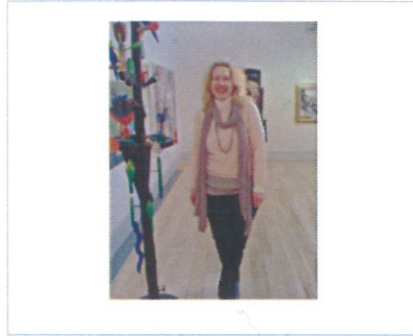
On the third Wednesday of every month, the Cotuit Center for the Arts hosts an open house with wine and live music.

By Sarah Moon 11:27am

The Cotuit Center for the Arts

(<http://www.cotuitcenterforthearts.org/>) is on a roll. With seven mainstage theatre productions, 20 gallery shows and new education and membership programs on tap for 2011, the Center is pretty much sticking its chest out and saying, "What recession?"

"Arts make people happy, and it's been demonstrated in a recession that people still spend money on things that make them happy," Operations Manager Sarah Edick explained. To the Center's credit, *good* art makes people happy, and it has earned its prominent position on the Cape by offering plenty of it.



James Wolf started the Cotuit Center for the Arts in 1993 in a small space behind the Cotuit grocery store. In 1995, it became a nonprofit, but in 2000 the barn housing the theatrical productions burned down. Luckily, by this time, Wolf had built up plenty of goodwill in the community, and members rallied to help the Center make a comeback.

In September of 2000, they purchased the property on Route 28 that remains their home today. Since then, they've grown, constructing a main building which unites a mainstage theatre with a wraparound gallery space.

Though the Center has had this 9,000 sq. foot space since 2004, many in the area are still unaware of it. For this reason, Edick was charged with creating an event in the building's lobby space last March "to get the word out about what we have." From this, the Center's Wine and Music Wednesdays series was born.

The series was meant to run just March through September of last year, but the event proved so popular, it was extended. The series gelled for Edick when she contacted Grain and Vine Wine and Spirit Shoppe in Hyannis, and they signed on for the whole series.

The third component – music – fell right into place. Through community connections or musicians themselves reaching out to the Center, Edick has been able to feature a new musical act every month.

Each Wine and Music Wednesday has a new theme to match the gallery exhibition and/or the theatre production running at the time. This month, the gallery show is "So Big," a collaboration between the Cotuit Center for the Arts and the [Arts Foundation of Cape Cod](http://www.artsfoundation.org/) (<http://www.artsfoundation.org/>), featuring the work of 47 local artists ranging from paintings to photo to glass sculpture to mixed media.

Along with "big" art, next Wednesday's event will feature a bigger-than-usual music act (four members instead of one or two) named the Beach Plums, who perform their own style of music they've dubbed "beachgrass." Grain and Vine will serve wine from big bottles.

Those whom the cold and snow has sent into hibernation might well consider expanding their scope for a big night of great art, music and flowing wine. Admission is an affordable \$5 and the event runs from 6:00 - 7:30 pm tomorrow, January 19.

If you go, you'll see an expressionistic painting of Cotuit Center for the Arts' founder James Wolf. Explaining what makes his piece "big," artist Richard Neil writes, "[The original] space may have been small, but it was hard not to notice how big Jamie's dreams were to create something different in this part of the Cape."

Today, the Center has the big space to match those dreams and they're making the most of it.

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