



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Make and Create at Home With Shake Rag Alley's Youth Program This Summer**

MINERAL POINT, Wis.—It's more important than ever to give kids a chance to participate in a variety of creative hands-on activities. With the health and safety of our instructors, students, staff and volunteers in mind, Shake Rag Alley Center of the Arts has converted the majority of this summer's K-12 Youth Program arts and crafts workshops into kits to be enjoyed at home.

More than 30 Youth Program arts and crafts kits will be available in June, July and August, and each comes with both written instructions and a video or Zoom component. Kits will be available for pickup at Shake Rag Alley starting the day the class would have been held on our campus. Prices for most of the kits range from \$10-\$12 plus shipping if the kit will be mailed. Any kits remaining will be available for sale in our online Youth Program Marketplace.

This month's workshops, which begin June 15, include Handmade Paper Flowers, Fairy Houses taught by Youth Program Director Elizabeth Johanna, Fun With Photography with Marie Whisenant, Steampunk Owls and Felt Flowers with Nancy Huffman, Acrylic Painting with Lesley Macaulay, Buttons and Magnets with Jacki Thomas, Textured Slab Vases with Katie White, Leather Stash Bag, Moccasins, Leather Wallet and Magic Braid Bracelet with Carole Spelić, Mermaid Crowns with Megan Kulick, and Amate (Cut Paper Espiritu Figures) with Kathy Warpinski.

In July, youth artists can enjoy Polish Puppet Theater, Dangly Dancers and Painted Clothespins with Warpinski, Button Art with Macaulay, Free Arts Camp with an exciting cast of human and animal characters, Underwater Watercolor, Soap Carving and Gelatin Plate Printing with Johanna, and Bird Mobile by Jane Potocki.

This year's Free Arts Camp -- normally four days of programming for 40 youth spread out in morning and afternoon sessions -- will be delivered in several kit projects and videos exploring the arts and crafts of caring for animals. Get ready to meet and be inspired by a menagerie of animals -- cows, chinchillas, an Arizona mountain kingsnake and a hedgehog named Quilliam Shakespeare -- and the 4-H youth and adults who take care of them.



In August, Johanna will offer kits for creating a Jeweled Sun, Heart Mosaic, Soda Can Cats and Twig Mosaic; Thomas will show you how to make Dog Toys; and Evy Thuli will provide instruction on Fantasy Collages and Making Faces.

“Nearly 80 percent of our 2020 Youth Program is being offered via alternative delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic, which is a remarkable demonstration of the commitment of our staff and instructors to the youth in our community,” said Executive Director Sara Lomasz Flesch. “Nothing can replace the experience of engaging in arts and crafts creativity on our campus in the historic heart of Mineral Point, but we’re excited to be able to share most of this year’s kits and accompanying video or virtual instruction with youth near and far.”

To register and for more information, see <https://shakeragalley.org/youth-program>, contact Youth Program Director Elizabeth Johanna at [ejohanna@shakeragalley.org](mailto:ejohanna@shakeragalley.org), or call our office at (608) 987-3292.

Creative fun for kids of all ages has been a focus of Shake Rag Alley programming since its founding in 2004. Children’s classes began then as an after-school arts program and continue to expose participants to new skills and creative engagement each summer. Shake Rag Alley’s Youth Program is made possible in part by grants from the Mineral Point Community Chest and United Fund of Iowa County. To donate in support of the Youth Program, see <https://shakeragalley.org/support/>.

## **Upcoming Events at Shake Rag Alley**

### **Driftless Poets Monthly Workshop June 13**

The Driftless Poets will meet virtually at 2-4 p.m. June 13 for this month’s free workshop. Local and aspiring poets are invited to provide support and encouragement for poets seeking honest feedback on their work. To RSVP and receive a Zoom invitation, email [sflesch@shakeragalley.org](mailto:sflesch@shakeragalley.org) or call (608) 987-3292 for more information.

### **Women’s Art Party June 17**

Summer is around the corner! – and that’s the theme for this month’s Women’s Art Party. We will be working with stencils in any and all available media, on prepared encyclopedia pages. All stencils will have a summer theme – flowers, grasses, birds, bugs, foliage – and each assortment will be unique! As always, you’re welcome to bring other projects you are already working on and join the circle of artistic camaraderie. Due to coronavirus restrictions and concerns, there are two ways to participate in June:

- Option A: Up to nine guests may meet in person at the Lind Pavilion. Registration required! Masks will be worn by all participants and hand sanitizing will happen regularly. Tools and materials will not be shared unless gloves (provided upon entry) are



worn. Doors will be open. A/C will be off. Cost is the usual \$5 workshop fee plus \$3 for materials.

- Option B: Any number of participants may meet via Zoom. Registration deadline is June 10 to accommodate the mailing of materials. Kits consisting of three prepared encyclopedia pages and at least three stencils, plus cardstock for mounting, will be available for on-campus pick up or mailed by USPS. Participants should let us know if they need drawing materials. Colored pencils (plus a pencil sharpener), ballpoint pen and Sharpie-type marker are recommended. Cost is the usual \$5 workshop fee plus \$3 for materials plus \$5 for mailing/handling if not picking up.

To register, see <https://shakeragalley.org/womens-art-party>. For more information or questions, call our office at (608) 987-3292.

### **Mineral Point Museum Night June 18**

Swing in to summer by engaging in Mineral Point history at several locations participating in the second annual Museum Night at 5 to 8 p.m. June 18. The Mineral Point Chamber of Commerce, Mineral Point Historical Society, Mineral Point Railroad Society, Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts and the Wisconsin Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Museum will be open and offering free admission where applicable. In compliance with Iowa County guidelines surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, safety and sanitation precautions will be taken at each site, and visitors will be asked to maintain 6 feet of social distance and wear masks around other members of the public. Visitors to Shake Rag Alley can tour the collection of historic and reproduction buildings representing Mineral Point architecture from the 1830s through 1940s. Aspiring fairy house architects can take home a make-your-own-fairy-house-kit to design a contribution to this summer's Aug. 1 Tour of Fairy Homes. Pre-drilled wooden foundations and a bag to fill to your heart's content with bits and baubles from our fairy house stash will be available outside weather permitting or in the spacious Lind Pavilion. For more information, see <https://shakeragalley.org/2020events/museum-night/>. For more information, call (608) 987-3292 or see [www.shakeragalley.org](http://www.shakeragalley.org).

### **About Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts**

A nonprofit school of arts and crafts founded in 2004 by local artists and community members, Shake Rag Alley's 2.5-acre campus at 18 Shake Rag St. in Mineral Point (population 2,500) is a national destination for participants of adult workshops, a robust summer youth program and a host of annual special events. In addition, Shake Rag offers on-site lodging and custom facility rentals for meetings, events and celebrations. For additional information about Shake Rag Alley's 2020 workshops and events, or to request a catalog and information about facility rentals and volunteer opportunities, see [www.ShakeRagAlley.org](http://www.ShakeRagAlley.org), call (608) 987-3292 or email [info@shakeragalley.org](mailto:info@shakeragalley.org).