

CIRCUS! @ The Howland

Featuring “The Art of Balance” Art Exhibit, a live concert, a circus performance, a movie, community workshops & more!



June & July at the Howland Cultural Center in Beacon!

A Specialty Fun Event in Beacon: CIRCUS! @ The Howland

For two intensive months this summer, **The Howland Cultural Center** will produce a diverse panorama of multi-media events celebrating “**The Art of Balance**” and the joy of circus.

Balance serves as a connective spirit and integral element of every art form - be it musical, visual, movement-based, theatrical or literary. **The Howland** will feature dual art exhibitions, a musical concert, a family-oriented circus show, a documentary film and interactive community workshops, all on the theme of circus and balance in art.

Karen E. Gersch, a celebrated fine artist and longtime circus performer, will serve as Curator and Director. She plans to fill the balcony of **The Howland** with art from local elementary and high school children. The ground floor gallery will feature “**The Art of Balance**”, an exhibition of professional painters, sculptors, wood carvers, printmakers, photographers, silversmiths, and puppet makers.

Gersch will also host a “**Family Fun Balancing**” day each month, allowing adults and children to try their hand at balancing objects, spinning plates, simple partner acrobatics, walking a tight wire and a rolling globe. Trying these feats will let participants appreciate the same skills depicted in art on the walls. Learning and practicing together lets children and adults discover new ways to relate and face physical challenges. Because the child in ALL OF US would secretly love to run away and join the circus, **Family Balance Day** allows everyone to feel the elation and a sense of achievement in discovering simple skills of gravity.

“**Piccolo Circus**”, a matinee performance for family audiences, appealing to all ages. This action-packed hour-long show features professional circus performers (Big Apple Circus and Ringling Bros.) as well as students of the craft. There’s comedy and acrobatics, hand balancing and eccentric juggling (boomerangs, flying balls and giant spinning tops) mesmerizing magic acts and a troupe of young inner-city dancers partnering each other on the ground and on an anchored ladder apparatus.

“**Cirque de La Lune**” is an original circus oratorio in two acts - with popcorn included! Acclaimed composer and classical pianist Hadyen Wayne will perform his full-length opus for adults. The live musical concert will be enhanced by voice and visual projections to create an epic evening that tells the tale of love, loss and spiritual revelation in the realm of a big-top setting.

“**WORLD CIRCUS**” an award-winning documentary film by Angela Snow Cline chronicles the training and preparation of several world class circus acts to compete in the Monte Carlo Circus Festival; the most prestigious competitive festival in the world. You’ll go backstage, backlot and to dressing rooms to see the daily lives of famous aerialists, clowns, acrobats, seals and lion trainers. The personal interviews and footage of these artists and their charges are poignant and unforgettable. Angela will be present to present, talk about the film and answer questions.

“Pinot & Augustine”, an enchanting musical clown duet presented by the founders of “Happenstance Theatre”, a five-times Helen Hayes award-winning theatrical company from Maryland. Featuring charming sets and costumes, audience participation and lots of laughs.

This event will provide a wonderful experience for the community and neighboring regions and will promote Beacon for its cutting edge cultural projects. It will require more funding and a bigger budget than The Howland Cultural Center can handle, especially given our current fundraising campaign for a furnace replacement.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. *Adopt a single entity from the “ART OF BALANCE” palette of events:*
 - * FAMILY FUN BALANCING DAY (Community Workshops)
 - * CIRQUE DE LA LUNE (Adult Musical Concert)
 - * PICCOLO CIRCUS (A Family Show of Balancing Artists)
 - * WORLD CIRCUS (Documentary film showing and film maker talk)
2. *Underwrite the “ART OF BALANCE” Festivities for one or two months.*
 - * Receive primary sponsorship credit in signage and publicity.
 - * Be the recipient of two “CIRCUS” designed t-shirts by artist Karen E. Gersch
 - * Two people of your choice receive an hour-long private lesson in juggling or balancing objects.
 - * A personalized tour of the art exhibit, citing process, narratives and history.

Give what you can to each event. Every dollar counts! You will receive sponsorship credit in The Howland Cultural Center signage and publicity for the event. Choose your own category!

Roster of Center Ring Donors:

Roustabout:	\$ 50-99	
Jugglers:	100-250	
Acrobats:	300-500	
Aerialists:	600-900	* Received 1 donation
Ringmaster:	1,000 - 2,000	* Received 1 donation
Big Top:	2,000 +	

*For more information or to contribute, contact: The Howland Cultural Center at 477 Main St., Beacon, NY , information@howlandculturalcenter.org or call **845-831-4988**. The Howland Cultural Center is a non-profit, 501-c3 organization that promotes all the arts.*