

AMISH ACRES
Historic Farm & Heritage Resort
Nappanee, Indiana



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Judges Announced for Amish Acres 54th Anniversary Arts & Crafts Festival

NAPPANEE, Indiana, - July 5, 2016 – Richard Pletcher, founder of the Amish Acres Arts & Crafts Festival and Jennifer Pletcher Wysong, Marketplace Coordinator are pleased to announce the judges for the 54th Annual Arts & Crafts Festival.

The highlight of Amish Acres Arts & Crafts Festival is the awarding of over \$5,000 in cash prizes from entries in the Competition Tent. Each year two judges are selected to pick the prize winners in the two and three dimensional categories. This year's judges come from diverse backgrounds and will provide unique perspective to the process. The winners are put on permanent display in the Blue Ribbon Art Museum in Amish Acres Barn Loft wine tasting room.

Steve Gruber, a native of Elkhart, Indiana, is the Director of the Arts on Main Gallery in his hometown. He attended the University of Evansville. He has Raised funds for arts organizations in Asheville & Raleigh, NC (including Asheville Museum of Art; Bele Chere Festival; NC Museum of Art; Carolina Ballet; and Artspace). He is an avid art collector and promoter of local art and artists. He planned the 1st "Taste of the Gardens" event to benefit Wellfield Gardens in 2009. He Co-founder Pillars of Elkhart helping young adults charged with staging downtown events.

He has been the Producer and past Chairman of the Elkhart Jazz Festival. He has been a Midwest Museum of American Art - Society of Associates since 2010. He has Co-chaired the Art Show at "Taste of the Gardens". He produces the quarterly Elkhart ArtWalk series and planned and promoted "Grow Down" educational event for Wellfield Botanic Gardens in 2015. He is Founder of Arts on Main Gallery in 2014 with special gallery shows with over 170 artists in varying media. He writes the bi-monthly arts blog "Art Sense" for The Elkhart.

"Elisa Ellsworth is the owner of Picture This in Print, Kendallville picture framing and art gallery, that has been in business for over twenty years. As the head of the Wilson Gallery, a fine arts gallery headquartered in the historic Kendallville's Carnegie Library, she has presented exhibitions featuring internationally renowned artists, as well as traveling exhibitions and art workshops throughout the region. She is also the proprietor of Hazel House Vintage Furniture, Art and Curiosities in Howe Indiana. She is passionate about education and promotion of the arts."

NOTE TO EDITORS: Richard Pletcher, founder and CEO, is available for interview. Coverage invited. CONTACT: Becky Cappert of Amish Acres, (574) 773-4188 ext. 213, or BeckyCappert@AmishAcres.com

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