

# Arts Letter

THE DUFFERIN ARTS COUNCIL - SPRING/SUMMER 2021

## Remembering Gary Corlett



As some of you may remember, the inestimable Gary Corlett died in early January of this year. In the mid-1990s Gary and his wife Eleanor became members of the Dufferin Arts Council, almost as soon as they made the permanent move from the city to their weekend home in Mulmur.

These were heady days for the Dufferin Arts Council. DAC had already helped to celebrate the re-opening of the Grace Tipling Hall with Eric Nagler as the headline performer. A quarterly newsletter, *Artsletter*, was keeping everyone up to date on their current activities and plans for the future. Luncheons at The Globe in Rosemont for ten months of the year were a great success and the future beckoned. Lectures, excursions, concerts, art shows, theatrical events, all seemed possible with an expanded membership.

In 1996 Gary joined the board as secretary. In 1999 he became president, and two years later he served as past president. Many of the DAC members who worked with Gary during these years, and later, speak of him with great fondness. The twinkle in

his eye, his wry sense of humour and steadfast smile endeared him to all. His approach to the task at hand was always low key, and he is remembered for getting things done. People enjoyed working with him.

A man of many interests, Gary continued his support of DAC when he became involved with the endowment fund that supports Dufferin students in their pursuit of post-secondary studies in the arts. It was Gary who facilitated the transfer of funds from DAC management to the Ontario Arts Foundation where today the fund has grown to \$200,000. The revenue from this fund supports three or four students every year with a scholarship of \$2500.00 each.

Gary was so much more than his contributions to the well-being of the Dufferin Arts Council. Beyond DAC, Gary's presence was much appreciated in his community of River Road. It was here that he indulged his interest in local history as he sorted out the histories of some of his neighbours' properties. And Gary's community involvement extended beyond the River Road to the wider community through his work with MC<sup>2</sup>. Some people knew him as an antique car enthusiast, others as a jazz musician performing on saxophone during intermissions of the Dufferin Circle of Storytellers events. For his book club he was the person who organized copies of their chosen titles through the Shelburne Public Library. At the Shakespeare Study Group Gary surprised us every once in a while with a song to brighten the text.

These are but a few of the contributions Gary made to the world around him. We who knew him also know that our world is diminished by his absence. We wish his wife, children and grandchildren the peace and comfort that comes with time and fond memories of days gone by.



## News From Abroad

Back in January, DAC received a detailed and wonderful package describing the adventures of one of our scholarship winners. Jasmine Ellis (2005 recipient of the Arline Gorelle Award for Excellence in the Field of Dance) has gone on to become an internationally acclaimed Choreographer and an award-winning film director.

This native of Mansfield is now based out of Munich, Germany. Back when she was sponsored by DAC, Jasmine was heading into her second year at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre. She went on to study at Codarts Rotterdam Conservatory and has worked in dance as a performer and choreographer since 2006.

Ellis' work is often characterized by its trans-disciplinary approach, where she combines dance, text, live music and film in which humour, vulnerability and familiarity are weaved together to create unexpected worlds.

Her recent works include *Empathy* (2018) which was remounted at the Rodeo Festival in Munich, and the works *back* and *until*, both performed at Place des Arts in Montreal where she was the Resident Choreographer with Springboard Danse Montreal in 2018.

International work includes the short film *lockdown* (2020), created in collaboration with LAJAMARTIN - Physical Dance Theatre Company in the United States, and *Everything is Blue*, created with Evandro Pedroni (Vienna/Brazil).

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## Jasmine Ellis - News From Abroad (continues)



Jasmine Ellis ©

Between 2019 and 2020 Jasmine created a trilogy of three, full-length productions about loneliness. *Lucas is Lonely* premiered in Winnipeg in 2019, presented by Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers. *Toni is Lonely* was realized as part of DANCE Festival in cooperation with Residenztheatre in Munich (2019) and was supported by The Canada Council for the Arts. The third piece, the hybrid version, *Is Susan Lonely?* was created and streamed online in 2020.

Currently, The Canada Council for the Arts has given funding for Jasmine to create a short film version of the stage production of *Toni is Lonely*. The film will be released in 2021. Jasmine has also been awarded the #takecare grant from Fonds Darstellende Kunst for 2021.

With reviews like "atmospherically and musically a welcome treat in a bitter time" from Sabine Leucht of Sueddeutsche Zeitung, Munich (one of the largest daily newspapers in Germany),

Jasmine's art is impacting the wider world. Thanks to her talent and hard work, her career is soaring. It is such a thrill to know that DAC was there to help in the early days.

To watch the trailers for Jasmine's work, please go to the following links online.

*Is Susan Lonely?* - <https://vimeo.com/487763635>  
*Toni is Lonely* - <https://vimeo.com/376681042>  
*Lucas is Lonely* - <https://vimeo.com/376673920>  
(Password for the Lucas film teaser is jeprojects.)

DAC is hoping that in the future, with the lifting of lockdowns and improved access, that Jasmine might visit home and be able to come and speak at one of the DAC Luncheons, or, better still, actually arrange for a performance here. That would be such a treat for not just DAC members, but the wider arts community here in Dufferin.

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## The Ann Laurier Scholarship

**Do you know of any local young artists graduating from high school? It's that time of year again when applications for the Ann Laurier Scholarships are due.**

The Dufferin Arts Council has been stymied from doing the vast majority of its usual undertakings because of the global pandemic. The one, very important piece of DAC that has continued uninterrupted, is our ability to support young people as they begin their adult lives, learning

more about their crafts in accredited Universities, Colleges, and post-secondary schools.

Thanks to the continued performance of the Endowment Fund, DAC is in a position to sponsor three students with scholarships of \$2,500.00 each. Winning students will receive a cheque made out to their post-secondary school.

In the past DAC has not always received a great many applications. This year more than ever, it is

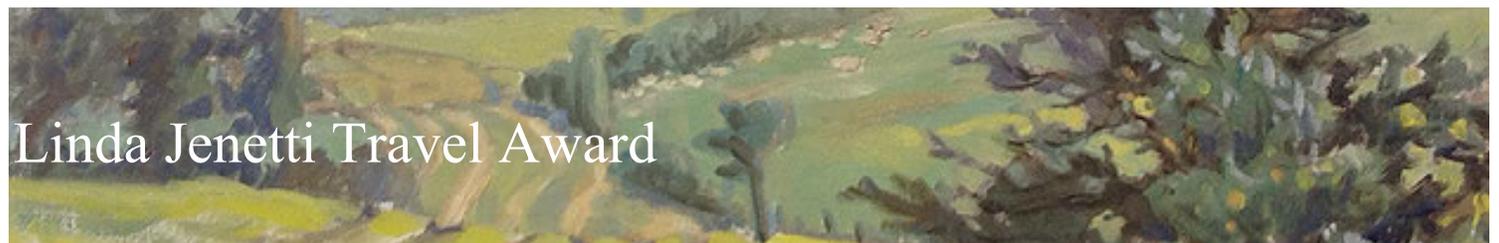
important that we get the word out. Our Chair of the Scholarship Committee, Dr. John Farrugia, has been hard at work, dropping off the information about the scholarships with our local high school guidance offices, so fingers crossed for a good turn out. Once again, major thanks to our membership for their continued support in being members despite the pandemic, and their kind donations which continue to contribute to the success of our local young people.

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## Reed T. Cooper Bursary

Now is the perfect time for mid-career artists who live in Dufferin County and are members of the Dufferin Arts Council to consider applying for the Reed T. Cooper Bursary. Applications will be accepted up to 30 September 2021 for this year's award of \$3,000.00. Details and application form are

available at the DAC website, [dufferinarts.com](http://dufferinarts.com). This year we have added a criteria page that explains what the jurors are looking for. We hope this will help you with your proposal. It's time to get to work on your application for this prestigious award!



## Linda Jenetti Travel Award

The pandemic has put everyone's travel plans on hold, hence the delay in information about this award. We are hoping that by Autumn 2021 we will be able to announce the dates and details of the application process. This is a one-time award of \$5,000.00 to be presented to a mid-career visual artist

living in the Headwaters region. While international travel might be your preference, we would like to encourage you to think about travel within Canada to one of our prestigious art schools or instructors' workshops.

Comments on this issue are welcome at [inbox@dufferinarts.com](mailto:inbox@dufferinarts.com).  
If you'd like to submit articles for the next issue, we'd love to have them!