

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Leadercast
Women event
set Feb. 19**

RACINE — Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce will host an online version of its second annual Leadercast Women event from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 19. In addition to six TED-Talk like video presentations, three area leaders will present live online keynote addresses closing with a question and answer session.

The pre-recorded speakers include:

■ Radha Agrawal — Author, entrepreneur and co-founder and CEO of Day-breaker

■ Bonnie St. John — Paralympian, best-selling author and business consultant

■ Abby Wambach — Women's soccer legend, best-selling author, and founder of Wolfpack Endeavor

■ Randi Zuckerberg — Founder and CEO of Zuckerberg Media and Former Director of Market Development at Facebook

■ Stephanie Mehta — Editor-in-chief of Fast Co.

■ Tiffany Dufu — Former chief leadership officer to Levo, best-selling author, and founder and CEO of The Cru.

Live on-line presentations will include:

■ Deanna Singh — Communicator, champion for marginalized communities and an inspiration to all those who want to be agents of change in their work, lives and society

■ Meg Schmitz — Business matchmaker representing more than 500 franchises for people interested in starting their own business

■ August Ball — Founder, Cream City Conservation Corps program training and employing young adults whose social identities are traditionally underrepresented in the environmental industry.

Registration fees are \$60 to view the videos only, \$45 for the keynotes only or a package price of \$95 for both. Register at racinechamber.com/events/calendar. Call 262-



634-1931 or email ramac@racinechamber.com.

**Arts funding
grants available**

RACINE COUNTY — The Racine Arts Council will begin taking applications for ArtSeed Grants to support the skills and abilities of artists and art groups throughout Racine County on Feb. 15.

The grants are available in leveled amounts of \$500, \$1,000 and \$1,500. Partnerships and collaborations between artists and non-profit organizations, including educational and governmental entities, are highly encouraged to apply. Winning applications will include a clear description of the project with a completed budget; key goals with measurable objectives; target audience, expected reach; and a description of how the project will positively affect the community.

Individual artists, art groups and non-profit organizations are invited to apply through the Racine Arts Council website at racineartscouncil.org.

Applications are due by March 30. Grant winners will be chosen on May 13 and awards will be distributed in July. Applicants must be from Racine County, and the proposed venture must occur within Racine County. ArtSeed does not fund scholarships, fundraising projects or operational costs not directly connected with the proposed program or project.

Successful grantees will be contacted by the ArtSeed grant committee and receive a grant contract. Upon receipt of the completed contract, grantees receive 75% of their award. The remaining 25% will be awarded once the grantee has submitted a satisfactory Final Grant Evaluation Report. It must demonstrate how the project met the goals outlined in the grant application.

"ArtSeed Grant Workshop," a how-to session



JOHN BOLTON

"Schitt\$ Peep" by Julie Serbiak was an entry in the 11th annual International PEEPS Art Competition. It was made of foam core, poster board, paper, felt, fabric, lace, buttons, feathers, rocks, paint, Easter grass and found jewelry.

for filling out and application and creating a budget, will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. March 1 via Zoom.

For more information, go to the website or contact Kathi Wilson at director@racineartscouncil.org.

**Artists wanted
for RAM's Peeps
competition**

RACINE — Within an award-winning contemporary art museum, Racine Art Museum (RAM) presents the RAM 12th annual International PEEPS Art Competition, open March 25 through April 10. This popular, untraditional exhibition showcases fluffy, sugar-coated marshmallow PEEPS created by hundreds of artists from around the country.

Artists of all ages are invited to welcome spring by creating art for the only museum competition of its kind in the world. The free competition is open to individuals, families and organizations.

Each year, the show's popularity draws thousands of visitors to the museum, setting daily attendance records and inspiring nationwide media attention along the way.

While attendance for the 2020 show was affected by the global pandemic, interest from creatives remained unwavering — 137 enthusiastic artists created art inspired by the spring-time treat for the RAM 11th annual International PEEPS Art Exhibition.

All entries for the 2021 show will be judged by a panel of experts, based on creativity and the best use or representation of PEEPS.

Further information and a downloadable entry form are available on the RAM website, ramart.org. Entries must be dropped off or shipped to arrive at RAM between March 6 and 4 p.m. March 13.

**Zoo bear turns
30 Thursday**

RACINE — The Racine Zoo is preparing to celebrate the 30th birthday of their beloved Andean bear, Diamond, at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 4 with a special enrichment and birthday cake made by Malick's Piggly Wiggly.

Diamond was born on Feb. 4, 1991, at the Cincinnati Zoo to mother Roxanne and father Jeremy. He grew up with his four siblings, including his litter-

mate Manco Capac, named after the legendary founder of the Inca civilization. Manco is still thriving at the Gladys Porter Zoo of Brownsville, Texas.

From there, Diamond moved to Smoky Mountain Zoological Park in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. in 1992. He stayed there for eight years before moving to the Los Angeles Zoo in 2000.

Finally, Diamond came to the Racine Zoo in July 2004, and has flourished ever since. He loves snoozing in his cave, training with keepers and enjoying his favorite food — apples.

Zoo-goers can say hello and wish a happy birthday to Diamond at the Racine Zoo's Bear Ridge, located next to Raptor Roost and across from the West Caucasian tur mountain. General admission is required to visit.

To further celebrate this special occasion, exclusive Diamond birthday apparel will be available. Multiple colors of shirts and sweat-shirts are available in youth and adult sizes. Funds raised will help support the care of the animals. Orders must be placed by Feb. 7.

For more information or to buy Diamond's exclusive apparel, visit racinezoo.org.