

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 15, 2015

Morgan Arts Council • Berkeley Springs, WV

www.berkeleysprings.com

Press contact only: Jeanne Mozier 304-258-4248 or star@starwv.com

COMFORT FOOD FUND-TASTER IN BERKELEY SPRINGS

Berkeley Springs, WV ---- It started as a play on the art organization's name and ended up as one of the most anticipated happenings in the Morgan Arts Council's long history. The first-ever MAC'n Cheese Tasting is scheduled as a three-course event on Saturday and Sunday, April 11 and 12 at the Ice House.

The fun starts Saturday at 7:30pm with a concert featuring "Potluck," an all-star, all-girl West Virginia band including Mountain Stage's Julie Adams, actress Karen Vuranch and poet/songwriter Colleen Anderson. Vuranch performs again on Sunday at 2:30pm as the WV Humanities Council's History Alive! character, Julia Child. Vuranch, in character as Child, will give out the awards.

Sandwiched in-between performances is the MAC'n Cheese Tasting which begins at 1pm on Sunday with trained judges and the opportunity for the public to vote for Peoples Choice. There are five categories for community entrants including gluten-free and one for extra-ingredients. There is no charge to enter a macaroni and cheese dish and entrants are not limited to Morgan County.

"Here in Berkeley Springs, noted art destination, art is a comfort food," said Jeanne Mozier, event organizer. "Add in our nickname – MAC – and the event became inevitable and full of puns." She pointed out the fund-taster label and decision to add both a Food Photo Contest for all ages and a Macaroni Art Contest for kids from 5 to 18. "This is a true community event," she said. "We even call it a friend-raiser."

Mozier was amazed at how people responded as she tested the event notion around town. "At least every third person immediately declared that they made the best mac and cheese ever. The bragging rights are going to be astounding especially when an entrant can say they received an award from Julia Child herself."

A professional category is one of the five. "When Damien Heath, West Virginia's only James Beard listed chef, has Mac & Cheese on Lot 12's gourmet menu, you know this is a contest that has impressive range," Mozier noted. "I learned a lot about macaroni and cheese, including that Thomas Jefferson made it chic by serving it at a White House dinner when he was president."

The MAC'n Cheese Tasting is a welcome expansion of Travel Berkeley Springs's long-running Uniquely West Virginia Wine and Food Festival at the Ice House on Saturday, April 11 from 10am to 4pm. The Ice House is located on Independence and Mercer streets in downtown Berkeley Springs.

To buy a Combo Special ticket to all the events and for guidelines to enter the three contests: MAC'n Cheese Tasting, Food Photos and Macaroni Art, check the

organization's website: www.macicehouse.org or call 304-258-2300. All proceeds benefit the Morgan Arts Council's community activities.