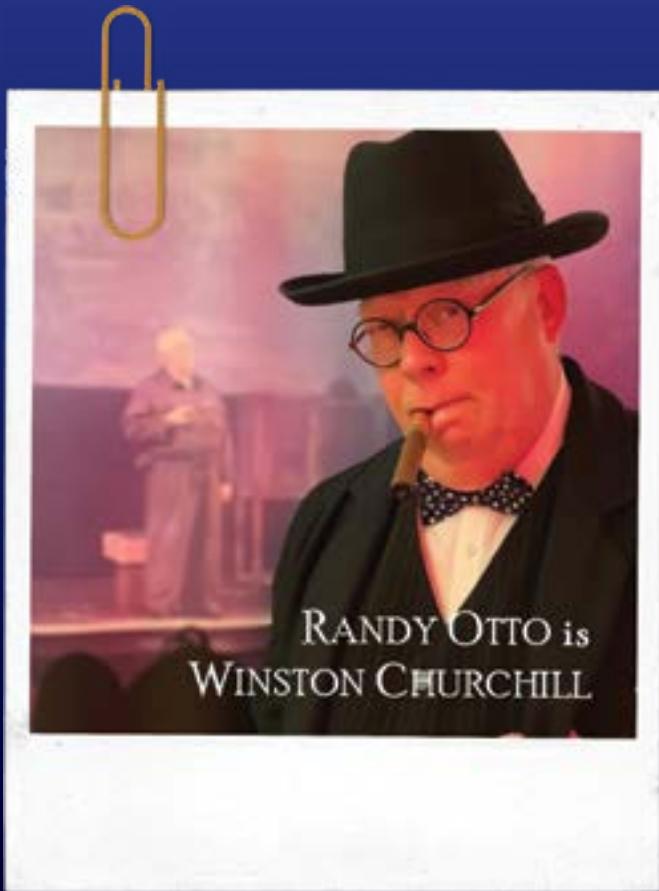




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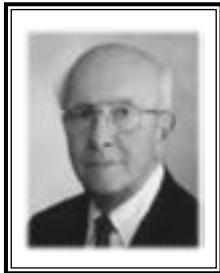
RANDY OTTO is  
WINSTON CHURCHILL

2025-2026  
SEASON

# SLEEPER

*Family Trust*

## SPEAKER SERIES



Created in 1975, the Sleeper Family Trust sponsored its first production in February 1982. *Mark Twain Tonight*, starring Hal Hlbrook, marked the beginning of a long tradition of nationally and internationally acclaimed arts and educational events made possible by the generosity of the Sleeper Family.

Alan Sleeper created the family trust in memory of his grandfather Lyman, his father A.R. (Roy), and his brother, John.

In 1994, the assets of the trust increased by more than \$1 million when John Sleeper's widow, Virginia Sleeper Creitz—who had subsequently married Dale P. Creitz—bequeathed to the trust her entire residual estate.

Alan took an active role in seeing that the trust's mission was fulfilled, in fact, until his death in 2012 at the age of 95, Alan acted as an advisor in choosing performances to be underwritten by the trust and periodically attended the sponsored events. Since 1981, the Sleeper Family Trust has provided over \$2.6 million for programming.

It was always a dream of Alan's to bring a speaker series to the Bowlus much like the Landon Lecture Series in Manhattan. It is with great pleasure that the trust were able to make this dream a reality in the 2022-23 Bowlus Fine Arts Center Season.



## **SLEEPER FAMILY TRUST CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!**

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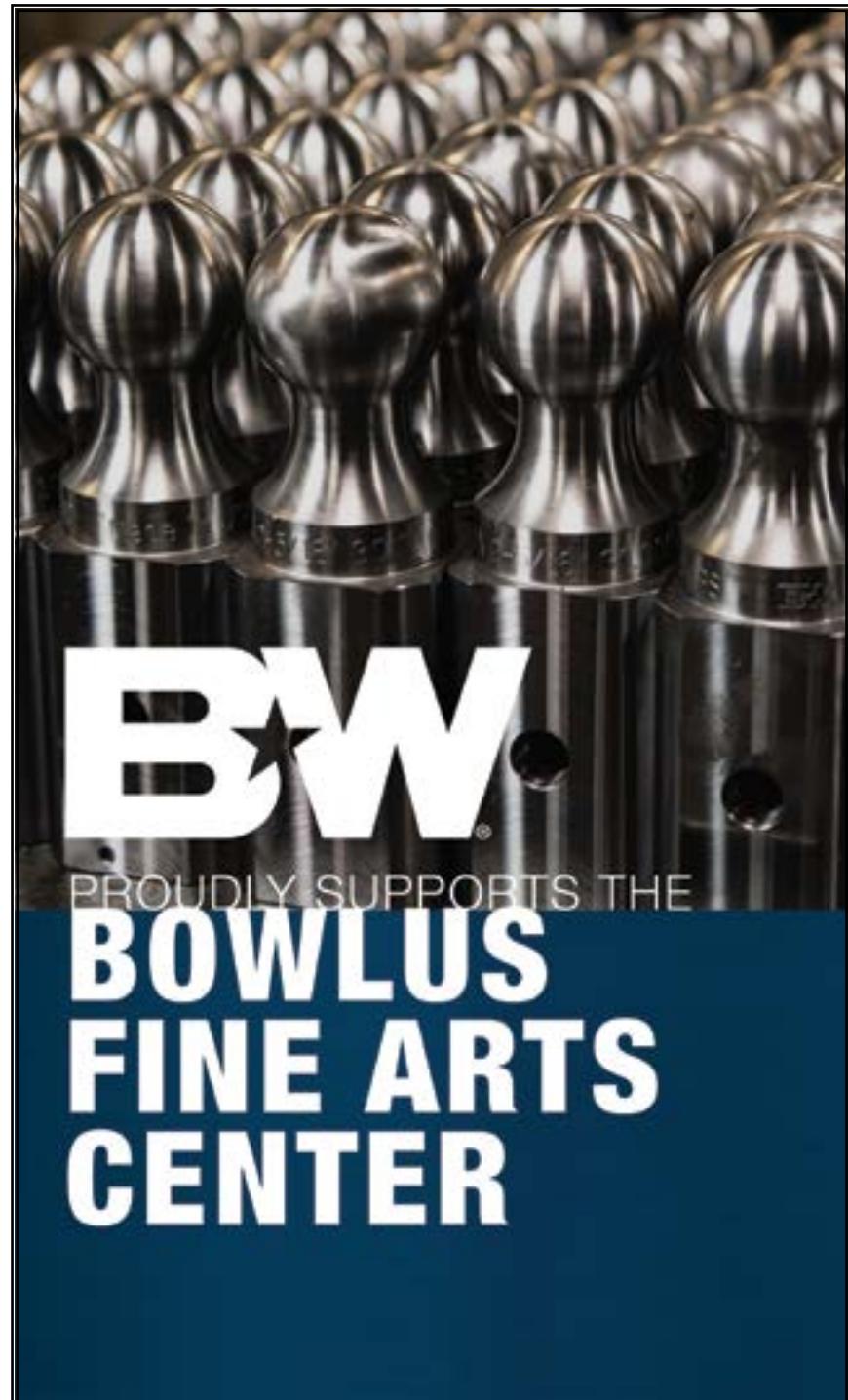
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*Randy Otto*



# SLEEPER *Family Trust* SPEAKER SERIES

Presents

RANDY OTTO

IS

WINSTON CHURCHILL

Friday,

February 20, 2026

7 PM

205 E. Madison Ave., Iola, KS 66749 • [www.bowluscenter.org](http://www.bowluscenter.org) • (620) 365-4765

#### FROM BACKYARD PLAYS TO LEADERSHIP RETREATS

A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, alumnus of the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and numerous theatrical roles, renowned Churchill-ian Scholar, Randy Otto (for over 4 passionate decades) has carefully honed his humorous, poignant and astonishingly relevant tribute to Winston Churchill - who a Price Waterhouse Cooper CEO survey named The Most Admired Leader Ever.

#### BRITISH HISTORY PROFESSOR IGNITES THE CHURCHILL FLAME -

Mr. Otto's University British History Professor, Dr. Maxwell P. Schoenfeld encouraged Otto to dream beyond the classroom. "I was imitating Dr. Schoenfeld imitating Winston Churchill when he snuck up behind me. Smiling, Max said: 'You might have something there Mr. Otto.' I had found my great mentor. Once, Max leveled is gaze on me and said: 'If you don't use the great gift you've been given, the world will forget Winston Churchill.' The first time you meet Winston you see all his faults, and the rest of your life you spend in discovering his virtues.

#### MEETING HAL HOLBROOK CHANGED MY LIFE

For 62 years Hal Holbrook present the acclaimed Mark Twain Tonite! Mr. Otto credits Holbrook for inspiring him to shatter theatre's "fourth wall" and encouraging a raw, young actor to have the guts to take Winston Churchill onstage and on the road. 'Randy, if you just tell Winston's stories you'll be performing as Churchill when you're my age! J'" --- Thanks Hal!

CHEERS TO

Fifty

YEARS

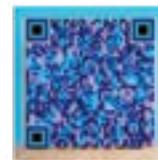
Join us as we  
celebrate the

The Sleeper  
Family Trust

AND THEIR FIFTY REMARKABLE  
YEARS OF LIFTING UP THE ARTS!

## RAISE THE CURTAIN: ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

We warmly invite you to support our Annual Raise the Curtain Fund, a continuation of what many will remember as the Bowlus Operations Fund. This renamed initiative carries forward the tradition of sustaining our beloved center, ensuring that its doors remain open and its mission fulfilled. Contributions directly assist with essential day-to-day operations, including utilities, professional services, office materials, equipment upkeep, and building repairs. Your ongoing generosity helps safeguard the Bowlus for generations to come!



Visit: [bowluscenter.org/givetoday](http://bowluscenter.org/givetoday)

The Bowlus would like to recognize and express our appreciation to the following individuals, families, and businesses who have made financial contributions to the Bowlus this year.

### BRAVO!

Jim & Mary Ann Arnott  
David & Mary Kay Heard  
Dr. Richard & Jan Knewton  
In Loving Memory of Steven & Cecelia Orcutt

### STANDING OVATION

Diana Asher

### STANDING ROOM ONLY

Phillip & Sherry Ekstrom  
Iola Rotary Club  
Linda Johnson  
Donna Lower Nord

### APPLAUSE

Fred Gardner  
Stan & Donna Grigsby  
Alan & DeAnn Hauser  
Ken & Kit McGuffin  
Mary Ann Magnuson & Dr. Max Patterson

### CURTAIN RAISER

Joyce Atkinson  
Heartland Meadows LLC  
April Hudson  
Mary Knudsen

### Gifts of \$1,000 or more

Walt & Mary Ann Regehr  
David & Debra Roe  
Dee & Paula Sell

### Gifts of \$500 - \$999

Iola Senior Citizens

### Gifts of \$250 - \$499

The Schooler Family  
Brecken Scott  
Robert & Julie Tholen

### Gifts of \$100 - \$249

Playscape LLC  
Bill Shirley  
Tom & Julie Strickler  
Benjamin & Jennifer Taylor  
Albert & Virginia Ysus

### Gifts of \$50 - \$99

Bill Mentzer  
Connie Rutledge  
Jane Stout



The FRIENDS OF THE BOWLUS mission is to promote activities at the BOWLUS FINE ARTS CENTER, to provide needed resources to help purchase major equipment and enhance the beauty of the building.

Over the years our members have volunteered countless hours at the center, donated to various large equipment purchases and contributed to building improvement projects. Our most recent success was completing a capital campaign drive resulting with the beautiful addition of the new east entrance and plaza area.

We'd like to take a moment to thank those members who have renewed their membership for this new year and to welcome and thank our brand new members joining us in celebration of the performing arts in this incredible treasure of a facility. Those listed below are members and those with an asterik (\*) have given a gift beyond their memberships dues this year. We'd love to add you to the list!

***-Jan Knewton, President, FRIENDS OF THE BOWLUS, INC.***

**Friends of the Bowlus Membership July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026**

**RUBY LEVEL MEMBERS \$100**

Jonathan & Dawn Adams	Donna Lower-Nord
Allen County Chiropractic	Susan Lynn & Brian Wolfe
Dr. Steven Leonard D.C.	John & Georgia Masterson
Jim & Mary Ann Arnott	Mary Rosacker McDonald
Diana Asher*	The McDown Family
Don & Donna Bauer	Ken & Kit McGuffin
Rick & Rita Berntsen	Kathy McMurray
Alice Boler Bolin	Alexander & Alison Mih
Dale & Carol Buck	Miss Chelsea's Dance Academy
Janice K. Buckjune	The Monarch Cement Company
Bob & Jackie Chase	Rick & Jessica Morrison
Drs. Ryan & Ceri Coffield	Jeremy & Mandy Moyer
Community National Bank & Trust	Penelope & Albert Nagy, Jr.
Trent and Regina Christenson	Deanie Olinger*
Otis and Ruby Crawford	Joe & Carol Olson*
Diana Dashnaw & Wayne Stephens	Dr. Max H. Patterson & Mary Ann
Jeff & Tammy Dieker	Magnuson*
Doug Dunlap	Mark J. Peters
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Patrick and Nancy Haire	David & Debbie Roe
David & Mary Kay Heard	Larry P. Ross Family*
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Gregg & Roxanne Hutton	Dee & Paula Sell
Jim & Carol Immel	Robert & Josie Shaughnessy
Lorenzo & Jackie Jensen	Ed & Brenda Stratman*
Linda Johnson	Tom & Julie Strickler*
Mary Joseph	Richard & Paula Sutherland
In Memory of Loretta Julich	Toronto Lumber Company
Dr. Richard & Jan Knewton*	Pat & Debra Tynon
L.C. and Mary Lacy	Bill & Cara Walden
Lonnie & Stephanie Larson*	Earl T. Walter
David & Tracy Lee	Alan Weber
Vernon & Karen Lee	Faith Weber
Nicholas & Robin Lohman	

**RUBY LEVEL MEMBERS \$100**

Weber Seed Service LLC
Judith A. Welch
Sharon Whitworth
J.D. & Jill Wilks
Steve & Annette Womack

Dick & Karen Works
Joe & Jane Works
Walter & Karin Wulf
Albert & Virginia Ysus
Paul L. Zirjacks

**EMERALD LEVEL MEMBERS \$75**

Roger Carswell
Roger Fogelman
Betty Miller
Sharon Moreland
Steve & Kelly Sigg

Ken & Debbie Taiclet
Bob & Julie Tholen
Iola Insurance Associates,
Debbie Taiclet & Chrissy Womelsdorf

**SAPPHIRE LEVEL MEMBERS \$50**

Donald W. Bain
Shirley Blomquist
Carol Chisenberry
Ron & Irene Coltrane
Neil & Roberta Crane
Joe & Mary Ann Cunningham
Dianna Cuppy
Barbara Diehl
Dave & Lisa Fontaine
Ann C. Houk
Sarah Huskey
Don & Shelia Lampe

Duane & Betty McCammon
Duane & Judy McGraw
Gary & Janice Parker
Maxine Perkins
Ron & Edna Seufert
John & Vera Shafer-Sheehan
Bill Shirley
Ben & Jennifer Taylor
Lois A. True
Max & Beth Ann Turner
Sharon Utley
Utley's Auto Body

**2025-2026 Friends of the Bowlus, Inc. Board of Directors**

**Officers:**

Jan Knewton, President
Stephanie Larson, Vice-President
Carol Olson-Secretary
Rita Berntsen-Treasurer
Tom Strickler, Member-at-Large

**Board:**

Ceri Coffield	Julie Tholen
Donna Grigsby	Chelsea Lea
Jessica Morrison	Julie Tholen
Michelle McDown	Jill Wilks
Ken McWhirter	Jessica Morrison

**Go to [bowluscenter.org](http://bowluscenter.org)/Friends to learn more about the Friends of the Bowlus and how to join.  
Or scan the QR Code to join today!**



## BOWLUS FINE ARTS CENTER STAFF

Mandy Moyer.....Executive Director  
Carley Swanson.....Financial Director/Assistant Projects Director  
Jeff Jordan .....Facility Manager/Technical Director  
Bryan Johnson.....Assistant Technical Director  
Brady Drury.....Head Maintenance

## BOWLUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jennifer Taylor (President), Dan Willis (Vice-President), Doug Dunlap, Tony Leavitt, John Masterson, Lisa Wicoff, and John Wilson.

## BOWLUS COMMISSION

Matt Rehder (City Administrator) (Chair), Ken McWhirter (Vice Chair)  
Amanda Stamness (Secretary), Dan Davis, Stanley Grigsby, Jan Knewton (Friends of the Bowlus) Katrina Springer, Tony Works, and David Lee (County Commissioner).

## BOWLUS USHERS

Linda Brocker, Carolyn Cantrell, Lori Cooper, Elizabeth Cox, Timothy Cox, Carol Crawford, Larry Crawford, Diana Dashnaw, Dan Davis, Marcia Davis, Donna Grigsby, Sandy Haggard, Missy Irwin, Linda Johnson, Bud Jones, Carol Kemp, Shelia Lampe, Halie Luken, Michelle McDown, Wayne McDown, Valerie McGee, Judy McGraw, Jeremy Moyer, Carol Olson, Marie Parker, Lorraine Kuzen-Stephens, Wayne Stephens, Julie Tholen, Vickie Tholen, Marla Wilson, Robin Withrow, and Karen Works.

## WILL CALL ASSISTANT

Marla Wilson

## BOX OFFICE SERVICES

**ONLINE:** [www.bowluscenter.org](http://www.bowluscenter.org)

**BY PHONE:** 620.365.4765 (M-F 9 AM – 4 PM)

**IN PERSON:** 205 E. Madison Avenue, Iola, KS (M-F 9 AM – 4 PM)

**DAY OF SHOW:** Lobby Box Office (Open 1 hr prior to the start of show)

## TICKET POLICIES

### TICKET SALES FINAL

All ticket sales are final and no refunds will be given, unless one of the following exceptions occur: (1) refunds required to correct errors or mistakes in the online ordering process, or errors made by Bowlus staff, or (2) in the event of a Bowlus Cultural Attraction event cancellation, when and only when, another date and time cannot be negotiated between the presented artist and/or production.

### FORFEITURE

Tickets which are not picked up in will-call or are otherwise not redeemed at the event are considered as used or forfeited and no refund or exchange will be provided.



Scan code for digital version of the program:

## ACCESSIBILITY

The Bowlus Mainstage Accessible Restroom is located on the west end of the Main Lobby. (Those not requiring an accessible restroom, please use the restrooms in the lower lobby).

Wheelchair and Companion Seats are available for those with mobility needs, either online or at the Box office.

Assisted Listening devices are available for all performances. Please ask Ushers or ask at the Will Call Box.

## AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

Please be courteous to other audience members. Remember to turn off or silence all electronic devices and refrain from checking e-mail, texts, or social media during the show as the device backlight is disturbing to others. If you must excuse yourself during the performance, please do so quietly during breaks in the program and NOT during a performance. We ask that you please take any noisy or restless children to the lobby.

# JUST ANNOUNCED

ESTEL VIVÓ CASANOVAS  
2025 YOUNG CONCERT ARTIST WINNER



FEBRUARY 26, 2026 • 7 PM  
CREITZ RECITAL HALL

*Program update: Due to unforeseen circumstances,  
Stick & Bow are unable to perform.*

*All tickets will be honored.*



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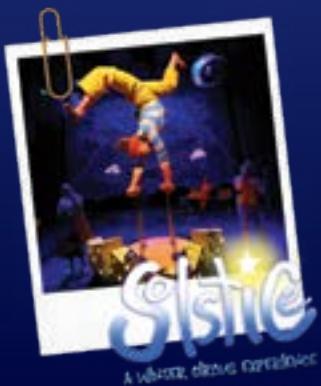
**ON AIR**

# *Upcoming Events*



## *RECITAL SERIES*

**ESTEL VIVÓ  
CASANOVAS**  
**2.26.2026 | 7 PM**



## *FAMILY SERIES*

**CIRCUS EVO  
SOLTICE**  
**3.7.2026 | 7 PM**



## *MUSIC SERIES*

**A NIGHT OF SONGS  
& STORIES  
WITH JENN & EMILY**  
**3.28.2026 | 7 PM**