

only his son, Carl (Michael Cronin), a truck driver-journalist, is able to do that, but he's less than cooperative. Carl has his own challenges, dealing with the rest of his moderately dysfunctional family: his absent-minded mother; his successful older brother, Michael (Chad Otto); Michael's weepy wife, Jill (Stefanie

Rannow and Barb Tylla have been on an RTG stage together. The first time was at the High Street theatre in the 1955-56 season when, as teenagers, both appeared in "The Little Foxes." And, says Rannow, "There's even more to the story. My mother had been recently divorced

and she heads the volunteer crew as production stage manager.

The RTG is celebrating its 75th anniversary with giveaways for audience members throughout the 2012-13 season. At each performance of "A Nice Family Gathering," three prizes will be awarded: a certificate for a freshly baked pumpkin pie

noon to 6 p.m. on weekdays and from 90 minutes prior to each curtain time through intermission. For reservations, call (262) 633-4218. Individual tickets may also be ordered online at www.racine theatre.org (discounts and coupons cannot be applied to online orders).

ART

Racine Art Museum opens exhibitions on Joyce and Johanson

RACINE — The Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St., announces two new exhibitions that will continue through Feb. 3. They are "Creator and Character: Artists Interpret James Joyce" and "Collection Focus: Rosita Johanson."

Active early in the 20th century, Irish novelist and poet James Joyce has been a highly influential and compelling figure for other creative minds. The exhibit includes works that were donated to RAM by Karen Johnson Boyd and feature prints that focus on Joyce as subject.

Perhaps best known for "Ulysses" (1922), a work based on Homer's ancient Greek epic poem, "The Odyssey," Joyce wrote novels, short stories and poetry. He has been identified as a prominent individual in the avant-garde literary and artistic circles of the early 20th century. Joyce's manipulations of language and narrative were matched by a demanding and resolute personality as well as a

relatively colorful personal life. He and his works are celebrated in cities around the world on "Bloomsday," that is, June 16 (the day chronicled in Ulysses).

Many of the artists in "Creator and Character" have engaged with Joyce's literature over a startlingly long period, blending their artistic development with an evolving reading of his works over the course of their lives. This exhibition includes portraits of Joyce as well as reflections on the content and the characters in his works. The artists whose pieces are gathered here, including two major figures of modern art, were drawn to Joyce for various reasons. As one might expect, the creators' interpretations match their own interests, working styles and project needs. Those featured include Peter Blake, Gisele Freund, Richard Hamilton, David Levine, Robert Motherwell and Paul Wunderlich.

"Collection Focus: Rosita Johanson" offers an in-depth experience of the work of late Canadian artist Rosita Johanson (1937-2007). A dressmaker by trade, fiber artist Johanson applied her natural ability of working with thread and fabric to creating colorful, embroidered narratives full of people, animals and activity. This "Collections Focus" series solo exhibition at the Racine Art Museum offers 20 works created in the 1990s and early 2000s that together form an archive of Johanson's working methods and her subject matter over a prolonged period of time.

Drawing on childhood memories, her imagination, and stories her father told her, as well as some topical political and social issues, Johanson would piece together compositions using appliqué, machine embroidery and hand-stitching. Her small scale designs, which often began as sketches, culminated in layers

of thread and fabric.

As an artist, Johanson was largely self-taught. She learned many of her methods of working from a lifetime of being near people interested in fiber and thread, and through her own investigations as an adult. She had two primary methods for executing her compositions — a combination of hand and machine stitching or punch needle embroidery (also known as loop pile embroidery), which creates a surface similar to a miniature pile carpet. In addition, her textiles exhibit a strong interest in visual collage as she combined fabric with fiber and found object elements.

The Racine Art Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5 or \$3 for youth ages 12-18, full-time students and seniors 63 and older. There is no charge for children ages 11 and younger.