Karen Vuranch to Present “Julia Child” at New River Community and Technical College

[LEWISBURG, WV] In recent years, the Food Network has captured the imagination of Americans, and the art and love of cooking has transcended from “women’s work” to a hobby and passion for both men and women. But, before there was Rachael, Emeril or Paula, a tall, gangly woman with a preposterous voice and joy of life revolutionized the art of cooking for Americans. In the 1960’s, it was Julia Child who brought her love of French cooking to the American public.
Karen Vuranch brings the indomitable Julia Child to life in a one-woman performance on Saturday, Oct. 10, at 3 p.m. in the New River Community and Technical College Greenbrier Valley Campus Auditorium, 101 Church Street in Lewisburg, WV. Admission is $10 per person. Due to space limitations, please pre-register by September 30. Call New River at (304) 647-6570 or (304) 793-6101 for more information or to register.

Please note that this presentation coincides with the conclusion of Taste of Our Towns (T.O.O.T), the annual food festival sponsored by Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg. T.O.O.T. will end at 3 p.m., but streets will still be blocked, so allow extra time for parking and walking to the campus. Better yet, come to T.O.O.T., enjoy some great food and stay for the performance.

Julia Child became an icon of gourmet cooking and, using her remarkable energy and humor, changed the way American thought about eating and food, convincing a nation that anyone could create gourmet meals. Julia Child was truly an innovative person as she shared her own enthusiasm for food and, in turn, created a national obsession with cooking. The First Lady of Food, as she has been called by the Food Network, charmed the American public and the world with her joy of life and her passion for good food.

Her cookbook, Mastering the Art of French Cooking, which she co-authored with two French women, has become a classic, and her acclaimed series The French Chef began a TV career that spanned three decades and earned her the Peabody Award in 1965 and an Emmy in 1966.

Throughout her life, she supported new efforts in the culinary world, such as the first academic program in the culinary arts at Boston University and encouraged new talent on the food scene, particularly women. She left an indelible mark on both the culinary world and the entertainment industry. When she died two days before her 92nd birthday in 2004, the world mourned for this joyful and ebullient woman, who wished us from the kitchen counter of her television show, “Bon Appétit!”

Karen Vuranch is well-known for other portrayals of women in history including Pearl Buck, Clara Barton, Mother Jones, Mary Draper Ingles, Irish pirate Grace O’Malley and Wild West outlaw Belle Starr. Vuranch has written two plays about women in history, Coal Camp Memories about life in the West Virginia coalfields and Homefront about women in World War II. She is also an acclaimed storyteller and performs at over 200 colleges, libraries, schools and conferences each year.

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