

VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED AT ANNUAL MEETING

As part of the Annual Meeting on April 9th, six volunteers were recognized for special service to the VAC. The awards are nicknamed the "Becky's" after the winner of the first award in 2003, Rebecca Durig. Congratulations to:

Sandy Poore, for spending the greatest number of volunteer hours at the Front Reception Desk this past year.

Mary Cavanaugh, for coordinating the Holiday Gift Fair the past 3 years and Spring Fling the past 2 years with record-breaking numbers of artists, visitors and sales. These events help support our local artists and the Center.

Cathy Lindenauer, for the many ways she helps the VAC. For the past three years she has worked tirelessly to grow the education program. Cathy has also had a big part in the Flea Market, National Art Exhibit, Peace River National Art Festival and shows up almost every day to help.

Carolyn Hamilton, for taking part in almost every endeavor at the VAC for the past 10 or so years from serving as secretary to the Board of Directors to baking cookies for receptions.

Gilda Bourquin, for working at the Front Desk and in the Visual Arts Center almost every week since it opened in 1989. She has served twice as president of the Guild, provides food for every reception, has brought in sponsors, worked every Flea Market, been part of almost every National Art Exhibit committee and has probably held every committee position we've ever had.

Sally Tappy, for her consistently excellent work in two huge areas — hanging our fantastic exhibits and managing our gloriously crazy Flea Market. Hanging a great show is artwork in its own right and Sally heads the team that performs this feat almost every month of the year. The years we don't have the Flea Market (working with tons of stuff, lots of volunteers, a crazy week of sorting, pricing, plus soothing and managing the actual sale day), she works on the National Art Exhibit—another huge endeavor.



Pictured are (L-R) Gilda Bourquin, Sally Tappy, Carolyn Hamilton, Cathy Lindenauer and Director Michele Valencourt. Not pictured are Mary Cavanaugh and Sandy Poore.

Thanks to VAC Board member and pottery instructor, Howard Hartke for making special horse-hair pots for the Volunteer Service award recipients.

PRIMAVERA-ANNUAL RITE OF SPRING

PrimaVera, the all-member spring exhibit, officially opened after the Annual Meeting with the Awards Reception on Thursday, April 9th.

On top of winning first prize, Ron Sanders was also recognized for his oil painting, "Ms. Amy Dickason," with a \$25 Bowles Endowment Award for Portrait Excellence. This award is made possible by the William and Suzanne Bowles Endowment Trust to honor



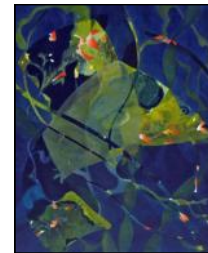
People's Choice Award "Camarque" by Bill Gimbel

outstanding achievement in traditional 2-D mediums. Bill Gimbel was the winner of the People's Choice Award for "Camarque" and received \$50 along with the People's Choice ribbon.

During May, students from Charlotte County will be showing their work at the Center. The Middle/High School Art Show is May 7-13 and the Elementary Art Show is May



1st Place (\$100)
"Ms. Amy Dickason"
by Ron Sanders



2nd Place (\$60)
"Now You See It"
by Thelma Daida



3rd Place (\$40)
"Light After Midnight"
by Marion Majher

16-27. Be sure to visit to view the work of these talented young artists.

On Exhibit here

PrimaVera Member Exhibit ... April 8 - May 5

Removal: Wednesday, May 6, 9am-12noon

Middle/High School Art Show ... May 7-13

Receiving: Thursday, May 7, 9am-12noon

Reception: Friday, May 8, 6pm

Removal: Thursday, May 14, 9am-12noon

Children's Elementary Art Show ... May 16-27

Receiving: Friday, May 15, 9am-12noon

Reception: Saturday, May 16, 2pm

Removal: Thursday, May 28, 9am-12noon

VAC Officers

Denise Henry, President
Kristine Wishard, Vice President
Thalia St. Lewis, Secretary
Therese Zeman, Treasurer
Patt Bacon, Director
Bruce Bagge, Director
Bob Crispin, Director
Tom Hamilton, Director
Howard Hartke, Director

VAC Endowment Trust

Ingrid Carroll, President
Dorothy Strunk, Vice Pres/Secretary
Ron Olsen, Treasurer

Trustees:

Jane Brenner	Barbara Burnett
Rebecca Harbin-Durig	Guy Emerich
Glenn Frazee	Larry Hudson
Susan Krasny	James Lawson
Constance Robison	Roseann Samson

VAC Staff

Eileen Banis, Gift Shop Manager
Ralph Bliven, Facilities Supervisor
Shelley Cunningham, Bookkeeper
Debbie Fread, Communications
Michele Valencourt, Exec. Director
Your comments, suggestions, story ideas,
and news about members are welcomed.
Please submit articles by the 15th
of the month to Debbie Fread at:
VACcommunications@yahoo.com.

VISUAL ARTS CENTER LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

are available for a donation of \$500,
which will help the Center during
the challenging economic times
we are all facing. Thank you to
~ Miles & Deborah Seter ~
our newest Lifetime Members.
You, too, can be a Lifetime Member.
Make your check payable to
the VAC and send to the
Executive Director.

HAVE AN OPINION YOU WANT TO SHARE?

We want to hear what you think
about the class offerings, possible
summer classes and dates, or
anything connected with education.
Please contact Cathy at
cathylindenauer@hotmail.com.



artist news

Congratulations to **Ron Sanders** for being published in the May 2009 issue of *American Art Collector* magazine. Ron is teaching two classes in Session 5, "Landscapes—Illusions of Space" and "Building Form w/Lights & Darks."

See a copy of the article, posted on the board just inside the front door.



welcome newest members

Rebecca Allen, Fay Binkley, Laurie Brunderman, Janice Creutzmann, Paloma DeJesus, Joyce Dickson, Stanley Hochstadt, Karen Johnson, Marion Majher, William Maurer, Erin McDonough, Jenny Mulligan, Linda Nailor, David H. Piper, Bonnie Rollins, Natalie Sass, Peter J. Soley, Melanie Sweat, Kathleen Werderitch

thanks for joining us!

AS INTEREST RATES FALL IT'S TIME TO TAKE THE "LEAD" IN YOUR CHARITABLE ESTATE PLANNING

by Guy S. Emerich

Is there anything positive in estate planning about falling interest rates? While it may be "cold comfort" this is a great time to learn about a Charitable Lead Annuity Trust (CLAT).

Many people are familiar with Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRTs). In a CRT the individual gets the stream of income and the charity gets what is left over.

The issue with some clients when considering CRTs is that the charity ultimately winds up with the assets of the trust instead of the family. A CLAT should be considered if a person (i.e. the maker of the trust called the settlor), is charitably inclined but instead of wanting the remainder to go to charity, they want the charity to get a benefit now while they are living and pass the remainder to their family

A CLAT is a trust that pays the charity a fixed amount each year for the fixed term of the trust. When the term ends, the remaining trust assets often pass to the settlor's family. The value of the interest going to the charity is determined actuarially calculated on the current IRS Section 7520 rate. It is a rate that changes each month.

As interest rates fall so does the Section 7520 rate. The lower the rate the greater the value a person can pass to the next generation of their family.

With a CLAT, the charity receives a designated amount each year for a term of years. If the payment amount is properly selected, the creation of the CLAT results in no gift. The Section 7520 rate for April, 2009 is 2%. As the value of an annuity is larger when the interest rate being used to discount the stream of payments is lower, the 2% rate makes this very attractive. If the growth of the trust over the term of the trust is 2% then there is nothing left over to pass to the family as it all went to charity.

On the other hand, if you assume the trust earns 4% per year instead of 2% then at the end of the term of the trust there will be a remainder. This remainder will pass free of any gift or estate tax to the settlor's family.

Depending on how the CLAT is created, the settlor can also receive an income tax deduction at the time of the creation of the trust.

This is a great time to consider using a Charitable Lead Annuity Trust in your estate plan.

GOFF gallery

This month we are introducing THE PLEIN AIR PAINTERS in the Goff Gallery. What is "plein air" you might ask? Plein air is French, for "open air," and is a term that was used in the mid 1850s in France for painters, such as the Impressionists, who painted outdoors. Our VAC Plein Air Group meets every Monday in a different location to paint, experiencing firsthand the shadows cast by the sun and the true colors of the environment. When you see this show, you might want to join them! The exhibit runs from April 25 to May 28th.

An all abstract show is being planned for January 2010. If you would like to enter, please contact Dotty Mattoon at dottymattoon@comcast.net.

A HUGE thank you to the following for helping with the VAC Flea Market. And a round of applause to Sally Tappy for chairing the fundraiser, our most successful to date!

Donna Archibold, Patt Bacon, Bruce & Coleen Bagge, Eileen Banis, Phyllis Barbalics, Ralph Bliven, Gilda Bourguin, Suzanne Bowles, Joy Carol, Ingrid & Sam Carroll, Paula Casey, Carole Cobb, Bob Crispin & Cathy Lindenauer, Shelly & John Cunningham, Ned Rose & Thelma Daida, Marilyn Dorrer, Mary Therese Duffy, Debbie Fread, Anita Gabor, Dona Garner, Richard Gillespie, Nancy Haines, Carolyn & Tom Hamilton, Kay Hoffmeyer, Margaret Kiepe, Shirley Koscinski, Mary Krotzer, Joan Locke, Jane Mansfield, Dottie Mattoon, Milena McCall, Nancy McGrath, Priscilla Michaud, Sherry Moore, Tony Pignone, Sandy Poore, John & Marty Ray, Lita Reid, Diana Reinhard, Vi Schlender, Judi Schmedlin, Bea & Doug Smith, Lucy Smith, Thalia St. Lewis,, Nancy Suarez, Sally & Richard Tappy, Jane Tubay and Michele Valencourt



Thanks also to those who donated their "fleas"!

photo arts group

The Photo Arts Group of Charlotte County will meet May 4th for their monthly meeting at 7pm. We hope our guest speaker will be able to be there, but it's still up in the air. Members are encouraged to bring a spouse, friend, or neighbor. Also bring 5-6 photos you might like to share, on a CD or a flash drive, and give them to Paul Garrett as soon as you arrive. Refreshments will be provided. Please look in the VAC Information Rack outside the office for our new brochures for more information about us. Call either Carolyn Valentine (286-4100) or Paul Garrett (505-8169) if you have any questions.

Our Deepest Sympathy to Juanita Pawlisch upon the death of her mother April 5th.

VAC gift shop

This month we welcome fisherman/artist **Stanley Hochstadt** to the shop with his realistic giclées of the Grand Slam – trout, redfish and snook. Stanley hails from Jersey where he commuted to his Manhattan graphics art company for many years. **Ann Tuttle** has brought more original pencil crayon works into the shop. **Edie Schwenck** has new giclées from around Punta Gorda and the Historic Park for sale. **Peggy Starks** has new crisp photo works on hand as well. **Barbara Albin's** "Ice Cream Babes" and "What Attitude" are now in stock as well as her famous Palm Angels. And **Sue Krasny** has small original Asian works available.

Stop by to see what's new!

porcelain artists

The Porcelain Artists Association is completing another busy season. Our annual show and sale at the VAC was successful and attended by approximately 150 visitors. The annual spring luncheon was held at the home of Emma May Goddard on April 1st. Our final "paint-a-long" for the season was led by Betty Trussell who taught a lesson on painting sea shells on porcelain. Plans are underway for next season's activities to begin in October.

Our condolences go to former Porcelain Artists president, Pat Brandstetter, upon the death of her husband, Dutch. He will be missed by the Club because he has been a great help with our shows for several years.

jewelry arts group!

Congratulations to the new JAG officers elected at the April meeting. Janis Garich is the new President and Jan Wiley is the new Secretary; Dianne Brooks has agreed to chair the Program Committee; Roxy West will serve another year in Communications; and Sylvia Wenger will serve another year as Treasurer. The last meeting of this season is Friday, May 8.

plein air painters

Although the VAC Plein Air Artists are "officially" done for the season, some want to continue creating through the summer (what can I say ... they're crazy). So, please visit our website (www.vacpleinair.webs.com) for directions and further information. May's schedule*:

4-Hathaway Park 11-Matlacha, Pine Island

18-Ponce de Leon 25-Edison College, Char. Cty. Campus

All levels and mediums are welcome, just bring your art supplies, chair, etc.; no instruction and no fees. *Weather conditions are at the discretion of each artist.

Also, remember our upcoming Plein Air Art Show in the Visual Arts Center's Goff Gallery from April 25 to May 28th.



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 Fax 941-639-0404
 VAC@daystar.net
 www.visualartcenter.org



Coming up NEXT

Firecracker Member Exhibit
 June 1 – July 9
 Receiving: Friday, May 29, 9am-12noon
 Reception: Thursday, June 4, 7pm
 Removal: Friday, July 10, 9am-12noon

Made by Hand Fine Crafts Exhibit
 June 1 – July 9
 Receiving: Friday, May 29, 9am-12noon
 Reception: Thursday, June 4, 7pm
 Removal: Friday, July 10, 9am-12noon

VAC Closed May 23-25
 in observance of
 Memorial Day

Summer Hours (10a-2p)
 begin Monday, June 1st

SUMMER ART CAMPS

POTTERY CAMP for TEENS ages 13-15



ART CAMP for KIDS ages 6-12
 Paint ☺ Draw ☺ Pottery ☺ Mixed Media



JEWELRY-MAKING CAMP for TEENS ages 13-15



HURRY ... Registration begins May 1 and space is limited.
 For class descriptions, dates and cost, call 639-8810 or visit
www.visualartcenter.org and look under "Learn to Create/
 About Our Classes/Children's Education."