



Highlights

August 2016

A Letter From Our President

It has been seven months since I became president of Grand Valley Artists. During this time and with the help of our board members I have learned volumes. To help prepare me for my new position, my friend Louise Bauer purchased for me a soft cover copy of Roberts Rules Of Order, Newly Revised In Brief. At this time, I have read to page four; but not to worry. I have something Henry M. Robert III does not have. I have our Grand Valley Artists board members. I cannot believe their professionalism, knowledge, and dedication to make GVA a viable and successful organization. And these are volunteer positions. How did I/you get so lucky???

I just want to remind you of the services, activities and programs provided by GVA. The board, which meets the first Thursday of each month, is charged with keeping accurate financial records, providing quality guest artists for programs, planning and organizing events such as the Reeds Lake Art Show to raise revenue for the daily functioning of our non-profit organization, generating ideas to make certain GVA continues to be a viable and exciting art organization, and scheduling figure drawing sessions at least twice a week. (Whew!) We have members who volunteer to organize plein-air outings as well as a still life painting sessions, and a portrait drawing session and a photography group. Critique, always well attended, is held the first Thursday of each month. Our volunteers organize and display your work in our gallery as well as provide artwork to decorate the boardrooms in Ed DeVries offices. Ed DeVries, the owner of our building, indicated he would reduce the amount of our

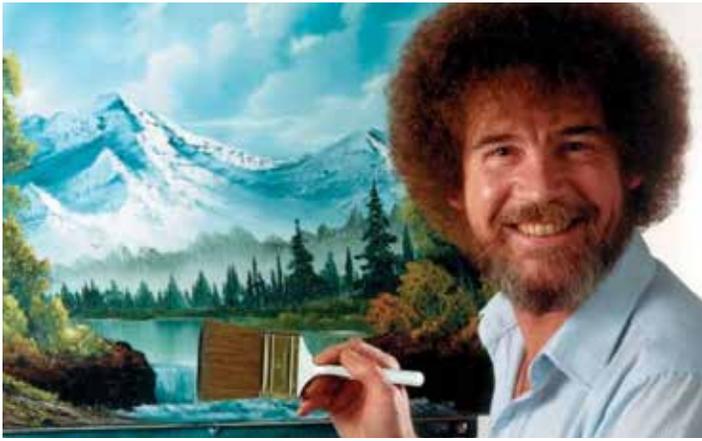
rental fee if we provided artwork for his business. We sponsor two juried art shows for our members with awards, and we organize a Christmas party. We have an informative and attractive newsletter and website.

In addition to these activities, the board made minor and relevant changes to our GVA constitution. Our members approved of this revised version. We are trying to generate and experiment with new ideas. Our Legacy committee continues to meet and provide us with suggestions. Our next board meeting agenda will include responding to a 401C3 [a 25-page form] in hopes that we can raise additional monies for our organization. We want to use the arts to provide a service to our community and have asked Dixie Olin to devise creative art sessions to teach autistic children in our studio. The board composed and emailed a survey to our members to try to determine what activities you value and get your suggestions as to how we can better fulfill your needs as an artist.

I am so grateful to belong to an organization that supports both the arts and artists. The value our GVA organization provides to our members is incredible. The success of this organization in large part can be attributed to our members and our volunteers. Without our volunteers, we would not have many opportunities or activities available to our members. Thank you for being of service.

Carol Lurn





Bob Ross

By Steve Scarborough

I imagine many images and phrases are flooding your mind after reading those two words.

“Happy little trees.” A favorite phrase he’d say as he put a tree or group of trees on one of his landscapes.

“Happy little clouds.” Same thing—he’d say these words with no sense of embarrassment either. He was proud to be happy as he painted. It didn’t have to be this big serious thing, it could be a gentle and relaxing pastime. I liked that.

That huge Afro. I really don’t know what to say about that. He was his own man, that’s for sure.

His huge smile. To say he was a happy person was an understatement. His popular show on PBS was called *The Joy of Painting*, so the smile fit.

The eerie similarities between Bob Ross and Fred Rogers, host of *Mister Roger’s Neighborhood*. Both were softspoken men who never talked down to you. It was this calm, steady, supportive tone that drew you in.

The list goes on.

Recently, Jim Johnson told a story about painting in a park (he leads our Plein Air group sessions) and some teens came by and checked out his work. They commented that Jim’s painting was good, but he was no Bob Ross. I’m not sure if Jim took that as a compliment or not – but he got a big kick out of their comment as would I if someone compared my paintings with Bob Ross’s.

One thing is for sure though, Bob taught an untold number of people how to enjoy oil painting. I watched his show countless times, though I never got out my paints to join in with his lessons. I wasn’t alone in this. A good question would be is how many of the

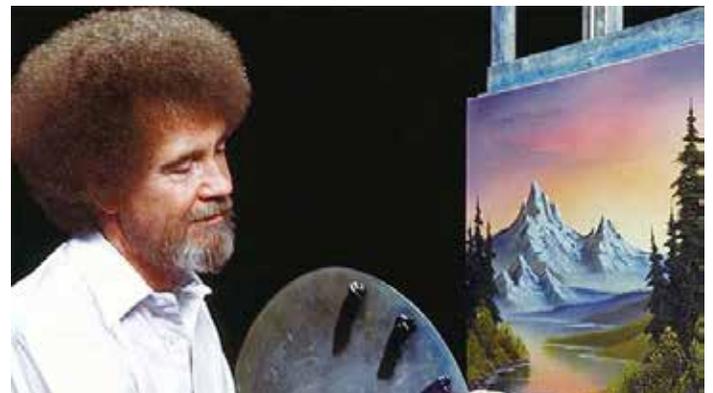
people who watched his show ever lifted a brush. I asked several of my friends who I know aren’t artists if they ever watched the *Joy of Painting*, and many did, but none actually did so to learn how to paint – they did because it was fun watching Bob have such a good time painting. PBS says that only ten percent of the people who tune in do so to learn how to paint.

He did 403 episodes and three paintings per show. One was hidden off screen and used to copy from. His work wasn’t spontaneous, even though it seemed like he was creating each work off the top of his head. His first copy was done for the TV show, and the third painting was done as it was being photographed for his how-to paint book series. That’s a lot of paintings. He donated most of his work to PBS stations to auction off or for fund raisers.

Bob used a wet-on-wet technique of painting called *Alla Prima*. You don’t wait for the painting to dry between steps, but keep going until it’s finished. Since oils take so long to dry, you can work on a painting for several hours, or several days before it’s complete. This style has been used since the sixteenth century by such notable painters as Rembrandt, Claude Monet and John Singer Sargent. It became quite popular with the impressionists. Many of GVA’s painters use this approach, especially at sketch and plein air sessions.

He passed away in 1995, but his shows are still in re-runs, mostly on PBS stations and You Tube, where his shows have gotten tens of thousands of viewings.

I can’t say I actually like Bob Ross’s work though. They’re kind of generic landscapes, nothing too interesting or something that you’d like to stare at for any length of time. But Mr. Ross was a good teacher. He taught – and still does teach – people how to be happy, how to find something they enjoy, and work to improve on it. Was he a master artist? Maybe, maybe not, but he inspires countless people to aspire to become masters themselves. Now that’s a good teacher.



Photography Group News



The photo group will meet twice in August, on the first Tuesday of the month for photo critique and info sharing, and the third Tuesday of the month for either a presenter or a film.

Randy Nyhof photographed several works for artists who brought in their works in July. He will set up another session sometime in August for those who couldn't make it in June. Check the GVA website for date/s.



Mary Harberts' Photography

After 31 years in the Grand Rapids Public Schools as a teacher, principal, and district administrator specializing in teacher training, Mary Harberts picked up her new camera and moved on to a career as an amateur photographer, taking photography classes and studying with local experts. Mary attributes any success she has had to the network of talented teachers and mentors she has developed through organizations and relationships. She is a member of Grand Valley Artists and the Holland Photography Club.

“Without guidance from my teachers and mentors, I would probably have been limited to my beginning stage of ‘point and shoot’ photography,” says Mary. “For

me, photography has been a journey of learning that never ends. I love the beauty in nature. I try to make each photo a window into that beauty.”

Mary's photography is not “edgy” or staged. She loves the simple beauty in nature—flowers, landscapes, and water. Her photos have been described as simultaneously comforting and striking. Her pictures cover everything from her own garden to the streets of Grand Rapids, the shores of Lake Michigan, and the landscapes of Central America and Europe. Her trips here at home are all “photo expeditions.”

“It is all about the harmony of shape, patterns, and color. You can find it in things big and small. I love to discover and capture it,” Mary tells her friends.



Is Photography for You?

Have you considered taking up photography yourself? Stop by one of the photography sessions on the first and third Tuesday evenings to learn more.

Board News

We Need Your Input

To ascertain whether GVA is meeting your needs and learn how we can improve the organization, the board has sent you a survey. All responders will be included in a drawing for two fabulous prizes during September Critique.

Emily Green is our new VP!

Good news for the board! Emily Green has agreed to assume the role of VP. Thank you so much, Emily.

New Hospitality Co-Chairs

Submitted by Carol Laurn

“How can one make friends without exquisite dishes. It is mainly through the table that one governs.”

—Jean-Jacques Regisde Cambaceres,
French 18th century politician.

I believe this quote undeniably stresses the importance of maintaining our tradition of providing delicious tidbits during our break at Critique. Because no one volunteered to assume this responsibility, I knew I had to ask our members. Two names/faces immediately came to mind: Peg McKeown and Kristen Thornton. I approached them hesitantly during our July critique to ask for their help. Initially, their eyes suggested to me the look of terror, that “deer caught in the headlights” look. But both of these capable, generous, and supportive women agreed. I assured them our GVA members would be more than willing to bring food upon request. When you see Peg and Kristen, please thank them for their willingness to step up to the plate (no pun intended).

The Colors of Beer

Diann Bartnick was chosen among 26 other artists to be in the Colors of Beer exhibition that will be held August 11 at the Muskegon Museum of Art.

There will be a reception and Diann says there will be some serious beer tasting.

September Program

September 8, 7:30 p.m.

ART FORUM II

From the last art forum (October 10, 2013) evolved the Legacy Group or long range planning committee within GVA. Come join us as we again discuss exciting, inspiring, and fun topics of your contribution and concern.

Your input is important on subjects that could range from Artprize 2016 to directions and dichotomy in contemporary art. This is your opportunity to lend your voice to a stimulating dialog. Please help us by making some of your thoughts known via the GVA little wooden suggestion box and by participating in Art Forum II. Robyn Bomhof will again preside as our distinguished moderator.

Gallery in August and September

By Jim Johnson

AUGUST / STILL LIFE

We generally think of a still life as an indoor table top composition of man made objects along with some natural things like vegetables or flowers. The arrangement may suggest a narrative or it may simply create an interesting composition of shapes, values, and colors. Subject matter can be elegant or it can be as ordinary as the stuff in your pocket. All mediums are welcomed, including drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture, fiber art, mosaic tiles, photography, digital works, and mixed media. This exhibit is not juried and the works do not have to be framed, only hangable.

Hang: Monday, August 1

Strike: Monday, August 29

SEPTEMBER / PHOTOGRAPHY & DIGITAL IMAGING

Once a year our Gallery is host to our talented and diverse photo group. This year, we're also inviting all GVA members to submit photos and images that they feel rise to the level of art. All entries must be printed and hangable, as apposed to images being projected onto a screen. This exhibit is not juried and the works do not have to be framed.

Hang Monday, August 29

Strike Saturday, October 1

Area Art News

The Lake Odessa Area Arts

Commission presents...

The 42nd annual Art in the Park on Saturday, August 6, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Learn more at <http://www.lakeodessaarts.com>.

CIRCUS! Exhibiton at LowellArts!

Through August 13

Celebrate the tradition of the Circus at LowellArts! this summer. Celebrate the artistry, showmanship, and spirit of the circus—extraordinary feats, spectacular displays, astounding magic, and the joy of being entertained. Join the fun and visit the gallery as it will be filled with curiosity, wonder, and Circus-themed artwork. You can learn more about LowellArts! at <http://www.lowellartsmi.org>.

The LowellArts! Gallery

149 S. Hudson St.

Lowell, Michigan

Gallery Hours:

Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Saturday 1–4 p.m.

Lowell Showboat Sizzlin’

Summer Concerts...Bring Your Sketchbooks!

The Lowell Showboat Sizzlin’ Summer Concerts runs until August 25, 2016. Thursday evening concerts begin at 7 p.m. in front of the Lowell Showboat on Riverwalk Plaza in downtown Lowell. Food and spirits are available; admission to the concerts and parking is free. Bleacher seating is available or attendees can also bring their own folding chair.

48th Annual Fallasburg Festival for the Arts

September 17 & 18

The 48th Annual Fallasburg Festival for the Arts is a 2-day festival held in picturesque Fallasburg Park, located approximately 20 miles east of Grand Rapids, MI. The event features 100 unique fine art and fine crafts booths, food booths, and a children’s craft area. Timeless craft demonstrations take place inside a large pavilion while musicians perform on an outdoor stage both days. Annual attendance estimates are 25,000. Admission is free. Festival Dates: Saturday, September 17 & Sunday, September 18, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

both days. Address: 1124 Fallasburg Park Dr. NE, Lowell, MI 49331. www.lowellartsmi.org

Moving to Main Art Auction

September 13–October 1

Over 40 pieces of fine art in a variety of media will be on display in the LowellArts! gallery. The artwork was donated by select artists to benefit the *Moving to Main* campaign for the new LowellArts! building on Main Street. Artwork is available for sale through an on-line silent auction. For more details on the auction and the *Moving to Main* campaign, visit www.lowellartsmi.org. Gallery Hours: Tues–Fri 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat 1–4 p.m. LowellArts is located at 149 S. Hudson St., Lowell, MI 49331.

ICCF

ICCF is hosting 20 beautiful portraits by Jon McDonald, all of different people, different nationalities, and different orientations. Jon calls these portraits his “Humans Series.” It is a moving display of humanity. Don’t miss an opportunity to view Jon’s beautiful portraits.

Cascade Library

Works by Jan McKinnon and Dianne Lemmen are currently at the Library. Larry Goff will also be displaying works he has purchased from GVA artists. To show your work at the library, contact Larry at 616-949-1247.

St. Cecilia’s Terryberry Gallery

Closed through mid-October for renovations.

Franciscan Life Process Center

Please check out the workshops at http://lifeprocess-center.org/calendar/cat_ids~3/.

Marywood Dominican Center

Don’t miss the sisters and staff art exhibit. Reception August 14 from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Hours are Monday–Thursday, 8 a.m.–9 p.m. Friday 8 a.m.–8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

2025 E Fulton

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

(more on page 6)



Stop in to see the artwork of one of our new members, **Carol Friend**, now on display at Bliss & Vinegar.

If you are interested in showing your work at B&V, you must first place your work in the Gallery on our GVA website. Marty Klar coordinates the displays at B&V. Please do not contact the restaurant directly. Contact Marty with Bliss-specific questions:
martyklar@comcast.net, (616) 813-7921.



Carol Friend (right) with Jennifer McNamara, owner of Bliss & Vinegar, with some of Carol's beautiful work.

(continued from page 5)

More Area Art News

Stan Kurth

A very talented artist, Stan Kurth, will be presenting a mixed media workshop October 10, 11, and 12, 2016, at the Inspirations of the Arts Studio, 801 Monroe N.W. Suite 01, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. The workshop is designed to teach students to paint with a variety of techniques to develop multiple layers of watercolor, gesso and acrylics until a provocative image emerges. Registration on line at InspirationsofArtStudio.com. Check out his website: stankurth.com.

If you have any questions contact Ginny Withey at witheyg@sbcglobal.net.

Sailing Update

By Steve Scarborough

We still have a few spots open on our upcoming social event, sailing in Grand Haven aboard our chartered boat, the 63-foot schooner, Wind Dancer, on August 14th. Send your check to our Treasurer, Evie Carrier at 1029 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508. The cost is \$45 per person (Made out to GVA).



You can contact Steve Scarborough at stevescarb1@yahoo.com or Wind Dancer Charters at www.wind-dancercharters.com for any other information.



Welcome Back
Virginia Withey

Special Events

Board Meeting August 4 at 6:15 p.m.

August 14 – Sailing on Lake Michigan 7:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.



EVERY WEEK

Sundays	Closed	
Mondays	10:00 a.m. until noon	Sketch
Tuesdays	1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:30 p.m.	Photo
Wednesdays	2:00 until 5:00 p.m. (check website for location)	Plein Air
Thursdays	First Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Remaining Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.	Critique Program Sketch
Fridays	10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.	Still Life
Saturdays	10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.	Sketch

Do You Have Any Suggestions?

Our suggestion box welcomes your ideas. You can also drop information for the GVA newsletter in the box if you are unable to send it via email, although email is preferred (send to marymarin@comcast.net).

Newsletter Deadline Reminder

The 20th of the month is the cut off for any article, notice, calendar items, etc., you would like to see in the next newsletter. Submit information to Mary Marin at marymarin@comcast.net.

Contact Listings for Grand Valley Artists

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Secretary
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Treasurer
Evie Carrier
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Reeds Lake Art Festival
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