



www.grandvalleyartists.com



Highlights

December 2016



To Our GVA Family

We want to extend a special invitation to all of our
Grand Valley Artists
to come to the holiday party on
Thursday, December 8, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
at our Monroe location.

Leave time in your busy schedule to visit with friends,
enjoy a bit of libation and the delicious food offerings
made by our members.

Bring your husband, wife, best friend, new GVA member, or yourself
and be prepared to have a good time.

Member art work will decorate our walls,
and anticipation will heighten
throughout the evening until award winners are announced.

This holiday, Randy Nyhof has prepared something special for us.
Throughout the evening he will have a slide presentation
highlighting some of our GVA activities throughout 2016.

Hope to see you on December 8!



Outreach Program Thrives

by Dixie Olin, program leader

When asked to write up something to share with Grand Valley Artists about the new Outreach Program, the first word that comes to mind is “Wonderful!”

This program was developed to fill a need in the community. Many individuals that are affected by autism, as well as other physical and emotional challenges, have reached an age where there is little offered specifically for them. Many have participated in programs designed to “mainstream” them into society. One of the biggest challenges they face once they reach adulthood is isolation, something to which many artists can relate. The more I work with these students the more our commonalities overshadow our differences.

These classes are designed to engage artists and give them a safe place to share their ideas and projects.



Dixie Olin, program leader

They create a space to learn new perspectives and techniques to help interpret their visions. These students now belong to a community of artists. That is what GVA has always been for so many. We share, we learn, and we expand our understanding of the world around us.

Art instruction enhances our ability to follow directions, improves hand-eye coordination, and solidify both problem solving and abstract reasoning. This is empowering at any age. It teaches us that sometimes the mistakes we make turn out to be “happy accidents,”



or sometimes we just have to start again. It enhances our ability to communicate ideas and emotions.

I truly believe in one of the biggest things I see, what I am most touched by: the love of these parents and grandparents of their children and grandchildren. Their dedication is a daily commitment. They have their eyes on what the future holds for their families.

How will these students maneuver in the world when their caretakers are gone? These classes help provide real life skills, so much more than drawing and painting, that students can use to foster independence. We are creating a space in which our students develop their place in this community. I cannot think of a better way to spend our time and energy.

I would like to thank Mr. Ed DeVries for his vision and support, Carol Lurn for her tireless help and support, as well as Sri Oetjoen, Sue Ellison, and Delaine Klar for their personal time and effort to provide an excellent program where we all are learning.



Art Materials Needed for Outreach Program

Paper. Paint. Colored pencils. Brushes. Please bring your gently used art supplies to GVA for use by the Outreach Program.



Art Show at Community CRC

Our own Wilma Knoll invites you to an art show of watercolors at affordable prices at Community CRC, 150 Burt SE, Wyoming, MI. The dates are Friday, December 2, 2–6 p.m., and Saturday, December 3, 2–6 p.m. Please stop by and support her.

Program Night



Charles LaRue shared his newest PowerPoint presentation on Art, Artists, and Visual Perception at November's program.

Make and Take Christmas Workshops



Just in time for Christmas, check out these exciting workshops held at our Lowell Campus in November and December. Learn how to create a gift and go home with it that day—no experience required.

Workshops begin on November 3 and end on December 15, with a total of 15 different workshops! For a complete listing of workshop dates and times, workshop details, and ticket information, visit www.lifeprocesscenter.org, click on "Events," and then "Art Workshops."

GVA Gallery in December

By Jim Johnson, the Gallery Guy

Our Annual GVA **Member Exhibit and Holiday Party** will be held at our GVA Studio this year. If you wish to enter your artwork, it will be due at the studio on Saturday, December 3. This will be a juried show. Accepted work will be on display until Saturday, December 31. The party will be December 8th at 6 p.m. This year's entree form and other details are posted to the website, and copies are available at GVA, too. One entry allowed per person. The cost to enter is \$15.

WANTED & NEEDED: NEW MEMBERS

By Marty Klar

Last Sunday I was taken aback by a fantastic photograph in our community newspaper (The Cadence). The photographer captured a moment in time of a very determined runner competing in a race during a significant rainstorm. I loved the photo so much I emailed the MLIVE photographer to say...wow, what a great shot! We exchanged an email or two, and then it hit me. Why not tell her about GVA in general and especially about our incredible photo group. I did. She thanked me and after going to our website, she acknowledged our talented artists. Will she join? Who knows. Bottom line, she now knows of us and perhaps she'll tell others. So fellow members, if you see a maybe less than obvious opportunity to spread the word about GVA, do so. I'm sure many of you already do. Thanks.

Let's Call This Section "The Classifieds"

Have art or photography supplies you want to sell or trade? Let me know and I'll advertise them here for you. Send your ad to marymarin@comcast.net.

Does anyone have a slightly used set of **Derwent pastel pencils** they would be interested in selling at a reasonable price? A set which has at least 36 colors? If you do, please contact Carol Lurn at carollurn@yahoo.com.



GVA Artists Receive Awards

GVA would like to congratulate two members who received awards from Allendale's art show, sponsored by LifeStream church, "Colors of Community." There were 176 pieces of artwork in the show, so this was quite an honor for them to gather awards in it!

Alix Bartnick placed third in the popular vote in the photography section. She received a ribbon, a certificate, and a cash award for her photograph entitled "Trinity."

Don Teachout won the award "Most Inspiring" for his entry, "Paid: It is Finished." He also collected a cash prize, a ribbon, and a certificate.

Area Art News

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Forest Hills Public Schools Staff and Community Exhibit November 29–December 15, 2016.
Reception: Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 6 p.m.–7:00 p.m. in the lobby.
Everyone is welcome!

ICCF

Evie Carrier and Randy Nyhof present “Our Michigan”—The Land of Lakes where the great waves break and the night runs into the day. This show runs until February 27 during regular business hours.
920 Cherry Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

St. Cecilia’s Terryberry Gallery

In celebration of the recent \$2.4 million renovation to the St. Cecilia Music Center building, the Terryberry Gallery will feature historic photos of the 122 year old building. Visitors will view photos of the building through the years, will see how this important cultural landmark has changed through the ages, as well as before and after photos of the recent renovation. This renovation included new seats in Royce Auditorium, new furniture and fixtures throughout the entire building, a re-design of the lobby and box office area, and completely renovated administrative offices, including many upgrades to lighting, heating and cooling, and other structural refurbishments.



Stop in to see the artwork of Holly Sturges, now on display at Bliss & Vinegar, and grab a delicious salad while you are at it!

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.

Franciscan Life Process Center

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

Marywood Dominican Center

Reyna Garcia, “Ayotzi, Inspiration and Revolution,” November 1, 2016–December 31, 2016. Artist’s Reception, which is open to the public, will be on the lower level of the Center at Marywood on Sunday, December 11, 1 p.m.–4 p.m.

Cascade Library

Mary Marin, Sallie Zigterman, Debbie Walker and Jeannette Stewart are currently showing their work. If you wish to show your work at the library, contact Larry Goff at 616-949-1247.

Lowell Arts

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.



Holly Sturges at Bliss & Vinegar

Bliss & Vinegar, our Partners in Art, Food, and Conversation

by Steve Scarborough

I talked to Jennifer McNamara, who owns Bliss and Vinegar with her husband Mark. They've been very supportive of GVA, and display the work of a different GVA artist every six weeks. This month's featured artist is Holly Sturges, whose has 5 paintings up and Mary Marin, who has a nice landscape on the opposite wall. Look for a new exhibit at the beginning of the new year.



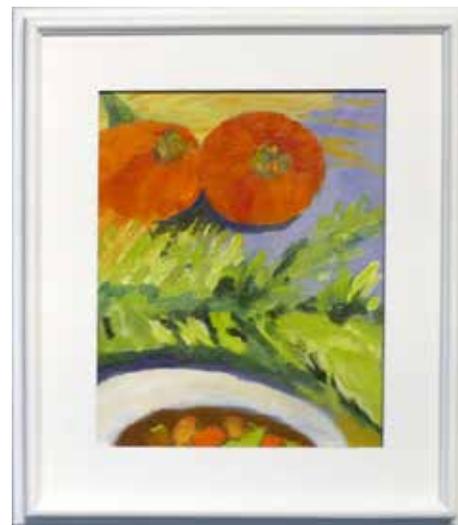
My wife Linda and I went to Bliss and Vinegar a couple of days ago, and being vegetarians, were pleased to find the big "V" in front of the selections we could eat, eliminating the guesswork. A big plus! Lots of other people came in to get take out as we finished our meal. B&V is a great place to get something healthy for your family when you don't have time to cook.

Mark is a trained chef and enjoys creating healthy, tasty food. They also own the Marco New American Bistro, a neighbor of Bliss & Vinegar. It sounded like a challenge raising four children and running two restaurants. I had my hands full raising one daughter, working full time and doing theater on the side as I did.



Some days seem to end before they really get started, you are running around so fast.

I asked Jennifer if her children like the art that comes in to their restaurant. It sounded like some displays really start a conversation going, and I was pleased about that. If it's one thing art should do, it's get the ball rolling on a good conversation. I was also pleased that their children are learning that art isn't just something that hangs in a museum. You can really find it anywhere—even in the family business!



So many of our members have mentioned Bliss & Vinegar to me since I started writing for our newsletter. I told Jennifer that we seemed to have forged a bond that works for all of us, and she agreed. Jennifer also



mentioned that even though restaurant-themed art, like barns, fruits and vegetables, is their first choice, she is starting to open up to the idea of trying artistic subject matter that goes in a different

direction. I like that idea as well and find that sometimes it's the art that you don't immediately connect with that makes the bigger impact. Maybe it's because you have to spend more time figuring out how to connect with it?

One thing I learned by talking to Jennifer is that the art of listening is alive and well at Bliss & Vinegar—stop by and see for yourselves!

Photo Group

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

The GVA Photo Group met twice in November. Our regular critique meeting time on the first T



PSuesday of the month was used to hang our group show with our reception on Saturday, November 5. We had many members participate this year, and I believe we had a fairly good turnout for the reception.

Our second meeting was on the third Tuesday, November 15, where I first covered technical aspects on photographing the Super Moon. The remaining time was spent watching the Film "Courage & Light," which is sort of a follow-up to Jim Brandenburg's previous film "Chased by the Light." "Courage & Light" features six discussions between Jim Brandenburg and noted author and educator Parker Palmer where they view vignettes from "Chased by The Light" project and explore themes of passion, renewal and creativity.

Evie Carrier and I had our ICCF show reception on Wednesday, November 9, which was met with positive feedback. Evie and I gave short bios of ourselves and had a question and answer time. The show will be up through February at the ICCF Building at 920 Cherry Street SE, which is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

January in the Gallery

Submitted by Jim Johnson

We will welcome art that has the human figure as the main subject in the month of January. Figures can be nude or clothed. They can be presented against a neutral background or engaged in a narrative of some sort. All 2D and 3D art is eligible, including drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture, photography, digital works, mixed media, etc. This exhibit is not juried and the works do not have to be framed, only hangable.

Hang: Dec 31 / Saturday

Strike: Jan 30 / Monday



**GVA Welcomes New Members
Rhonda Joy Ashby and Roland Lindh,
and Welcome Back,
Nancy Wahna**

Holland, Germany and the Czech Republic

Part 2 of a 2-part article by Kris Andrus



Looking down on the St. Charles Bridge

An older exterior will lead into a beautiful clean interior with glass art and contemporary design. The array of food is delectable, beer is everywhere, dessert and pastries are accompanied by strong cappuccino. If you are careful, you can buy some nice gifts for family, but be aware of China-made souvenirs. Service is good, but not fast—sit and enjoy watching the world go by.

After walking kilometers in Prague, our legs were sore. I wore out my shoes. Don't even think about heels or counting your steps; you will exceed your expectations. Tell your knees and hips to love steps.

History and heritage are reflected everywhere! There is an aura of communism in some of the

Our trip took us on to the Czech Republic by bus. Prague appears as a big city, busy and dirty. It has vibrancy—old and new mixed together. Of the 8 million Czech inhabitants, 1 million are people from all over the world who are looking to advance their careers in a number of technical and manufacturing centers in the Czech Republic.

Some of the cathedrals, bridges and palaces were built before the United States was founded! Old is relative. The cathedrals are beautiful, ornate, gold leafed and awesome. The St. Charles Bridge is glorious in the morning when almost void of tourists. There is incredible history, so much to learn about, it's astonishing. The intrigue between the church and the Kings must have been wild, a multi-layered soap opera. Yet the common folk must have struggled every day. Glory to those that had a trade like painting, sculpture, wood carving, and dressmaking.

Prague, like any city, has beautiful sections where we saw expensive cars, couture women and men contrasting with beggars, homeless people, and young people who have lost their way. The trams will get you just about everywhere when you figure out how to use them. The subway system is for those who want to see the middle of the earth below the Vltava River. The juxtaposition between old and new is everywhere.



Yellow Window in tower at St Charles Bridge

older people you encounter, such as at the railroad station. This is the way it is done, and it is the way!

Be prepared to have lots of change for bathroom stops. In fact, Prague is not a city to visit if you are watching your pennies; everything costs according to what you want to see. If you want to get closer to the altar, pay a little more. There are many galleries and museums. We took in a show of Steve McCurry photos taken in his years with National Geographic. We also went to the Mucha Museum exhibiting the work of Alphonse Mucha, the renown Czech Art Nouveau illustrator and painter.

Czech is not an easy language, but after a few days you can recognize some words graphically. You will need a good guide book, several



A street alley in Prague

maps, and a compass as your daily companions. Download a map and use your tablet and smartphone. Google Translate will use your tablet's camera and translate the words so you can read a menu or sign. Google Maps can tell you how to get where you are going via car, tram, or just plain walking!

There is a good feeling of accomplishment when you can say you figured out how to arrive to where you were going! I can say now I have seen some of Prague, but maybe in another lifetime we can see it again.

Over a glass of wine the other night, Bill and I agreed we should have stayed one more week—Vienna, a short train ride south.



View of the Vitava River, Prague

Why is Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa so famous...

by Steve Scarborough

Is it really one of the greatest paintings of all time?

Artistically speaking, the Mona Lisa has many interesting features. If you look at the background behind the subject, you can see that the horizon line on the right is different than the one on the left. Leonardo was indeed a master of illusion, and if you study this painting, you'll find several other things he did to create interest in what appears to be a simple portrait.

It's only 20 inches by 30 inches, but has been written about, analyzed, printed in countless books and magazines and copied and re-interpreted by thousands of artists in as many ways. The small painting sits behind bulletproof glass at the Musée du Louvre in Paris, and from early morning until closing time, she always has a room full of people admiring her.

It was painted on a poplar wood panel at the beginning of the 1500s in Florence, Italy. The English title 'Mona Lisa' got her name Mona from a term for 'my lady' and Lisa from Lisa Gherardini, who is believed to be the subject.

The story of how it wound up in the Louvre is interesting. King Francois I invited Leonardo to come to live in France in 1516, and he brought his favorite painting with him, and possibly worked on it a little more once there. In spite of the fact that he was probably commissioned to paint this masterpiece for Mr. Gherardini, he never gave it to him.

Once Leonardo passed away in 1519, the painting was inherited by a servant of Da Vinci and then bought by King Francois. King Louis XIV inherited it and moved the painting from the palace Fountainbleau to Versailles, and after the French revolution, it took residence in the newly created museum at the Louvre and was hidden each time a war threatened its safety,

as each conquering force thought they deserved all the art they could get their hands on. For example, the Mona Lisa ended up in Napoleon's bedroom when he took power.

The painting took a detour to Italy for a couple years after it was stolen in 1911. That's when this painting really took off in popularity. Nothing like a good story to propel something to rock star status. The house painter who stole the Mona Lisa thought it was a terrible injustice that the painting was in France, when



Leonardo, an Italian painter, created it. The misguided thief assumed he was doing the world a favor (or at least Italy) when he tucked it under his coat and made off with it and stored it in his apartment, but not on display. As odd as it sounds, crazy theories on who committed the crime went through the roof, including a popular one where Picasso was the thief.

After spending the two years pondering how to return Mona Lisa to the people of Italy, the real thief, Vincenzo Peruggia, came up with a brilliant plan – to sell it to a major Italian museum.

Of course they called the police and the painting went back to the Louvre – but not until being displayed all over the place while in Italy. Most of Italy thought the thief was a hero, and he only got a light sentence for stealing it.

After that, it became quite famous, but more was to come.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy and his wife Jackie went to Paris and met with President Charles de Gaulle. Jackie spoke pretty good French, and enjoyed immense popularity. She pressed to have the Mona Lisa come to America, and after several months she got her wish! She made the trip without incident, and by the time the masterpiece went back to France, it was the most famous painting in the world.

So, besides being a truly beautiful painting, the fact that the Mona Lisa has one of the best stories to go along with it helps a great deal. Is it the best painting in the world? I'll let you go see it in person and decide that one yourself.

Contact Listings for Grand Valley Artists

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Board Meeting December 1 at 6:15 p.m.

Holiday Party December 8, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

EVERY WEEK

Sundays Closed

Mondays 10:00 a.m. until noon

Tuesdays 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. (check website for location)

Thursdays First Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

(Note: Program in December is replaced by the Holiday Party from 6 till 8)

Remaining Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Fridays 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Model Sketch

Photo Group

Plein Air or
Still Life

Critique

Program

Model Sketch

Still Life

Model 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.



Grand Valley Artists

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