



www.grandvalleyartists.com

# Highlights

February 2017

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## A Message From Our President

The GVA board unanimously voted to apply for 501[c][3] status. This goal resulted from many discussions in regards to the need to raise additional monies for the daily operating costs of our organization. While we are trying to maintain the current membership fee, our expenses are increasing.

We are hoping the 501[c][3] will benefit the continued legacy of GVA. The 501[c][3] is the most common type of organization in the U.S. Its major benefit will allow GVA, a nonprofit organization, to receive tax-deductible contributions from individuals and corporations. Among other benefits, it places GVA in a better position to request grants for various activities such as education.

To accomplish our goal we have been “knee deep” in paperwork. We revised our constitution and bylaws. We filled out the 501[c][3] IRS form, and our accountant, Duane Culver, sent our forms to the IRS. The IRS indicated we must update the original Articles of Incorporation written by our founding fathers. We are in the process of doing that.

Grand Valley Artists Inc. is a great organization. We provide an incredible amount of activities for only a \$40 membership. Many of our members have found a “home” at GVA. Some of us may feel inclined to say thank you in the form of a tax-deductible donation to help pay for the costs of running our organization. In addition, there may be individuals outside of our organization who may want to give a tax deductible donation to GVA.

—Carol Lurn.



## Cascade Library

As many know, Larry Goff is dealing with health issues. At this time he is unable to continue his volunteer work in providing GVA art work to display at the Kent District Cascade Branch Library. The Library is a beautiful venue that provides a great deal of exposure to GVA artists. In addition, library personnel are promoting GVA on their Facebook page.

This volunteer work involves hanging artwork every 3 months. Recruitment of three to four artists to include no more than 17 works in total is suggested. Marty Klar has graciously volunteered to recruit artists for February thru April. However, we will need someone to take over in April. It might be a good idea to help Marty hang work in February so that you have a good understanding of what the job entails. Marty will also answer any questions you may have. We don't want to lose this opportunity to get our GVA artwork into the community. Please contact either Marty at 616-813-7921 or Carol Lurn at 616-437-9365.

We want to thank Larry for undertaking this responsibility for the benefit of our members and his years of service for GVA. Our thoughts are with you Larry...you're the BEST.

**REMINDER: Applications are coming in for Reeds Lake Art Festival. Members should use the online form to secure a booth if you want one. There will be no more than 120 booths for the June 17 event. Find the application form at <http://grandvalleyartists.com/reedslake>.**

## **Print Workshop in February**

Joanne Swann is offering a reduction print workshop with Joanne Swann on Saturday February 11th and Sunday February 12th, 9am to 4 pm. Those of us who attended Joanne's last workshop thoroughly enjoyed the experience, so you won't want to miss out!

Inks, tools and blocks included in price. You purchase the paper you use. (Joanne will have paper available.) Email to sign up: [joswann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:joswann@sbcglobal.net) and for further information. \$75.00



The 43rd Annual

**ART**  
in the **PARK**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2017**  
**9 AM - 4 PM**  
**LAKE ODESSA, MICHIGAN**

Sign up today for the best chance at your preferred booth location! The Lake Odessa Area Arts Commission invites you to apply to our annual one-day fine arts and crafts festival.

Now in its 43rd year, Art in the Park takes place on the grounds of Lake Odessa's shady and picturesque Village Park. Our show features 70+ unique fine art and craft booths, food booths, a children's craft area, community art exhibit, door prize drawings, live musical entertainment, and the annual ParkPrize! Competition. Attendance is FREE. We promote our event on all regional and many state and national festival & visitor websites, advertise in local print publications, by direct mail, and social media. Learn more at <http://www.lakeodessaarts.com>.

## **2017 Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff**

Call for Artists! The 56th annual Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff in St. Joseph, MI, takes place on July 8 and 9.

With an estimated 50,000 attendees, the Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff is one of the most prestigious and well-attended events in Southwest Michigan. A source of pride for the community, the Krasl Art Fair provides attendees with tremendous exposure to high-quality art. The Art Fair is consistently ranked as one of the top art fairs in the country and has specifically been chosen as one of the Top 20 Art Fairs by Sunshine Artist Magazine for 5 years running. Applications are now being taken via their website: <http://www.krasl.org>.



## February in the Gallery

Submitted by Jim Johnson

Just about every artist I've talked to has one or two pieces that involve sunflowers. If you don't have a sunflower piece, we'll take

whatever bright, colorful floral expression you have. Lets pack the gallery with a massive amount of color for February. All 2D and 3D art is eligible, including drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture, photography, digital works, mixed media, fiber art, mosaic tiles, etc. All work must be original. No prints or reproductions please. This exhibit is not juried and the works do not have to be framed, only hangable.

Hang: Jan 30 / Monday  
Strike: Feb 27 / Monday

## Photo Group

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

The Photo Group will meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month (February 7th and 21st) at 7:30 p.m. Photographers are all welcome, regardless of experience or expertise. For additional information, you can always check our website. We try to keep the membership informed regarding the topics that will be discussed, etc., so you can know what to expect.



Please stop in for a great salad at Bliss & Vinegar, where you will see Mary Marin's paintings displayed until mid-February. If you want to show your work at B&V, make sure to load some images to our website, as that is where the owners go to find art they would like to display. Marty Klar coordinates this opportunity for us. Thanks, Marty!

## Upcoming Programs at GVA

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

The Program for February will be presented by Leon Lou with his research on how artists see differently in observational drawing and painting taken from international conferences attended mainly by psychologists.

For the March Program our presenter is Bert Verbrugge. She has a degree in design from The University of Michigan and has taught adult students for probably 45 years. She has taught in facilitated classes at the Forest Hills Art Center and she teaches at the veterans home. She is an excellent presenter, and has foundational knowledge for both realistic and abstract painters.

In April I have scheduled Pamela DeTuncq, an artist from Sun Valley, Idaho to give a presentation. More info to come.





# The Wave

Contributed by Steve Scarborough

This iconic image, sometimes referred to as “the Great Wave off Kanagawa” is a woodcut print measuring only 10 by 14 inches and from a series of 46 designs using Mt. Fuji, which is considered sacred in Japan, as a focal point.

It was created by one of Japan’s greatest artists, Hokusai Katsushika, who lived between 1760 to 1849. He believed that the older he got, the better his work became, and only his work after the age of 70 was worthy at all. Looking at his work, I do see his point.

In *The Wave*, Mount Fuji is all but hidden in the background. There are also three large fishing boats filled with men rowing diligently to keep up with the rolling sea. The human condition is important to this artist, and Hokusai is a master. Everything is in harmony, even though the scene might at first seem wild and threatening.

Some prints of *The Wave* are quite dark and ominous, while others are much lighter. That’s because there are about 200 prints in existence and those created later show signs of wear of the wood blocks, which changes the colors dramatically.

In Japanese woodcutting, the original sketch was taken to another artist, the woodcarver, who placed the sketch on a block of wood, usually cherry, and carved out one block per color. The final blocks were used until the wear became so severe that prints could no longer be made.



There are possibly 200 good prints left out of the 5000 to 8000 originally made. I’ve seen the print that Claude Monet has in his house in Giverny, France, and it’s amazing, but surprisingly small.

*The Wave* has been copied numerous times, even as a sculpture. Dr. Suss used it for inspiration for one of his

pieces. It’s common to see it on TV or in a movie, in murals or as an ad for some product, related or not to Japan.

During the Impressionist era, Japanese wood block prints were all the rage. Many artists, including Van Gogh, collected them. I like the painting by Van Gogh called *Pere Tanguy*,

which is hanging in Rodin’s studio in Paris. The subject, Van Gogh’s art supply dealer, is standing up against a wall which is entirely covered with Japanese wood block prints. It’s a great painting and shows the beauty and colors of the prints perfectly.



Hokusai worked hard until his death at the age of 89. After losing his wife, their grandson came to live with him, adding to the artist’s financial burden. His daughter, Eijo, who became a remarkable artist herself, eventually left her marriage to live with her father, helping him in the studio and at home. Apparently, some of Eijo’s work was sold under her famous father’s name. Her life was difficult, largely spent caring for him.

There’s a current animated movie, *Miss Hokusai*, that tells the story of Hokusai and his daughter.

The British Museum is currently holding a show of Hokusai’s work and includes prints, paintings and illustrated books. The British Museum believe their print of *The Wave* is the finest in existence, and only recently have shown it because of its fragile nature. They plan a rotation during the show and have split the collection into two separate pieces to prevent further deterioration of the art, much of which is on loan from museums and private collectors from around the world. The exhibit runs until August 13th, 2017.

# Area Art News

## Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Sandra Hansen's work will be exhibited February 2–March 24, 2017. Artist Reception: Thursday, February 9, 2017, 6-7 p.m. Exhibit Hours: Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Exhibit is open and free to the public. Artwork is available to purchase.

## ICCF

Jim Johnson and Connie Kuhnle are featured artists at ICCF on Cherry St. The name of this show is "Home Sweet Home." ICCF provides beautiful, affordable housing to people, so this fits into their mission well. See a beautiful collection of watercolors, pastels, oils, and drawings of homes. This show runs from February 3–May 30. ICCF is open during regular business hours. 920 Cherry Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

## Franciscan Life Process Center

Please check out the workshops at [http://lifeprocess-center.org/calendar/cat\\_ids~3](http://lifeprocess-center.org/calendar/cat_ids~3).

## Marywood Dominican Center

Learn what is happening at the Dominican Center here: <https://dominicancenter.com/artgallery>.

## Cascade Library

Mary Marin, Sallie Zigterman, Debbie Walker and Jeannette Stewart are currently showing their work.

## Lowell Arts

The 31st Annual West Michigan Art Competition highlights outstanding artwork by Lower West Michigan artists. This year's distinguished juror is Nichole Maury, Associate Professor of Art of Printmedia at Western Michigan University. Pieces are selected in all visual art media by artists 18 yrs. and older who reside in a 15 county region. Cash awards are presented in five categories. Drop-off of artwork to be entered in the competition is February 22–25. Gallery Hours: Tues–Fri 10a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat 1–4 p.m. [www.lowellartsmi.org](http://www.lowellartsmi.org) [ellartsmi.org](http://ellartsmi.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.

## Frauenthal Center

The featured artist for February is Jon McDonald. See a beautiful collection of Jon's work. Jon is a Professor of Illustration at Kendall School of Art & Design. Make it your second stop when you make a drive out to see what the Muskegon Museum of Art has. This exhibit is well worth the trip! It will run from January 31 - March 4. The Frauenthal Center is open during regular business hours.

## Guardian Gallery at St. Adalbert's

The featured artist in February is our own David Thinger. Come and see a beautiful collection of David's multi-media pieces. Guardian Gallery is at 671 Davis Avenue NW, Grand Rapids. It's the second brick building from the basilica. Go to the doorway with the arched covering over the top and you will find a box with three buttons on it. Push the button that has on it "Franciscan Life Process Center." Push it and you will be buzzed in. This show will be up the month of February, March, April and May. The Guardian Gallery is open Tuesday–Friday, noon to 7:30 p.m.

## Terryberry Gallery at St. Cecilia's

Larry Blovits and Jim Johnson are the featured artists for the February Show at Terryberry Gallery at St. Cecilia. See a beautiful assortment of their work in watercolor, oil and pastel. The reception for this show is on February 3 from 5:30–7:30 p.m. Please join us to celebrate two of our own amazing artists! This show runs from February 1–28. Terryberry Gallery is open during regular business hours.

## Bliss & Vinegar

Stop in to see the artwork of Mary Marin, currently on display, and grab a delicious salad while you are at it! Marty Klar coordinates the displays at B&V. Please do not contact the restaurant directly. Contact Marty with Bliss-specific questions: [martyklar@comcast.net](mailto:martyklar@comcast.net), (616) 813-7921.

## Downtown Lowell Gallery Hop

Thursday, March 9, 5-8 p.m.  
LowellArts and nearby galleries on Main Street will be open March 9 with special evening hours. LowellArts invites the public to view the West Michigan Art Competition, meet the artists, and enjoy an art-filled evening in downtown Lowell.



# The Secret Life of Dr. Suess

Contributed by Steve Scarborough

Dr. Suess was a pen name for Theodor Suess Geisel, illustrator and author of over 60 children books. I've always been unsure of how to pronounce his name, but here's a poem he wrote to help us get it right:

You're wrong as the deuce  
And you shouldn't rejoice  
If you're calling him Seuss.

He pronounces it Soice (or Zoice).

I thought of Dr. Suess as just a children's author until I happened on an exhibit at Saper Galleries in East Lansing. There are quite a few of his cartoons on display.

It seems like the Cat in the Hat had morphed into a kind of alter ego for Mr. Geisel, and he did a whole series of surrealistic cats, some quite scary and definitely not for his younger market. Dr. Suess had a very different side than I've ever seen before, but it took me a while to realize that he was just what his children's books advised us to do—be ourselves, however unusual.

Theodor Geisel had a long run as a political cartoonist long before he thought about doing children books. He called his more adult art "Midnight Art," and these pieces were rarely if ever exhibited or talked about. After he finished his day job, he'd work on his other art, most of which was never shown to anyone outside his close circle of friends.

In 1995, a book was published called *The Secret Art of Dr. Suess*, showcasing many of his alternate works. Shockingly, some of these pieces contained nudes in quite bizarre situations. Seeing a cartoon bird in a

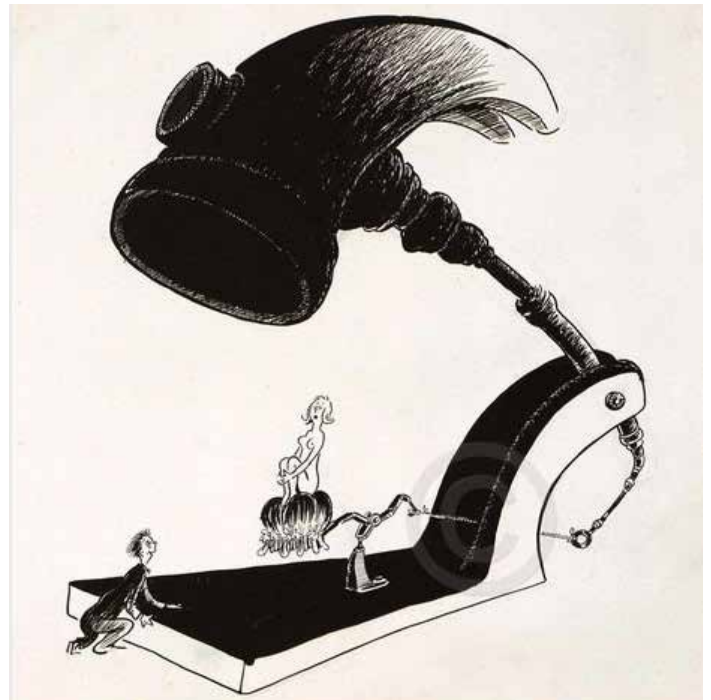


skimpy night gown makes you realize why he kept this stuff hidden.

He also did sculptures, including a series of 16 mounted heads of mythical beasts, some of which appeared to be combinations of several beasts rolled into one. They greeted unsuspecting visitors to his home in New York. I imagine he liked to watch the expression on their faces as his unsuspecting guests saw these creatures! More than one friend later called to report he'd given them nightmares!

I'm always put off by artists who want you to believe only a very hip or clever person can understand the complex message behind their work. Dr. Suess is the complete opposite of that. He wants everyone to get some piece of what his message is, even if it's sometimes hidden. For example, *The Grinch That Stole Christmas* is about the over-commercialization of the holidays. *The Sneeches and Other Stories* is about diversity and discrimination.

Theodor Geisel has given everyone who has read his books a sense that it's a pretty good idea to try a bite of a green egg, a metaphor for all the new things in the world we're going to see and experience. We may just fall in love with some things we never imagined we would. There's that word – imagination – that seems to come up every time we even think about Dr. Suess.





**Board Meeting February 2 at 6:15 p.m.**

| EVERY WEEK        |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Sundays</b>    | Closed  |
| <b>Mondays</b>    | 10:00 a.m. until noon   |
| <b>Tuesdays</b>   | 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:30 p.m.   |
| <b>Wednesdays</b> | 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. (check website for location)   |
| <b>Thursdays</b>  | First Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.<br>Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.<br>(Note: Program in December is replaced by the Holiday Party from 6 till 8)<br>Remaining Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. |
| <b>Fridays</b>    | 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.  |
| <b>Saturdays</b>  | 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.  |

**Contact Listings for Grand Valley Artists**

**President**  
 Carol Laurn  
 616-437-9365  
 carollaur@yaho.com

**Membership Chair**  
 Dave Bechtel  
 616-818-9618  
 davidbechtel@sbcglobal.net

**Vice President**  
 Emily Green  
 616-617-1548  
 ww.emilyg@gmail.com

**Photography**  
 Lora Cecola  
 loracecola@mac.com

**Secretary**  
 Dana Donnell  
 danaBdonnell@gmail.com

**Program**  
 Randy Nyhof  
 616-745-1486  
 r.nyhof@comcast.net

**Treasurer**  
 Evie Carrier  
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 evie.carrier@gmail.com

**Reeds Lake Art Festival**  
 Bob Kraai  
 616-956-7734  
 rkraai@ameritech.net

**Newsletter and Website**  
 Mary Marin  
 616-443-0362  
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**Publicity**  
 Steve Scarborough  
 stevescarb1@yahoo.com

**GVA Gallery Shows**  
 Jim Johnson  
 616-451-2211  
 johntheartist@hotmail.com

**Sketch Coordinators**  
 Kathy Bechtel  
 616-540-5744  
 kathleen.becht@yaho.com  
 Dave Bazen  
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 Larry Goff  
 lawrencegoff@comcast.net  
 Jim Johnson  
 616-451-2211  
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**Hospitality**  
 Peg McKeown  
 616-656-9210  
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**GVA Library**  
 Jim Johnson  
 616-451-2211  
 johntheartist@hotmail.com

**Facilities Coordinator**  
 Dave Bazen  
 616-453-6706  
 dbazen@bazenelectric.com

**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

1345 Monroe Ave. NW Suite 140

Grand Rapids, MI 49505

## Notice of Membership Vote

To all GVA members, on February 2, during Critique, we will ask our membership to approve our revised Articles of Incorporation. The original Articles of Incorporation were written in 1960. The IRS has mandated that we must revise the original Articles in order to receive a 501{c}{3}. The 501{c}{3} allows nonprofit organizations to receive tax-deductible contributions from individuals and corporations. Kathy Bechtel will email our membership the revised articles at the beginning of the fourth week in January.

Thank you,  
Carol Lurn