



Highlights

June 2016

Reeds Lake Festival

GVA Artists Tent

The Reeds Lake Art Festival is right around the corner, Saturday, June 18, and we still need help. Also, the GVA tent has a few FREE panels available for members' work. Each panel is 3' wide x 5 1/2' tall. Each artist using a panel will be expected to work in the tent for a 2-hour shift, and we need additional tent workers. Please call or e-mail Sarabeth at 616-608-5588, sarabethcarr@gmail.com to reserve a panel or offer your help in some way. (Deadline to reserve a panel is **June 2.**)

Volunteers Still Needed for the Festival...It Takes a Village, and We Need You!

Here are positions still needing to be filled. Some of you graciously fill a position year after year. But please let Sarabeth know that you will be available again this year.

- 1 person: Pick up festival signage at GVA and put up in downtown EGR by June 3.
- 1 person: Help to load tents, panels, etc. into truck on Friday afternoon (June 17). Contact Joanne Swann at 616-406-8648.
- 1 person: 7 a.m. on Saturday to help unload tents and panels and set them up at GVA booth.
- 6 people: 6 a.m. vendor traffic control and check-in. We already have 4.
- 2 people every 2-hour shift: Hospitality to hand out programs, give artists breaks.
- 3 people: Take down GVA tents at 5 p.m. and load truck.
- 1 person: Help unload truck at GVA.
- 2 people: Clean up, traffic control, take down signs.

Please contact Sarabeth at sarabethcarr@gmail.com or 616-608-5588.



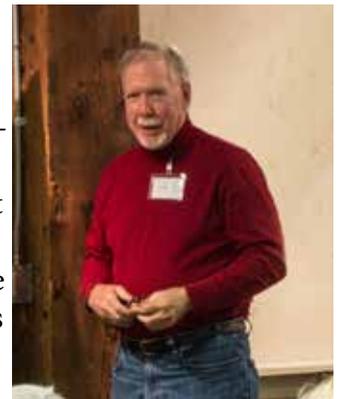
Our intrepid leader, Jim Johnson, in Lowell

Plein Air Group Back in Action

The Plein Air group has resumed its weekly Wednesday paintouts. Check the GVA website on Tuesday night to learn where to meet up with some of your favorite people. Jim Johnson is our organizer, so let him know if you have a location to offer as an option. We are always looking for new places to paint.

Larry Blovits at May Program

Members enjoyed a walk down memory lane with Larry Blovits last month when he shared a slide retrospective of his "evolution as an artist." Larry talked about the early learning years as a student in the sixties and the various learning experiences with painting and drawing media, including two large murals he created, and various commissions along the way. He also explained his involvement with the "art business" and the necessity of building a resume and getting into national prestigious Organizations as a necessity to succeed in the art world. Thanks, Larry, for sharing your path with us.





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. We leave the dock at 7:30 and return at 9:30, timed just right to see the sun go down over Lake Michigan.

You still have time to get those checks in 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.winddancercharters.com for any other information.

June Program Night

Irena Saparnis, a Lithuanian born artist, is scheduled as the presenter for the June 9 Program. Irena studied art and graduated from the University of Technology in Vilnius with a Masters Degree in architecture. After finishing her studies in art and architecture, she enjoyed an early career in architectural design. In 1993, she left Eastern Europe, moved to the United States and began producing beautiful batik "paintings." Batik is a fascinating and complicated technique that involves multiple applications of waxing and dyeing the fabric.

She currently resides in Willow Springs, IL. Today, her interest in architecture is reflected in her work. Her city scenes focus on mundane civic structures. Her mission is to infuse them with new spirit.



Party, Party, Party!

July 30th has been selected as the date for the annual GVA Summer Party! Dave and Mary Bazen have once again invited us to their home for fun and fellowship. Details will be available in next month's newsletter. Mark your calendars, and save the date!

Kubiak Fund: We Want to Include You!

If you would like to be a member of GVA, but funds are tight for you right now, please consider applying for the Kubiak Fund. The fund has been created to assist with membership dues for the year. To apply, contact Carol Lurn, our president. You will remain anonymous to the rest of the membership. Carol's information is available in the contact list below.



GVA Welcomes
Returning Member
Dorothy Brydges.
Great to have you back!

Photography Group News

Photo Group Was Busy in May

The GVA Photo Group met twice this month with the first meeting being our usual photo critique and info sharing meeting. We also met on the evening of the third Tuesday where Randy Nyhof presented the digital workflow that he used from camera to computer showing his way of organizing and renaming files. He also showed some of the Photoshop techniques that he uses for post processing images and removing backgrounds, etc.



Need Digital Files of Your Work?

Randy Nyhof has scheduled the date of Tuesday, June 14, starting at 7 p.m. until possibly 9 p.m. to be available to photograph any artwork that members would like to have photographed for digital use. It would be helpful if you could let Randy know you will be bringing work to be photographed (r.nyhof@comcast.net).

The cost is \$15/artwork with a minimum of four pieces. Additional photos will cost \$10 each. Photos will be provided in both high resolution (for prints, giclee, etc.) and low resolution (web, etc.) on a postage paid CD.

Randy may also be setting up a time in August for those who can't make it in June.

GVA Gallery in June and July

By Jim Johnson

JUNE / SAME AS IT EVER WAS / Art that celebrates natural things, will grace the walls of GVA until July 2.

JULY / PORTRAITS / These portraits can be classic head and shoulder images, or they can be non-traditional images that convey something essential about the person depicted. The entrees don't have to be recent works done in our GVA studios. They can be portraits by our present day GVA artists created at an earlier time. (I'd rather not get into dog and cat portraits because then we'd have to honor goldfish portraits, tree portraits, antique auto portraits, etc.) 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: July 2 / Saturday

Strike: Aug 1 / Monday

Adopt a Bench!

We need volunteers to take a much used wooden bench home for an overhaul. Last year Bob McDonald and Marty Klar took on the challenge. Bob even built a brand new bench for us. (Plans are available if you are also so inclined.)

Please let Marty know if you can help us out so he can coordinate and avoid having too many benches disappear at the same time. Call him with questions, 616-813-7921.



Board News

Thank you, Sarabeth Carr

We want to thank Sarabeth Carr, who is resigning from her posts at GVA, for her many years of service. She's done several jobs here, from planning our programs to handling the hospitality position to serving as our Vice President. Everyone is conscious of the time involved in volunteering and we all appreciate her helping so much. Good luck in your future endeavors!

Positions at GVA Available... Your Chance to Get More Involved!

The position as Vice President is open. The Vice President is responsible for assisting the President to fulfill the responsibilities of the office, including chairing meetings if the president is not available.

We also need a new hospitality chairperson or team. This job entails coming a bit early for Critique and

A Look Back at Edgar Degas

By Steve Scarborough

A painter first, Degas also produced some amazing sculptures, pastels, monotypes and was one of the earliest artists to learn photography.

Of course, when Degas name is mentioned, you immediately think about the ballet dancers he often created. His paintings and pastels, sculptures and etchings of the dancers were his forte'. He was able to stop the motion, and show the dancers in various poses, almost always obscuring their faces, concentrating on the poses and costumes instead of their beauty.

We're lucky to have a small sculpture of a dancer at Meijer Gardens in the conservatory. Oddly, in his lifetime, his sculptures were never cast in bronze as we are so used to seeing them today. The castings were done by a foundry after Degas' death, commissioned by his heirs, who wanted to produce an income and continue Degas' legacy.

Degas was an impressionist, true, but he also explored other styles and used unusual angles and perspectives, often cutting off major portions of his subjects. One has to wonder if this was from experimenting with photography, as it's a common tool of a photographer to crop his work in imaginative ways.

One of my earliest professors was a fan of the

Program, making coffee in the big pot (there are printed instructions), setting out cups, coffee supplies, plates and napkins, treats that people bring in, etc. There is a small bit of clean up after, washing out the coffee pot and putting supplies away.

We use a sign up sheet for snacks. This is passed around at functions asking for volunteers to bring snacks for Critique and Program. The hospitality chair will want to make a reminder call to these volunteers a few days before the event. Hospitality also supervises the treat table at the holiday party in December.

Contact Carol Lurn, our President, at carollurn@yahoo.com, or any board members for information on both of these exciting opportunities.

Impressionists and introduced me to the work of Degas when I attended Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, in the 70s. He walked me down to his studio from our classroom one day, and showed me a poster he had hanging on the wall and asked me if I could do an oil study of it.

I nodded as I leaned closer, amazed at the colors and textures. There was a woman sitting at a table, a drink in front of her. It was obvious the alcohol had gotten the best of her and she had a lost look on her face—almost as empty as the bottle that sat on a table next to her.

Beside her sat a man biting his pipe. He wasn't paying any attention to the woman. It was al-



continued on page 6

Area Art News

August Watercolor Workshop by Jim Johnson

The cost of this 3-day workshop on August 4, 5, and 6 is \$325. Learn more at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jim-johnson-loosen-up-and-have-fun-with-watercolor-tickets-19020054495>.

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!

May 31–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 are presented by LowellArts! and Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. This free outdoor summer concert series runs June 16–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. See a list of the performers on their website.

ICCF

Charles LaRue will be showing his work at ICCF on Cherry Street through the end of June. ICCF is open during regular business hours.

Cascade Library

Jim Johnson and Carol Friend will be showing their work in the Cascade Library through the first week of July. If you would like to show your work there, please contact Larry Goff.

St. Cecilia’s Terryberry Gallery

June 1–31 – Cathy Marashi and Michael Callihan. Reception open to the public June 3, 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Cathy and Michael have very different styles. Cathy creates beautiful abstractions with brilliant color. Michael creates beautiful, large landscapes in a horizontal format. His style is very impressionistic and has soft beautiful colors.

Marywood Dominican Center Art Gallery

Exhibit: May 1 to June 30, 2016

Reception: Sunday, June 12, 1–4 p.m.

Artists:

- Evie Carrier – Mix Media
- Sara Smolenski – Pottery
- Sr. Francetta McCann, OP – Fine Art Photography

Franciscan Life Process Center Program Lineup

You can learn more about the exciting lineup of workshops at The Franciscan Life Process Center by visiting the FLPC website at <http://lifeprocesscenter.org/>.



Stop in to see the artwork of one of our new members, Samantha Luotonen, 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.

Degas, continued from page 4

most like he had given up trying to have a conversation; they were both too consumed by the liquor to exchange any meaningful thoughts. Degas had managed to do something rare—take a lively social activity, and turn it into one of solitude.

The painting was “The Absinthe Drinkers,” and as I snapped out of the story I had created about this poster, he pulled out the thumb-tacks holding it up and carefully rolled and handed it to me. It was the end of the semester and he wanted to give me something to do until the next one began.

When I got home that night, I unrolled it and mounted it on the wall of my bedroom and set up an easel next to it. One month later, I had explored every inch of this masterpiece, as I learned how to paint—how to copy his brush strokes and match the colors I admired. My version hangs in our dining room today, a favorite of Linda’s (my wife).

Linda is now as big a fan as I am of Degas’ work. In fact, we both just returned from a trip to Paris and London, catching as many of his pieces as we could—each one taking our breath away. We especially liked walking the streets of Montmartre in Paris, well aware he painted in the area, and imagined him at one of the tables lining the cobblestone streets there, eating and drinking with Toulouse-Lautrec and other notable friends, such as Mary Cassatt and Walter Sickert. How fun it would have been to join them!

Thanks, Ross!

Our GVA newsletter is an important publication in that it provides our members information about our organization’s news and activities. In addition, it is a promotional device to give prospective members an idea of what GVA provides. Our newsletter is “the face” of GVA. Two of our members, Ross McCrory and Mary Marin, get the newsletter to us. Mary gathers the information and Ross has been creating the layout. Ross’s generosity over many months has been a balancing act, as he has a more-than-full-time job, sometimes with 12-hour days, and a family, too.

Going forward, Mary will be trying her hand at layout so Ross can get a bit of a breather. We are indebted to him for the hours he has devoted to giving our newsletter a professional appearance. We hope he can occasionally find time in his very busy life to reap some of the benefits GVA has to offer. Thank you so much for all of your service, Ross!



Special Events:

- June 2 – Board Meeting at 6:15 p.m.
- June 18 – Reeds Lake Art Festival 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
- July 30 – Picnic starting at Noon
- 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
- 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.
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.

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

President
 Carol Laurn
 616-437-9365
 carollaurn@yahoo.com

Vice President
 Position Open...Your Name Here?

Secretary
 Dana Donnell
 danaBdonnell@gmail.com

Treasurer
 Evie Carrier
 616-648-6858
 evie.carrier@gmail.com

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

Photography
 Lora Cecola
 loracecola@mac.com

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

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

Newsletter and Website
 Mary Marin
 616-443-0362
 marymarin@comcast.net

Publicity
 Steve Scarborough
 stevescarb1@yahoo.com

Newsletter Layout
 Ross McCrory

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

Sketch

Photo

Plein Air

Critique
 Program
 Sketch

Still Life

Sketch

Sketch Coordinators
 Kathy Bechtel
 616-540-5744
 kathleen.bechtelt@yahoo.com
 Dave Bazen
 dbazen@bazenelectric.com
 Larry Goff
 lawrencegoff@comcast.net
 Jim Johnson
 616-451-2211
 johnsonheartist@hotmail.com

Hospitality
 Position Open...Your Name Here

Library
 Jim Johnson
 616-451-2211
 johnheartist@hotmail.com

Grand Valley Artists

1345 Monroe Ave. NW Suite 130

Grand Rapids, MI 49505