



# Highlights

July 2016

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## Members in the News

The **47th Festival of the Arts Regional Arts Exhibition** held at the Urban Institute of Contemporary Arts during the Festival of the Arts weekend was a huge success. Helping to make it so successful were twenty-seven Grand Valley Artists whose beautiful pieces of art were selected from the hundreds that were submitted. The artists who had one piece selected include Diann Bartnick Borton, Kathleen Bechtel, Larry Blovits, Robin Bowles, Evie Carrier, Loren Gach, Donald Karel, Laurie Lehman, Nancy MacLachlan, Douglas Neuman, Bonnie Osborne, Janice Paulson, Gene Sampson, Richard Schaf, Patrick Seanor, Joanne Swann, Mary Serra Venekase, Kristi Lynn Visser, and Irene Wordhouse. The following artists had two pieces chosen: Bill Chardon, Marianna Heule, James Johnson, Kathleen Kalinowski, Kathy Mohl, Randall Nyhof, and Mary Reusch. Nona Bushman had three pieces chosen. Kathy Kalinowski's painting received an award. Congratulations to all!

The **Muskegon Museum of Art's 88th Regional Exhibition** is currently being held and will continue until August 3, 2016. Grand Valley Artists members who had one piece selected were Larry Blovits, Susan Ellison, and Dennis O'Mara. Robyn Bomhof, Bill Chardon and Nona Bushman each had two pieces in the show. Congratulations to all of these artists.

The **Great Lakes Pastel Society National Juried Exhibit** is at the Holland Area Arts Council in Holland from May 19th through July 16. Pastelists from New Mexico, Colorado, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, California, Indiana, North Carolina, and of course Michigan have works in this show. Congratulations to Grand Valley Artist

members Bonnie Osborne and Kathy Mohl, who each have one piece in this show, and Jim Markle, who has two. This is an exceptionally beautiful show that shouldn't be missed.

Jim Johnson had his watercolor painting "DNA" accepted into the **Michigan Watercolor Society Exhibit** in the Ella Sharp Gallery in Jackson, Michigan. The show will be hanging until the 25th of June. Congratulations, Jim!

Mary Ann Perry's painting done in 1958 of the Red Barn Pavilion in Saugatuck was auctioned off for \$825 on Sunday May 22nd at the Petter Art Gallery at a **Benefit for the Saugatuck and Douglas Historical Society**. The mayor of Saugatuck, Bill Hess, purchased the painting.



Mary Ann Perry with the highest bidder, Mayor Bill Hess (right).



## Plein Air Group

By Steve Scarborough

I've been procrastinating. What exactly does one take with them to paint plein air? Perhaps an umbrella to get out of the sun? A table to set your paints on? A chair? How many tubes of paint? Exactly how many supplies does one need to set up in the great outdoors?

I let the 'what ifs' get the better of me, and haven't gone to any of the sessions Jim Johnson has offered to the GVA members. For any of you that don't know, Jim Johnson has scouted out quite a few places for painting and drawing 'plein air' this summer, and you can e-mail him to get added to his list. It takes place most Wednesdays from 2pm to 5pm. His e-mail is [johnsontheartist@hotmail.com](mailto:johnsontheartist@hotmail.com). If it's raining, he'll usually set up a still life in our studio on Monroe Ave.

Last week's invitation to join the Wednesday group sounded like the perfect opportunity to go out and see first hand, how you paint outdoors.

Jim's group e-mail went something like this – Frozen Creek Farm was allowing us to come out and make ourselves at home among the barns and out buildings that were placed picture perfect on steep slopes with old farm machinery scattered about with an orchard and maple trees, and to top it off, they sell fresh produce, kettle corn, homemade soups, apple butter....So you get the picture, this is one folksy place with lot's of different scenes you can easily find to paint, sketch, draw, watercolor, what have you.

My curiosity got the best of me, so I put the top down and drove out to the country in search of our GVA plein air group, determined to learn enough to actually join them the next time.

When I pulled into the driveway, about a half an hour before the end of the session, I saw half a dozen familiar faces and several new ones concentrating on finishing a piece, some sitting under trees, some at the entrances of the barns—they were everywhere. I guess there is no one way to situate yourselves under these conditions: Find a scene that inspires you and get to work!

I talked to everyone I could with out interrupting too much (I hope), and received pointers on all the issues that were preventing me from painting out in the open. I got advice on what kind of easel to bring, how to look for different perspectives, the importance of packing light, making the best with what I already have, and how to get out there and try something new, in spite of not having the perfect plein air set up to begin with—time will help streamline the whole process.

I googled "Plein Air" and found lots of information, including pictures of how artists set up. If you are still on the fence wondering about joining one of our sketch sessions, come on out, and you'll find lots of experienced artists who will help you find a direction to begin.

## 51st Reeds Lake Festival

The 51st Reeds Lake Art Festival is now a happy memory, thanks to the amazing organizers and the many members who provided traffic control and directions to the vendors in the wee hours, schlepped equipment and tents from our storeroom, set up and “manned” the GVA booth, provided relief to vendors, and tore everything down, cleaned up, and hauled everything back to GVA when all was done. I'd name names if I weren't afraid of forgetting somebody! More photos on back cover.

### Booth Winners



1st place \$150, Whitney Lassini  
Lowell, MI



2nd Place \$100  
Sandy Dekker (left)  
Fremont, MI with GVA member  
Mary Sayre



3rd Place \$50, Miles Stearn  
Berkley, MI

## Photography Group News

The GVA Photo Group met twice in June with the first meeting being our usual photo critique and info sharing meeting. We also met on the evening of the third Tuesday, where Kris & Bill Andrus presented their 2 simple & cheap lighting setups—one for general lighting, one for back- or thru-lighting an object.



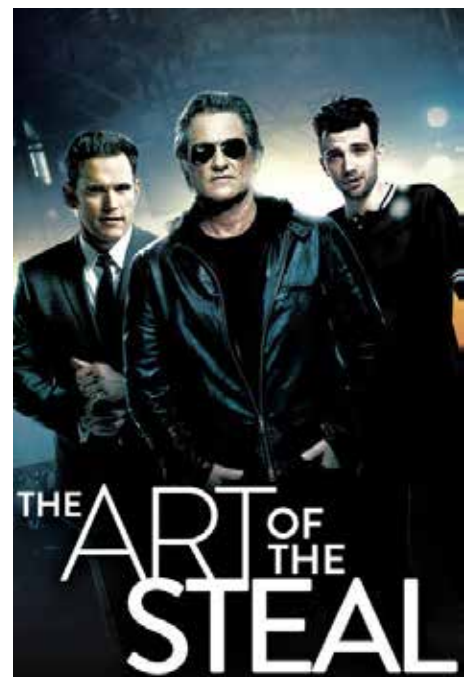
Also on Tuesday June 14, Randy photographed several artists' artwork for digital files. The resulting images were just what the artists needed, and the price is extremely reasonable. He also might be setting up another time sometime in August for those that couldn't make it in June.

## Seen Any Good Movies Lately?

Submitted by Peg McKeown

I recently watched “The Art of the Steal.” I thoroughly enjoyed it and thought the newsletter would be a good place to tell you about it. The movie was filmed in 2009, but it is still worth a watch. Here's the Netflix description: The Art of the Steal: A gripping tale of intrigue and mystery in the art world, this film traces the history of the Barnes collection of Post-Impressionist paintings, which was worth billions and became the subject of a power struggle after the 1951 death of the owner. Dr. Albert Barnes collected 181 Renoirs, 69 Cézannes, 59 Matisse's, 46 Picassos and many other valuable paintings. But the political wrangling over the collection eventually led to its division.

I'm always looking for good art movies and books. Maybe other members are too. So I was thinking the Newsletter might be a great place to share such information. Seen any good movies lately?





## Board News

### We Need Your Input

To ascertain whether GVA is meeting your needs and learn how we can improve the organization, the board is sending you a survey. Please complete the survey by July 30. All responders will be included in a drawing for two fabulous prizes during September Critique.

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

The position as Vice President is open. We also need a new hospitality chairperson or team. This job entails coming a bit early for Critique and Program, making coffee, setting out plates and napkins, etc.

Contact Carol Lurn, our President at [carollurn@yahoo.com](mailto:carollurn@yahoo.com) or any board members for information on these exciting opportunities or to offer to fill one of the positions.

## 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](mailto:stevescarb1@yahoo.com) or Wind Dancer Charters at [www.winddancercharters.com](http://www.winddancercharters.com) for any other information.



## No July Program

In lieu of the July program, we will be celebrating the summer together at the annual Summer Party. See below.



## 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. Dave and Mary's home is on Fennessy Lake just south of Standale. The address is 0-314 Fennessy SW. Take 2nd Ave. (one block west of Wilson) South to Fennessy. Turn right +/- 1/8 mile (6 houses).

## Gallery in July and August

By Jim Johnson

JULY / PORTRAITS / These portraits are a combination of classic head and shoulder images and non-traditional images that convey something essential about the person depicted.

Hang: July 2 / Saturday

Strike: Aug 1 / Monday

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

# 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!

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 scheduled performers on their website.

### ICCF

Jon McDonald will be the featured artist at ICCF. There will be a collection of 20 of Jon’s beautiful paintings. The work will be up through October. ICCF is open during regular business hours.

### Cascade Library

Jan McKinnon and Dianne Lemmen will be showing their work at the Library for the next several weeks. Larry Goff will also be displaying works he has purchased done by GVA artists. If you wish to show your work at the library, contact Larry at 616-949-1247.

### St. Cecilia’s Terryberry Gallery

Terryberry Gallery at St. Cecilia will be closed through mid-October because of renovations.

### Marywood Dominican Center Art Gallery

Content needed.

### Franciscan Life Process Center

Workshops for Jon Redmond, Aaron Schurrer, Jim Johnson, TJ Cunningham, and Eric Bowman are the workshops scheduled for the Summer. Please check out the workshops at [http://lifeprocesscenter.org/calendar/cat\\_ids~3/](http://lifeprocesscenter.org/calendar/cat_ids~3/).

### Loosen Up and Have Fun with Watercolor

A James Johnson workshop / Franciscan Life Process Center, August 4th, 5th, & 6th, 2016 (9 a.m.–3 p.m. each day). Cost of the workshop is \$325. For more details and to enroll, visit the Franciscan Center website at:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/jim-johnson-loosen-up-and-have-fun-with-watercolor-tickets-19020054495>



Garage at Felt Mansion by Jim Johnson



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.



Samantha (left) with Jennifer McNamara, owner of Bliss & Vinegar, with some of Samantha's beautiful paintings.



## Irena Saparnis Delivered Fantastic Program in June

By Carol Lourn

On June 9, Irena Saparnis arrived at GVA with a carload of her beautiful photo/batik paintings. Irena started the program by introducing herself and declaring her love of the batik process. She can control the process only to some degree and relishes the surprise element inherent in the batik medium. Her subject matter includes city scenes, bridges, and figures that spring from her architectural master studies at the University of Technology in Vilnius.

Following her introduction, Irena was bombarded with questions regarding the development of her work. During a slide presentation, she described her process using paints and dyes directly onto silk, cotton, or paper. She prefers the use of paraffin wax melted in a rice cooker that controls the heat and alleviates noxious fumes and burning, and she experiments with media such as embroidery, gold leaf, burned silk and other materials that enrich her images.

Because our members were so intrigued by Irena's images and techniques, a list was compiled of members who want to attend a batik/photo workshop at GVA.

Thank you to Randy Nyhof and Lora Cecola, our program chairs, for providing such an informative and rich experience. We had a great evening!



## Special Events

Board Meeting July 7 at 6:15 p.m.

NO PROGRAM IN JULY

July 30 – Picnic starting at Noon

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



### EVERY WEEK

<b>Sundays</b>	Closed	
<b>Mondays</b>	10:00 a.m. until noon	Sketch
<b>Tuesdays</b>	1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:30 p.m.	Photo
<b>Wednesdays</b>	2:00 until 5:00 p.m. (check website for location)	Plein Air
<b>Thursdays</b>	First Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. <b>NOTE: NO PROGRAM IN JULY</b> Remaining Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.	Critique Program Sketch
<b>Fridays</b>	10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.	Still Life
<b>Saturdays</b>	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

**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  
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**Membership Chair**  
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**Program**  
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**Reeds Lake Art Festival**  
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**Newsletter and Website**  
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**GVA Gallery Shows**  
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Larry Goff  
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Jim Johnson  
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**Hospitality**  
Position Open...Your Name  
Here?

**Library**  
Jim Johnson  
616-451-2211  
johntheartist@hotmail.com

# Grand Valley Artists

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