

# GVA



# Highlights

MAY 2016

The Monthly Publication of Grand Valley Artists

## Reeds Lake Festival

### GVA Artists Tent

It is time to be thinking of our annual fundraiser, the Reeds Lake Art Festival, Saturday, June 18. This year the GVA tent will have 12 panels available for members' work. Each panel is 3' wide x 5 1/2' tall. The panels will be free and available on a first come, first served basis. Each artist will be expected to work in the tent for a 2-hour shift. Call or e-mail Sarabeth at 616-608-5588, [sarabethcarr@gmail.com](mailto:sarabethcarr@gmail.com) to reserve a panel.

### Volunteers Needed for the Festival!

Here are positions 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 and put up in downtown EGR

1 person: Help to load tents, panels, etc. into truck on Friday. Contact Joanne Swann at 406-8648.

4 people: Early Saturday help unload tents and panels and set them up GVA booth

6 people: Early morning vendor traffic control and check-in

2 people every 2-hour shift: Hospitality to hand out programs, give artists breaks

3 people: Take down GVA tents at 5p.m. and load truck

1 person: Help unload truck at GVA

2 people: Clean up, traffic control, take down signs

Contact Sarabeth at [sarabethcarr@gmail.com](mailto:sarabethcarr@gmail.com) or 616-608-5588.

## A Tribute to Carl Forslund



Carl Forslund

By Steve Scarborough

An evening of food, art and friendship—what could be better? How about the art of Carl Forslund with a personal walk through its history? That's exactly what happened on April 14th at GVA's studio and gallery.

It took three tables to hold all the food, including a beautiful cake inscribed with Carl's name. Many took the floor and talked about Carl, his influence on them, and his everlasting friendship. Then Carl stood up and moved to the front of the room, which instantly grew quieter. Everyone wanted to hear what the master artist had to say—and we did. Lessons in not wiping off that canvas you've just worked all week on—keep it, Carl said, it will teach you the best lessons. As luck would have it, I'd wiped out a failed painting one

week ago after sketch class. Next time, I'll save it.

The front of the room was set up with quite a few of Carl's works for the tribute, and he went from one end to the other, telling us stories about a self portrait he'd done at age twelve to when he moved from painting to pastels. He then talked about abstract art and how he saw all art as abstract. One of his pieces caught his eye and the conversation moved to how he had regrets not taking it farther than he did.



He also admonished artists who look at a recent piece and say how they have reached their peak. Carl urged them to let all that go and keep working—the best art you ever create only happens if you keep pushing yourself, and your best piece will always be tomorrow's piece. Everyone nodded, agreeing with this local icon.

Before Carl began speaking that evening, many prominent artists took turns telling stories about their friend and how he continues to influence their art. Some stories were touching, while some tributes drew laughter as tales of evenings at the Cottage Bar after art sessions were shared. I think Guinness

beer was also mentioned.

Several told of Carl helping many artists grow and move forward, and all agreed that GVA had grown in ways because of his influence and guidance. Carl could not have expected all this when that first meeting was put together in 1957. The way forward was clear—don't stop working hard and exploring new paths, and don't forget the valuable lessons from those who came and helped before.

Wanting further explanation of what he meant, and how he got to where he was today, I made a few phone calls and sent a few e-mails, finally deciding to call Carl himself. I was especially interested in how he went through different phases of art, from representational to abstract, in spite of first stating he didn't really care for abstract art when he started out.



I didn't get the answer I was expecting and will be thinking about what he told me for some time to come. The truth is labels are just that, and an artist needs to look hard at his subject and make a choice, really a series of choices to find the best way to represent his idea to the public.



Carl went on to tell me several stories of his life in art, from serving in the military to working with his family at Forslund Brother's furniture.

Then he told me a story of one of his breakthrough moments. While a young art student, he was challenged past his patience. He was given a still life to paint, in this case a teddy bear and a chandelier. He expressed his frustration to the instructor and was told to look harder at the objects on the table.



The young Carl looked closely and decided to enlarge the teddy bear and to turn the chandelier into a carousel. He suddenly realized that the only limits placed on him were from within and that there were always ways to turn a common theme into something special, something worth that repeat look, which is the difference between a good piece of art and an outstanding one.

It seems that everything that was placed in Carl's path became an opportunity. The years of hard work in the family furniture business, his service in the Air Force, the challenges of art school, the pleasure of raising a family—and a random teddy bear—all became tools to sharpen his art.

Only Carl could turn an encounter with a teddy bear into a life long lesson.

The recognition of Carl Forslund—one of two surviving founders of GVA—was suggested by Larry Goff at a Legacy Group meeting on March 14th. The Legacy Group evolved from a suggestion made by Carl Forslund calling for a committee to advise and ensure that GVA carry out the founders' intentions. Carl Forslund had the foresight to envision continuation of GVA, and today he continues to guide and inspire us.

—submitted by Louise Bauer



# BOARD NEWS

## UPDATE ON SAILING IN GRAND HAVEN

By Steve Scarborough



## BEFORE & AFTER

GVA is most grateful to our landlord, Ed DeVries, for enabling us to have our wonderful space at a below market rate. To express our gratitude, we have agreed to dress up the conference rooms at Cooper's Landing with works by our own artists. Currently showing their work are Jim Johnson, Judy Maggini, and Ruth VanderMuelen.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

SAMANTHA LUOTONEN

KRISTI LYNN VISSER

PAUL, KATHERINE, AND

FAITH KREUTZIGER

Imagine a warm summer evening, the wind blowing as you sit comfortably on a deck of a 63' sailboat. You hold on as a wave rocks the boat. Friends, new and old, surround you as the sun hits the horizon. Maybe this is a moment you'll paint when you get home, you think aloud. If you find yourself in the middle of such a scenario, then you must be aboard the Wind Dancer, a schooner that GVA has chartered at Grand Haven!

We are inviting you and your family to an evening of adventure, drinks, conversation and wind on August 14th, 7:30 to 9:30, for a sunset cruise. The cost is \$45 a person (check made out to GVA and sent to Evie Carrier, 1029 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508). There is room for 18 of us on a beautiful 63' schooner. If more people than the 18 people sign up, Wind Dancer Cruisers will allow us to book an afternoon sail from 3:30 to 5:00 for \$35 a person. We will let all those who sent in checks know where we stand as reservations conclude and offer you a choice if we overbook. Those whose checks arrive after 18 people are counted, can choose to go on the afternoon cruise at the reduced rate of \$35 per person.

We'd like everyone to get your checks in by June 1st, the last day of reservations. Of course if there's bad weather, we won't go out and you'll receive your checks back. We won't know until the day of departure on cancellations—the weatherman can be wrong; after all, this is Michigan!

The Wind Dancer has a liquor license and will be offering cocktails, beer, wine, mix drinks, soda, and bottled water from \$2 to \$7. They request that we only wear shoes suitable for sailing, that is, light colored soles – no black soles. If the captain deems yours unsuitable, you can stow them and go barefoot!

I need to interject something—the schooner has a restroom (in boating terms a ‘head’). Yes, all the comforts of home while on our cruise.

We meet at Chinook Pier, 301 North Harbor Dr. Grand Haven. Please arrive a half an hour early to board, so that would be 6:30. Sorry, we can’t bring any beverages, food or coolers, aboard—they sell beverages on the ship. Also, the captain and crew will accept gratuities; in fact, they quite like it when you show your appreciation that way.

## GVA Gallery in May and June

MAY / CITYSCAPES / Artwork that shows some aspect of urban life is being featured in May.

JUNE / SAME AS IT EVER WAS / Art that celebrates natural things. This would include plants, animals, earth, rocks, water, sky, and landscapes that haven’t changed much from generation to generation. Things that show little or no trace of modernity or the effects of civilization. All 2D and 3D art is eligible, including drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture, fiber art, mosaic tiles, photography, digital works, mixed media, etc. This exhibit is not juried, and the works do not have to be framed, only hangable.

Hang: May 30 / Monday (Memorial Day)

Strike: July 2 / Saturday

## 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. The show features 60+ 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. Learn more at <http://www.lakeodessaarts.com>.

### Arts in Ada

The Ada Arts Council is pleased to announce that, with the completion of Phase 1 of the downtown redevelopment project, the Arts in Ada Street Festival will be held on May 14, 2016.

### Upcoming Exhibitions at LowellArts!

Be sure to visit the LowellArts website for up to the minute news on upcoming competitions and exhibits. Find them 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.

## St. Cecilia's Terryberry Gallery

See the beautiful watercolor paintings of Carole Neilsen and Julie Foster, each with a different point of view. Julie's works have a contemporary feel to them, and Carole has many that are watercolor batiks. This is a show that you will not want to miss. It runs from May 3 to 29. The reception for this show is on May 6, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

## ICCF

Charles LaRue will be showing his work at ICCF on Cherry Street through the end of June.

## 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 GVA website home page, where a complete listing of upcoming events is available.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:marymarin@comcast.net)).

## Bliss & Vinegar

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since Bliss & Vinegar had their grand opening. Since day one GVA artists' work has been on display. I'm not aware of any sales that have resulted, BUT thousands of people have been exposed to our work and many are now aware of GVA for the first time. Every little bit of recognition helps GVA continue to thrive. The owners of Bliss & Vinegar also own Marco New American Bistro, which no doubt translates to even more folks learning of GVA.



Karen S Johnson's work is currently on display, and new members Samantha Luotonen and Carol Friend will follow. Work (framed & wired please) will be on display for approximately six weeks. The owners of Bliss & Vinegar regularly check the GVA Gallery for work/artists they are interested in. To learn how to place your work on the Gallery, please contact Mary Marin (contact information is on the website and in the newsletter). Also, please do not contact the restaurant directly. Direct your Bliss-specific questions to Marty Klar, 616-813-7921.

Work by the following artists has already graced the wall (yes it's only one wall...) at Bliss & Vinegar: Jim Johnson,

Mary Marin, Todd Darling, Joanne Swann, Kristen Thornton, Gene Sampson, Jan McKinnon and Barb Munro.

Contact Marty with Bliss specific questions: [martyklar@comcast.net](mailto:martyklar@comcast.net), (616) 813-7921.

## Adopt a Bench!

Spring is around the corner and the GVA studio is overdue for some spiffing up. With the help of GVA members we are bringing back the ADOPT-A-BENCH program.

We need volunteers to take a much used, much abused (but loved) wooden bench home for an overhaul. We recommend sanding it down to the bare wood, tightening any loosened screws or adding some new nails, varnishing or polyurethaning it, and returning it ASAP. Chances are none of us have the proper ventilation in our homes required for indoor varnishing or polyurethaning, so we see this program starting when the temps are warm enough for applying varnish or polyurethane outdoors, like in a garage or on a deck for example. 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.



**Larry Blovits**

Larry has had one pastel, Daydreaming, accepted in the Lowell Regional, and one pastel, Trickle Down Effect, accepted in the Muskegon Regional.



## August Watercolor Workshop by Jim Johnson

During his workshop “Loosen Up And Have Fun With Watercolor” at Franciscan Center , Jim will share his expertise while encouraging each artist to let the dance between artist and watercolors begin...To learn to nudge, encourage, and suggest a pathway from one shape to another to achieve astonishing results. Jim believes the key to having fun with watercolor is to relax, avoid insisting on precise control, and learn to negotiate with watercolor, inviting drips and splashes along the way. The cost of this 3-day workshop is \$325. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jim-johnson-loosen-up-andhave-fun-with-watercolor-tickets-19020054495>

# MAY PROGRAM NIGHT

Larry Blovits will present a slide presentation on the evolution of his artwork in various mediums, styles, and techniques from student days on up to the present. It will include abstracts, abstractions, acrylics, watercolors, oils, pastels, charcoals, pencil drawings, printmaking examples, murals, and various commissions.



<b>Sundays</b>	Closed	
<b>Mondays</b>	10:00 am until noon	Sketch
<b>Tuesday</b>	1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month only, 7:30 pm	Photo
<b>Wednesdays</b>	2:00 pm until 5:00 pm	Still Life
<b>Thursdays</b>	First Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm Remaining Thursdays at 7:30 pm	Critique Program Sketch
<b>Fridays</b>	10:00 am until 1:00 pm	Still Life
<b>Saturdays</b>	10:00 am until 1:00 pm	Sketch

Note: There will be a **Board Meeting** on May 5th, at 6:00 pm

## 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](mailto:marymarin@comcast.net).

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