
VMFA
*Council
Connections*

1.15.24

Recent Council Events

Thirty-eight Council members enjoyed a festive and delicious holiday luncheon on December 15, 2023 at Floris of VMFA.

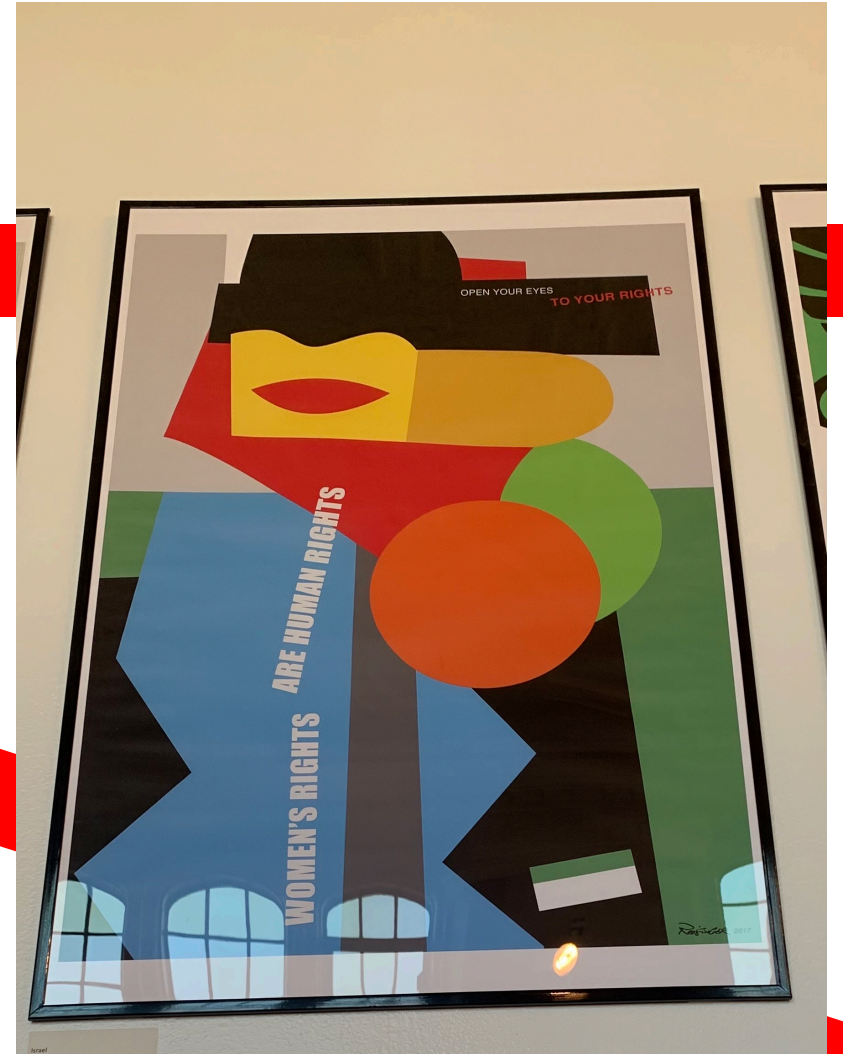


women's RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL POSTERS ON GENDER-BASED INEQUALITY, VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION

Branch Museum

October 6, 2023 – February 18, 2024



Council Members toured the Branch Museum on January 11, 2024 and viewed the current exhibition, *Women's Rights Are Human Rights*.



Carvings show a depiction of the battle of Tournai in 1513.



Twenty-eight Council members visited the current exhibition, *Women's Rights Are Human Rights*, and toured the Branch Museum on Thursday, January 11, 2024. Council member Jennie Dotts (right) shared information about the second oldest item in the Branch Museum, a 16th century tapestry, *The Marriage of Jacob and Rachel*, on loan from the Dotts' family, who are Branch descendants.



Pat VanTuyle points out the location of the family's safe.

Spotlight on Volunteers

Deanna Maneker



It was 14 years ago that Deanna Maneker said, "I can do that." to The Council. She had just retired from managing a telemarketing and logistics department at a major advertising agency. The President of The Council, Tina Stoneburner, asked her to apply her management skills to volunteer activities, and member communications. There had been a drop in overall membership, so the task was significant. Her predecessor seer, Faith Sartoris, had written the book literally! It guided Deanna in doing 3 mailings for Lecture Luncheon, mail room sorting, printing the Directory and dues collection. It was several jobs rolled into one, but she loved it- "everyday was *something* and different."

Comparatively, now she says, "My job is very little." Deanna, as Chair of Membership Dues and Registration, is handling new membership information, mail-in brochures with checks and ensures that volunteer information is entered correctly in the system. She then sends a letter to new members from President Nan Boyd with a welcome packet. Subsequently, members' data is collected, updated and reports are generated for the Board of Governors. The aspect of the

job that she likes the least is reading the obituaries! Fortunately, other facets have been branched out and allow her time away from paperwork and the computer. Now, Treasurer Julia Cothron collects the mail and dues while other Council members send the Directory file to the printer! Sherrill Smith, Chair Council Services to VMFA, records additional volunteer information.

Deanna is also volunteering in Library Archives. However, she thinks that not every job needs to be meaningful and was asked lately to stuff envelopes. What Deanna most enjoys is the job variety and working with The Council people; she says "it has been a wonderful experience and that makes the difference." Her other varied activities include staying fit by power rowing, lifting weights, and a recumbent bike.

Deanna is charming and funny, but she describes herself as a very serious person. In fact, the work that she has done over the years continues to be serious, important, and vital to the organization. She has made "I can do that." fun.

- Pam Chavis -

Jeff Wells

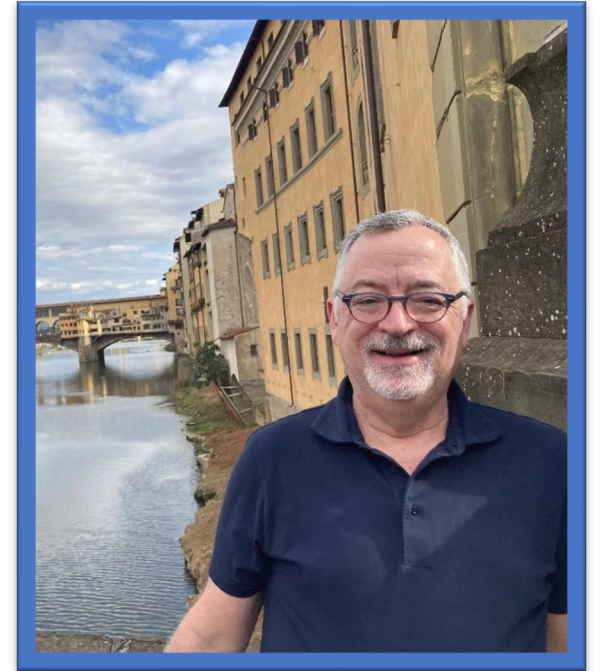
Jeff Wells joined The Council in 2018 after being a VMFA member for many years. He volunteers as an Ask Me Ambassador in Coat Check, which is part of Visitor Services. He sees his main task as making visitors feel welcome. When visitors return to pick up their coats and backpacks after exploring the galleries, he says “most people are so impressed with the vastness and size of the collections here.” In addition, Wells serves on the subcommittee on signage for the latest Fine Arts & Flowers, scheduled for Oct. 23-27.

Wells himself most enjoys the American galleries on the second floor. “I love the boldness and uniqueness of 20th century American painters, such as Edward Hopper and others. “My favorite painting in the American galleries is the iconic painting of Marian Anderson by Beauford Delaney. I appreciate the bold yellow color palate and her serene direct gaze at the viewer. I also admire her as a historic figure in the Civil Rights movement and her performance on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in which she used her own voice to make a peaceful statement about civil rights at that time. A close second favorite would be ‘House at Dusk’ by Edward Hopper in the same gallery.”

Before retirement, Wells earned his law degree at the University of Virginia and worked in the state and federal court systems. Outside VMFA, Wells is a longtime supporter of area theatres, including Richmond Triangle Players, where he has served as board chair, and Virginia Rep. He and his husband love to travel inside the U.S. and Canada as well as Europe.

He is anticipating the expansion of VMFA. “I am excited to see how the entire museum will be transformed by the planned addition. I remember visiting VMFA before the most recent expansion occurred, and it was a totally different building that was much enhanced by that expansion.”

- Gail Gilmore -



Greet and Meet New Council Members

June 2023 - December 2023

Ask Me Ambassadors

Natie Hennelly
Louise Mason
Eileen McDermott
Kathleen McGrath
Karen Merritt
Cathi Moore
Susan Weber
Abby Winship

VMFA Event Ambassadors

Natie Hennelly
Karen Merritt
LuAnn Tarren

Fleurs de Loo

Kathleen McGrath

Gallery Care Assistants

Kia Bentley
Madeline Jacobs

Hirschler Flowers

Donna Thrift

Museum Ambassadors

Natie Hennelly
Richard Price
Lynn Traub
Allison Volger

School Group Greeters

Suzanne Ryan-Botens
Donna Thrift
Wade Thrift

Sculpture Garden

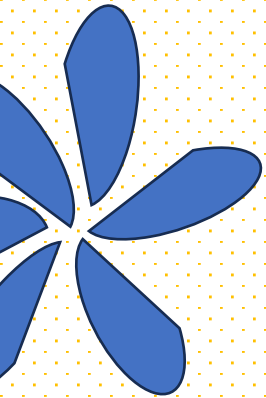
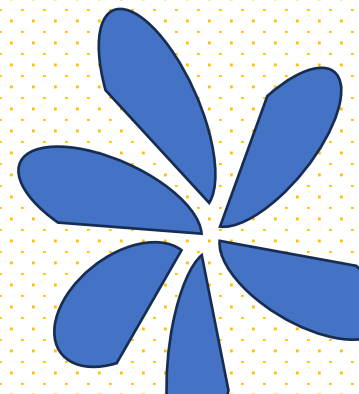
LuAnn Tarren

Technology - Event Registration

John Roberts

VMFA Shop

Alice McCabe



Membership Enrichment Programs

Upcoming Events

Bring a Friend Lecture – Claiborne Robertson Room - January 31, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Dr. Donald Schrader, PhD — “Faking it — a Look at the History of Art Forgery”

Cost: \$15

This event is full. If you wish to be added to the waitlist, email MaryMoss Walker: mmwalker901@gmail.com

Lecture Luncheon – February 5, 2024

Don't miss the reveal of the speakers for Fine Arts and Flowers!

9:30 AM – Docent Tours – Meet in Atrium

10:30 AM – Council Business Meeting and Lecture – Reynolds Lecture Hall

Lecture: "The Fine Art of Photography - Looking Through the Lens with Alex and Sarah"

Join Director Alex Nyerges and Siskind Curator of Photography Sarah Kennel as they discuss the history and growth of the photography collections at VMFA and provide a “behind the scenes” overview of the new Photography Galleries and Raysor Center that will open as part of VMFA’s expansion. They will also present overviews of their upcoming exhibitions:

American Born Hungary: The Hungarian-American Photographic Legacy, curated by Alex Nyerges, and

A Long Arc: Photography and the American South since 1845, curated by Sarah Kennel.

12:00 PM – Luncheon – Marble Hall

Cost: \$65

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Bring a Friend Lecture – Claiborne Robertson Room

March 13, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Curatorial Assistant Madeleine Dugan — Designing Women: French Art Nouveau and Deco Decorative Arts & Women

This is another wonderful opportunity to introduce The Council to prospective new members! We encourage each current Council member to invite two friends to attend, to learn about The Council and enjoy one of the great benefits of being a Council member!

This talk will focus on women and their role in the decorative arts between 1890 to 1930, with a specific focus on French Art Nouveau and French Art Deco styles. Women served as model and muse for Art Nouveau and Art Deco artists, which will be discussed in this talk through numerous artworks in the VMFA's permanent collection, created by the leading designers at the turn of the 19th century and early 20th century. These rapidly changing times offered new opportunities for women who now had their own disposable incomes and ability to work outside the home, which also allowed for women to commission artists and become amateur collectors, as well as to be successful artists themselves. Madeleine Dugan will discuss sculpture, furniture, jewelry, and graphic design in both the Art Nouveau and Art Deco movements with women as subject, maker, and connoisseur.

Cost: \$15. Registration opens February 6.



Council Only French Inspired Wine Dinner

Birch Douglass Private Dining Room

March 21, 2024

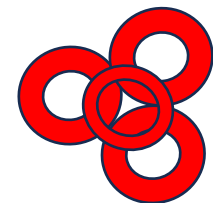


The MEP Committee is pleased to offer a special opportunity to Council Members for a discounted **Council Only Wine Dinner** in the *Birch Douglass Private Dining Room*.

A glass of sparkling wine will be available upon arrival as a pre-dinner wine, then each course will be paired with a wine, selected by the front of house team. This means you will have 5 different wines in total with the 4-course meal, crafted by Amuse Chef Will Burgess and his team to be held in the Birch Douglass Private Dining Room.

The evening will be guided by one of the managers who will go over the dishes and wines in depth for each of the French inspired courses. The menu and the specific wines will be listed in the event announcement.

Cost: \$132 Registration opens February 12.



Volunteer Opportunities

Are you interested in learning new skills? Do you like to problem solve? We want you! Make a positive impact with your talents on the **Volgistics Team!** Our team manages, reports on and helps Council members track their hours. As a result, our committees understand the Council's volunteer impact at VMFA.

Working knowledge of spreadsheets is a plus. Be a part of this rewarding and important committee on the VMFA Council. Join the Volgistics Team today!

Contact Janet Depratti janet.depratti@comcast.net

Museum Ambassadors are one of the first points of contact for our VMFA guests. As an MA, you have the privilege of extending a warm welcome to our guests and sharing info about the Museum to enhance their experience.

Museum Ambassadors ensure our guests understand the layout of the Museum and help them learn about the various galleries and exhibitions. Our guests appreciate the special attention and begin their visit knowing that the volunteers and staff want them to enjoy every aspect of the Museum. (Interview required and training provided)

Contact Carol McCoy cmccoy4602@hotmail.com for more information.



ChinaFest: Year of the Wood Dragon

February 3, 2024

A Fun Volunteer Opportunity



ChinaFest: Year of the Wood Dragon! is coming up soon on Saturday, February 3, 2024. Highlights include art activity stations for making wood dragon puppets, an interactive paper lion, a New Year diamond banner, and collaborative flower curtain. Also, there will be performances by several dance troupes and a kung fu academy.

ChinaFest is our biggest family day event of the year in terms of number of visitors, so we definitely need volunteers to make it happen! Volunteers will help with greeting, way finding, ushering, queue management, counting visitors, and art activity stations. Volunteer shifts are full day from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM or morning shift from 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM or afternoon shift from 12:30 - 5:00 PM.

E-mail kim.frola@vmfa.museum to sign up. Please include your shift availability and assignment preference (for example, greeting and wayfinding, ushering, counting visitors, art activity station).

Family Days are great for intergenerational volunteering, if you have family or friends who might be interested in volunteering as well. You can sign them up or they can sign up directly by emailing kim.frola@vmfa.museum. Lunch and optional t-shirts will be provided.

Save the Date!

Our next Lecture Luncheon is scheduled for February 5, 2024, and the VMFA Shop is having a jewelry sale on the same day!

Council members will receive an additional 20% discount off the sale price of this jewelry. The lines on sale are Pichulik, Michael Michaud, Gevole, Balleen and Olivia Shih.

In addition, Council members will receive 20% off any regular price merchandise that day.



***Please log in to Volgistics here
and enter your volunteer hours today!***

Thank you!

If you have an article to include in the next issue of VMFA Council Connections, please contact Linda Gill (lagill@verizon.net) or Diane Barbour (dbarb9214@aol.com) by noon on Wednesday, January 24, 2024.