
VMFA
*Council
Connections*

11.6.23

Congratulations, Frank Dellinger

Newly Appointed Chair of Council Operations

Hello Council members!

I am thrilled to make a very important announcement!

After several years of his amazing leadership and organization of the Gallery Care Assistants, **Frank Dellinger** is moving into the Council leadership role: **Chair of Council Operations!** VMFA staff and Council volunteers alike say "Frank is the perfect person to do this job! He will be exceptional!" Another testimony to Frank: "VMFA is indeed fortunate to have your skill set with volunteer management! Your inaugural position as Chair of Council Operations is a win/win for everyone! I know you will take the Council to new heights with your energy and innovation!"

Frank will round out The Council's leadership team with MaryMoss Walker - VP/MEP Chair, Julia Cothron - Treasurer, Sherrill Smith - Chair of Council Service to VMFA, Brenda Hubbard - Recording Secretary, Deb Turner - Corresponding Secretary and Mimi Ryland - Past-President.

Born in Christiansburg, Virginia, Frank served in the U.S. Army, was granted Top Secret Crypto Clearance and twice graduated from the U.S. Military and Diplomatic Services Defense Language Institute, Presidio of Monterey, California. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Ribbon for service in Vietnam.

After an early career in retail management, sales, and marketing, Frank was appointed by Governor Tim Kaine as Confidential Policy Assistant to the Commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry. He was then promoted to Assistant Director of Labor and Employment Law for the Commonwealth, Virginia Department of Labor and Industry.

Please join me in sending your personal congratulations and best wishes to Frank Dellinger (wfrankd10319@gmail.com).

Nan Boyd

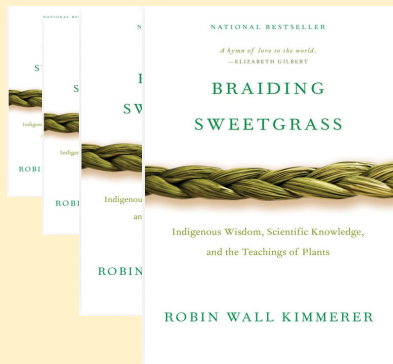
President - The Council of VMFA

2023-2025

email: nan.boyd@vmfa.museum

A Review of October MEP Events

Two wine seminars were held and enjoyed by all who participated. Our thanks to Nikia Lemaire, Amuse Assistant General Manager, who conducted these seminars.



Book Chat participants enjoyed an interesting discussion of *Braiding Sweetgrass* led by Diane Dodd-McCue and docent tours led by Danna Johnson and Yujie Shan.

Charlottesville Trip



Members enjoyed a wonderful trip to Charlottesville on October 30. The Council had exclusive use of the Kluge-Ruhe Museum in order to view their collection of Contemporary Aboriginal Art. Our group was intrigued enough to be interested in coming back to Charlottesville to visit The Fralin's upcoming exhibit (2/3/24 - :7/14/24) Maḍayin Eight Decades of Aboriginal Australian Bark Painting from Yirrkala and an exhibition of slit drums of New Guinea. The exhibition will feature more than 50 masterpieces of ochre painting on eucalyptus bark, many of which have never been on view outside of Australia. It is one of the most significant touring exhibitions of Aboriginal Australian art ever staged.

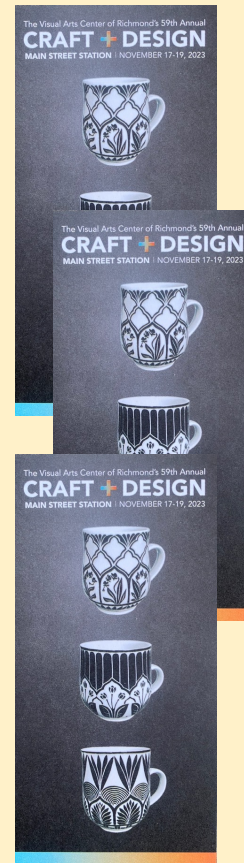


After a delicious lunch at the Quirk Hotel, we visited the workshop of Gabriel Ofiesh Jewelry. Gabriel Ofiesh's work is beautiful, and he was very generous explaining and demonstrating his process to create the jewelry.



Complimentary General Admission Tickets to Craft + Design, November 18-19 are available for Council Members

You can see Gabriel Ofiesh's work along with the work of many other artists at the Craft + Design Show November 18 -19. **Complimentary General Admission Tickets to Craft + Design are available for Council Members at the Member Services Desk in the Atrium at VMFA.** The 59-year-old contemporary craft show benefits educational and community programming at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond. The show kicks off the holiday shopping season in Richmond! Support artists and small businesses by shopping small this holiday season. The show features unique, handmade pieces from over 150 craft artists from across the country. Get beautiful, one-of-a-kind gifts for everyone on your holiday list.



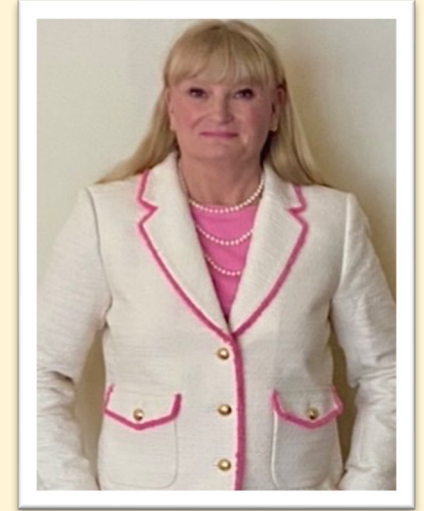
A Look Behind the Scenes at VMFA



Members enjoyed a unique opportunity for a behind-the-scenes look at where off-view art is stored. Many thanks to Ann Poulson, Director of Collections Management, Zachary Concepcion, Senior Art Handler for Collections Storage and Expansion Operations and Samantha Richardson, Collections Manager for Works on Paper for conducting these tours. The MEP Committee will work on scheduling additional Conservation and Collection tours in the spring. These tours must be small in size because they are held in a confined area and because they require that staff take time away from their regular jobs. We will work to have as many of these special tours as possible, as well as other opportunities at VMFA.

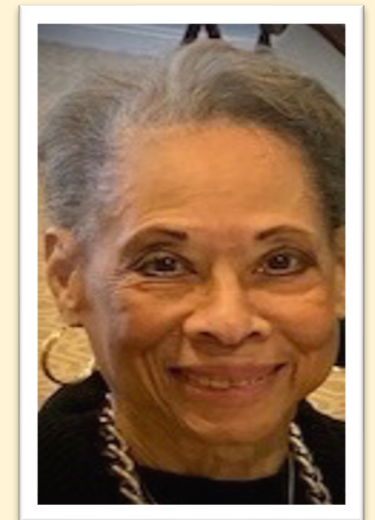
Volunteer Spotlight

As Chair of the AMAs, I'm so fortunate to have many wonderful volunteers on my committee. Kathy Wazuka is one of them! As a new AMA in 2022, she exhibits the perfect combination of outgoing friendliness and true delight in meeting and greeting Museum visitors. Kathy joined VMFA and the Council after moving back to the area where her daughter lives. Kathy knows the Richmond area well as her daughter attended Virginia Commonwealth University. I'm very grateful for Kathy's frequent presence at the Coat Check Desk where, as a front-of-the-house greeter, she provides VMFA's signature welcoming atmosphere.



Kathy Wazuka

I would also like to highlight Lela Morris who, after many years of faithful service to VMFA as an Ask Me Ambassador, has recently taken Associate status due to health concerns. We are grateful for Lela's contributions to our efforts of welcoming everyone to our VMFA!



Lela Morris

Kay Mast,
Chair, AMA Committee

Upcoming MEP Events

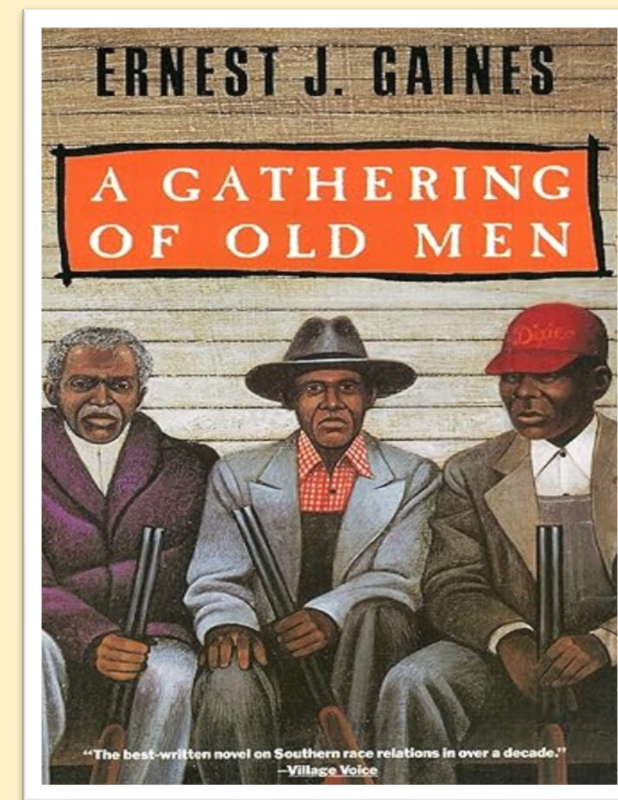
We are looking forward to an exciting November including the opening of the **VMFA Tea Room**. Council will get a special preview on **Monday, November 13**. The event is currently sold out but feel free to register for the waitlist just in case someone has to cancel.

We hope you have already purchased your copy of the novel, **A Gathering of Old Men** by Ernest J. Gaines (available in the VMFA Shop).

There will be **two book discussions and docent tours** the week after Thanksgiving. The first one will be held Monday, November 27 at noon and a second one is scheduled for Thursday, November 30 at 5:30 PM. Both discussion groups will meet in the Founder's Room across from Cheek Theater.

Click [here](#) to register for the **Monday, November 27** event at noon.

Click [here](#) to register for the **Thursday, November 30** event at 5:30 PM.





Holiday Luncheon

The Council Holiday Luncheon will be held at noon on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at The Commonwealth Club. You are welcome to invite a guest to this event. Guests may be added when you register. Cost is \$68.95 per person.

The luncheon will include:

Ice Tea and Water

Sweet Potato-Lemongrass Soup (vegan)

Main Entrée

BBQ Braised Short Ribs, Pimento Cheese Grits, Collard Greens, Sweet Corn Relish (gluten free)

OR

Vegan Option - Roasted Potato & Harvest Vegetable Hash - Arugula, Carrots, Wild Mushrooms, Spinach, Asparagus, Sweet Pepper Coulis

Assorted Petite Dessert Platter

Participants will receive a complimentary glass of red or white wine to celebrate the holiday season and welcome the coming New Year.

Registration opens November 7 and closes December 5. We hope you will join us to celebrate with Council friends old and new!

Many thanks to MaryMoss Walker for providing the content and photos for all MEP past and upcoming events.

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, November 15, 2023.



Janet Heltzel, Co-Chair of Luncheon Decorations, and Leslie Stack at the September 10 Lecture Luncheon.