
VMFA
*Council
Connections*

2.19.24

Lecture Luncheon Highlights

February 5, 2024



Kay Mast, Co-Chair of Fine Arts and Flowers Speakers, announced the three speakers for 2024: Ingrid Carozzi, Robbie Honey, and Canaan Marshall (pictured above).



President Nan Boyd extended a warm welcome to Council members and VMFA Staff!



Alex McGrath and Birch Douglas, Co-Chairs for Fine Arts and Flowers 2024, provided an update and encouraged all Council members to volunteer during FA&F.



Mimi Ryland, Chair of the Nominating Committee and former Council President, presented the slate of officers for the 2024 – 2026 term.



Congratulations to MaryMoss Walker who will serve as President-Elect from May 2024–May 2025. Also, congratulations to Wayne Gauthier who will serve as Treasurer and to Barbara Winston who will serve as Corresponding Secretary from May 2024-May 2026.



Director Alex Nyerges and Siskind Curator of Photography Sarah Kennel shared the history and growth of the photography collections at VMFA and provided a “behind the scenes” overview of the new photography galleries and Frank Raysor Center that will open as part of VMFA’s expansion. They also presented 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.

Photos provided by VMFA Staff Photographer





Seats Still Available
Council-Only French Inspired Wine Dinner
Birch Douglass Private Dining Room, Amuse
March 21, 2024

The MEP Committee is pleased to offer a special opportunity to Council Members for a discounted Council-Only Wine Dinner. 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, Amuse.

The evening will be guided by one of the managers who will review the dishes and wines in depth for each of the French inspired courses.

First Course

Roasted Butternut Squash Soup. Aged Balsamic. Pumpkin Seeds.

Wine: 2021 Macon-Loche 'Les Longues Terres' Chardonnay from Maconnais, Burgundy, France.

Second Course

Chicories Salad. Pickled Kumquat. Fennel. Pistachio. Apple Dijon Vinaigrette.

Wine: 2022 Bernard Baudry Chinon Rose of Cabernet Franc from Loire, France.

Third Course - Choose One

Chicken Chasseur. Roast Chicken Breast. Tomato, Mushroom & Bacon Ragoût. Whipped Yukon Gold Potatoes

OR

Beef Bourguignon. Roasted Carrots. Pearl Onions. Mushrooms. Creamy Polenta.

Wine: 2018 Domaine de Terrebrune 'Terre d'Ombre' Mouvedre blend from Provence, France.

Fourth Course

Chocolate Pâté. Apricot Jam. Brown Butter Crumble. Toasted Almonds.

Wine: NV Domaine Rolet Macvin from Jura, France.

Registration closes March 11.

DATE: Thursday, March 21, 2024,

TIME: 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

LOCATION: Birch Douglass Private Dining Room, Amuse

COST: \$132 (Any payments by check must be received by March 11.)

MIN: 20 Participants needed to hold this event.

MAX: 30 Participants

Just A Quick Reminder from Nan Boyd, President

Our Responsibilities to The Council as Active members (Excerpts from our Council Handbook, page 15)

- Fulfill assigned volunteer placement. While volunteer time commitments are a function of placement, Active members should contribute an average of 6 hours monthly or 18 hours quarterly.
- Locate a substitute if you are unable to fulfill a scheduled volunteer shift.
- Record volunteer hours promptly, at least monthly, in Volgistics/VicNet.
- Serve on one of the Fine Arts & Flowers 2024 Committees.

**The Council needs each and every Active member
to fully participate! VMFA is counting on us!**

**Your volunteer commitment makes a HUGE difference!
Thank you, thank you!**

Volunteer Spotlight

Nikki Nicholau



Nikki Nicholau got her first job when she was 16 years old. “I had to work if I wanted to go to college,” she said. Her first job was at C&P Telephone. She was an operator, then a business office representative, then in technology and sales. She worked at C&P for 19 years and had 10 -12 jobs while she was there. “I figured that, if I was there for 20 years, I’d never leave.”

While working at C&P, she attended classes at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she earned a degree in business administration and management. Since then, she has worked at the Virginia Employment Commission, Time Life Education and the Greater Richmond Employment Team before starting her own consulting business focused on strategic planning and process management. That led into positions with the City of Richmond, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and now the Virginia Department of Social Services as a human relations analyst.

In 1989, she received an Outstanding Women of Greater Richmond Award. She was recognized for her work in human relations.

Although she’s had a number of busy jobs, Nikki has found time to be active in the community as well. At VMFA, she volunteers as an Ask Me Ambassador in Coat Check, primarily because she enjoys orienting visitors, especially first-time visitors, to the museum. It’s a perfect fit since she loves art and history, especially around special events. Her favorite special exhibit is 2023’s “Storied Strings: The Guitar in American Art,” which was curated by Dr. Leo Mazow.

“VMFA is my happy place,” she said. “Meeting people from all over the world, running into friends from school and career, and Council day trips make my life full and fun!”

Nikki also has been a volunteer usher with Richmond Triangle Players, a gallery ambassador at the Virginia Historical Society, and a docent at the Valentine Richmond History Center (Wickham House).

- Gail Gilmore -

Why It Is important to Record Your Valuable Volunteer Time

[Enter Your Volunteer Hours](#)

View [Guide to Volgistics/VicNet](#) (updated 1/28/2024)

Need additional help? email VMFACouncilVolgistics@gmail.com

First and foremost, our volunteer responsibilities as an Active member of The Council are:

- Fulfill assigned volunteer placement. While volunteer time commitments are a function of placement, Active members should contribute 6 hours monthly or 18 hours quarterly.
- According to The Council's Standing Rules, all Active members shall be required to participate on a regular volunteer basis in one of The Council placements. Failure to fulfill the requirements of the accepted job may result in loss of membership.

To help you meet the above responsibilities, The Council of VMFA uses Volgistics to capture each member's interests, skills, and talents as well as to record hours served as a volunteer. Time spent in your assigned volunteer role are volunteer hours.

Additionally, time spent elsewhere organizing, studying, reading, phone calling and sending emails that relate to your volunteer activity, should also be reported in Volgistics/VicNet as volunteer time. Driving time to and from the museum is not volunteer time, but you may be able to report them as a deduction on your tax return (consult your Tax Consultant for more information regarding your specific situation). The Council will access Areas of Interests, Experience, Skills, & Talents from Volgistics when one-time and ongoing volunteer opportunities arise. This ensures your talents are being used in the areas of most interest to you.

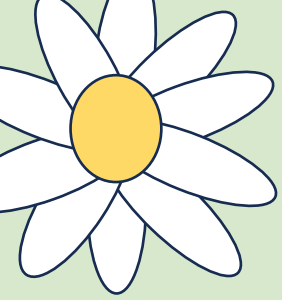
Secondly and very importantly, showing the commitment of The Council by the number of volunteer hours and their positive impact on VMFA is another way

that we serve VMFA. The strength of VMFA's volunteer program is essential to VMFA's prominence in the museum field – as is attendance, contributions, exhibitions, acquisitions, conservation, etc. Our hours are a measure of our community's support for VMFA.

External Reports include Surveys by the American Association of Museums – total # of volunteers, volunteer hours, and # of Tour Guides/Docents; Grants, sponsorship proposals and related appeals by VMFA Foundation & VMFA Advancement – total # of volunteers, interns, and hours; # of Tour Guides/Docent #'s and hours; Council #s and hours, and Fine Arts & Flowers #s and hours; IRS form 990 report from the Foundation - # of active volunteers.

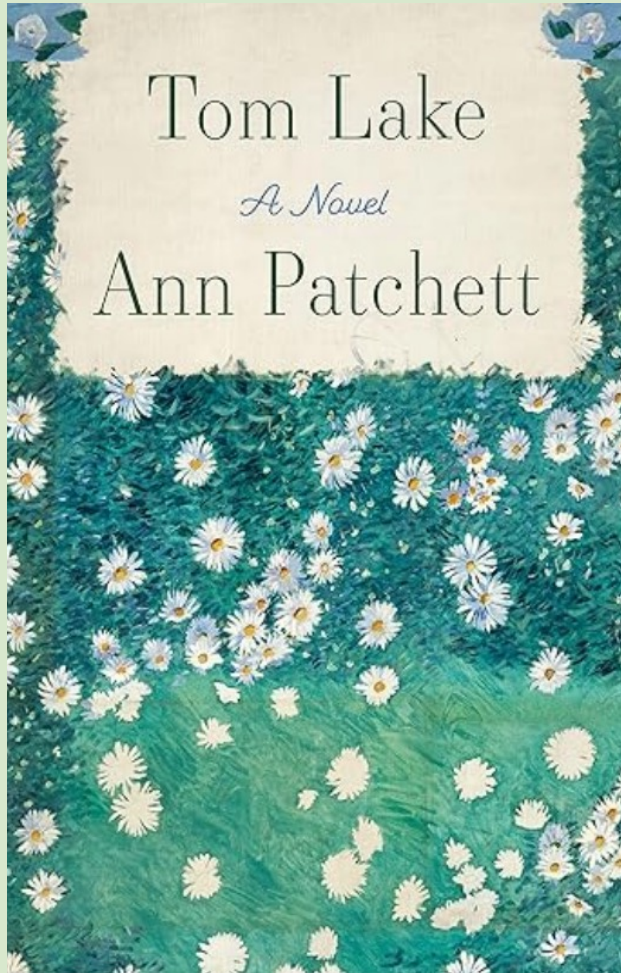
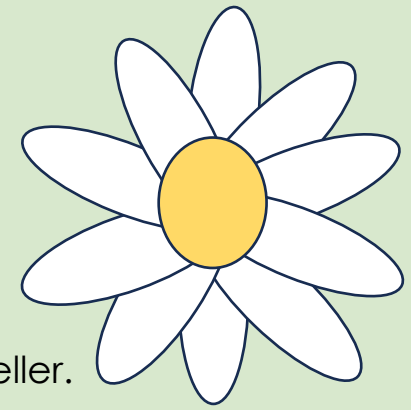
Internal Reports include Uses by various VMFA divisions and departments for recognition and understanding of the value of service The Council provides to VMFA.

In summary, fulfilling and recording your volunteer hours is the essence of what is expected of each Active member of The Council. We are all here to benefit and serve VMFA and promote the success of The Council and VMFA.



Book Club

Tom Lake by Ann Patchett April 29, 2024



This novel is a “Best in Fiction Book for 2023” and a #1 New York Times Bestseller.

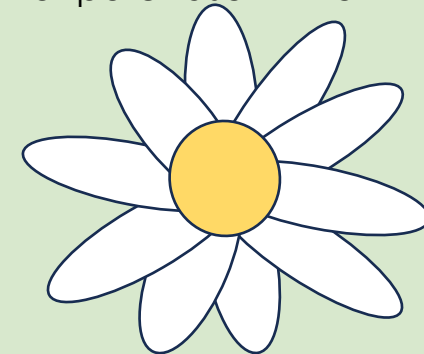
In the spring of 2020, Lara’s daughters return to the family’s orchard in Northern Michigan. The girls beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. Tom Lake is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born.

The play *Our Town* is referred to frequently in the novel. You might find it interesting to re-read the play or watch a performance. Click [here](#) to view the recommended production from Lincoln Center filmed in 1989.

The post-chat docent tour will include VMFA pieces from various galleries. Come and join us as we explore the ideas of families and relationships.

Registration opens on March 4, 2024. Books are available for purchase in the VMFA Shop.

- Suzanne Bristow -



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, **February 28, 2024.**