
VMFA
*Council
Connections*

4.15.24

Ice Cream Social - Recognizing The Council of VMFA - Friday, April 12

Over ninety Council members enjoyed the lovely Ice Cream Social Volunteer Appreciation event on Friday, April 12 in the Claiborne Robertson Room. The ice cream and sorbet were delicious! The setting was beautiful, and the view of the campus gardens was spectacular!

Alex Nyerges welcomed Council members and thanked everyone for their ongoing contributions and service to VMFA. He applauded all for the 34,000+ hours of volunteer service last year! "The Council is invaluable! I greatly appreciate you ensuring that each guest has a happy experience and that they leave the museum even happier than they were when they came in. Thank you to all Council members for all you do every day. "



Alex Nyerges



Arlene DeConti and Siv Ranko



Danna Johnson and Jennifer Tarry



Suzanne Ryans-Botens and
Caprice Bragg

Spring Lecture Luncheon

Monday, May 6



Sujibachi Kabuto (ridged helmet) and *Menpō* (half mask), late Muromachi (helmet) to Momoyama period (mask), late 16th century, Signed: Echizen no kuni Toyohara jū Bamen Sadao (Sadao of the Bamen school, living in Toyohara, Echizen province), iron, copper, shakudō, gold, lacing, wood, leather, horsehair. © The Ann & Gabriel Barbier-Mueller Museum, Dallas. Photo: Brad Flowers

- 9:30 AM Atrium - Tours of Curators' Picks: The Jewels in the Crown of the VMFA Collection
10:30 AM Council Annual Business Meeting - Reynolds Lecture Hall
11:00 AM Lecture - Fierce Beauty: Japanese Sword Fittings and Fashions by Dr. Robert Mintz

Wearing a sword every day must have been a burden, but with some thoughtful decoration it could become an elegant accessory. In this illustrated talk we will explore the component parts of the Japanese sword and its elaborate set of fittings or “furniture.” These decorated components allowed members of the samurai class to express themselves. Sometimes fierce, sometimes funny, and sometimes just to add a little “bling,” these carefully crafted decorations offer us an opportunity to see the personal side of life as a member of the hereditary military class.

Marble Hall

12:00 PM Luncheon

The Lecture will be followed by a luncheon in the Marble Hall. The luncheon is a treasured and traditional event that enables Council members to have a meal together, celebrate accomplishments and meet Council and VMFA staff members. The Membership Enrichment Programs (MEP) Committee is pleased that wise budgeting will enable subsidizing this end-of-the year event and reducing the cost from the actual VMFA price of \$65. MEP will continue to pursue options for making this a quality and affordable event. **Cost to Council Members: \$50**

Meal includes: *Miso Glazed Chicken with garlic green beans / sticky rice / sesame seeds / scallions (Vegan option with Tofu)*

Dessert: *Candied Gingerroot Tart, Lychee Creme Anglaise, Fresh Raspberries*

Fine Arts & Flowers 2024

It is now time to sign up for the various volunteer opportunities. Sign up early to get your preferred days and times! If you are a relatively new Council member, this is an opportunity to meet other members who do not share your regular volunteer duties.

Logistics volunteer opportunities include delivering flowers to designers, moving finished floral designs to gallery pedestals, assisting experts in watering floral designs, and much more! Sign up [here](#).

At the **Information Desk** you will greet visitors, hand out materials, and answer questions.

Wayfinders will help visitors navigate the galleries and find specific exhibits. Sign up [here](#).

Many FA&F volunteers sign up for multiple assignments and shifts. Choose a different assignment for each day of the exhibit to enjoy the full experience of the event. An optional information session for volunteers will be held in October.

Use this event to surround yourself with friends and flowers!! Volunteer for 2024 Fine Arts & Flowers to help make this year's event the best ever!!

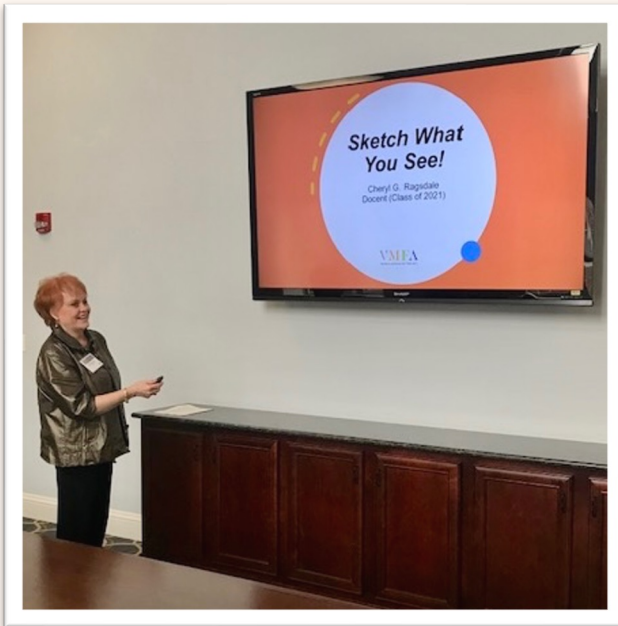


VMFA DOCENTS AND STAFF ATTENDED AND PRESENTED AT THE VIRGINIA DOCENT EXCHANGE

On March 3 and 4, 2024, VMFA Docents and members of VMFA's educational staff attended the *Virginia Docent Exchange* hosted by the Maier Museum at Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA. The Virginia Docent Exchange is a conference held every two years that is planned by art museum and art center volunteers and staff to exchange ideas and innovations in museum practices.

This year VMFA Docents Terry Morgerson, Kyle Grinnage, Win Loria, Deborah Stoss, and Cheryl Ragsdale represented the VMFA at *The Exchange* along with staff members Karen Getty, Kathy Parrish, and Kristin Long. Karen Getty, Deborah Stoss, and Cheryl Ragsdale made presentations on **“Practices and Innovations at the VMFA.”**

The meeting was opened with several of the member museums, the Muscarelle, the Fralin, the Chrysler, The Kluge-Ruhe and the VMFA, presenting innovative videos of what their museums had to offer. Deborah Stoss and Karen Getty presented for the VMFA with Deborah presenting vignettes of Docent experiences in the various collections. Karen Getty and Cheryl Ragsdale led two of the Exchange's Educational Sessions on “Curating the Community.”



Cheryl Ragsdale, VMFA Docent

Cheryl Ragsdale, a docent member of Council, presented an educational session entitled “Sketch What You See.” Cheryl demonstrated various methods and tactics docents might use to engage museum visitors in closely observing works of art and discussing impressions and ideas gleaned from their observations. The session was hands-on, requiring participants to sketch images they observed in several examples from the VMFA's Modern and Contemporary collection. The participants sketched images and shared impressions of their observations. The interactions were fun and instructive with the participating docents agreeing that they now had new ideas and tools to use on their museum tours.

Karen Getty, the VMFA Senior Tour Services Coordinator, presented a session focused on “Serving Visitors with Autism.” She shared VMFA's experience working with the Autism Society of Central Virginia. As the VMFA and other museums continue to strive for accessibility, Karen

presented ideas on how to engage with visitors on the Autism Spectrum to ensure that the museum is meeting their needs.

Finally, participants at *The Exchange* gathered to make quilt squares – squares created without sewing! The squares created by Exchange members and other organizations will be added to the community quilt being created by Steve Prince, Director of Engagement and Distinguished Artist-in-Residence at the Muscarelle Museum of Art. The giant patchwork quilt will be ultimately displayed along the full length of Duke of Gloucester Street in Williamsburg. See the fun photos below of VMFA docents “creating art.”

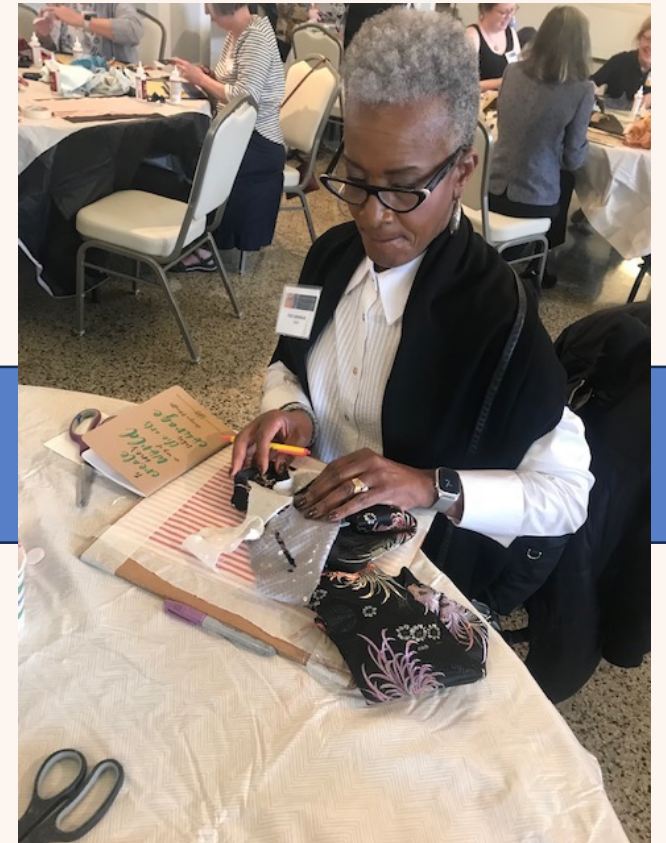
- Cheryl Ragsdale and Diane Barbour -



Terry Morgerson
VMFA Docent



One of the many quilt
squares created



Kyle Grinnage
VMFA Docent



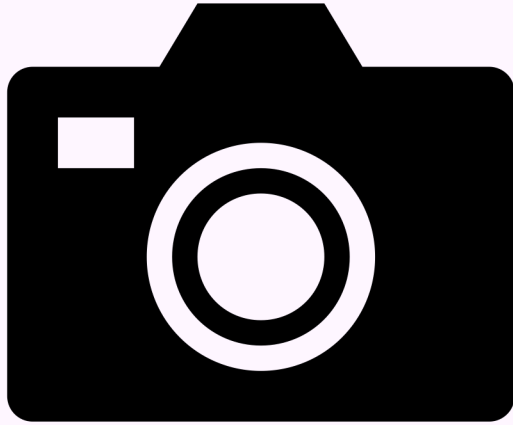
Upcoming MEP Event

*Sculpture Garden Walk with
Michael Partusch,
Lead Horticulturist*

*Wednesday, May 22
10:00 – 11:00 am*

*The focus of this one-hour
Garden Walk will be the plants
and the garden design.*

*Registration opens April 30.
Limited to 30 people
Cost: Free*



Thank you to Sara Crump for serving as the photographer for the Ice Cream Social. Click [here](#) to see more of Sara's photos from this special event.

If you have ideas, suggestions, or topics for articles in upcoming editions of Council Connections, we would love to hear from you!

Please contact Linda Gill (lagill@verizon.net) or Diane Barbour (dbarb9214@aol.com)

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***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, May 1, 2024.***