
VMFA
*Council
Connections*

5.6.24

Samurai Armor Exhibit Opening

Pat VanTuyle, Past Council President; Nan Boyd, Council President; Betty Crutcher, The Council's Board of Trustees Liaison; Ann Reeves, Docent/Tour Guide; and Karen Palen, Past Council President; enjoyed the opening of the Samurai Armor Exhibition on April 16.



Arrangement by Annette Ernst, Ikebana of Richmond for the Samurai Armor Exhibit Opening

In the true spirit of their motto "Friendship through Flowers", Ikebana of Richmond has donated their time and talent to create the floral arrangements for The Council Business Meeting /Lecture and for all the tables at our May 6 Lecture Luncheon. Ikebana of Richmond is a cultural, non-profit organization whose purpose is to stimulate, cultivate, and perpetuate the study of Ikebana, related arts, and Japanese culture. More information about Ikebana and additional photos will appear in the next Council Connections.

Fine Arts & Flowers 2024

The Fine Arts & Flowers (FA&F) Committees continue to finalize plans for the October 23 – 27 event. If you are a relatively new Council member, this is an opportunity to meet other members who do not share your regular volunteer duties. The June 17 issue will feature additional information about FA&F. Tickets for the special events went on sale on May 1 and you can purchase tickets [here](#).

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.

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!!

Alex McGrath and Birch Douglass





Head of conservation at VMFA, Debbie Linn, greets members of the Council for a tour of the Goode Center.



Three areas of conservation - objects, painting and paper. Here, the group see an example of the work in the paper department.

MEP Conservation Tour

Twenty-six Council members enjoyed an informative and interesting behind-the-scenes tour of the Conservation Department on April 25. Following an introduction by Debbie Linn, Assistant Chief Conservator, participants had an opportunity to learn about conservation of objects, paintings, and works on paper.

The feedback from participants has been very positive, and the planning team has already begun discussing ideas for future tours.



A 16th century portrait will be examined and restored over a period of time to repair older conservation efforts and make it presentable for display.

Photos provided by Jay Denny, VMFA Council Photographer
To view additional photos from the tour, click [here](#).

Volunteer Spotlight – Sonia Vlahsevic



For the last 7 years, Sonia Vlahcevic has loved being a volunteer for The Council from Ask Me Ambassador at Coat Check to Member Event Ambassador and doing whatever is needed...handing out programs, taking attendees to their seats or stuffing envelopes. The flexible Events Ambassador schedule suits her since she is "still working" in the department of Music at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU); Sonia has a PhD in Music Analysis and also teaches Piano Performance and Pedagogy to upper-level students there. The schedule of her volunteer opportunity allows Sonia to balance her responsibilities as Professor in the Music Department with the Events Ambassador schedule. She also teaches and trains in the summertime by invitation to international venues through the College Musical Society program; this "by Invitation" event lasts 2 weeks and is hosted biannually. The diverse international venues have included countries in Asia, South America, and Europe with visits including major cities as well as the countryside.

Professor Vlahcevic feels her most creative teaching is as part of a continuing piano concert for middle and high school students which she has organized each year for the last 3 years. The student is required to select, learn and present any piece as long as it was composed after 1950. They can also present their own composition as well; it is not a

competition, but a musical experience performed on a beautiful Steinway piano in the Music Department auditorium that their parents can attend and enjoy.

Sonia loves belonging to The Council and walking through VMFA as a volunteer in the museum which she feels is spacious but still warm and inviting. Besides the building, she loves the collections which she integrates into her music lessons by bringing VCU students to the museum's collections, e.g. Russian music and a visit to Fabergé installment.

Sonia's observation is that many VCU students are not very aware of VCU's encyclopedic collection although some of their parents may come to the museum to enjoy the jazz evenings. The Schools of Arts, History and Archeology could also engage in enriching students by visits to the museum's collections and exhibitions and thus facilitate recruitment of new members.

Welcome New Members!

Wendy Albach

Elizabeth Hyman

Mary Stuart Murphy

Jeanne Cerveny

John Lucas

Iris Nagin

Polly Chamberlain

Kerry Keenan

Anne Nowrouz

Jane Eddy

Linda Keenan

Mary Sabra Monroe

Maya Erhardt

Rebecca Keller

Kathleen Sams

Howard Feller

Shaila Kirandumkara

Susan Stevick

Leigh Feller

Jean Jumet

Karin Walker

Benita Felmus

Helen Kuno

Christine Walther-Thomas

Katharine Hart

Tim Priddy

Janet Ziolkowski

***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 15, 2024.***

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)