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VMFA  
*Council  
Connections*

8.7.23

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# Join Us for the Fall Lecture Luncheon

## September 11, 2023

**9:30 am** – Council Tour Guide Liaisons Cheryl Ragsdale and Danna Johnson along with the VMFA curators have created a new guided tour of the museum, especially for the Council Lecture Luncheon events for 2023-2024! Entitled **Curators' Picks: The Jewels of the Crown of the VMFA**, the tours will showcase works of art throughout the museum which have been specifically chosen by our outstanding curators. In conjunction with Council Leadership, curators were asked to select pieces from the collections they oversee that they particularly admire and prize, that is, *the jewels of the VMFA collections*. The pre-lecture tours given throughout the year will include some of these gems, along with works related to the lecture topic. Plan to arrive at 9:15 am in the atrium. Tours will leave promptly at **9:30 am**.

Please attend if you sign up for the tours! Our docents work hard to prepare and hope to see you. Their focused tours will add to your appreciation of our lecturer.

**10:30 am - Council Business Meeting and Lecture in The Reynolds Lecture Hall.**

The first lecture of the 2023/2024 season based on "A Return to the Grand Tour: Micromosaic Jewels from the Collection of Elizabeth Locke" will be presented by Dr. Susan J. Rawles and

Elizabeth Locke. Dr. Susan J. Rawles is an Associate Curator of American Painting and Decorative Art at VMFA. Elizabeth Locke is a jewelry designer and successful entrepreneur whose passion for one-of-a-kind antiquities led her to assemble an extensive collection of 19th century micromosaics, which were exhibited at the VMFA in 2019 and are now a part of their permanent collection. Elizabeth Locke will join Dr. Rawles to answer your questions.

**12:00 pm** - Following the lecture there will be a luncheon in the Marble Hall for \$50. Guests are invited to join this luncheon and may be added when you register.

**Registration opens on Tuesday, August 8.**

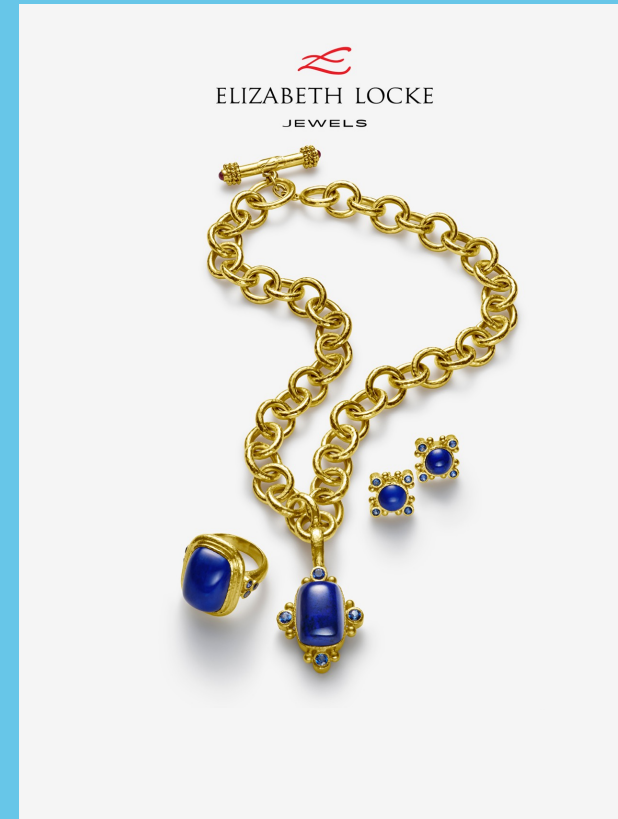
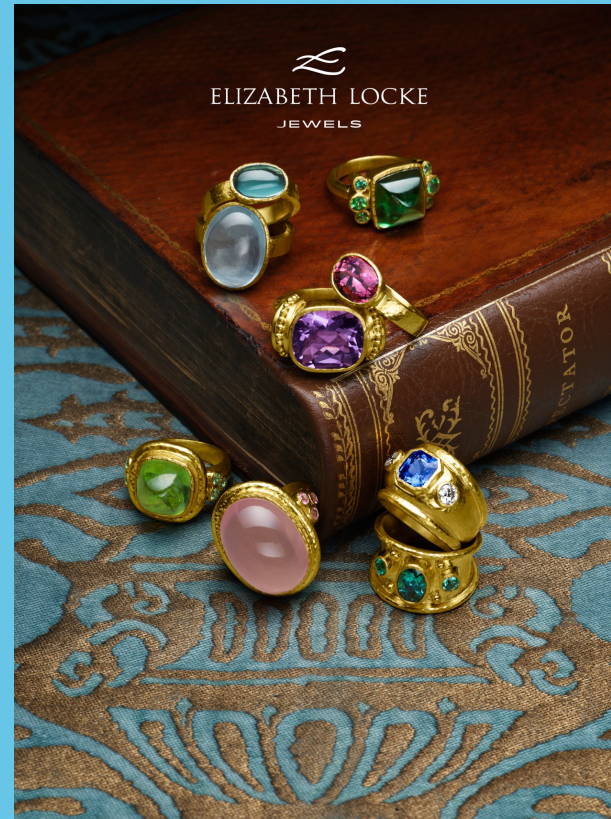
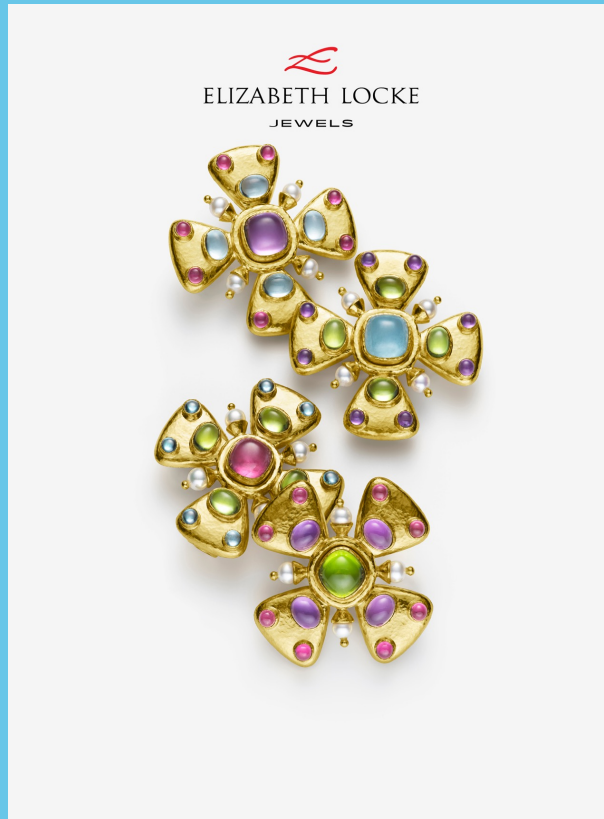
**The last day to register or for refunds is Monday, September 4.**



Photos by Travis Fullerton, © Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

# Join us Monday, September 11 from 11:00 – 3:00 in the VMFA Shop for an Exclusive Event with Jewelry Artist Elizabeth Locke

Elizabeth draws on a lifelong fascination with the antique jewelry of the Etruscans, Greeks and Romans as she creates her own neo-classical handmade 19k gold jewelry. She selects every stone and designs every piece herself. Her personal collection of more than 100 micromosaics are part of the VMFA's permanent collection. \*Discount exclusions apply





## Neighborhood News

### **Virginia Museum of History & Culture Partners with the Garden Club of Virginia to Tell Compelling Stories of History and Horticulture, October 6-8, 2023**

This fall VMHC and GCV is partnering for a special event to highlight history and horticulture with floral displays representing the regions of the Commonwealth. *History Blooms* is a 3 day program featuring lectures, workshops and other activities focused on Virginia's history of gardening, horticulture and landscape preservation that will amplify stories about the people and places of Virginia.

Displays created by Garden Club of Virginia's member clubs will be themed for the regions of the Commonwealth each club represents. All displays will be showcased in the museum's foyer which will allow guests to immerse themselves in a unique statewide storytelling experience.

This partnership is rooted around GCV's centennial, weaving together the missions of the two organizations and providing engagement with particular focus on families and young visitors.

To learn more about the event, the speakers, and demonstrations, all details will go live online August 8 -

[VirginiaHistory.org/HistoryBlooms](https://VirginiaHistory.org/HistoryBlooms)

# *Transforming the VMFA Gardens To Be In Concert with Nature*



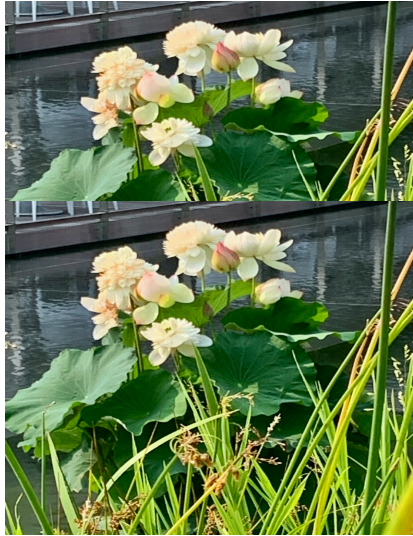
Jaimie Woll and Michael Partusch

Lead Horticulturist Michael Partusch and Horticulturist Jaimie Woll are working hard to transform the E. Claiborne and Lora Robins Sculpture Garden with a focus on Sustainable Growing and Pollinator Partnerships. Both Michael and Jaimie are former employees of Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. They currently have eight amazing Council volunteers working with them.

Michael's goal is to achieve a balance of pollinator friendly plants with natives along with more cultivated varieties. He has been transforming the VMFA landscape properly and thoughtfully with no shortcuts.

The first project was the pollinator garden between the Robinson House and the Belvedere where there are 30 varieties of plants ranging from Echinacea, Rudbeckia and Gaillardia to Lemon Thyme, Dianthus and Lobelia. Michael's plantings are designed to attract birds, bees and butterflies throughout the seasons. According to Michael, we should not fight nature but rather create sustainable, organic gardens that are in concert with nature.





Michael believes that there is a connection between fine arts and horticulture. His fine arts background has helped him to focus on color, texture and shape when designing to create successful landscapes. He also believes that hand watering is preferable to irrigation systems to target plants specific water needs, lessen the spread of disease and to identify pests early before they become a real problem. This method of care and attention to detail is one of many reasons why volunteer help is so important to the success of the entire Sculpture Garden.

In his spare time Michael is also a musician. He plays the piano and the guitar to relax from his horticultural duties. – Gail Gilmore and Diane Barbour –



Lenni Friedman, Volunteer



Barrett Brown, Harriet Waldrop, Johanna Gattuso.  
Volunteers



Peg Tipple, Volunteer



# Thank you, Ask Me Ambassadors!



Ask Me Ambassadors (AMAs) are “front-of-the-house greeters” who perform a very special service for VMFA. They greet visitors, both local and from around the world, as they arrive and provide safe storage for coats, backpacks, umbrellas, and other valuables while VMFA guests explore the museum. They also provide wheelchairs, electric scooters, baby strollers, and folding gallery seats when requested.

Gallery Maps and information about special exhibitions can also be found at the Coat Check Desk. AMAs also answer questions and provide suggestions to increase the Visitor Experience.

AMAs perform approximately 18 hours of service per quarter. Typically two volunteers are scheduled per 2.5 hour shift. Since the museum is open 365 days a year, weekends and holidays are also covered by AMA volunteers. However, scheduling is “volunteer friendly” and flexible.

Being an AMA provides a wonderful opportunity to meet new and returning visitors and also get to know other Council members who are assigned to your shift. For additional information about AMAs, contact Kay Mast, Chair, [kaymast1.km@gmail.com](mailto:kaymast1.km@gmail.com) - Kay Mast -





# Volunteer Opportunities



## Co-Secretaries for Fine Arts and Flowers Needed

Fine Arts & Flowers 2024 needs two Council members to serve as co-secretaries to take minutes of meetings and perform related tasks. This is a good opportunity for someone good with a computer who is not interested in the flower side of things. Those interested in volunteering for this position should contact Alex McGrath ([amcgrath2@aol.com](mailto:amcgrath2@aol.com)) or Birch Douglass ([birchdouglass@comcast.net](mailto:birchdouglass@comcast.net)) for further information. The time spent serving as a secretary for FA&F counts toward quarterly volunteer hours.

## MEP Committee - New Member Needed

The Membership Enrichment Committee (MEP) is looking for an additional member to help source in-town programs. If you are interested in serving on MEP, please contact MaryMoss Walker: [mmwalker901@gmail.com](mailto:mmwalker901@gmail.com) or 804 901-7706.

## New Volunteer Opportunity – Council Recruitment

Do you love being a Member of the Council? Would you like to help us increase our membership by participating in the Recruiting Committee? If you have skills in PR, Marketing, Outreach, or a background in creative organization, we would love to hear from you. Please email either one of the co-chairs: Uma Basavaraj at [umabasavaraj@hotmail.com](mailto:umabasavaraj@hotmail.com), or Joan Richards at [jsr4003@gmail.com](mailto:jsr4003@gmail.com). Thank you.

## Join the Technology Team!

The Council's Technology Team is looking to add members to its team to support events on the Council's Wild Apricot website. Events software is used to schedule and manage registrations for Council events such as lecture/luncheons, book club, artistic site visits, etc. A technology background is helpful but not required. Problem solving and attention to detail are a plus. If interested in learning more, contact Brenda Hubbard at [bhubbard17@yahoo.com](mailto:bhubbard17@yahoo.com). Training will be provided.

# Save the Date

October Book Chat  
Monday, October 2, 2023

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

*A hymn of love to the world.*

—ELIZABETH GILBERT

## BRAIDING SWEETGRASS



Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge,  
and the Teachings of Plants

ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

The MEP Committee will sponsor a **Connect and Learn** tour of VMFA's Conservation area on Thursday, September 28. There will be two opportunities. The first tour will begin at 10 am and a second tour at 4 pm. Each tour will be limited to 12 participants and will last approximately one hour. Registration details will be published in a future issue of Council Connections. Thanks to Debbie Linn for hosting these tours.

# Save the Date

Connect and Learn Tour of  
VMFA's Conservation Area -  
Thursday, September 28, 2023

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## Reminders:

Log in to Volgistics [here](#) to update your profile and enter your volunteer hours today!

If you have an article to include in the August 21 issue of [VMFA Council Connections](#), please contact Linda Gill ([lagill@verizon.net](mailto:lagill@verizon.net)) or Diane Barbour ([dbarb9214@aol.com](mailto:dbarb9214@aol.com)) by August 17.

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