

Annual Report July 2011 – June 2012

Safe Travels Kathryn / Step Up Chris & Liz

There were many changes at the arts council this year. Kathryn Hollinger left for a new chapter in her life and was succeeded by our program coordinator Chris Norton. Kathryn inherited a strong organization from Ellen Herzman and not only did she continue that, she guided it through its growth into a much-expanded organization with the opening of the Livingston Arts Center. Her dedication created many programs at GVCA.

Elizabeth Simmons was promoted to the new position of Associate Director. Liz had been with the Arts Council previously as information coordinator. The Associate Director's responsibilities include marketing, scheduling, Artful Holidays, membership, *Artsphere* and many, many other tasks. Liz's knowledge, hard work and positive outlook are a great boon to our organization.

Welcome Kala

Local artist Kala Stein joined the staff in April as the new Grants Coordinator. Kala has an MFA in ceramics and teaches part time at Alfred University. Kala is responsible for administering our community arts grant, arts in education grant, individual artists grant and Dick Smith young artists grant. We are delighted to have her.

New Logo, Name & Website- Same ol' organization

Since we opened the arts center newcomers have been confused by the equal usage of the terms "Livingston Arts Center" and "Genesee Valley Council on the Arts"- especially because we had two websites. Yet GVCA is Livingston County's art council *and* we are housed in, and operate, the Livingston Arts Center- so we are both. To lessen this confusion we launched our new name and logo: *Livingston Arts*. We haven't changed and aren't changing, we've just found a new way to describe ourselves that works for whatever we happen to be. We also launched a new website: www.livingstonarts.org. Volunteer Mark Gillespie created it for us. It's more user-friendly and easier to navigate. It also allows us to have our own in-house webmaster: Liz Simmons.

Taste of Spring

In April we held our 4th Annual Gala entitled: "A Taste of Spring" with food by the Philanthropic Chefs. This event was held in the New Deal Gallery. As patrons mingled they were served several courses of delicious food. A great time was had by all.

Jamboree

In June we held a Jamboree. We wanted to celebrate the opening of our Spring Apartment One show, and our New Deal gallery show, with a small music-fest. We had three [bands- all volunteering their time and talent to help raise funds for Livingston Arts.](#)

They were [Steel Alchemy](#), [The Nickel City Band](#) (now know as The Folk Faces) [and Stick-Boom-Papa](#). \$10 got you admittance for the day. Children under ten got in free. Bands played every hour on the hour and the gallery was open all day.

All-County Student Art Exhibit

GVCA's Annual All-County art show will was held in May in the Mount Morris High School Cafeteria. Judging was at 9am with the show open to the public from 12-4. . Ribbons were awarded for Best of Show, First Place, and Second Place. Best of Show and First Place winners had their work displayed at the Livingston Art Center for a few weeks with an opening reception May 17. The All County Student Art Exhibit provides both teachers and their students with a great opportunity to view what's happening at other schools, share ideas and techniques, and enjoy some well-earned recognition. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our high school art teachers and honor the efforts of their students.

Apartment One

In the summer of 2011 GVCA displayed the work of sculptor Jerry Alonzo and painter/photographer Bob Bunce. Jerry earned a Masters of Fine Arts in woodworking and furniture design from RIT. His pieces are found in many private collections. Bob has been painting for over twenty years. He uses oil on canvas to create abstract cityscapes and color collages.

During the birthday season of the prince of peace, *Apartment One* hosted a multi-artist show based on the theme "Peace". Geneseo-based Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace had been looking to sponsor an art show with the purpose of promoting peace. More than twenty local artists had pieces in the show. To commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. day, Geneseo Professor of history Justin Bahrend gave a talk entitled "Martin Luther King jr. and Peace".

In the Spring of 2012 *Apartment One* hosted an exhibit entitled "Keeping it Real" featuring the paintings of L. Mert Wager and the ceramics of Kala Stein. Mert originally created early American reproductions, but quit that and began painting mid-life to be able to spend more time with his children. Kala's work varies from large-scale installations consisting of expansive groupings to singular utilitarian pots.

In conjunction with our county historian and the Sons of the American Revolution, we also hosted paintings on loan from the New York State Museum. Illustrator and Livonia native J. Erwin Porter created this series c.1960 to capture these sites in their "modern" setting. Visitors could see these historic places without having to leave the art gallery. The collection included two well-known Livingston County sites: The Torture Tree and the Groveland Ambuscade. Along with the exhibit we also had a presentation from local expert on historical clothing and lifestyles Melissa "Goodwife" Clark.

In the Spring of 2012 we premiered a new show in the main gallery entitled “Places” - a New Deal collection of paintings of actual places. Our wonderful volunteer researcher Paula Henry had so much information about the artists and the places that we ran out of pedestals to display the information. We also unveiled new signs and a timeline of the 1930s both created with the help of local college students.

Artful Holidays

The 23rd Artful Holidays was held for the first time at the Livingston Arts Center. As always, the show featured unique arts and crafts appropriate for holiday giving and decorating, locally made edibles, and those special items you can't find anywhere else. Members and patrons had first crack at shopping Thursday, November 10, then it was open to the public during expanded gallery hours for the next week or so. As always, there was festive music by Mary Lester to open the show.

Arts in Education Regrants

The arts council sponsored six artist's residencies in local schools as part of our *Artists in the Schools* regrant program. The program uses teaching artists, who push into the regular classroom, to meet the NYS standards. We are proud to help sponsor these events that bring these artists into the classrooms.

Theatre artist Patricia Lewis-Browne returned to Keshequa students performed their poetic works theatrically. In York Central School fifth grade teachers and artist Ted Canning teamed up to help students develop musical skills while learning about the culture and history of Caribbean populations. Pre-K students at St. Agnes School in Avon worked with potter Mike Carroll on a project called “Creating with Clay in the Classroom.” Potter Sharon Leary worked with the Keshequa sixth grade on Ancient Greek pottery. Storyteller Leah Reukberg returned to Letchworth Central School's Fourth Grade to “Cook Up Some Juicy Stories” with a whole new set of students. Theatre artist Erin Kate Howard worked with the entire Keshequa kindergarten to create scenes based on modern folk tales written by the children.

Community Arts Grants

To better align with the state's budget calendar the annual Community Arts Grant Award Reception was held at the later date of April 12th. This was the first time it was hosted at the Livingston Arts Center. These grants provide important support for our local economy and small businesses. The Decentralization Program was created in 1977 with the idea that local people should make the decisions about how funds for arts and culture should be distributed in their communities. GVCA is proud to administer this program, known here as the Community Arts Grant. 24 programs were supported for 2012 including film festivals, plays for all ages, historical society events, library programs for children & adults, quality music events such as the Fiddlers Picnic, Genesee Valley Children's Choir, violin recitals, and gazebo concert series.

Individual Artist Grants

Genesee Valley Council on the Arts Individual Artist Grant recipient for 2012 recipient was M. Garrett Bauman of Nunda. GVCA administers the Individual Artist Grant program, which is funded through the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program—the same program that brings the Community Arts Grant to Livingston County. Funding goes to artists for the creation of new work that has a community component. The intent of the program is not only to help artists create, but to expose, inform, and involve non-artists in the artistic experience. Bauman, a writer, led open workshops at several county libraries and created two new works: one fiction and one creative non-fiction. He will share his creative process for these two pieces with aspiring writers. Garrett Bauman is Professor Emeritus of English at Monroe Community College.

Dick Smith Young Artists Grant

Benjamin Kelly, vocalist, a rising senior from Genesee High School, Kristie Mosher, a rising senior from Livonia High School, Renae Goff, a rising senior from Caledonia-Mumford High School, and Chanae Smith, a rising college freshman received grant funding to pursue summer art opportunities. Benjamin Kelly studied voice with local artist Amy Cochrane. Kristie Mosher studied voice and musical theatre at the Eastman School of Music. Renae Goff studied pottery at Studio Sales Pottery, and Chanae Smith studied violin at the Csehy Summer School of Music.

Member's Exhibit

GVCA had two member's exhibits. In the Summer of 2011 we sponsored *Summer's Day* to coincide with our summer production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The member's exhibit then changed time of year to be displayed at the Livingston Arts Center in March of 2012. This allowed us to have the exhibit open for more hours so people more people had the chance to enjoy the exhibit. GVCA member artists are invited to submit up to two pieces not previously exhibited.

Rochester Music Coalition

We continue as the umbrella non-profit sponsor of this group that promotes and encourages all things music in the greater Monroe county area. www.rmc.org.

Annual Dinner

GVCA held its annual dinner at the Yard of Ale. We added Melanie Blood, Connie English, Sue Erdle, Bill Hawkins and Smidge Stevens to our board. We also said farewell to Kathryn Hollinger.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

In the summer of 2011 GVCA is gave folks a chance to see Shakespeare in the Park right here in our own back yard. We presented the comic fantasy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* right outside on the lawn next to the Arts Center on Murray Hill with a cast of performers from throughout the entire county. It is one of only three plays, out of thirty-nine, for

which Shakespeare devised his own plot. It was a very popular event and a great time was had by audience, cast and crew.

CASA

Theatre Artist Patti Lewis-Browne, and Don Hassett from the Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse continued their work with GVCA's *Risk* improv. troupe. The purpose of the group is to educate students throughout the county about the issues surrounding substance abuse. During 2012 the troupe visited Dansville, Geneseo, Mount Morris, York and Caledonia-Mumford High Schools.

Traditional Arts Program

Our summertime 2011 programming concluded with the Genesee Valley Folklife Festival on September 10 on the Murray Hill campus. Guests enjoyed perfect weather as they listened to Native American stories, mountain dulcimers, square dance tunes, Italian accordion music, and Irish jigs. Attendees of all ages tried their hand at rug hooking, quilting and sewing, made piñatas, braided leather straps, and learned about underground creatures and jokes in the salt mine.

Our 2012 series got off to a flavorful start on March 25 with the program, Remembering St. Joseph's Table at Theatre 101 in Mt. Morris. Gerald Scorsone and Bernice Hotchkiss created a Table and sample foods for the holiday, which comes from a Sicilian tradition of honoring St. Joseph for prayers answered to end a drought some centuries ago.

At the Jamboree in June Olinda Rodriguez and Elizabeth Medina demonstrated how to make several types of Tamales and Pastales using corn masa, yucca, banana leaves, chilies, and other Latin American flavors. Attendees had a chance to try their hand at it, and samples were available for tasting.

Our popular annual Round and Square Dance was held in May at York Central School. An additional focus this year is an update of information on traditional arts and artists in our region.

Community Cultural Plan

The pre-planning phase was completed for the Livingston County Cultural Data Project. The Livingston County planning department, chamber of commerce, county news and alliance for business growth met several times with GVCA staff and our consultant Paul Mastodonato of Non-profit Works. Livingston Arts received a Technical Assistance grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, administered by the Cultural Resources Council. A portion of the grant was applied towards the development of the new website for the arts council and the arts center, and an advanced community calendar through Trumba. To date, we have engaged three community partners with the calendar project. This partnership allows all involved to share events with one other for display on our respective web calendars. The planning Committee collected eight sample community

cultural plans and identified three such plans that appeared to be good examples for Livingston County to review. Our next step is to invite more groups to be involved in the project and to develop funds for a consultant to help us draft the actual Community Cultural Plan. We hope to bring groups together in a way that helps them make the most of the counties resources.

Gross Income:

*NYSCA Reqrants:	\$34,350
County Stipend	\$35,000
NYSCA General Operating	\$22,570
NYSCA Regrant Admin	\$15,030
NYSCA Folklore	\$4,500
Membership	\$12,159
Donations	\$2,127
Sponsors	\$2,425
Young Artists Drawing	\$1,547
Classes	\$8,612
Steel Drums	\$6,700
Gift Shop/Apt. 1	\$6,467
Artful Holidays Sales	\$5,184
Theatre	\$2,549
Annual Dinner	\$1,360
Events & Misc.	\$12,271
Adopt-A-Painting	\$380
Line of Credit	\$10,000
Dan Burling initiative	\$1,203
Council on Alcohol & Substance Abuse Grant	\$9,975
Total Income:	194,409

Gross Expenses:

NYSCA Reqrants	\$34,350
Accounting	\$4,930
Administrative Personnel	\$70,557
Classes	\$2,751
Marketing & Mailing	\$11,607
GVCA Supplies & Equipment	\$ 3,241
Printing & Copying	\$3,000
Food	\$1,728
Art Center/Gift Shop Supplies	\$1,922
Sales Tax	\$800
Steel Drums	\$6,270
Consignments (Gift Shop/Apt. 1)	\$2,603
Artful holidays Consignments	\$1,252
Folk arts	\$9,904
Insurance	\$245
Telephone	\$1,282
Artsphere	\$3,000
Painting Restoration	\$427
Theatre	\$835

Events & Misc.	\$14,060
Website:	\$341
Line of Credit Interest	\$446
Credit Card Fees	\$737
Council on alcohol & substance abuse grant	\$6,567
Line of Credit	\$10,000
Total Expenses:	\$192,855

*New York State Council on the Arts