Director’s Corner
Marilyn L. Wheaton

A Year-End Appeal and Thank You to our friends and supporters
For as long as I can remember requests for support from nonprofit organizations have been arriving in my mailbox, often several times a week. Supporting nonprofit organizations and the work they do is as American as baseball. I cannot imagine not responding to a favorite and deserving organization when the call for assistance arrives.

A friend of mine who comes from a small southern European country often tells me that the generosity of Americans is incredible and amazing to her. She is astounded by their volunteerism and their philanthropy toward charitable organizations. She’s right about that. Most Americans are extremely generous with their time and their resources. Philanthropy is what makes it possible for most nonprofit organizations to sustain themselves, through lean times and robust times.

The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum is no exception. We depend on the generosity of foundations, corporations, and individuals like you who believe in and support the work we do: Preservation of Marshall Fredericks’ art work; conservation of the Museum archives; summer art camps for kids; K-12 school tours; mural projects in local communities; temporary exhibitions; artist gallery talks; poetry jams; and more. You are the reason we are able to continue these important programs for the benefit of our community.

Please give what you can and return this envelope with your gift today. The Museum staff and Board of Advisors join me in saying “Thank You,” and have a wonderful holiday season. If you would like to make a gift please visit https://alumni2.susue.edu/SSLPage.aspx?pid=1998&srcid=217 and select Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum under “Designation”.

Evenings of Elegance a huge success

More than 80 people attended two Evenings of Elegance this summer to benefit the work of the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum.

Bob and Jane Rogers’ home in Bay City was the setting for a July 15th soiree where guests experienced one of the great collections of contemporary studio glass in the country, stunning works by Picasso, Chagall, Miró and Dali, and a delicious meal. Ferdinand Hampson, founder and president of Habitat Galleries in Royal Oak and author of several books on glass, shared his knowledge about the glass collection with guests.

A second Evening of Elegance venue was Midland’s Dahlia Hill, where artist Charles Breed’s studios and the Dahlia garden provided a mecca of artistic delight on September 15. Janet Whitley of Bay City and Donna VanSteenhousen of Midland prepared a gourmet dinner that some guests thought was the best meal they had ever consumed.

Thanks to everyone who attended one or both Evenings of Elegance, and thanks especially to Bob and Jane Rogers for their exceptional kindness in opening their home to, Charles and Ester Breed for their graciousness, and to Donna and Chris VanSteenhousen and Janet and Frank Whitley for their extraordinary generosity in hosting the dinner.

Bob and Jane Rogers
Photo: Geoffe Haney

John and Judy Lore (left) Sue Bloenk, Lucy Harak and Bob Bloenk standing in front of Charles Breed’s art studio on Dahlia Hill.
Photo: Dave Morrison

We have a huge selection of hand-blown glass ornaments in the Museum gift shop just in time for the holidays.
Girl Scout and Boy Scout programs coming to the Museum

The Museum is offering 6 Girl Scout programs this academic year for Juniors Art in 3-D on November 13, Brownies Colors and Shapes Try-it on December 4, 2010, Daisies Art activities on February 12, Cadettes-Ambassadors Visual Arts on March 19, Juniors Visual Arts on April 16, and Cadettes Museum Discovery on May 21, 2011. The museum received an SVSU Foundation Resource Grant to hire two education majors to teach the programs. For more information and to register for these programs contact Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan at www.gshom.org or call 800-49-scout or 989-399-7260.

Susan Bandes talks about the printing technique of the Chuck Close self-portrait.
Photo: Geofe Haney

The exhibition, Artists Portray Artists: Selections from the Kresge Art Museum Collection XI, was assembled by Director Emeritus Susan Bandes over a period of many years while she was Director of the Kresge Art Museum at Michigan State University from 1986-2010. Bandes gave two gallery talks to SVSU students and museum visitors on Oct. 27 about many of the 20th century artists who are represented in the exhibition.

In an essay about the collection, Bandes wrote, “In searching for models, artists only have to look as far as the nearest mirror or to their family and friends (often fellow artists). The 20th century German artist Käthe Kollwitz repeatedly recorded in poignant detail the trials of her life reflected in her face. John Coplan’s photographs of cut-off parts of his aging body—his torso, feet, hand—are unrelenting images of the wrinkles, flab and marks of age that nevertheless represent the whole.”

This exhibition of 35 photographs, paintings, drawings, etchings and prints is worth seeing, studying and thinking about. It will be at the Museum through January 29, 2011.

From the Archives

A recent article in the U.K.’s The Guardian newspaper detailed the return of two granite Baboons to the gardens at Cliveden estate in Buckinghamshire, England. Currently owned by the National Trust, Cliveden was once the home of William Waldorf Astor who purchased the Baboons in 1898 for his terraced garden. These Baboons once guarded the entrance to an ancient temple honoring the Egyptian deity Thoth and are over 2500 years old. The Baboons graced the grounds at Cliveden for more than half a century until the 1960s, when the Astor family relocated them to another property. Recently, the Baboons were donated to the National Trust. The conservation organization reinstalled the pair on the grounds of the estate, which currently operates as a hotel.

In the article, curator and Egyptologist Wendy Monkhouse states that, “There are single Egyptian baboons in museums including the British Museum and pairs carved in other stone, but I know of no other pair in granite.” The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum has in its collection many different baboon sculptures, including a pair in bronze flanking the exterior entrance to the Arbory Fine Arts Center at SVSU. Many of Marshall Fredericks’ baboon sculptures are located in private homes and cultural organizations such as the Birmingham Community House, Birmingham, MI, Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, MI, and Brookgreen Gardens in Pawleys Island, South Carolina. For the 1939 New York World’s Fair, Fredericks designed a baboon fountain for the Glass Industries Building. He created a ring of monumental baboon figures in cast stone with a smaller baboon in a glass basin at the center. This fountain was destroyed sometime during World War II, but smaller plaster cast models of the baboons are on display at the Museum.

Left: Museum staff attended ArtPrize, an open art contest in Grand Rapids, on Oct. 6 and had the pleasure of visiting with Charles and Stella Royce of Grand Rapids.
Saints, Sinners and Swing another great success

A “Jeep” manufactured in 1943 by the Ford Motor Co. at its Louisville, Kentucky plant for use in World War II, loaned by Andy Cabala of Pinconning, was the icon our 230 guests saw when they arrived at the Museum for the Saints, Sinners & Swing gala on October 1. Forty eight Michigan artists donated a work of art for the silent art auction, and several supporters donated unique gifts for the live auction. SVSU Dining Services served a delicious meal, the Theatre Department’s Jerry Dennis designed and built fabulous “Swing” theme props, the Art Department’s Sara Clark orchestrated a perfect silent and live auction, and auctioneer Mike Furlo got great bids from the audience. Thank you, each and everyone who donated time, skill, or money. The end result was a net profit of just over $50,000 that will support the education and exhibition programs at the Museum.

Marilyn Wheaton, wearing her father’s WWII dress blues, felt right at home next to the WW II Jeep.

Left to right, Herb and Kathy Spence, artist Paul Kuzmiers, and honorary chairs Kathleen and Matt Davis.

SVSU students who are part-time employees at the Museum ham it up to the sounds of the Scott Tuttle Swing Quartet. Photo: Geoffe Haney

Carl Fredericks, eldest son of Marshall, with his niece Alexandra Rymal (l) and sister Roz Fredericks Rymal (r). Photo: Geoffe Haney

Sara Clark, an auctioneer’s dream assistant. Photo: Geoffe Haney

Rose San Miguel and her daughter Briana are faithful volunteers at the annual event. Photo: Geoffe Haney

Museum hosts art activities during SVSU Family Weekend

The Museum welcomed over 250 visitors who were part of the parents, family and friends who came to enjoy the campus during SVSU Residential Life’s Family Weekend Program on October 16. SVSU student Ashley Farrier, a part-time museum employee, taught a collage/drawing/painting art class in the Museum classroom.

Museum Board Welcomes Matt Davis

Matt Davis is Vice President of Global Public Affairs for The Dow Chemical Company. In this role, he has global responsibility for External and Internal Communications, Media Relations, Corporate Giving and Citizenship, Geographic and Site Public Affairs, and Executive Communications. Matt joined Dow in 1987 as a communications representative.

Matt is Accredited in Public Relations (APR) from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and is the Past President of the White Pine Chapter of PRSA and former Board Member of the Houston Chapter of PRSA. He was named to the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame as a “Rising Star” in 2009.

Thanks to our generous grantors who have awarded funding this quarter.

- SVSU Foundation Resource Grant of $1,219 for student intern at the Museum
- Midland Area Community Foundation $5,000 for Charles McGee exhibition
- Alden and Vada Dow Family Foundation $5,000 for Museum operations
- Bay Area Community Foundation $450 for transportation subsidy program
Calender of Events

Artists Portray Artists: Selections from the Kresge Art Museum Collection
October 1, 2010 - January 29, 2011

Girl Scout Program: Brownies Try-it Badge
December 4, 2010, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Art in Architecture: The Collaborative Spirit of the Interwar Period in Detroit
exhibition February 5 - May 28, 2011.

Girl Scout Program: Daisy Art Activities February 12, 2011, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Art in Architecture: The Collaborative Spirit of the Interwar Period in Detroit
Opening Reception, February 19, 2011, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

SVSU Kid’s and Sibs Weekend
Museum Art Activity, February 26, 2011, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Lecture: John Gallagher, Architecture Critic & Urban Development Writer,
Years” March 16, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Girl Scout Program: Cadette Visual Art March 19, 2011, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Girl Scout Program: Cadette/Ambassador Museum Discovery
March 21, 2011, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Lecture: Jennifer Baross, Partner, Destination Detroit Media “Corrado
Parducci, Detroit’s Architectural Sculptor” April 6, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Girl Scout Program: Junior Visual Arts April 16, 2011, 1:00-4:00 p.m.