



Auction Wrap Up

On behalf of the board of directors, our staff, and members, thank you to everyone who participated in our first ever “Art for Everyone” affordable art auction on November 6, 2011. Nearly 250 individuals came to preview the art and attend the auction, resulting in proceeds of almost \$16,000 that were shared among local artists and the Lehigh Valley Art Council.

This benefit auction also celebrated local pride for the Valley’s artistic talent and the generosity of many family businesses. Fifty regional artists were represented at the event, with 130 pieces on the auction block. Bill Hall of Tom Hall Auctions moved the event along at a brisk pace and captured bids ranging from \$10 to a high bid of \$1,300 for John Gaydos’s signature



painting *Hot Dog*. Merchants Square Mall provided ample space for display of the art while setting a casual environment for guests to have a fun time. Gary Iacocca and his crew grilled and served Yocco’s hot dogs with all the trimmings, and Weyerbacher Brewing Co. and A-Treat supplied the beverages. Exhibition services were donated by Boulevard Art & Frame and Thurston Royce Gallery of Fine Art, Ltd. Floral arrangements were created by Patricia Johnson.

Several individuals thanked us for the opportunity to either sell or acquire works of art at affordable prices, and asked us to do it again. We will keep you informed of our future plans for the second Art for Everyone Auction in early November 2012.

Meet the Newest Board Members

In September, the Arts Council sat two new board members, Karen Yeakel and Dan Kainz, whose business acumen and arts appreciation will greatly contribute to the future vision of the organization.

Karen Yeakel has been with Lehigh Gas Corp., a leading provider of branded petroleum products and convenience retail services in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Massachusetts, for sixteen years. Since 2003, Karen has served as vice president of administration, a position that includes cash management, tax compliance, and general support for the CEO.

A graduate of Moravian College in management, Karen began her studies in music and has enjoyed teaching piano, serving as church organist, and being a choir member throughout her life. She has served as treasurer of the board of trustees of Central Moravian Church and as treasurer of Moravian College Alumni Home Club, as well as being a member



Karen Yeakel

ARTS COUNCIL MATTERS

of the music committee of Central Moravian Church. Karen co-chairs the membership committee on the Arts Council board, which is planning a series of unique art escapades for 2012. Stay tuned!

Dan Kainz is an accomplished sculptor and furniture-maker who was born in the Lehigh Valley. His training was in the time-honored tradition, with years of instruction and apprenticeship working alongside European artists, stone carvers, and artisans. While apprenticing with a master woodcarver and master sculptor, Dan was awarded a National Endowment Grant in 1979; this allowed him to create and exhibit his early glass and stone sculptures in galleries in Idaho and Pennsylvania.

In 1991, Dan created a sculpture division at the family business, Wenz Company, Inc., in Allentown, enabling him to construct large-scale abstract sculpture, the sculpture about which he had always dreamed. Dan has created about seventy monumental sculptures since then, many of which he has exhibited at sculpture

exhibitions throughout the United States. Several colleges and universities in Pennsylvania own his work, as do Utah State University and SUNY Plattsburgh. Dan's sculptures have been permanently placed at Lehigh Valley Hospital, the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Bethlehem Sculpture Park, the Museum of Outdoor Arts in Colorado, and Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey.

Dan Kainz



Inside the Arts is a bimonthly publication of the Lehigh Valley Arts Council, 840 Hamilton St., Suite 201, Allentown, PA 18101. Editor-in-Chief: Randall Forte

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Our Mission: To promote the arts; to encourage and support artists and their development; to assist arts organizations; and to facilitate communication and cooperation among artists, arts organizations, and the community.



The Lehigh Valley Arts Council is a Pennsylvania Partner in the Arts, a program of the PCA.

The Cooperative Arts Marketing Committee will meet the second Thursday of the month, 8:45–10:15 a.m., on the following dates in 2012: January 12, March 8, May 10, July 12, September 13, and November 8.

All Arts Council nonprofit organizational members are invited to participate.

The next meeting will be hosted by Lisa Higgins of the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival on January 12 in the Wood Room of the DeSales University Center, Center Valley. RSVP to rforte@lvartscouncil.org.

Why I Do What I Do by Sorina Higgins

The poet Charles Williams once said that anyone who desires to write about God must desire to write excellently. Of course, somebody who wants to write about God faces all kinds of dilemmas besides the purely technical: the ineffable nature of the divine, for instance, since the metaphysical is by definition beyond description. And shouldn't everybody who wants to write do so excellently? Why limit that injunction to writing about God? And why limit it to writing? Isn't it even more important to *live* excellently?

The practical problem is that the so-called "Western" world is kind of caught between artistic time periods right now. Well, and there's that other little practical problem, too: there's an economic recession on, and it hasn't been easy to make it financially as an artist for a couple of centuries. We're kind of caught in a stylistic vacuum, wondering what will come next and who will pay for it.

So, how do American writers and artists live? Well, for one thing, we gather together in writers' workshops, artists' fellowships, poetry slams, coffee-house open-mic nights, and so forth, to provide the camaraderie we crave.

I'm blessed to have just such a niche group. It's called "Ekphrasis: Fellowship of Christians in the Arts." It meets just about every month, primarily for intense critique of works-in-progress. I love these regular gatherings, which fairly pulsate with affirmation and affection even, or especially, when we're telling each other what doesn't work in a new piece. It's not too inbred, either. One member is the artistic director of Players of the Stage (www.playersofthestage.com), a youth theatre whose community involvement includes such marvels as raising \$11,000 for the Allentown Rescue Mission this year. Another is making a documentary film about marginalized teens in Philly



(www.ferashafilms.com). Another held a poetry reading, sold copies of a chapbook, then donated all proceeds to the Alzheimer's Foundation. It is great to have a little group like this for accountability, conversation, and creation.

There are ways to avoid being a garret-lonely poet: one is teaching. I teach at a local college where we're dealing with vitally important personal and social issues. Writing is a healthy exercise for those who have experienced trauma or who are becoming socially aware. Through the lousy syntax and aberrant punctuation pour stories of a child's death or a catastrophic auto accident; or investigations into teen suicide rates; or an exposure of child sex trafficking. It's real stuff.

Words are amazing, and I am passionate about avoiding their abuse and harnessing their powerful use. That's why I write—poetry, drama, fiction, cultural critique, and literary analysis. That's why I teach literature and writing. That's why I edit and blog and chatter with my fellow Ekphrasians, and read books about faith and the arts and...

That's what it comes down to, in my mind. I believe that my Christian faith is not only true, but also beautiful and intelligent. I wish all Christians would be beautiful and intelligent—or at least that everything they write would be. Wouldn't that be fabulous? No more clichés. No more pat answers. Just profundity and beauty. I'm driven to reintroduce artistic excellence into the Christian community. I'm energized and revitalized by images of faithful grandeur, for the world is indeed charged with the grandeur of God. That's what we're all chasing, word by word.

You can read more of Sorina Higgins's writing on her blog, [Iambic Admonit](http://IambicAdmonit.blogspot.com), at iambicadmonit.blogspot.com.

MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

Denise Stangl: The Business of Art

by Rebecca Glassman



Denise Stangl describes herself as a “wearer of many hats.” As the operations manager for Lehigh University Art Galleries, Denise’s job is to make the exhibits happen. She deals with the financial, legal, and human resource aspects of the galleries, and administers advertising campaigns, grant writing, donation collection, and volunteer coordination. To top it all off, Denise supervises the museum consignment shop. All of these responsibilities create Denise Stangl’s position on the gallery team, and she enjoys every aspect of it.

A native and current Bethlehem resident, Denise has a B.A. in business with a concentration in not-for-profit administration from Moravian College. She also has certifications in business communication, arts administration, and human resources from Moravian, and a certification in project management graduate studies from Lehigh. This extensive training, along with a love of art that kept Denise in art clubs and classes during her young adult years, led her into this position at the art galleries, where she has been for twenty-eight years. “If you don’t have fun doing what you do, it’s more of a drudgery,” Denise says in reference to her love for her job. When asked what aspects she loves the most, Denise immediately mentions her volunteers. Some of these volunteers have been with the galleries since the building opened, and Denise describes many of them as “aces.” Another highlight Denise mentions is her experience with the gallery’s children’s workshops; she describes these “future museum-goers” as “enthusiastic and inquisitive.”

For Denise, museums are a place where children and parents can spend quality time; where controversial, interesting, or enlightening conversations can be sparked; where stories can be heard and told; and of course, where great art can be displayed for any viewer. The museum is free-of-charge, and Denise and the rest of the LUAG team make sure to consider every museum-goer of utmost importance.

The LUAG constituents are predominantly community members, but Denise explains that there have been continued and active efforts to get more students involved and aware. She points out that Larry Fink’s *The Forbidden Pictures* was a highly controversial exhibit that sparked strong student interest and subsequent support for the museum.

Denise seems most passionate about the use of art to evoke some sort of emotion. Whether it is distaste, amazement, love, or confusion, one of Denise’s central goals is to provide the community with evocative art. Recent exhibits include *Andy in the Valley* and Gary Graves’s *Just Words*. Coming soon to the galleries, to Denise’s excitement, is Anastasia Pantisios’s *Girls on Film* (1/25–5/25) and Judy Linn’s photographs of Patti Smith (2/20–5/25). Denise and her team work hard to bring exciting and interesting exhibits to the Lehigh Valley. In addition to her work at LUAG, Denise works as a reviewer for United Way and serves on numerous boards and committees; she is vice president of Touchstone Theatre’s board of trustees.

Featured Artist’s Statement

Loretta Tryon’s work is on display at the Arts Council office and on our website, www.LVArtsCouncil.org, during January and February.

My work seeks and translates forms found in nature and designs I create. I thrive on the spontaneity of creating one design that leads to the next. I’m inspired by the human form, organic forms, patterns, and my drawings. Positive and negative spaces play a prominent role in designing. In the process I develop the composition.

I use force and overlapping hammer blows to create something that seems fragile; graceful contours with dynamic tension eventually emerge. Hammering gives texture, tension, and strength to the medium of metal. Attention to the surface opens the door for further visual interest. I use heat and chemicals to experiment with the possibilities of creating with metal.



Piercing, cutting into the surface, fusing, and patina are some ways I add detail. Patinas give metal a sense of depth and a quality of antiquity. Transforming the piece with each technique, the composition becomes coherent. My intention is to create art, whether it is jewelry or sculpture, that relates to my viewer’s sense of curiosity. The finished piece is a permanent record of my personal experience. Each idea begins a new challenge, each piece bridges my inner tension with the visual world.

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**THE
INSIDE
TRACK**

Lydia Panas announces the publication of her new monograph,

The Mark of Abel, in March 2012. Published by Kehrer Verlag, the 96-page book contains 52 color photographs, with text by Maile Meloy, George Slade, and Lydia Panas.



Pennsylvania Youth Theatre has promoted Michael Melcher to the newly created position of executive director. Melcher will guide the business side and overall direction of the organization, while Artistic Director Gary Minyard will continue to hone the creative vision of the organization.

Under the direction of Dr. K. Bernard Schade, the **Singing Boys of Pennsylvania** and **Keystone Girls Choir** performed a full concert at the White House during the holidays. Composed of students from eight counties in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the choirs previously performed at the White House when George H. W. Bush was president.

Congratulations to LVAC Operations Manager **Chad Clauser** and his wife Katie on the birth of their son, Connor Matthew.

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**ONE
LAST
THOUGHT**

Reflections on the New Year

I have not made a formal New Year's resolution since my adolescence—almost fifty years ago. And as I recall, it was more of a wish to change my life completely than a commitment to a personal goal. Maybe turning sixty has made me more reflective (so much more to do, so much less time to do it), but in 2012, I resolve to:

- take dance lessons in order to dance at my daughter's wedding in May 2013;
- read three books a year, for me. (I know, it doesn't sound like much but it's attainable.)

I could have said that I resolve to experience more art—and probably failed that pledge because it was too general, too adolescent. The arts are a means to an end—a process towards self-discovery and improvement. That's what I've learned in my sixty new years.

Randall Forte