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ArtParty Warmed Attendees with Good Food and In-Person Cheer

By Maggi Gawel

The evening of Sept. 23 was one of the chilliest in the whole month. Yet, under the marquee at 125 Macomb Place, the atmosphere was warm and inviting to the 300 attendees at the **30th Annual ArtParty**, benefitting the **Anton Art Center**.

Folded paper blue birds perched upon branches dripping with pearl “dew drops” set a cheerful, lighthearted tone for the anniversary event. Defying more than a few doubts after a year-and-a-half of abbreviated programming and Zoom events, the in-person gala was a huge success. Over \$25,000 in funding was raised for the coming year.

The festivities included the annual **“Taste of Macomb County,”** a strolling dinner showcasing 20 area restaurants and caterers that gathered under the canvas to offer delicacies to suit all tastes: **Abbibo, Achatz Pies, A Movable Feast, Bath City Bistro, Bobcat Bonnie’s, Cellars 104, Champagne Chocolates, El Charro, Emerson’s On the Grill, Mangiabevi Urban Italian, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Octopus’s Beer Garden, O’Halloran’s, Orleans Billiards Cafe, Penne Lane, Pops Sweets an Treats, Portillo’s, Stahl’s, The Cake Xperience, and Zuccaro Banquets & Catering.**



Former Trustee Nancy Mitchell with husband Tracy, and Co-Chair of the IDEA Council Troy Mitchell

Intrinsic to the event’s success were the nine ArtParty Committee members who joined executive director **Phil Gilchrist** in planning the occasion: **Anna Doe, John Danaher, Sue Durbin, Sara Katsavrias, Mary Need, Michelle Rassey, Kim Ritter, Sandra Tornberg, and Patricia Woodstock.**

These dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly to recruit both participating eateries and ArtParty sponsors, which included **First State Bank, Oakland University, Gerry & Laura Fournier, Crest Lincoln, Orleans Billiards Café and Printing by Johnson.**

WALK-INS WELCOME!

COVID-19 health and safety protocols are in place, including limited building occupancy and facemasks are required.

The Anton Art Center is open to the public from 10am - 5pm Tuesdays through Saturdays. Call ahead (586-469-8666) or email (information@theartcenter.org) for more information or to schedule a visit.

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Happy Shoppers Returned to Holiday Market After Its 2020 Absence

By Mary Smith



In-person shopping got two thumbs up from the many holiday shoppers who visited, sometimes two, three or more times, during its run. And just like the elves in Santa's workshops, a team of staff and volunteers spent the better part of October and early November transforming the Anton Art Center into a festive marketplace.

There were tables to set up, art to inventory and displays to arrange. There were wreaths and stockings to hang, trees to decorate and handmade ornaments to suspend from the second-floor ceiling. After everything was in place, the doors opened to the market's first shoppers on Nov. 18.

Among those most appreciative of the countless hours spent by staff and volunteers to ready the market for business are the 100 or so artists whose work is included in the **43rd Annual Holiday Market**.

"The Anton Art Center is a terrific gallery space and is very well run by Phil and his team," said **Chris Charron**, whose photography, including that of a festive red barn door, was for sale during the Holiday Market. "They have always been supportive of both my late wife's and my art.

Charron, a self-admitted "Christmas fan," has participated in the market for seven yuletide seasons and enjoys volunteering on the sales floor a few times during the market, especially when he sees his own work going out the door.

"It is very gratifying when someone buys a piece of mine to hang in their home or place of business," said Charron. "I don't usually get to "see" who buys the work, but it is nice to know that others enjoy it.

Mary Abbot, a glass artist, has been selling her mosaics at the market for three years. The market's customers, she noted, have discriminating taste and aren't looking for a Walmart bargain.

"I find that the people who shop at the Holiday Market really appreciate the one-of-a-kind, handmade aspect of the items offered," offered Abbot. "They understand the time and craftsmanship that goes into creating each art piece. I like that."

Abbot is grateful that the Holiday Market provides artists like her with an outlet for displaying and selling their work. But the real reward is in the making of it.

“My artwork brings me great joy,” said Abbot. “Even if nothing were to sell, I would continue creating mosaics until I ran out of room in my home!”

Pen and ink artist **Margaret Glinke** has had a long relationship with the Holiday Market, where this past year she sold prints of her sketches of lighthouses and the whimsical carousel animals that delight visitors to **Greenfield Village**.

Glinke’s carousel creds are impressive. She was a member of the **National Carousel Association**, attending many of its annual conventions, and a frequent visitor to carousel museums across the country. But she doesn’t have to go far to admire the fine craftsmanship that goes into a wooden carousel horse. One stands in her living room, carved by none other than the celebrated 19th century German artist **Charles (Carl) Looff**.

And just like carousels, the local artist also has a soft spot in her heart for the Holiday Market.

“I love the Christmas season,” said Glinke, who volunteered at many of the markets throughout the years. “It was so great to be back with activities like this after the last year.”



Selection of mini-trees at the silent auction, which raised a total of \$500 for Anton Center programs; An assortment of clay and glass goods in the “Pottery Room”

Artist/Volunteer Seeks to Inspire Others to Live Their Best Life

By Maggi Gawel

You think you have a long drive to the Art Center from St. Clair Shores or Richmond? Artist, volunteer and board member **Patricia Baker** treks here from 12 Mile and Evergreen. Why? She believes art has a place in drawing every community into one community, so she tries to connect with others and promote diversity beyond her home area.

Her first contact with the Art Center was an acrylics flow class in 2019. There she heard about Holiday Market and entered her jewelry. Patricia loves people and says she has “never met a stranger,” so as a market volunteer, she easily connected with staff and other volunteers. Then, after each shift at the cashiers’ table or assisting customers, “I spent my money on the art in the market... I’ve always believed this: Each one, reach one.” It is among her personal goals “to inspire others to fulfill their goals and dreams and to support them to do that...Holiday Market allowed me to encourage local artists through my purchases.”

Since then, her participation has expanded. Patricia says, “I actively support the tenets of this group and am honored to be an **Art Center Trustee**.” Patricia has also increased her financial commitment to the Art Center. She was one of the first Art Center donors to join the monthly giving initiative. She appreciates being able to tailor her gift in easily affordable monthly amounts, as opposed to a large annual gift. In this way, she also helps provide a continuous funding stream to the Art Center. In the future, she is interested in supporting student sponsorships.

Patricia spent her early years in Detroit and Royal Oak Township, graduating from **Detroit Northern High School**. Next step was **Wayne State University** for her BA and, later, an MA in Mathematics Education and a Certificate in Education Administration. She enjoyed a 34-year career as a teacher and elementary school principal, while raising two sons. Patricia loves music, dance, and art. She also



enjoys computer games, as well as online and in-person casino games. But no hobby is as important as her family. Now, she also has three grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. That artist gene has been passed down: her older son loves to write, while the younger one and a granddaughter are artists.

Patricia, herself, started making and selling her jewelry in 1967. Over time, she expanded her portfolio to include acrylic and watercolor painting, and pen and ink works. Her art is becoming well known in the region. She is a member of the **Detroit Fine Arts Breakfast Club** and her creations are currently displayed in the **Three Cities Art Club Exhibition** in Westland, Midtown’s **Detroit Artists Market** and **Kayrod Gallery** at Hannon Center, and here at Holiday Market. To see an array of Patricia’s bold art and jewelry visit her website:

www.designsbypatrician.com

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Planned Gifts Leave a Legacy of Support to Anton Art Center

By Mary Smith

Prior to the renovation and expansion in 2007, the Art Center in downtown Mount Clemens was struggling to find a balance between outgoing expenses and the growing cultural needs of the community. That made the \$105,000 bequest by **Geraldine Fritz**, received at the time of her death in 1993, all the more meaningful.

Geraldine's was the first-ever estate gift made to the Art Center and, appropriately, the legacy circle that has grown from it has been named in her honor.

Planned giving such as Geraldine's is a way for donors to continue their support of the Art Center for generations to come by including it in their estate plans. Only the interest earned on the principal is used, making it a gift that lasts in perpetuity. And it's not a gift to just the Anton Art Center but to the community as a whole.

Over the last few years, public art programs have grown across the county, arts commissions are being established, and greater attention is being paid to the importance of arts in education and health. Funded by both yearly donations and estate gifts, the Anton Art Center stands firmly at the center of those efforts. Its programs bring art experiences to thousands of people each year and help over 150 local artists annually earn income from their work. And not only is it a cultural hub for the community, it's a major player on the economic front as well. Considering its annual expenditures in combination with the visitors it brings to downtown Mount Clemens, it is estimated that the Anton Art Center contributes nearly \$1 million to the local economy each year.

The following is a list of those who have joined the **Geraldine Fritz Legacy Circle** by including the Art Center in their estate plans:

PREVIOUS BEQUESTS:

Geraldine Fritz	1993
Christian W. Konstanzer	1996
Virginia Mitchell	2000
Paul V. Jonas	2002
Deforst Cooley	2005
Isabel Miller	2010
Thelma J. Ullrich	2015
Dona Will	2016

BENEFACTORS INCLUDING THE ART CENTER IN THEIR ESTATE PLANS AS OF JUNE 2021:

Bob and Bunny Carlson
Nancy Henk
Terri North
Patricia Woodstock

If you would like to make an estate gift or simple bequest for the future of the Anton Art Center, please call or email Phil Gilchrist at 586.469.8666 or pgilchrist@theartcenter.org



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