

Mt. San Angelo

35 YEARS

On the heels of pop art and minimalism, and with the rise of environmental and conceptual art, the field of artists communities experienced a tremendous growth spurt in the 1970s. The VCCA ushered in the decade with its founding in 1971, followed by numerous other residency programs, including Ragdale in 1976 and the Atlantic Center for the Arts in 1977. In 35 years, the VCCA has grown from hosting 16 Fellows in 1971, to our current annual average of 325 writers, artists and composers.

The VCCA celebrated this milestone anniversary with a series of events, beginning in April 2006, with a toast on the gazebo with Fellows, staff, Board members and special friends, and culminating in a Birthday Party and Community Day in September. Open to the public, this event drew almost 600 of our friends and neighbors to Mt. San Angelo for a festive afternoon of art and music, plus studio and grounds tours.

“What I found to be most interesting about opening my studio during the event was the entire demystification of what the VCCA is all about,” said visual artist Jason Hughes. “Many of the visitors were curious to learn about how and why the VCCA supports artists during the



E. Shawn Quissaunee



Lume Slyce, Julie Gross, 24" x 24", oil on linen, 2002. Courtesy of the Fenn Gallery. www.juliegross.net

creative process and were interested in hearing about my ideas and working process. They gained a greater sense of the arts and how the VCCA benefits their community.”

E. Shawn Quissaunee performed with his Afghan Jazz Project, and Paul Reisler and Will Hopkins were joined on stage by the Tye River Elementary School Singers. Visual artist Sean Samoheyl showcased his handmade puppets with a puppet show and interactive activities. There were special appearances by the First Baptist Church of

Coolwell Choir, our neighbors down Old Stage Road, and Amherst County Administrator Rodney Taylor, who proclaimed the day “VCCA Day” in the county. The celebration also included two exhibitions of Fellows’ work in Amherst and Lynchburg, embracing the larger community into the mission of the VCCA. Staff, volunteers, Board members and friends made these events possible.

From VCCA’s beginnings on Wavertree Farm near Charlottesville, to the current Mt. San Angelo home, the VCCA continues to provide a nurturing environment for Fellows while benefiting friends and neighbors in our own backyard, and beyond.

– Amy Allen

For party photos, please turn to page 5.

Visual Artists

Miriam Beerman's solo exhibition, "Bending the Grid: Compassionate Monsters/Wrathful Lambs," was held at Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art in Newark, NJ in 2006.

Sylvia Benitez had a 2006 solo exhibition at the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts.

"Ghostwriters," a 2007 solo exhibition of paintings by **Catherine Courtenaye**, was presented at Cheryl Pelavin Fine Arts in New York City.

Following his 2007 exhibition at Sweet Briar College, **Don Davis**, VCCA Sweet Briar Fellow in Residence, traveled to Spannocchia, Italy to teach a course on wood-fired terracotta.

Recent work by **Diane Fine** was included in the 2007 Boston Printmaking Biennial at Boston University.

Winkleman/Plus Ultra Gallery in New York City presented "House of Fiction," a 2006 solo exhibition by **Rosemarie Fiore**.

In 2006, Lawndale Art Center in Houston, TX presented "Portals of Perception," an exhibition of paintings by **Dixie Friend Gay**.

The University of Virginia Art Museum's new media gallery opened in 2007 with the inaugural exhibition "Light Works" with film and video pieces by **Sandra Gibson** and **Luis Recoder**.

Elissa Gore had a 2006 exhibition at the Howard Gallery of Fine Art in New Hope, PA.

In 2006 **Frederick Hayes** had a solo exhibition at Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center in Buffalo, NY.

Pinkney Herbert had a 2006 exhibition at the David Lusk Gallery in Memphis, TN.

In the Summer of 2007, **Sonja Hinrichsen** became the Resident Artist at the De Young Museum in San Francisco, CA.

Frank Hobbs had a 2006 solo exhibition of recent paintings at the Reynolds Gallery in Richmond, VA.

1708 Gallery in Richmond, VA presented "Born Lost," a 2007 solo show of works on paper by **Gareth Jones**.

From Executive Director Suny Monk

Envisioning the Future of the VCCA

In my tenth year of service to the VCCA, I find myself reflecting heavily on our past accomplishments while eagerly anticipating our future. In this mode of contemplation, I am reminded that there comes a time when every organization must grow to become what it already is.

What do I mean by that?

Simply this: Among artists, the VCCA is very well-known, and through our Fellows' word-of-mouth marketing, our reputation is as solid as the service we provide. But we are learning that the VCCA is not so well known among supporters of the arts—those patrons whose support and goodwill mean the difference between existing and not.

At 35, the VCCA is a mature organization. We have reached the age where we must be ever diligent to endow all that we have accomplished in the past three decades, and we must enhance our programming, developing it alongside the rise of internationalism, the explosion of technology, and the expectations and needs

of those we serve.

Over the past few years we have been asking ourselves, "How can we best position the organization to ensure its continuity?" and "What must we do to establish the highest standard of support for individual artists, while adhering strictly to our mission?"

To find answers, our dedicated staff and Board of volunteers have worked with independent consultants, examining our strengths, weaknesses and challenges. After taking these baby steps, it has become clear that we are poised now

to move the VCCA to the next level of service and accomplishment.

As a result, we have taken the ultimate next step of hiring fundraising counsel to see us through our next growth stage. Guided by The Kellogg Organization, a firm with offices in Virginia and Colorado, our Board has been fully engaged in leading a self-discovery process and making plans for future vitality.

Continued on page eight



Will Hobbs

Woodhull Institute Assists Writers

The VCCA has long provided support for writers by supplying privacy and sanctuary, a place to get away from day-to-day minutia to concentrate on a project. Last winter, an opportunity arose to further the work of our Fellows by offering a career-building workshop, to help writers gain a wider audience for their work.

In collaboration with the Woodhull Institute for Ethical Leadership, we hosted a three-day workshop for seasoned writers. Led by Board member Naomi Wolf and colleagues from the Woodhull Institute, which Wolf co-founded, the workshop focused on how to access widely circulated books and periodicals, helping increase the reach of our writers and allowing them to more fully participate in the national dialogue.

Twenty-four writers from across the country attended the weekend workshop. The following week we received this note from one of the participants: "... Upon returning home I sent a re-edited [magazine story] pitch to *Harper's*, where it had been languishing for weeks. Within two hours the editor called me and commissioned the piece. I rewrote my book proposal based on Naomi's seminar and gave it to my agent. In spite of [an editor's] claim that it was 'too small' ever to sell to a trade publisher, my agent immediately sold it to the first trade house he approached, Simon & Schuster."

The weekend was supported by the Virginia Commission for the Arts. The VCCA is exploring with the Commission the possibility of a similar workshop for visual artists.

— Craig Pleasants



Amy Allen

VCCA Fellows (clockwise from bottom) Wendy Miles, Joelle Hahn, Tacey Rosolowski and Rosemary Klein during a session of the Woodhull Institute.

Award for Excellence Recipient Thomas Roma in Residence

As Director of Photography at Columbia University's School of the Arts in New York City, Tom Roma is accustomed to keeping company with creative people. So when he was awarded the VCCA Award for Excellence in the Arts, and a residency, the normally enticing mixture of talented artists was not something he saw as all that unusual.

Nevertheless, Tom welcomed the opportunity to focus exclusively for a week in March on his current photography project, and once in residence, set to work re-reading William Carlos Williams' five-volume epic poem "Paterson," to which his eleventh monograph will pay homage. He quickly discovered that being at the VCCA, away from the phone ringing for business throughout the day, made "a different kind of concentration available to me."

Given the complexity of Williams' celebrated modernist experiment, and the detailed planning necessary for taking photographs along the path Williams followed making house calls as a physician, Tom found that the focused work he was able to do was an "enormous and unexpected help." Particularly fond of the communal meals, he came to greatly admire the dedication of the working artists he met and remembers the VCCA as "a special place."

Currently completing his tenth book of photographs, *On Three Pillars: Torah, Worship and the Practice of Loving Kindness, The Synagogues of Brooklyn*, to be published in the fall of 2007, Tom is the recipient of two Guggenheim Fellowships.

Initiated by an anonymous donor, and rotating through three disciplines, the VCCA Award for Excellence in the Arts is presented annually to a prominent writer, visual artist or composer whose significant achievement is widely recognized. The award, which is administered by the VCCA Fellows Council, includes a residency, an honorarium and a travel stipend.

— Will Holub



Amy Allen

VCCA Fellows Council Chair, filmmaker David Petersen, Executive Director Suny Monk and photographer Tom Roma at the awards ceremony in New York.

Visual Artists

Ann Schaumburger's "Versailles Project" was exhibited in 2006 at A.I.R. Gallery in New York City.

"**Neil Shawcross:** Forty Years of Portrait Painting," was presented at the Ulster Museum, Belfast, Ireland in 2006.

In 2006, **Steed Taylor** created "Indigenous," a site-specific "road tattoo" on the entrance drive of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University in Durham, NC.

The Frist Center for the Visual Arts in Nashville, TN presented "Model Citizens," an exhibition of work by **Bob Trotman** in 2007.

Robert Johnson Fellowship Endowed

In an initiative led by the Fellows Council and staff, the Robert Johnson Endowed Fellowship has been established in honor and memory of beloved VCCA staff member Robert Johnson, who died in June 2006. The Fellowship will support the cost of VCCA residencies for selected artists, providing one, two-week residency each year for a highly qualified writer, visual artist or composer.

The generous contributions made to date by VCCA Fellows have seeded the effort, and the endowment is well on its way to being fully funded. Annual costs for this Fellowship will be supported by the growth of the fund.

Family, friends, Fellows and **Robert Johnson**



staff gathered at the VCCA in March for a memorial service to announce the Fellowship and celebrate Robert's life. A bench and flowering pear tree, funded by members of the Council, were dedicated near the gazebo, nestled in a crescent of boxwood.

Upon returning home from the service, poet Peggy Ingraham wrote the prose poem, "At the Memorial," a portion of which is excerpted here: "After the embracing of his widow and children, the telling of stories, the reading of the poem, the dedication of bench and tree, there in the blueed shadow of the high ridge's own garden we sat down together to eat, though some of us strangers,

Continued on page eight

Recipients of 2007 Guggenheim Fellowships

SoHyun Bae, Visual Artist
Jane Brox, Writer
Alan Burdick, Writer
Rinde Eckert, Composer
D. Nurkse, Poet
Leila Stott Philip, Writer
Barbara Weissberger,
Visual Artist

Recipients of 2007 NEA Fellowships in Poetry

Susan Deer Cloud
Dana Roeser
Dennis Sampson
Jane Satterfield
Adrienne Su
G.C. Waldrep

In Memoriam

Mary Ann Brandt, visual artist and teacher, died on March 8, 2007, at the age of 86. She raised finger painting to a high art, exploring the possibilities for 30 years.

Sharon Gilbert, visual artist, died on June 9, 2005, at the age of 61. A collagist, sculptor and book-artist, her work examined relationships between political events and individual identity.

Sonya Dorman Hess, writer and poet, died on February 14, 2005, at the age of 81. Using the names Sonya Dorman and Sonya Hess, she wrote short science fiction, poetry and essays.

Anna B. Larson, composer, lyricist and playwright, died March 14, 2007, at the age of 66. She specialized in music for theater and composed chamber and orchestral works.

Julie Seiler, writer and activist, died of complications from breast cancer on December 27, 2006, at the age of 36. A former lawyer, she wrote and published personal essays.

Sheba Sharrow, visual artist, died December 15th, 2006, at the age of 80.

A painter of uncommon power and empathy, she often used provocative imagery in her work. Her career spanned 60 years.

Gwyneth Barber Wood, poet, died in early November 2006, at the age of 60. One of Jamaica's leading poets, she was published often in Jamaican periodicals.

Register for Workshops in France

Since 2004, the VCCA's international program has grown exponentially with the addition of the Moulin à Nef studio in the village of Auvillar, in southwest France. Studio space and rich cultural experiences are offered to Fellows and others who rent the renovated 17th-century facility. This summer, the VCCA expands the use of this property with two week-long writing workshops led by VCCA Fellows, which are open to the general public. To register, contact Roberta Lawrence, rlawrence@vcca.com.

Between June 21 and 27, poets Nick Carbó, the author of three collections of poetry, and Denise Duhamel, associate professor at Florida International University in Miami and author of numerous books, will lead "The Poet as Pilgrim," a nod to the facility's locale on the St. Jacques-de-Compostelle pilgrimage route. This intensive workshop provides both group and individual sessions and a combination of discussion, writing prompts and workshop.

Fiction writers Helen Benedict, the author of five novels and a professor at Columbia University, and Stephen O'Connor, who has published both

fiction and non-fiction and teaches at Columbia University and Sarah Lawrence, will direct "Story-Telling to Story-Selling" between July 11 and 17. The workshop includes individual conferences on developing, forming, and marketing fiction, with a special emphasis on writing about lives and places other than one's own. The program features a talk by novelist Jake Lamar, who lives in Paris.

Independent workshops this year include a painting and drawing workshop, led by Moulin à Nef Resident Director Jeannette MacDougall, who is on the faculty of the Southwest School of Art & Craft. The Visual Arts Center of Richmond will host ceramics, writing and visual arts workshops, and Mary McDonnell, one of the first Fellows in residence at Moulin à Nef in 2004, will lead a painting workshop in July.

Again this year, while Fellows immerse themselves in their work at Mt. San Angelo in Virginia, twelve of their counterparts will be in residence during three, one-month residencies between May and September. In the face of this new growth, the VCCA remains committed to its core mission of supporting writers, visual artists and composers in the creation of new work.

— Amy Allen

In Residence: Reza Daneshvar

The author of four novels, seven published plays and three short story collections, Iranian born Reza Daneshvar fought censorship, arrest and imprisonment before fleeing his country in 1982. After he was granted political asylum and refugee status in France, he settled in Paris where, after mastering his adopted country's language, he re-established himself as an accomplished playwright and novelist.

In 2004, Reza began a two-year residency at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, through Ithaca's City of Asylum Resident Writer Program. The Cities of Asylum are a loose network of



Reza Daneshvar

cities across the globe that shelter persecuted writers living in exile. While in New York, Reza's play, "Sandwich Deluxe," premiered in English as part of Ithaca's 2004 Voices of Freedom Festival. And it was during his residency at Cornell that Reza learned of the VCCA from Fellow and Ithaca College professor Edward Hower, who encouraged him to apply.

While in residence in April and May, Reza worked on his new play, "Voyager Nulle Part," which was presented as a reading in English to the Fellows. He also continued his research on the famed Iranian architect Kamran Diba, now living in exile in Spain and known for his modernist and community-oriented architecture.

Stating that the mixture of types of artists at the VCCA was very important to him, Reza found that "the complexity could be helpful for finding more ways of understanding your art through be-

Continued on page five

35th Birthday Celebration Continued from page one



Left: Fellows opened their studios for party guests. Below: What's a party without cake? Fellow Karl Nussbaum, in whimsical costume, escorted the decorative cake via Sicilian donkey cart, followed by an entourage of musicians, dancers and cupcake-carrying Fellows to a chorus of "Happy Birthday."



Photos by Kathy Buckalew



Left: VCCA staff and volunteers with the life-size birthday card signed by party guests. Bottom row, L-R: Leigh Allen, Amy Allen, Suny Monk, Craig Pleasants. Back row, L-R: Bruce Hartless, Karl Nussbaum, Carol O'Brien, Cora Tabb, Sheila Pleasants, Dana Jones, Bea Booker, Mike Patterson.

VCCA Upgrades Pianos

The fine Steinway grand piano gracing the living room of the Langhorne Residence has long been a reminder of the key role that composers have played in the life of the organization. So when VCCA Fellows and composers Craig Urquhart and Daron Hagen suggested it was time to upgrade some of the pianos in our studios, we immediately began to explore our options. Now, due to generous support from the Charles Jacob Foundation and the Bernstein Family Foundation, the VCCA has acquired a recently rebuilt 1923 Knabe 5'2" grand for composer's studio C-1. We also have the opportunity to purchase a 1997 Yamaha 5'8" Disklavier grand piano for C-3, provided we can raise an additional \$3,000. In the meantime, the Kimball grand remains in C-2, and the dependable Chickering grand in C-3. The Sohmer professional studio upright has been moved to VA-1, formerly a composer's studio. — Will Holub

Reza Daneshvar

Continued from page four

ing inspired by other artists." He described his residency as a "parentheses," which "left everything worrisome outside so I could concentrate on my work." It was an experience, he said, that he would repeat "with pleasure."

Reza's residency was made possible by the Karen Shea Silverman Endowed Fellowship fund, which honors Fellow and long-time Board member Karen Shea Silverman, who died in 2004. — Will Holub

Composers

Steve Antosca participated in the Contemporary Music Forum program of "Classical Native: American Indian Composers and Musicians" at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC.

Lera Auerbach's ballet, "The Little Mermaid," had its German premiere in 2007 at the Hamburg Ballet.

Martin Boykan marked his 75th year in 2006 with the New York premieres of "Second Chances" at Symphony Space and "Songlines" at Merkin Concert Hall.

Tom Cipullo, recipient of the 2006-07 Aaron Copland Award, premiered the fully staged orchestral version of his opera "Glory Denied" at Brooklyn College in 2007.

Sebastian Currier received the prestigious Grawemeyer Award in 2007.

In 2007, the Syracuse International Film Festival presented the world premiere of **Brent Michael Davids'** score for the 1920 silent film "The Last of the Mohicans."

Eric Moe's "Let Me Tell U About R Specials" premiered at Mass MOCA, in Massachusetts in the 2006 Bang On a Can Festival.

The Houston Ballet performed "Collapsible Rhythms," a ballet with score by **Michael Remson** in 2007.

The Richmond Symphony performed **Judith Shatin's** "Piping the Earth" in 2007.

In the Autumn of 2006, **Laurence Sherr** became the first VCCA exchange Fellow to participate in Wolfgang Seierl's KOFOMI symposium in Salzburg, Austria.

Craig Urquhart's 2006 Japan concert tour sold out in Tokyo, Kobe and Kawaguchiko and was followed by the release of two recordings, "Secret and Divine Signs" and "Secret Spaces."

In December **Joelle Wallach's** "Lo in a Manger," commissioned by the Canticum Novum singers & New York Virtuosi, will premiere at St. Paul & St. Andrew Church in New York City.

Writers

Jorn Ake read his poetry and exhibited his photography at the FABS Gallery in Warsaw, Poland, in 2007.

Dan Albergotti's full-length poetry manuscript, *The Boatloads*, was selected as the 2007 winner of the A. Poulin Jr. Prize from BOA Editions.

Lorna Knowles Blake's collection of poems, *Permanent Address*, won the 2006 Richard Snyder Memorial Prize and was published in 2007 by the Ashland Poetry Press.

Richard Blanco was named one of five winners of the 2006 PEN/Beyond Margins Award for his second poetry collection, *Directions to the Beach of the Dead*.

Ballantine published *Self Storage: A Novel* by **Gayle Brandeis** in 2007.

Geoffrey Brock's *Weighing Light*, received the fifth annual New Criterion Poetry Prize.

Shannon Cain had short stories published in *Tin House Magazine* and the *Massachusetts Review* in 2007.

Poems by **Charles Cantrell** were published in 2006 in issues of *The Mid-America Poetry Review* and *South Carolina Review*.

Laura Maria Censabella's play "Three Italian Women" was read by Oscar winning actress Olympia Dukakis as part of Ensemble Studio Theatre's 2006 Octoberfest in New York City.

A History of Things Lost or Broken, a collection of stories by **Philip Cioffari**, won the 2007 TARTT Fiction Prize.

Joan Frank received a 2006 Ludwig Vogelstein Award for her fourth novel, *Scarlet and Melanie*.

BkMk Press published **Alice Friman's** collection of poems, *The Book of the Rotten Daughter*, in 2006.

Sarah C. Honenberger's novel, *White Lies*, was published by Cedar Creek Publishing in 2006.

Rosamond King spent a year in West Africa after receiving a 2006 Fulbright Fellowship.

VCCA Legacy Society: Bill Sackett

Perhaps what I would bring to the VCCA, if I am appointed to a position on the board, is an abiding interest in the creative process, particularly as it is expressed in literature and the visual arts.

—William Graves Sackett

Bill Sackett, writer, art historian and sports fan, was never one to boast but probably understood the creative spirit better than most. He loved the arts in every form and was intensely curious about artists and their work. Sackett was a faithful member of the VCCA Board of Directors from January 1998 until his death on March 21, 2005. Through his will, he left a generous and unrestricted gift of \$400,000 to the VCCA.

With a degree in English literature and art history from the University of Richmond, Bill took a job as a sports writer in Kentucky with the *Lexington Leader*. It was the late 1960s, Kentucky basketball was legendary, and Sackett was covering the incomparable Adolph Rupp and his Kentucky Wildcats. Bill was an avid Wildcat fan.

After a career in reporting and public relations, Bill pursued a master's degree in art history from the University of Kentucky (UK). It was while writing his thesis on the life and work of UK art professor Edward Fisk that he developed a particular interest in early 20th-century American art.

A long-time supporter of the VCCA, Bill gave faithfully to the Annual Fund and made significant contributions to help provide critically needed office space and to help meet the studio barn roof challenge. His philanthropy followed the example of his parents, Paul E. and Bessie Graves Sackett, who established the Sackett Graves Fund of the Lynchburg Community Trust.

Quiet and unassuming, with a keen and inquisitive mind, Bill Sackett was a solitary man who lived a simple life, finding satisfaction in things that one doesn't always measure in terms of suc-

Continued on page eight



Bill Sackett

VCCA Welcomes New Staff



Will Holub

Visual artist and VCCA Fellow **Will Holub** is currently the Resident Artist at the VCCA. After 17 years of painting and exhibiting in New York City, where he also worked at the Metropolitan Opera and the United Nations, he moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1992. There Will established himself as a community-minded artist and arts advocate with national gallery affiliations. He will devote much of his time at the VCCA to working on new mixed media paintings for upcoming exhibitions, while assisting the VCCA Fellows after office hours and working part-time with the administrative staff.

Long-time VCCA Fellow **Roberta Lawrence** is the new Marketing and Program Coordinator for Moulin à Nef. She will promote the facility to groups and market the VCCA initiated Auvillar Writers' Workshops to be held in June and July 2007. She is principal of her own firm, Roberta Lawrence Media, which specializes in providing public relations counsel to individuals, creative companies and non-profits. A fiction writer and journalist, she is the recipient of a



grant from the Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation. She holds a degree from the State University of New York in Advertising and Communications.

Continued on page seven

Members Bring New Energy to Board

Over the years, many extraordinary individuals have served the VCCA, bringing their expertise, varied backgrounds and perspectives to bear on decisions that have contributed to our growth. This year we welcome the following new Board members:



Patricia B. Kermes has served as a national Trustee to the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia since 2003. Now living in Roanoke, Virginia, Pat was instrumental in helping the Art Museum of Western Virginia move forward with the construction of its glass, steel and patinated zinc building, designed by noted "green" architect Randall Stout. She served that organization as a Trustee between 2003 and 2007. An R.N., she worked in the medical field for almost 20 years before devoting herself full-time to arts advocacy and philanthropic activities.



Karen Bell

Robbie Mascotte has held numerous public relations positions in California and New York, and has worked with a variety of clients ranging from emerging technology companies to corporations in the fashion industry. She has been a senior account manager and consultant with Evins Communications, Ltd., in New York City, and with InterActive Public Relations, Lexis Public Relations and Spark Public Relations, all San Francisco firms. In 1999, she directed the communications program for the commercial launch and IPO of E-Stamp, the pioneer of Internet postage, receiving a Creativity in Public Relations Award (CIPRA) and Certificate of Excellence for this work. She lives in Charlottesville, Virginia.



Amy Allen

Entrepreneur **Robert R. Matheson** is managing partner and CEO of Robert Redd, LLC, a clothing designer, manufacturer and retailer in Charlottesville. Also president and founder of

Earlyman Technologies, LLC, a small business incubator, Robert was responsible for one of the first educational web portals on the Internet. He graduated from George Mason University with a degree in history and has worked in the technology and financial industries in Virginia, Washington, D.C. and Manchester, England.



Carol O'Brien

Kia Silverman, who serves on the boards of Second Street Gallery and Foothills Child Advocacy Center, both in her home city of Charlottesville, continues a family tradition of service to

the VCCA. Her mother, the late Karen Shea, was a visual artist, Fellow and long-time Board member. Her sister, the writer Taije Silverman, is also a VCCA Fellow. Kia is an acupuncturist and is a member of Friends of CASA, a volunteer group that works with children in need and their court appointed special advocates.



Karen Bell

In addition to his career as an attorney, **Donald Ubben**, a native of Pekin, Illinois, now living in Ivy, Virginia, has served in a variety of executive and advisory positions in the Executive branch of the Federal government as well as a senior-staff member in the U.S. Senate. He has a long record of service at both the national and state levels in working for the delivery of legal services to the elderly and to the indigent. In 1997 he was the Republican nominee to the Virginia House of Delegates, 57th district. He has been a delegate to the Republican National Convention from South Carolina and Virginia and has represented the Republican Party in many other capacities.

Writers

Kristin Kovacic received a 2006 Pushcart Prize for her essay "A Short History of My Breath," originally published in *The Journal*.

Melissa Kwasny's book of poetry, *Thistle*, winner of the 2006 Idaho Prize, was published by Lost Horse Press.

Celeste Lipow MacLeod's nonfiction book, *Multicultural Australia: Its History and Future*, was published by McFarland in 2006.

Robert Marshall's novel, *A Separate Reality*, was published by Carroll & Graf in 2006.

"Deirdre," by **Margaret McCarthy**, was presented by La Mama E.T.C. in New York City in 2007.

Irene McKinney received a 2006 NEA Fellowship in Poetry.

Nerve.com published an excerpt of **Karen Moulding's** novel, *The Naked Shopper*, in 2007.

Wanda Praisner's second book, *On the Bittersweet Avenues of Pomona*, winner of the Spire Press Poetry Chapbook Competition, was published in 2006.

Sarabande Books published *On Looking*, a collection of essays by **Lia Purpura** in 2006.

Name Withheld, Poems by **Lisa Sewell**, was published by Four Way Books in 2006.

Louise Farmer Smith's prize-winning story, "The Apartment on Riverside Drive," was published in the Summer 2007 issue of *Glimmer Train*.

Twelve poems by **Carolyn Stoloff** appeared in 2006 in eight publications, including the *Southern Poetry Review*, and the *Denver Quarterly*.

"Marionette Lines," a poem by **Janet Sylvester**, was published in the Fall 2006 issue of the *Harvard Review*.

Pat Valdata's poem "Surf" received First Prize in the Adult Category of the 2006 Eastern Shore Regional Poetry Contest.

Sara Young's novel, *Clementine*, received the 2007 Sid Fleischman Humor Award from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

New Staff

Continued from page six

Jeannette MacDougall is the Resident Director of the Moulin à Nef property in Auvillar, France. Between May and October 2007, she will serve as caretaker of the property, liaison to the village and host to VCCA Fellows. She earned a bachelor's degree in Art from Trinity University in San Antonio,



Texas, and a master's degree in Art Supervision from Bank Street/Parsons School of Art and Design in New York. She has participated in a cultural exchange program for the U.S. State Department in El Salvador and last year led a drawing and painting workshop at Moulin à Nef.



NON-PROFIT ORG
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
AMHERST, VA
2 4 5 2 1

THE CREATIVE RETREAT AT MT. SAN ANGELO

154 SAN ANGELO DRIVE, AMHERST, VIRGINIA 24521
(434)946-7236 FAX (434)946-7239
WWW.VCCA.COM EMAIL VCCA@VCCA.COM

Return Service Requested



Spring 2007

Notes from Mt. San Angelo is a publication of the VCCA, a non-profit, working retreat for professional writers, visual artists and composers.

Board of Directors

Theodore J. Craddock
President
Carter McNeely
Past President
Linda E.A. Wachtmeister
Trustee
Elizabeth Gilliland Fennell
Vice President
Richard J. Grayson, Jr., M.D.
Secretary
David Montrose van Roijen
Treasurer

Page Wilson Bond
Jacqueline M. Bradley
Louise H. Bradley
Christine Brennan
S. Allen Chambers, Jr.
Melanie F. Christian
Kevin E. Cole
Calvert de Coligny, Jr.
Patricia B. Kermes
Pamela Hillman Loeb
Carter Mascotte
Robert Matheson
Timothy Mattheus Michel
C. Penn Owen III
Joseph H. Seipel
Kia Silverman
Marcie Mott Slaughter
Sarah Perkins Smither
Cynthia Tremblay
Donald Ubben
Gary Wake, M.D.
James W. Whitehead
Naomi Wolf

Fellows Council

David Petersen, *Chair*, Brooklyn, NY
Karen Bell, *Vice Chair*, New York, NY
Bruce Bauman, Los Angeles, CA
Kerry Dolan, San Francisco, CA
Serena Joan Fox, Washington, DC
Marion Held, Montclair, NJ
Laura Kaminsky, Bronx, NY
Barbara Schaff, Philadelphia, PA
Clarissa Sligh, Philadelphia, PA
Patricia Spears-Jones, Brooklyn, NY

Charlene W. Monk
Executive Director
Craig Pleasants
Program Director
Sheila Gulley Pleasants
Artists' Services Director
Sara F. Goodwin
Director of Development
Amy Ruth Allen
Communications Director

From the Executive Director

Continued from page two

This is what we have learned: We must endow more fellowships while simultaneously encouraging and nurturing work in new and emerging genres. We must find ways to accommodate collaborative groups and underserved artists, and redouble our efforts to diversify our Fellows and our Board. And we must continually update our physical plant to ensure the comfort and productivity of our Fellows. That's on the grounds of the VCCA. But there is much to do beyond the tranquility of Mt. San Angelo. We need to expand our visibility across the nation, shaking the misconception that we are a regional and government-supported organization. Only through increased awareness of the VCCA

in philanthropic circles will we achieve those goals that will push this organization forward.

But perhaps the most important thing we have learned is that which we already knew: The VCCA is an essential organization. Our support of individual artists, our mission of maintaining a place for uninterrupted freedom of expression and risk taking is critical if the potential of the human spirit is to reach its full stature.

This is an exciting time in the life of the VCCA. We find ourselves at a unique May-to-December juncture where all that is old is new again, and we are becoming who we are.

Robert Johnson

Continued from page three

as friends, feasting once more on the recollection of full-bellied joy he always served up silently in mounds of fried chicken and deep-dished macaroni and cheese."

These memories and memorials will perpetuate the loving generosity Robert shared with all Fellows during his three decades at the VCCA, while sustaining the VCCA's legacy that welcomes all qualified artists, regardless of their

financial situation.

Robert joined the staff in 1977, the year the VCCA moved to Mt. San Angelo, and served faithfully in so many capacities—caregiver, chef, host, driver and poker player extraordinaire. No facet of the VCCA was untouched by Robert's special blend of charm, wit and grace, and his mark upon this place endures even after he is gone.

— Amy Allen

Bill Sackett

Continued from page six

cess. Along with writing and researching art, his enjoyment was his family, a cup of coffee with good friends, a walk in the woods, and a better than average round of golf.

He preferred the telephone to e-mail, and, as Secretary to the VCCA Board, he often corresponded with the warmth of a handwritten note. A kind and generous spirit, Bill Sackett saw the good and beauty in all things. His legacy will continue to support his lifelong love of the

arts by providing funding to help secure a strong future for the VCCA and to support an annual residency through the William Graves Sackett Endowed Fellowship.

— Carol O'Brien

The VCCA Legacy Society honors those who have made an investment that perpetuates the creative process through gift planning. For information about including the VCCA in your estate planning, please contact Carol O'Brien, 434-946-7236, cobrien@vcca.com.