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Citizens for Adult Literacy & Learning, Inc.

The Communicator

INSIDE:

2007 Golf Tournament
 Highlights

First Barbara Cotton
 Award Presented

SAVE THE DATE: 2008
 Golf Tourney May 22

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Steven Preston

Wayne Stark

Marcia Swain

Program Coordinator

New Scholarship Created

Named in honor of retiring board member Russell Law

When long-time Board member Russell Law announced his retirement from the organization, it was necessary to find a unique way to honor such a special individual who served CALL for more than a decade. In August, the Board voted to create and fund the Russell Law Scholarship to be given annually to a CALL student to cover the cost of the GED test fees.

"Russ' dedication to CALL began in full force and never wavered as he pushed us to higher levels of achievement and excellence," said CALL President Glenn Sullivan. "We will miss him, and are pleased that we can honor him in this way."

During his years on the CALL board, Russ was particularly valued as a fundraiser. Under his leadership the organization's annual golf tournament flourished, quickly becoming a significant fundraiser.

Russ and his wife Edith moved to Amherst County in 1980 from Miami, Florida, where they had made their home for 23 years. In 1989, he retired from Northwestern Mutual Life, having served the company in various positions for more than 34 years. A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Russ was a first lieutenant in the Air Corps, serving from 1943 to 1946.

Upon retirement from the insurance business, Russ became very involved in civic organizations



Board President Glenn Sullivan (right) presents retiring Board member Russell Law with a certificate establishing the Russell Law Scholarship in honor of his decade of service.

Continued on the next page

CALL Receives VLF Grant

Earlier this year the Virginia Literacy Foundation (VLF) approved funding for a collaborative grant between CALL and Literacy Volunteers-Campbell County Public Library, allowing the two organizations to pool resources and moneys for student recruitment and staff development.

In addition to supporting the work of staff, the grant will fund various public relations and outreach projects to be implemented

over the course of one year. A series of public service announcements targeting both students and tutors will be distributed to area radio and television stations and significant publicity for International Literacy Month will be generated. The major project funded by the grant is the making of a video. We are excited at the prospect of using broadcast media to promote our services to the community. CALL and Lit-

Continued on page three



First Cotton Award Presented

The inaugural Barbara Cotton Award for excellence in literacy tutoring was awarded to volunteer and retired Sweet Briar College professor Margaret Simpson, at the organization's annual awards ceremony last summer. The award honors Barbara Cotton, who began tutoring for CALL when the organization began in 1991, and is a tribute to her dedication to adult education and her commitment to community service.

Simpson, who taught biology at Sweet Briar College from 1973 until her retirement in 1993, has volunteered as a CALL tutor for four years, working with almost a dozen students to reach their education goals. Modeling Cotton's tradition of unwavering commitment, Simpson contributes to the organization in many other ways, from re-designing CALL's logo to providing web site design and maintenance.

"I was honored to receive the Barbara Cotton award," said Simpson. "I've always enjoyed teaching, and I've found that helping adult learners is somewhat different than teaching college-age students. In general, adults tend to be very highly motivated, but on the other hand, their lives are more complicated, and they often face many more obstacles to learning than do college students. I thoroughly enjoy the challenges and the rewards, and I believe that CALL offers an ex-

remely important community service."

Cotton, who lives in Amherst, has also lived overseas, including in Tunisia, North Africa. She speaks and reads French. At CALL, she has tutored many students in a variety of subjects.

During the award event, literacy students were also honored and presented with certificates.



CALL board president Glenn Sullivan presents literacy tutor Margaret Simpson with the first annual Barbara Cotton Award, honoring this long-time CALL tutor, pictured left.

Tutors, who undergo extensive training and volunteer their time, were recognized as well.

On hand to celebrate these achievements were CALL staff, board members, tutors, family and friends. Following the awards ceremony, Steve Faulconer, a celebrated Monroe-area musician, performed a selection of bluegrass songs. CALL's 2007 annual awards event was made possible with support from the Amherst-Monroe Ruritan Club. ■

CALL Promotes Health Literacy

Health literacy is the ability to read, understand and effectively use basic medical instructions and information. Low health literacy can affect anyone of any age, ethnicity, background, or education level. It is estimated that the health of 90 million people in the United States may be at risk because they have difficulty understanding and acting on health information.

People with low health literacy are often less likely to comply with prescribed treatment and self-care regimens, fail to seek preventive care and are at a much higher risk for hospitalization. They often require addition-

al care that results in annual health care costs that are four times higher than for those with higher literacy skills.



Using information developed by the "Ask Me 3" Campaign of the National Patient Safety Foundation, CALL has created a tip sheet for individuals to take on medical visits. It encourages patients to ask

three basic questions, provides a checklist of important actions to take, and has space to take notes. These cards are free upon request: 929-2630, marcia@callamherst.org. ■

—From www.askme3.org

New & Notable

Thank You

We would like to acknowledge and thank retiring board members Russell Law (see page one) and Lynn Buck for their dedicated service. Lynn provided many layers of support as a board member, from grant writing to participating in the holiday parade to fundraising. Her energy and insights forever strengthened CALL as an organization.

Web Site Make-Over

Our website is revised, updated and amplified thanks to Margaret Simpson. Visit us at www.callamherst.org. We are now linked to Leave a Legacy, a program designed to help donors make estate gifts. Follow the link on our website for more information.

Annual Gifts to CALL

As we enter the season of thanksgiving and goodwill, please remember CALL and its vital mission as you make your annual charitable donations. A remittance envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Thank you.

Holiday Gift Suggestion

For friends and family members who seem to have everything, please consider making a donation to CALL in their honor. We will send them a card acknowledging your gift.

Wish List

Like so many organizations operating on a shoe-string budget, CALL has a wish list of items that will enhance daily operations. CALL needs: colored and white computer/copier paper; kitchen timers; up-to-date dictionaries; lined notebooks (70 page spirals); 3x5 lined or blank index cards; Math flashcards; Casio fx-260 solar calculators. Please bring donations to CALL in the Monroe Educational Center or call

Continued from page one

including the Clifford Ruritan Club, Alzheimer's Association of Central Virginia, the Amherst County Commission Against Domestic Violence and the Military Order of the World Wars, serving many of them as president. He is active in Ascension Episcopal Church in Amherst. ■



CALL Program Coordinator Marcia Swain

“CALL provides Amherst County residents the opportunity to break down impediments and achieve personal success.”

From the Program Coordinator

While I wrap up preparations for my trip to the National ProLiteracy Conference in Washington, D.C., I am anticipating all the new things I will bring back to the work of CALL. Funding for this conference came from a collaborative grant from the Virginia Literacy Foundation. (See article beginning on page one.)

I am thankful for this large foundation as well as businesses big and small, other foundations, community organizations, and individuals that give of their hearts to sustain CALL.

During our monthly meetings, the CALL Board of Directors has generated innovative ideas to expand our recruitment of students and tutors. They have willingly given of themselves to make CALL successful in so many diverse ways. Perhaps you have encountered

them manning tables of literature, soliciting sponsors for the annual golf tournament or explaining CALL's services. I am grateful for the way they generously share their talents and skills and leadership for CALL.

Our core of tutors is composed of everyday people who carve out time in their busy schedules to dedicate to CALL. Expecting no fanfare they plow ahead dedicating their time to the needs of the student. They are flexible, happy and inspiring. I am so thankful to know them and work with them.

Lastly, I come to our students. Overcoming fear of failure, change, and the unknown, they enter my office and ask for help. Each person is unique in his/her goals and situation, but similar in his/her desire to make a difference in life. I am awed and thankful for their courage to take that first step. ■

CALL Provides Speakers, Materials

CALL has a speaker's bureau and printed materials available for the asking. If you would like a CALL staff member, tutor or board member to speak to your civic group, church, or other organization,

please contact Marcia Swain at 929-2630 or marcia@callamherst.org. You may also request copies of materials about illiteracy in Amherst, and CALL programs and services. All are free. ■

VLF Grant Supports Collaborative Work

Continued from page one

eracy Volunteers will both be strengthened and expanded thanks to the generosity of the VLF.

The VLF provides funding and technical support to private, volunteer literacy organizations throughout Virginia via challenge grants and direct consultation. These orga-

nizations support K-4th grade-level adult readers with one-on-one instruction and tutoring. The VLF also works in partnership with all public and private literacy organizations in Virginia to attack illiteracy in the workplace and to provide family literacy training. ■

New Board Members

Tracy Murry of Madison Heights and Wayne Stark of Amherst, have been elected to the CALL board and will each serve a three-year term.



Tracy Murry, postmaster of the Amherst Post Office, began her postal career in 1994, quickly assuming new positions and responsibilities, and in 2002 became the first African-American female postmaster of Scottsville. She assumed her Amherst position in 2005.

A Nelson County native, she graduated from Nelson County High School and earned a degree in business administration from Averett University. She volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and is a member of Scott Zion Baptist Church. She enjoys reading and writing poetry in her spare time. Tracy and her daughter, Dominique, live in Madison Heights.

Since 2001, Wayne Stark has been the Director of the Career Services Center at Sweet Briar College. He has held similar positions at Indiana University and the University of Kansas where he also was an instructor. He also taught at Montrose Christian School and the National Christian Academy. Currently, he serves on two of Sweet Briar's three "Shape of the Future" task forces, one for college advising and one for internships. His many professional affiliations include the Career Development Professional Association. In 2002, he received the Virginia Association of Colleges and Employers Leadership Award. Stark has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Arizona, a master's degree in history from George Mason University and completed doctoral coursework requirements at the University of Kansas. ■





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2007 Tournament Raises 10K+

**SAVE THE DATE
IN 2008!**
Tournament May 22



Above: Golfers relax before the tournament. Left: Brad Maines of Greif Riverville Mill is a long-time participant who helps the tournament run smoothly.

A record-breaking \$10,002.60 was raised during CALL's annual golf tournament fundraiser. Held at Winton Country Club on May 24, the 2007, tournament was generously sponsored by Greif Riverville Mill.

Almost 40 golfers—both local and out-of-towners—hit the links and vied for an assortment of prizes. More than 25 other local businesses supported the event. Thank you to all our supporters! We'll see you next year! ■

How to . . .

Volunteer

CALL needs volunteers to work one-on-one with adult learners. Subject areas include math, reading and writing. Thorough training and materials provided. Please help make a difference in the life of one of your Amherst County neighbors. Call today, 929-2630.

Sign up for Services

Between CALL and the Amherst County Adult Education Program, the Monroe Educational Center provides between 15 and 18 hours a day of adult educational instruction in one-on-one sessions during the day and in a classroom setting in the evening. All services are free and confidential. Call 929-2630.

Pass it on

If you have enjoyed this newsletter, please share it with a friend, neighbor, co-worker or other interested individuals and organizations. Thank you!

Mt. San Angelo

VIRGINIA CENTER FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1, SPRING 2008

Exhibit Celebrates Schwandorf Exchange

In 1988, two upstart artist fellowship programs agreed on an experiment. The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts along Virginia's Blue Ridge and the Oberpfälzer Künstlerhaus in the picturesque Bavarian village of Schwandorf each agreed to send two of their own artists to be in residence at the other place. In 1989 the first two Americans went to Germany. In 1990, the first two Germans arrived in Virginia. Twenty years later, one hundred artists have traveled back and forth, with exhibitions, translations, concerts and events in their wake. A wonderful relationship has developed among the artists and administrators of the two organizations often

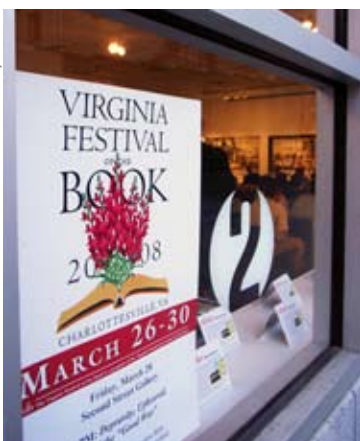
Continued on page six



Anne Beck, 2008, water-based media, pigment print and collaged solvent print on cut paper, 18 x 30", in the Keibel-Villa exhibition.

Fellows Examine "Depravities of War"

John Mitchell



VCCA Fellows participated in a 2008 VA Book! panel discussion

On the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq, the VCCA and Second Street Gallery collaborated with the Virginia Festival of the Book in Charlottesville to produce one of the more talked about and enthusiastically attended panels of the festival.

"Depravity, Upheaval and the Good War" brought together three practitioners and an astute observer of art that engages with conflict without resorting to cliché and didacticism.

Writer and VCCA Fellow, Dave Griffith (*A Good War is Hard to Find*), Sandow Birk (*The Depravities of War* woodblock prints that were on view at the gallery) and VCCA composer, Judith Shatin (*Songs of War and Peace*) were led in discussion by William Cleveland, author of *Art and Upheaval*, examining artists who re-stitch the cultural fabric of their communities through their art.

Judith Shatin spoke about her desire to create community experiences as well as individual ones.

Dave Griffith came at the issue from the point of view of the detached observer who felt called to reflect on the problem. "I found that I was implicated in something that happened



Judith Shatin



David Griffith

thousands of miles away," he said.

Sandow Birk, while producing what seemed to be the most scathing work, might also be seen as simply a mirror of raw news images, presenting them back to the world in a form that makes them visible. As he said, "artists open a door to perceiving things in a new way. It's not their responsibility to change the world, only to change consciousness."

Bill Cleveland took the more activist stance and asked, "Where is the safe space where we can reflect on the problems the world faces?"

His answer is the arts. Artists throughout history have taken the time necessary to reflect and look from multiple perspectives

— Craig Pleasants

Composers

Ariel Blumenthal's *Izkor*, a 40-minute piece for orchestra, choir and soloists, will premiere at Carnegie Hall in December 2008.

The Brooklyn Opera Theatre premiered **Tom Cipullo's** opera, *Glory Denied*, in 2007. It will receive a professional premiere in June 2008 by the Remarkable Theater Brigade at the Jan Hus Playhouse Theater.

Keith Fitch won the American Music Center Composer Assistance Program Grant for *Summer and Shade—Three Dream Dances for Orchestra*.

Three Inner Moments, the second string quartet composed by **Drew Hemenger**, was premiered by the Vogler Quartet of Berlin, Germany, in April 2008.

A composition by **Hubert Ho** was performed at Carnegie Hall in April 2007 by harpsichordist Mary Farbood as part of the Pro Musicis Concerts of Emerging Artists.

Laura Elise Schwendinger received a 2008 Guggenheim Fellowship.

Craig Urquhart has been commissioned to write a piece for piano to premiere at World AIDS Day in December 2008.

From Executive Director Suny Monk

Strategy, Wifi and Facebook at the VCCA

Progress at the VCCA is an interesting phenomenon. We work so hard to preserve Mt. San Angelo and the essence of the residency experience, but at the same time we are always planning improvements, strategizing, dreaming, creating, sometimes making U-turns—much like what our Fellows do behind closed studio doors.

And so progress moves at its own pace, sometimes by leaps and bounds, or sometimes, to borrow a line from the poet Carl Sandburg, progress comes to us “on little cat feet.” This year, we have seen both.

Our 27-member Board of Directors drafted and adopted a strategic plan in December,

identifying four goals to enhance the organization's visibility and viability, and the Board's seven standing committees are hard at work implementing this plan. We are recommitting ourselves to improving what we do already: attracting and serving the world's finest writers, visual artists and composers; securing our place in the field of artist communities; enhancing our fundraising successes; and educating the public about the VCCA's value and necessity.

Our strategic plan is based upon the foundation of serving our Fellows. We understand that community and artmaking—whether in a studio

in New York City or at the VCCA—are now inextricably tied to technology. And so we are making strides in this area. Mt. San Angelo is well on its way to becoming a wireless environment, with wifi available in the Fellows Residence and in most of the studio barn.

On a smaller scale, but no less significant: we have tiptoed into the “Facebook Age,” led by Fellow Michael Janairo, who created a VCCA “group” where Fellows may post news and events. With Facebook (www.facebook.com) and our new blog (www.vcca.blogspot.com) we help Fellows sustain the sense of community they feel at Mt. San Angelo, once they have re-entered the “Real World.”



Karen Bell

All around us, the world is changing, progressing. At Mt. San Angelo, the needs of our Fellows are changing dramatically while also staying the same. We will never waver from our mission to provide the time and space for the creation of new work. But we will always strive to produce the most conducive environment to artmaking.

At the end of Sandburg's iconic poem, the fog—our progress—“sits looking over harbor and city on silent haunches and then moves on.” At Mt. San Angelo, we keep quiet vigil as well, and always move on to what is best for our Fellows, and for those who sustain us, and the arts. You are all a part of this vigil, and part of our progression.

Greetings from the Director of Advancement

It was cold and snowy the day I drove 13 hours from upstate New York to lovely Amherst, Virginia, last February. I left family, friends and a 26-year career in healthcare. I arrived to find balmy temperatures, a welcoming VCCA family, new friends and this magical place, which whispered to my heart and inspired the journey. Mt. San Angelo welcomes me mornings as I pass over the cattle guard and wind my way past the cows and horses to my office in the gray farmhouse and it speaks to me as I observe Fellows coming to and from their studios in deep thought or in lively conversation.

This must be a preview of heaven.

I follow in the footsteps of Sara Goodwin, who laid the groundwork



for the growth in development that the VCCA anticipates in the next few years. Her leadership and vision will guide me as I learn my way. My hope is that I will meet many of you in the near future and

that you will share with me how the VCCA speaks to you! I am thrilled to be part of the extraordinary team here and I thank you all for the part you have played in creating this very special community!

A seasoned development professional, Hannah comes to the VCCA following a 26-year career in health care, including 11 years as the head of the Foundation of CVPH Medical Center in Plattsburgh, N.Y. She will direct all fundraising efforts and development activities at both Mt. San Angelo and the Moulin à Nef.

Hannah has been a member and past treasurer of the Clinton County (New York) Council on the Arts and has served various school boards in that region. An active Rotarian, she is a past Paul Harris Fellow. Hannah earned a bachelor of science degree from Cornell University in 1979. Contact Hannah at 434-946-7236 or hhanford@vcca.com.

Visual Artists

Tom Aprile had a solo show of sculpture and drawings at the UM Gallery in Seoul, Korea, November 2007.

Catherine Courtenaye exhibited paintings at Denver's Stremmel Gallery, October and November 2007.

Eva Davidova had two solo exhibitions in Spain in 2007 at the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo in Seville and the N2 Gallery in Barcelona.

Clodagh Emoe exhibited in a group show at the Douglas Hyde Gallery in Dublin, June to August 2007.

Luis Castro and Isabel Bigelow exhibited sculpture and paintings at the Joyce Goldstein Gallery in Chatham New York, October and November 2007.

Amy Cheng received a 2008 Fulbright Fellowship.

Filmmaker **Rodney Evans** received a 2008 Guggenheim award.

David Garratt had a solo show, "Who Says Words With My Mouth?" at the Clay Studio in Philadelphia in March.

Jun'ichiro Ishida had a solo show at the Treasure Room Gallery in New York City, April and May 2008.

Gareth Morris Jones exhibited his garden-, hearth-, and altar-like environments at Yebisu Art Labo Gallery, Nagoya, Japan.

Maria Maier, exhibited at the L-Gallery in Moscow, summer 2007.

Sarah McEaney received the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and was also the commencement speaker.

Jerry Monteith created "Array," a site specific installation of painted steel, for the Dallas Contemporary, June-August 2007.

Serge J-F. Levy exhibited at the International Center of Photography in New York City, November 2007.

Lee Renninger exhibited in the Mississippi Invitational Biennial Exhibition, Mississippi Museum of Art, January 2007.

Fellow and Patron Meet at VCCA

Writer *Patricia Klindienst* is the inaugural recipient of *The Phillip and Eric Heiner Endowed Fellowship* and was in residence this winter. Funded through the generosity of longtime VCCA supporter *Frances Heiner of Lynchburg*, it provides a two-week residency to a deserving artist. A scholar and teacher at *Yale University*, Patricia left academia to write for a broader audience. *The Earth Knows My Name* tells the stories of fifteen ethnic Americans who transmit their cultural heritage through their gardens. It received a 2007 American Book Award. Patricia describes her VCCA residency experience below.



When I arrived at Mt. San Angelo one starry night in January, the back seat of my car was filled with boxes of papers I'd been accumulating for four years, ever since a friend had given me the story of her grandparents' escape from Czarist Russia one hundred years ago. I thought I had the material for a new book, but until I had time to sort through hundreds of pages of documents, I couldn't be sure.

The hardest parts of starting a new book for me are finding the voice and the shape for the story. It's a long, anxious time until these things come clear. I found both at VCCA.

I spent the first week of my residency on the floor of my studio, emptying boxes, islands of white paper all around me as I tried to discern some order. Occasionally I'd rise up to pin maps and photographs on the great white bulletin board, pacing in front of it when the scale of the story overwhelmed me, grateful when it was time for the quiet walk back to the Residence.

Then one morning, sitting in the doorway of my studio, warmed by the

morning sun, I began to write the quiet words I'd been hearing in my head for days. Then I read them over and decided they were too slight, so I got up and took a long walk.

Two things convinced me to trust the voice. The response of the other Fellows, and meeting my sponsor, Frances Heiner.

Weeks after I'd typed what I'd written by hand, I read the opening of my new book to the assembled audience of Fellows. When doubt strides through my door, it's the memory of

their response that emboldens me to go on. And the memory of meeting Frances Heiner and her family, whose own history parallels the story I am telling.

Who was the woman underwriting this gift of time and space and the company of other artists? One evening Frances Heiner came to VCCA for dinner with her brother and

sister-in-law, Elliot and Rosel Schewel. When Frances asked about my work, and I began my story, Elliot and Rosel leaned in close—what was this about a pair of young lovers, Jews who escaped from Czarist Russia? Frances and Elliot's family as well as Rosel's, it turns out, fled Eastern Europe in the late nineteenth century, too. Rosel said they had a wall of photographs of their immigrant kin in their Lynchburg home. Would I come and see them?

And so, to the rare pleasure of working for six weeks in the company of other artists, I met Frances, Elliot, and Rosel a second time,

poring over the images so like the portraits of the people I'm writing about. I learned about the Jewish community of Lynchburg, how these good people helped restore the houses that became the African American Heritage Museum, and helped install the new mosaic in their synagogue. Now, when the wraith called loneliness steals up behind me, and I wonder if there's any point in continuing this work, these moments remind me who I'm writing for, and why.

— Patricia Klindienst



Patricia Klindienst (standing) with patron Frances Heiner

New Members Enhance Board

The VCCA welcomes two new Board members who bring significant experience and passion for the arts to their leadership roles at Mt. San Angelo:



Amy Allen

Paralleling his executive career at IBM, Robert O. Satterfield, now retired to Afton, Virginia, has also distinguished himself in public service in the arts, humanities and education. He has served numerous organizations in leadership roles, including the United Way, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Business and the Historic Richmond Foundation.

He has been particularly active with the Science Museum of Virginia and the Richmond Ballet, which he has served since 1998. In 1992 he was appointed as a Trustee of the Museum by then Governor Wilder and was Chairman of the Trustee Board from 1999 to 2002. As Chairman of the Ballet board he has led the organization to new levels of success, including a 55,000-square-foot dance center considered one of the nation's best.



A long-time VCCA Fellow, Pinkney Herbert, Memphis, Tennessee, comes to the VCCA Board table with three decades of experience as an exhibiting artist. He has taught at the University of Memphis, University of Tennessee, and the Helsinki Academy of Fine Arts, Penland School of Crafts and has held numerous visiting artist positions in the United States and abroad. The director of Marshall Arts studio and gallery space in Memphis, Pinkney has participated in numerous art exhibitions throughout the United States, Europe, and Southeast Asia and his art is in numerous corporate and private collections. He is represented by galleries in Memphis, Atlanta and New York City.

Someone's in the Kitchen with Rhonda

For the VCCA's new chef, Rhonda Scovill, "The First Impression" is one of her most important ingredients. "To me, every night is a catered event," says Chef Rhonda, who, with a staff of four, serves about 25 Fellows in residence at a time. "It's not just a meal. It's not just dinner."

Trained as a catering chef, Rhonda is settling the VCCA into a new culinary rhythm guided by the philosophy that local and organic foods are optimal. "In this time of fuel consumption and global warming I am so much more comfortable with my food not traveling very far," she says. "Food that has spent the least amount of time getting into my kitchen looks and tastes the best."

Hailing from nearby Batesville, Chef Rhonda cut her teeth at some of the area's most prestigious restaurants, including the C&O Restaurant, one of Charlottesville's oldest fine dining establishments.

Assisting her is sous chef Zane Burchett, who grew up in the kitchen, working side by side with his mother. Zane brings varied talents to the VCCA and is a vegetarian who grinds his own ingredients, including sugar, wheat berries and his own seasonings. "Zane and I share many of the same perspectives, and enough things are different that I think we complement each other," says Chef Rhonda.

Helping the VCCA reach its new culinary heights is Leigh Allen, husband of Communications Director Amy Allen, who is planting and tending a full-fledged vegetable garden on the grounds. Sprouting in three large beds are cucumbers, lettuce, edible flowers, corn, potatoes, broccoli, eggplant, squash, several varieties of beans and tomatoes and much, much more. All summer long, and into the fall, Fellows will enjoy fresh produce that has been picked, literally, within hours, even minutes, of being served. Chef Rhonda is in kitchen heaven. "Together," she says, "I think we can create some dynamic kitchen love for VCCA!"



Karen Bell

Zane Burchett



Karen Bell

Chef Rhonda Scovill

Visit www.vcca.blogspot.com for one of Chef Rhonda's salad dressing recipes!

Writers

Dan Albergotti's poem "What They're Doing" and Pam Durban's essay, "Clocks," received Pushcart prizes. Jane Ciabattari received a Pushcart Prize Honorable Mention for her story, "How I Left Onandaga County."

"Long Live A Hunger To Feed Each Other," poems by Jerome Badanes, was published posthumously by Open City Magazine and Books in 2007.

O. Henry Prize stories by Shannon Cain and Ha Jin will appear in *The O. Henry Prize Stories 2008*, an annual collection of the 20 best contemporary stories.

Poet Forrest Gander received a 2008 Guggenheim award.

Hillary Jordan's debut novel *Mudbound* has been selected as a Summer 2008 Barnes & Noble Discover Pick. *Mudbound* was a March 2008 Book Sense selection, as were *Fear and Yoga in New Jersey* by Debra Galant and *The Man Who Made Lists* by Joshua Kendall.

Rosary O'Neill's play, "John Singer Sargent and Madame X," had its first reading in July 2007.

Elephants and Butterflies, poems by Alan Michael Parker, was published by BOA Editions in June 2008.

The Hanging Woods, a novel by Scott Sanders, was published by Houghton-Mifflin in March 2008.

Tourist Season, Enid Shomer's second collection of short stories, was published by Random House in April 2007 and selected for Barnes and Noble's "Discover Great Writers" program. Two of the stories were selected for *New Stories from the South*, *The Year's Best*.

Taije Silverman's poem "I Want to Kill the Moths" was published in the Winter 2007-08 issue of *Ploughshares*, guest edited by Philip Levine.

Sara Young will receive the Horn Book Honor award for *Clementine* in October 2008. *My Enemy's Cradle* was published by Harcourt in January 2008 and *Clementine's Letter* by Hyperion in April 2008.

From Director Suny Monk The Auvillar Workshops

Spring has come to Virginia as we return to Auvillar! As I look up the hill to the studio barn at the VCCA, I think about what the VCCA in Virginia and the Moulin à Nef have in common.



They are both situated in beautiful natural settings and housed in historic buildings. Both the VCCA and the Moulin à Nef house artists and writers working hard at their craft. In both places, the VCCA staff strives to create the ideal working conditions for these creative people. We offer a studio space, a bedroom, and the promise that they will not be interrupted. This sanctuary and quiet allow artists and writers to create some of their best work. There is, of course, a profound difference in the two sites. The Moulin à Nef is situated in an active community of involved citizens. Nothing is asked of our artists in residence in Virginia, but while our artists are in Auvillar, we ask them to consider a way to interact with the people of the village.

I am returning to Auvillar in mid-June for an annual community dinner. Meanwhile, I send thanks to the Mayor and his staff, the Municipal Council, the Office of Tourism and all who have helped us in our work at the Moulin à Nef.

2008 Fellows in Residence

May 22, 2008 to June 4, 2008: Sara Crisp, painter, Cumberland, ME; Cathryn Hankla, writer, Roanoke, VA; LuAnn Keener-Mikenas, poet, Madison Heights, VA; Meredith Turshen, artist & writer, Hoboken, NJ

June 27, 2008 to July 17, 2008: Amanda Fields, writer, Cairo, Egypt; Brian Silberman, playwright, Maritta, PA; Alison Chandler, painter, Brooklyn, NY; Susan Schmidt, writer, Beaufort, NC

August 5, 2008 to September 2, 2008: Margaret MacInnis, writer, Iowa City, IA; Deirdra McAfee, writer, Richmond, VA; Paula Roland, visual artist, Santa Fe, NM

Building on a successful 2007 workshop season, the VCCA offers three workshops this year, led by VCCA Fellows and staff, and open to artists of all levels. Visit www.vcca.com for more information.

En Plein Air: Writing & Painting in SW France, July 22-28

Led by painter Mary Page Evans and poet Elizabeth Seydel Morgan, this combination workshop gives participants the opportunity to work with a palette of words and colors.

Plein Air Painting Workshop, September 5-16

One of the greatest joys for an artist is to plant an easel in an exotic place and gradually tune into the unique beauty as it reveals itself. Led by Bronx painter Daniel Hauben, this workshop offers just such an experience for its participants.

Sculpture and Architecture Tour, September 29-October 4

Experience the sculpture and architecture of the region through the eyes of an artist and an art historian. Led by VCCA Program Director and award-winning sculptor Craig Pleasants and Sweet Briar College Professor of Medieval Art Tracy Hamilton, participants will visit many historic and significant structures in the region.

Salut Les Auvillalais

We have flung open our blue shutters and welcomed everyone back to Moulin à Nef. We promise to arouse your interests with another season of creative talent.



I recall how 2007 brought a wave of remarkable Fellows, including a dancer, a maker of films about volcanos, poets and hundreds of butterflies. I was enchanted with the festivities and proudly claimed my place among the group in "Paint Auvillar!" I am eager to reunite with old friends, neighbors and artists and our growing patronage. Please come celebrate the new year with us at 18 Esplanade du Port and bring your friends.

—Jeannette MacDougall

2007 and 2008 VCCA France Members

Christine Brennan	Julien Eric	Helen Hilliard	Rosalie Lewis	Susan Newbold	Shepperd Strudwick
Melanie Christian	Elizabeth Fennell	Elizabeth Hulick	Pam Loeb	M et Mme Picard	Massa Sylvie
Ted Craddock	Lynne Friedman	Marilyn Kallet	Frances MacLean	Sheila & Craig Pleasants	Donald T. Ubben
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Alain Delsol	Hannah Hanford	Patricia P. Kermes	Robert Matheson	Kia Silverman	Linda Wachtmeister
Donna Eastman	Pinkney Herbert	Malcom Lewis	Carter McNeely	French Slaughter	Sarah Wolf
			Suny & Joe Monk	Francis Sohier	

Email vcca@vcca.com to join this organization that supports VCCA programs in France.



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Spring 2008

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Leaving a Legacy to the VCCA Through Gift Planning

How can you make a difference in helping to sustain the future of the VCCA?

Even the smallest gift can contribute significantly to the VCCA's ability to support artists for the long term. As we grow, so do our demands to keep up with the changing needs of our artists. You can help support the future stability of the VCCA by joining our efforts to plan for the future. It can be as simple as a bequest in your will. It's

an uncomplicated way to provide a solid financial future for the VCCA that will help continue our support of some of the world's most exceptional artists. The Legacy Society honors those who have made an investment that perpetuates the creative process through gift planning. To include the VCCA in your estate planning, please contact Carol O'Brien, 434-946-7236 or cobrien@vcca.com. – Carol O'Brien

Fellows Council Seeking Nominations

The Fellows Council is seeking nominations for new members. You are encouraged to self-nominate, or nominate someone you know is willing to serve. Members serve for four-year terms. While the Council tries to meet in person once a year, most communication is done via the Internet. Please submit your nominations to the VCCA by Sept. 2, 2008 via vcca@vcca.com.

Created in 1999 as an advisory group, the Fellows Council is a point of communication between Fellows and the VCCA Board and staff, advising the Board regarding matters of importance to Fellows, including renovation of the physical plant,

outreach to the highest quality artists and diverse populations, and fundraising.

The Council is composed of 10 to 12 Fellows working in a variety of disciplines. One of its annual tasks is to select the winner of the VCCA Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Recently, the Council was instrumental in raising funds for the Robert Johnson Endowment and memorial and a new roof for the studio barn.

Rotating off the Council this year are Barbara Schaff, Bruce Bauman, Serena Fox, and Clarissa Sligh. Many thanks to all for your service to the Council. – Karen Bell, Chair, VCCA Fellows Council

Oberpfälzer Künstlerhaus *Continued from page one*

resulting in friendships that have lasted for many, many years.

In celebration of that exchange the Oberpfälzer Künstlerhaus and VCCA are collaborating on a series of exhibitions. Program Director Craig Pleasants has been working with Heiner Riepl, the director of the Oberpfälzer Künstlerhaus, to curate two exhibitions in Germany and another is in the works for the United States. The first opened on June 8th at the Kebbel-Villa, the principal cultural facility of the village of

Schwandorf. The exhibition features about twenty-five artists, half of them American and half of them German. Americans include the very first participants, Jane Goldman and Carol Pylant, as well as Anne Beck, Craig Cahoon, Laura Moriarty, Ann Marie Rousseau, Steve Gilbert, Leah Jacobson, Amie Oliver, Louise Kames, Shoshanna Ahart, Blinn Jacobs, and Lynne Avadenka. The second exhibition will be held this fall in the city of Regensburg at the Kunst und Gewerbeverein.

– Craig Pleasants