

# THE FINE ARTS FORUM



A Newsletter of the Fine Arts Club of Fargo

601 4<sup>th</sup> Street South, Fargo ND 58103

## President's Message



*Joanne Drenkow,  
President*

members, and in particular of the members of the Board. Any task that needs to be done not only gets done, it's been "hit out of the ballpark!" I don't know who is credited with the remark about standing in the shadow of giants, but I am clearly aware I am firmly planted in that shadow. I know you will support Wini as you have supported me. To use another sports metaphor, I know she will do a great job "carrying the baton" into our next one hundred years.

I do thank you,

*Joanne*

By the time the next newsletter comes out the Fine Arts Club will have a new President! **Wini Christensen** will lead us into our second century.

A time like this naturally causes a pause to reflect. If we go way back to the beginning we reflect on those remarkable women nearly 100 years ago -- could they have imagined their efforts would prevail as they have? Could they have imagined the good that has been accomplished? Could they have imagined the friendships that have been formed? Could they have imagined a lovely house would be donated solely for their purposes? Could they have imagined! Look at Article VII in the back of your yearbook and see who they were; the date there is witnessed in March, 1927. Likely those could have been the same women who, several years before, originated the concept and established the organization. You will be seeing and reading a lot more about our history as the coming months ensue.

Of course it is thanks to people like you who have kept the organization going. Thanks go out to all of you for being participants in the various sections as well as all the many activities. Thanks go out to those of you who have willingly accepted the leadership roles required. Thanks go out to those of you who can always be counted on to lend your capable helping hands. Thanks go out to all of you who advocate for the Fine Arts Club.

I've said it before and I'll say it again, it has been my distinct privilege and honor to serve as your President. I am constantly amazed at the talents of the Fine Arts Club

### Officer Candidates for 2010 -2011

Nominating Committee Chair **Betty Kerns** announced the slate of officers:

- President: Wini Christensen
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP: Rose Gallagher
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Donna Hageman, Geri Thurn
- 3rd VP: Jeanne Hole, Annette Ingulsrud
- 4th VP: Lavonne Rustad, Ruth Morton
- Membership: Gail Monson
- Recording Secretary: Donna Nelson
- Treasurer: Joni Bertel
- Historian: Pat Chinquist
- Newsletter/Publicity: Jan Ulferts Stewart

Resident Manager, Paivi Young

### Mark Your Calendar

- April 14.....Annual Meeting
- April 27.....Board Meeting
- July 14..... Summer Coffee
- Sept 10 – 11 ..... Bargain & Book Sale
- Oct 1.....Fall membership lunch
- Nov 13.....Bling! Bling!

In the year 2011.....Fine Arts Club is 100

The Fine Arts Forum is issued to members three times per year, in September, November and April. For more information, contact 601 4<sup>th</sup> St S, Fargo ND 58102.

## Member News

### ART - Pat Gjevre

Joshua Zeis Termed has been named as this year's scholarship winner of the \$400 award. An outstanding NDSU student, he is a veteran of the Iraq war & brings a unique perspective on the art world. His area of concentration is ceramics. When he spoke at the awards luncheon he shared his hopes and dreams of creating art and discussed his techniques.

### BOOK

What do William Faulkner, Sandra Day O'Connor and local Concordia graduate Roxana Saberi have in common? They are all authors who appear on the list of books for next year's program. **Margaret Callsen, Barb Johnson, and Phyllis Boatman**, selection committee members, have developed a list of 22 titles ranging from classics to current events, fiction & nonfiction, taking in place in regions from Nova Scotia to Mississippi, and Europe to India. Members will be voting soon to select the nine titles for next year.

### CREATIVE LIVING – Nadine Anderson

River, water, weather, and gardens have been the themes presented this spring. Bob Backman of River Keepers reported that at one time many years ago the Ottertail River in Minnesota was a part of the Red River.



### DRAMA – Barb Olson

This fall and winter a variety of drama related programs were presented by our members. These included: accounts of the lives and accomplishments of Paul Newman, Lionel Barrymore, and Shakespeare, an overview of Trollwood and its future plans, a group reading of the last act of "The Importance of Being Ernest," an introduction to English pantomime, and a nostalgic reminiscing of performing in "High Tor", the first production of the F-M Community Theater. Drama Section reached into the community this fall when Janet Zinke gave a program of dramatic readings to an appreciative audience at Waterford.

"And the Oscar goes to..." Each year, we have a very spirited meeting reviewing the nominations for Academy Awards. **Pat Johnson** presented **Pat Hansen** with a miniature Oscar engraved "Award for Best Mother-in-Law". Pat and her son-in-law Jeff Bridges, who won Best Actor, were featured in many local news media.

### GARDEN – Sandy Knoll

Tomato seeds have been started, plant catalogues have become dog-eared marking our favorites, and the anticipation of being in the garden is fatal to thoughts of hard work ahead, as in the words of Rudyard Kipling, "Gardens are not made by singing, 'Oh how beautiful' and sitting in the shade."

### HISTORY - Sandi Weisenberger

Kholoud Alananbeh, a native Jordanian and a doctoral student from NDSU was a guest speaker. She spoke of her country, where half the population is Palestinian. Jordan today, is a modern country complete with TV, cell phones, and all the modern conveniences.

Study of Palestinians and Israelis means examining their ancient religions, their religious differences, and history. We've learned how conflicts impact many facets of day-to-day life. For example, in mathematics the plus sign (+) too closely resembles a cross so instead they use the symbol of a square for addition, and the only recognized marriages are those within the same religion. Israelis control water and power for the Palestinians. Schools are closed during times of extreme conflict, as are roads Palestinian teacher's travel.

In other business, this year's scholarship recipient is Spencer McGrew from MSUM, who will present to the group on April 28th.

### INVESTMENT – Donna Nelson

It's a milestone! In July, our section will be ten years old! While this may be a short time for some investment perspectives, we are thrilled with our accomplishments in both financial performance and learning of the world of investments. Thank you Fine Arts Club for "launching" us and for recognizing this as an area of interest for members. Remember, we meet all summer long and you are welcome to join us.

### SPORTS – Rhonda Hoge

It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's Mahjongg! If this ancient game has you curious about its beautiful tiles and its ability to captivate generation after generation, join us for the Mahjongg Learning Session on Tuesday, April 13 at 9:30 - 11:30 am at the House. Please bring a game board if you have one. Questions to **Sheryl McIntyre** 235-9065.

Consider joining our golf outing on May 13<sup>th</sup> at Osgood, all are welcome to play this fun, nine hole course.

### HOUSE AND GROUNDS UPDATE

The end is near! Yes, the furnace in the house has seen its final winter. In with the new and out with the old! A new, and more efficient furnace will be installed this summer. Also on the work plan for summer is an update in the upstairs Resident Manager's bathroom. **Gerry Kennedy** and **LaVonne Rustad** are leading a committee to examine landscape improvements around the north and east sides of the house and **Rhonda Hogue** and **Winnie Stadter** are checking on architectural work to repair or replace the front steps.

### NEW MEMBERS

**BOOK** - Lois Messersmitt

**DRAMA** – Merilyn Fischer

THANK  
YOU

Thank you to Don Pederson for repairing and rescuing four chairs in the lower level, two in the entry area, and two in the meeting area. Those chairs were unusable and likely on their way to that great furniture place in the sky; thanks to Don's help they are back and good as new. You can convey your thanks to his wife, **Phyllis Pederson**, member of Drama Section.

THANK  
YOU

## IN THE NEWS

- **Gloria Holloway** (BK, HI) celebrates her 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary
- **Clare Degerness** (BK, CL, GR) displays seven art quilts in the fiber show at VIP (ask about “Spoils of Socotra”)
- **Patricia Hansen’s** daughter appeared at the Academy Awards to support husband, Jeff Bridges, winner of Best Actor
- Congratulations **Maxine Kadlec** (BK, SP) on a first great granddaughter

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## SPRINGING INTO ACTION...1...2...3

Thanks for bringing items for the Emergency Food Pantry. Fine Arts Club **food donations** weighed in at 101 pounds. Donations were matched by Minnesota Food Share during the month of March, so our contributions actually represent 202 lbs of items for local use. Please continue to bring a nonperishable item or two each time you come to the Fine Arts House.

Plans are being readied for another **Basket Auction**. Look for another auction the fall membership luncheon on October first.

There are several items in **Lost and Found** on the counter by the mailboxes. Some Tupperware, a pair of glasses in a black, Ralph Lauren case, someone’s nut order, and other items. Next time you’re at the house, check it out.



*presenting the first in our series*  
**CENTENNIAL NEWS**

### A Newcomer’s Look

*written by Lou Richardson*

Every year, new members join Fine Arts Club. Maybe a friend invites them to a meeting and they enjoy the program and the new people they meet. Maybe they’re recently retired and have time to enjoy new educational and social opportunities. Maybe they’re newcomers to town and want to find new friends and activities.

Most of these newcomers are unaware of the long years of tradition they are now joining. But as they hang up their coats in the lower-level entry of the Fine Arts Club house they see rows and rows of portraits of women who have served as Fine Arts Club presidents. Perhaps these newcomers have a sense that they are joining not only a club but a history that stretches back nearly a hundred years.

By 1911, Fargo had been incorporated as a town for 36 years. It was no longer a rough and tumble railroad town. It had numerous fine stores, a hospital, two colleges and several hotels. It had a growing population of merchants, businessmen, educators, doctors, lawyers and clergymen. These were, of course, almost all men.

And these men had wives, daughters, sisters and mothers, many of whom were well-educated and well-traveled. Among them were writers, musicians and artists eager to share their interests and talents.

Were these women Fargo-Moorhead’s elites? Aristocrats? Probably. They had families and homes to attend to, but they also had leisure and resources. And if they were a bit bored, can we blame them? In all likelihood they were delighted to find friends in a society that also allowed them to stretch their minds, improve their skills, find recognition for their talents, and occasionally do good works.

Two women in particular stand out in our club’s history—**Elmadine Thompson**, who founded the Fine Arts Club in 1911, and **Elizabeth “Lizzie” Watson**, who donated the building that is now our Club House.

## A CLOSER LOOK



If your roots are in western North Dakota, you are a Concordia graduate, and your marriage takes you around the world, where would you choose to settle? Just ask **Wini Christensen**, first vice president. She and her husband Doug, an Army Colonel, did just that while raising three sons.

Married in 1960, Wini taught third graders and lived in Fargo before joining her husband in bases around the world. While Doug served in Vietnam, she and boys made their home in Fargo at two different times. So it felt like home when they retired from the service in 1982. With the boys in jr. high, Wini returned to the classroom and taught English as Second Language and Title I in Fargo Public Schools, later becoming a substitute teacher. Doug became ill and passed away in 1995.

Looking to form new friendships and continued learning, Wini joined Fine Arts a year later and immediately began serving in several capacities; Membership Chair, Creative Living Chair, and House Chair, and for the past few years she has been 1st VP. Currently, you can find her involved with both Creative Living and Book Sections.

Staying involved in her community is obviously a priority to Wini. She is very active in First Lutheran Church and in her north Fargo neighborhood. A winter get-away to Sanibel Island FL is an annual pleasure, but her biggest enjoyment is at their lake home on Bad Medicine Lake. For Wini, gathering her whole family, including three sons, their wives, and seven grandchildren, ages 3-8, at the cabin is happiness. Add a good book and her friends from Fine Arts and you will see why Wini always seems to be smiling.



Walking into **Millie Arneson’s** home you realize this is no ordinary home; an artist lives here! Magic happens when you visit with Millie, an energetic member of both History and Art Sections.

Consider that her lovely home on 8th Street in Fargo was built by her late husband, Harry’s grandfather. In today’s wired world, you will find a computer in her dining room giving her quick contact with her daughters, Carol, Patty, and Cindy, and 6 grandchildren. It may be the warmth of the fireplace, her own oil paintings on the walls, or the crossword puzzle in progress on the table that provide that magical feeling of being truly welcomed. More likely it’s simply the enthusiasm radiating from Millie that signals, “all are welcome here.”

Originally from Mott, ND, Millie graduated from Moorhead State in 1937 and began teaching in Glyndon. Joining Fine Arts as a young wife and mother, she served on the Board and as House Chair. With a gleam in her eye as the flood waters start to rise this year, she recalls the story of the 1960’s when the Clubhouse had water lapping at the windows, a flooded basement, and a ruined furnace. It’s ironic that even though we’ve escaped this year’s flood, Fine Arts needs to replace the furnace that Millie and her committee installed.

There is a spark in her voice when discussing the early days as a member of Art Section. Learning new painting techniques from visiting artists is something Millie treasures. She has seen changes in the Clubhouse, the organization, and it’s members, but one thing remains the same: Millie is one of our best sparklers!

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## Reasons to celebrate spring!

### *Fine Arts Club Annual Meeting*

*You are invited to the*

### *Annual Meeting*

*Wednesday, April 14*

*1:00 pm*

*at the Clubhouse*

*reservations not necessary*

*Election of officers, a look back at the work of Fine Arts, and  
budget approval for the new year*

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*hosted by members of History, Book,  
and Investment Sections*

Due to flooding this spring, the annual **Bargain and Book Sale** has been postponed to Sept 10 – 11, 2010. You may deliver your items to the clubhouse anytime.

### **FINE ARTS LOANS A PIECE OF "FINE ART"**

A historic and rare piece of pottery owned by the Fine Arts Club is on loan for an exhibition celebrating the centennial of UND Pottery. Grand Forks will host the exhibits from April 17 to June 10.

*50/50 The Cable Years & The Contemporary Years* will display pottery in two locations, the Columbia Mall and North Dakota Museum of Art on the UND campus. "The Cable Years" remembers Margaret Kelly Cable as the heart and soul of UND Pottery. She was a nationally known clay artist, teacher, and researcher at the University from 1910 to 1949.