



Sacandaga Valley Arts Network

PO Box 660 Northville, NY 12134

KEEPING IN TOUCH September 2007

"A DOLLAR AND A DREAM" It was a very sticky, muggy Saturday morning June 2nd at the home of SVAN President, Frank Casler. The news had forecast a chance of thundershowers over the weekend. "I had been up since 5 AM and set up the SVAN white tent and table for the big day selling quilt tickets at the Annual Broadalbin Village Wide Garage Sale event". My wife had also planned on selling stuff that we had acquired for years and never used. We had a double deal going on in front of our home in the center of town.



Catherine Kelly

As the day progressed we began wondering where everyone was. In the past this event was really popular but this day was proving different. Things were very slow so I began asking people how things were in the rest of the village. The general consensus was the event just was not as well attended as in the past years. We didn't know if it was due to the forecast or what. I was committed however to see this through and do what I could to push these tickets. At the end of Saturday I don't think I sold more than 40 tickets and was really discouraged. I covered everything up good and put the quilt inside as the forecast was for showers.

We did get some overnight and then the sun came out in the morning. I was out there with my coffee right away at nine thinking if I didn't do well Saturday maybe Sunday would be the day. Oh my, it was so hot and muggy. I think it was about 87 and you could cut the air with a knife.

As it turned out I picked everything up at noon and I couldn't be any more discouraged. I don't think I sold more than a dozen or so tickets for my efforts. I vowed to not do the Broadalbin Garage Sale days again. When our treasurer MaryAnn Evans called to see how I did, I gave her a sob story and said it was not worth the time spent and we should scratch this venue from the list.

Let's fast forward now to August 26 at 6:30 PM. I am on the stage at the Northville Lakeside Park as the master of ceremonies during the SVAN Song Sunday program. The audience in lawn chairs numbered 180 to 200. It was a very nice attendance. We had not yet met our goal for the year of \$4,000 for this annual fundraiser. I had announced that we needed to sell \$150.00 more in tickets to make it. There was frenzy at the ticket table for 30 minutes and sales were brisk. The Skeeter Creek Band had just finished their set and we had chosen a person from the audience to pull a ticket from the ticket bin.

John Scunziano was spinning the bin and shaking those tickets up. And then the volunteer reached in the bin and worked her hand around pulling one lone ticket out of the mass. The winning ticket from the bin bore the name C. Kelly with a Broadalbin phone number. There was loud applause that someone local had won it again. I introduced the next open mic act and went out back and called C. Kelly from my cell phone. She was very surprised and she was- just about speechless. I tried to get her to come to Northville but that was not possible.

I delivered the 2007 Quilt to Catherine Kelly the next week and she is in the photo above holding her prize. While I was talking to Catherine and telling her that the odds of winning were about 1 to 3780 she told me something amazing. Catherine told me she bought the ticket from **me** while I was sitting in front of my house that Saturday morning the second day of June. My goodness, she purchased it from **me**. She remembered me saying to her "you just bought the winning ticket and it's the 13th ticket purchased today" My wife was laughing because that's my line. I tell everyone they just bought the winning ticket. After all, isn't that what you want to hear when you just put some cash out for a ticket? Little did we know that in Catherine's case it was a very correct statement.

Now I am faced with a dilemma! Do I set up again next year in front of my home in Broadalbin during the Village Wide Garage Sale? Is it important to just set up where we make a profit for the time spent? Is it more important to make sure we have our drawing available to as much of the public as we can reach? Hmmmm... I will plead the fifth and leave it to our Quilt showing event coordinator next season.

THANKS- A very big thank-you goes out to all who sold and purchased tickets for our annual quilt drawing. This fundraiser is a big part of our funding to allow us to hold the numerous programs everyone enjoys. We send special thanks to those purchasing tickets at the final SVAN Song Sunday event. You pushed to our goal and the final count showed us at \$4027.00. I understand next years quilt is already in the works and will feature "Adirondack Aquatics" (fish)

Art Opening In Mayfield- we are pleased to present painter, Elizabeth Jamack Pieper at the Mayfield Community Library Gallery (Mayfield High School) from September 1st- 30th. A reception for the Artist will be held on September 20th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm and is open to all. Although Betty credits her studies with the late Sal Casio, a charter member of the Oakroom Artists as greatly influencing her vision, she is primarily self-taught. " I began almost every painting as an abstract design, using rhythms, shapes and colors as I feel them," she commented. Betty's work evolves into representational, yet expressionistic, statements favoring a bright palette. Pieper's work has been exhibited regionally at FMCC, the Cooperstown National, the National Small Works Exhibition in Schoharie County, the annual invitational at Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery, and at Saratoga County Council in the Arts. PLEASE JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 20TH TO MEET AND GREET OUR ARTIST OF THE MONTH.

SVAN T-Shirts- are available for \$10.00. They are blue with our SVAN Logo on the front and on the back they say, "Let the Arts float your boat!" If you would like a T-shirt please call Frank at 321-3468.

Drawing Class- Learn the fundamentals of drawing with Edinburg Artist, Constance Dodge. The focus will be on drawing from life observations, experiences and imagination. This class is open to beginners as well as those who have drawing experience. Participants will be introduced to line, shade/value, textural mark making and spatial relationships including perspective. Traditional materials will be used along with experimental media. Color will be introduced toward the end of the six-week class. The goal throughout will be to develop dramatic contrast in drawing. Classes will meet at the Edinburg Community Center on September 12 and 17, October 3, 10, 17, and 24th from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. Tuition is \$45.00 for SVAN members, \$50.00 for nonmembers. Sign up today. A supply list will be provided to registrants prior to the class. Call 863- 2201 for further information.

Welcome to the following new members: Barbara & Charles Ronder, Milly Duncan, Harry & Susan Brooks, Marion Bayly, Bob Marcotte (returning) and Carolyn & Charles Unger. It's great to see new faces and also have old ones return.

Edinburg Classical Concerts- Many thanks to all who helped make the Edinburg/SVAN Classical Concert series so very successful. From the committee, the volunteers and the audience the feedback continues to be encouraging. The committee members have met, and we feel we have met our goal of bringing the best in classical musicians to our area at an affordable price. Hats off to all in SVAN who support programs such as this in our area. A special thanks to Jeanne MacCorkle who manages to lead an army of volunteers each year and pull off an enormous task. ***Bringing big city music to a small town.***

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT FOR HEALTH AND HEALING- this program is being re-offered on Saturday, November 3rd, 1-4 pm.

Presented by SVAN members Judy Mirczak and Robin Gaiser, professional practitioners in the field of health and healing. They are pairing their talents, experience, and education to present an afternoon of Music and Movement for Health and Healing. This event will take place at the Gaiser's lakefront home just outside the Village of Northville. This event, funded in part with a mini-grant from the Sacandaga Valley Arts Network, filled to capacity when it was offered last April. This will be a repeat of that original session. Participants will learn about and experience the benefits of music and movement through gentle relaxing activities, which require no previous knowledge or practice and do not involve physical exertion and strength. Anyone may participate. Sequential activities will introduce principles behind specific sounds and movements and their effects on the human body. This will be followed by exercises applying these principles, leading participants to access and implement their own physical, emotional, and spiritual resources. Current research demonstrates that utilizing the activities taught in this afternoon retreat creates stress reduction, improved sleep, enhanced creativity, pain release, better digestion, sharpened mental focus, immune system boost and other benefits. Participants will be provided with review materials to take away so that they may continue to realize benefits beyond the conclusion of this informational and experiential event.

Class size will be limited to twelve people in order to maintain a retreat-like setting. The Gaiser's private residence off 7 Hills Road on the shores of the Great Sacandaga Lake provides the perfect setting. Ample flat parking, handicap accessibility, and first floor restroom facilities are available. Light healthy refreshments will be served during a brief break mid way through the afternoon. The cost is \$10.00 for SVAN members and \$15.00 for non-members and must be pre-paid to reserve your space. Questions may be answered and directions provided by Judy at 696-7022 or Robin at 863-7078.

Meet the Artist- SVAN was proud to host artist Alice Manzi who discussed her work at Meet the Artist night Thursday, September 13th at the Mayfield Community Library. Alice presented her sculptural work and discussed her journey as an artist through a slide presentation and a Q and A session. It was absolutely amazing to see how this artist works from the bottom up (literally). Manzi resides in Porters Corners and is a member of the Guild of Adirondack Artists. She is celebrating her 20th year of teaching figure modeling at Skidmore College. Although her early training in the figure focused on carving marble and wood at Pietrasanta, Italy and NYU, she left these materials behind in the mid eighties. She began to work in ceramic clay with her discovery of the Skidmore College Ceramic Studio and a wonderful friend and mentor, Regis Brodie. With the help of sculptor and colleague, Tom Shottman, she learned a hollow building technique, which she adapted to life-sized figures. Manzi continues to produce commissioned work for individuals and churches throughout the country. Her work is in permanent collections such as the National Museum of Dance in Saratoga, the Schenectady Museum, and the Charles R. Wood in Lake George. She recently completed a commission of "The Annunciation" for Holy Family Catholic Church, Lee's Summit Mission, and one of Major Robert Rogers for Rogers Island, Fort Edward, NY. If you can get a chance to see her work you definitely will not be disappointed! This program is co-sponsored by SVAN and the Friends of the Mayfield Library, and is funded in part by a NYSCA Grant administered by the Tri-County Arts Council.

**** Next Meet the Artist Talk and Reception** – we are delighted to present our Artist of the Month, painter and sculptor, Paul Kant. On **October 11th at 7:00 P.M.** at the Mayfield Community Library, Kant will give a one-hour talk about his journey as an artist. Simultaneously, Kant's creations will be on display and the public will enjoy a reception in his honor. For those who cannot be at this event, his art can be viewed from October 3rd through October 30. Stylistically, Kant's work is similar to Picasso's classical style. Kant's paintings have a linear mode, while his sculpture, created with found objects from everyday life, evoke a more whimsical vision. His love of animals and for the human figure spills over into his art. Please join us on **October 11 at the Mayfield High School Community Library** to celebrate this versatile artist. This program is a joint effort with the Friends of the Mayfield Library and funded in part with grant funds from NYSCA through the Tri-County Arts Council.

The Program is free. All are welcome.

Coordinator Needed- we are in need of a volunteer. (We are all volunteers) We need someone to coordinate and track the locations for showing of our 2008 commemorative quilt. The person in this role will schedule the dates and locations for the quilt from April to August 2008. You will work with the current Quilt committee chair and the treasurer. We have a current schedule of locations used each year as a base. Locating a few new locations would enhance the program. This program is an important core SVAN program and its success is very important to us. If you can help us by being the coordinator next summer please call MaryAnn Evans at 863- 7052 or Frank Casler at 321-3468.

The SVAN Film Club- the film club and the Northville Public Library recently implemented a new partnership to ensure that for the next year Film Club members will have the opportunity to view newly released independent and international films recently recognized at international film festivals. To see what films are coming up, check the website www.FilmMovement.com. During the month of October the Film Club will view the following films:

Freedom Writers Thursday, October 4 at 7 pm. Fresh-faced, idealistic twenty-three-year-old Erin Gruwel is ready to take on the world when she steps inside Wilson High School for her first day of teaching. Her class, a diverse group of racially charged teenagers from different walks of life--African Americans, Latinos, Asians, juvenile delinquents, gang members, and underprivileged students from poor neighborhoods--hope for nothing more than to make it through the day. The film focuses on how she copes with seemingly insurmountable problems and changes the lives of her entire class. Starring Hillary Swank, the movie runs for two hours.

Dreams of Dust Thursday, October 18 at 7 pm. Mocktar, a Nigerian peasant, comes looking for work in Essakane, a dusty gold mine in Northeast Burkina Faso, Africa, where he hopes to forget the past that haunts him. In Essakane, he quickly finds out, the gold rush ended twenty years before, and the

inhabitants of this wasteland and strange timelessness manage to exist simply from force of habit. The beautiful Coumba, however, is still courageously struggling to raise her daughter after the death of her family. Mocktar will soon be fighting not only to survive, but also to provide a better future for this mother and her child. The film was produced in Burkina Faso, Canada, and France and was an official selection of the 2007 Sundance Film Festival.

The Film Club meets at the Northville Presbyterian Church on Reed Street.

Watercolor Workshop- Regional watercolorist, Elizabeth O'Brien taught a fabulous workshop in watercolor techniques and process. It was a great event, though unfortunately we did not have a full class at the Piseco Community Center on Saturday, September 15th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Beginners as well as painters returning to watercolor were encouraged to join us for the day. Betty briefly discussed some of the aspects of gathering the information one needs before painting. Reference sketches were done outdoors. Participants used direct observations and photos of their own, including digitals taken on site, as reference for composition. The goal was to isolate some of the important elements of landscape, interpreting them using strong shapes, light, expressive color and the unique properties of watercolor. After lunch, Betty did a guided exercise and brief demo in the Center. Then, all used their preliminary work as a basis for a personal statement.

Due to the generosity of a SVAN mini grant, tuition for the class was only \$10.00. Call Ann Larsen at 863-6509 or Connie Dodge at 863-2201 for further information.

Drumming Circle- SVAN's Drum Circle started its third season on Sunday September 16th. The circle will continue to meet from 3-5 PM, the third Sunday of every month at the Northville Fire Hall, Main St., Northville (upstairs, next to Stewart's). Starting this fall we have a new co-facilitator named Bill Fichtner. Anne Miller has taken a sabbatical and we owe her our gratitude for being our hostess and co-facilitator for our first 2 years. On October 21, the circle will participate in the Daniel Pearl World Music Days "Harmony for Humanity" events. Daniel Pearl was a journalist for the Wall Street Journal who in 2002 was kidnapped and slain in Pakistan by terrorists. Beyond being a journalist he was also an accomplished musician. His family established the Daniel Pearl Foundation in his memory to promote cross-cultural understanding, to counter cultural and religious hatred, to encourage responsible journalism and to enrich people's lives through music. This is not a fundraiser and there is no financial obligation. To find out more on these events check out www.danielpearl.org.

Please join us in our drumming intent of "Harmony for Humanity". Please call Sue at 883-5761 with questions.

SVAN CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Charter and founding members recognized; History of SVAN revisited.

Many members enjoyed a special evening of remembrance, thanks and fun recently. We combined our annual membership celebration and meeting with an awards ceremony and concert to mark the 10th anniversary of supporting and promoting the Arts throughout the Sacandaga region.

We celebrated our 10th anniversary Tuesday August 14 at Lanzi's Sport Island Pub overlooking the Great Sacandaga Lake in Northville. The evening began at 6 PM with cash bar allowing members to enjoy the company and catch up with old friends. A 3- panel display created by local graphic artist Linda Hinkle of Johnstown provided a panoramic view of each of the 10 years accomplishments in chronological order. Newly created T-shirts with the SVAN Logo made their debut and were on sale at the event.

Frank gave thanks to his fellow board members who have been serving with him since May of 2004 to continue the legacy all were to embrace that evening. The current Board of Directors are: Frank Casler, president; John Scunziano, vice president; Hank Lang, secretary; Mary Ann Evans, treasurer; board members Connie Dodge, Robin Gaiser, Barb Sherwood, Barb Spaeth, Michael Brace, and board elect Darla Outhout. Dinner was served at 7 while Frank told the story of how the organization began and what it took to get started in the first few years.

The Story of Our Beginning-In 1995 David Cook began the Sacandaga Valley Heritage Association to preserve and interpret the cultural heritage of the Sacandaga region and to incorporate the rich heritage into it's economic future. In late 1996 there was a public call by this Heritage Association for all area artists to attend a meeting to discuss forming a SVHA standing committee on the arts and cultural history of the valley. That group resulting from the call met in February of 1997 at the Inn at the Bridge. That night this group agreed to keep meeting. The group consisted of: DAVE COOK, ANNE MILLER, SUE YETTO, JANET YEATES, BETH JUNQUERA, KELLY MAINES, DUTCH HULL, CONNIE DODGE, PAUL LAPORTE, and STAN & JUDY PLOTNER.

These folks joined with the rest of the Heritage Association and sponsored 5 public forums labeled, "EXPLORING the POSSIBILITIES". Each forum featured a guest speaker from a major upstate NY cultural organization to explain the ins and outs and impacts of what they were doing. There was an entire year of talking, and talking and by winter the group had become one that envisioned their role as cultural facilitator between the populace, organizations, governments and artists of any kind who were seeking an outlet for creativity. This group finally grew tired of just talking and decided it was time to do it or not and thus SVAN was born 11/11/97.

The first award of the evening was presented to David Cook of Northville. Mr. Cook received the "Unsung Hero Award" for beginning the organization and serving as the Chairman until 2004. John Scunziano showed the award and read the inscription as follows: **"Through your tireless dedication to the Sacandaga Valley Arts Network from it's inception to 2004, you have enriched our community and touched the lives of artists and art consumers. As retired Chairman and founder of Sacandaga Valley Heritage Association from which we were born, thank you for your leadership, tenacity, commitment and hard work on behalf of our members, volunteers and Board of Directors. For all you have done, you are truly an Unsung Hero."**

The original charter members that made the decision to incorporate were announced and award certificates presented. The Charter members were David Cook (Northville), Robert Stangle (Broadalbin), Jim Gray (Edinburg), and Clara Sue King (Hope).

A Citation was presented from Senator Hugh T. Farley, honoring the Sacandaga Valley Arts Network upon it's 10th Anniversary and proclaiming SVAN has contributed immensely to the community through it's tireless dedication to the promotion of the arts.

Certificates of thanks were presented to several founding members. These were the members that joined within the first year and were active in building the organization and moving it forward. Judith Plotner, Gloversville served as a co-chair for 4 years and spearheaded the quilting program. Judy and husband Stan have been active members for over 9 years. John Vanalstine, Wells joined the organization in the second month and made the 1998 and 1999 Arts-fest possible. He was instrumental in creating events and curating visual arts. John is a local sculptor and often holds events at his studio grounds in Wells. Sue Yetto, owner of DesignOne Graphics, Northville provided services and help in the beginning years when the group needed them most and could not otherwise afford them.

Janet Marie Yeates, a graphic designer in Northville was involved in the early discussion groups and meetings and provided expertise and leadership as a board member for many years. Kevin Barry, Edinburg became a member in the first month and provided much support in the early years. He remains a loyal member and continues to be involved.

Constance Dodge, local artist from Edinburg has served the organization for 10 years coordinating many of the visual arts programs and serving as a Board Member and Officer. Connie continues to lend her experience, expertise and talent to the community. David Cook, past chairman notes, "I appreciated that, more than I can begin to express". Frank added, "It is truly a privilege to serve with her and have her on our team". Anne Miller, local artist from Northville has always been a contributor and held events at her studio on Bridge Street in Northville. Anne recently served as Vice President from 2004 - 2006. The final award was presented to William Mosher, local artist from Northville. He joined SVAN in 1990 and played an important role by creating the SVAN logo. He also has been active in art shows and curating shows as well. Harry Wirtz, a photographer and artist from Edinburg was thanked for creating a digital version of the logo for use.

After the election of officers and approval from the members at large the evening culminated with a concert by blues guitarist and singer, Little Toby Walker. Little Toby Walker was hired by us to do a coffeehouse concert in January. "He came to Northville and performed during an ice storm. We were so pleased we had to bring him back again". It was the best choice we could have made. He put on a very memorable concert for us. Just ask anyone that was there.

The event adjourned at 9:30 with this comment, **"Our problem now is how do we top this for next year"**.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE ARTS