

■ Upcoming

March 18

Honoring the Female Mosaic: The Blue Back Series by Ian Fortier

The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg • 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Cold-fusion stained glass artist Ian Fortier has been working exclusively on commissioned wall and window pieces for the past 15 years. He will be discussing his exhibit of 45 unique pieces that are on display in the gallery through April 6.

March 20 – June 12

American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell

Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke

This exhibit is organized by the Norman Rockwell Museum in Massachusetts and features original works drawn from its permanent collection.

March 22

Art & Law No. 1

The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg • 12–1 p.m.

Sit back and enjoy the first of a new monthly series on Art & Law presented by James Creekmore. Bring a bagged lunch, coffee and dessert provided. Reserve your seat by emailing diana@creekmorelaw.com.

March 30

Paint Party

The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg • 7–9:30 p.m.

Michele Walters will lead this session focused on "Spring in the Mountains." The \$30 fee includes supplies. Register at www.artfullawyergallery.org/events.

March 31

A Taste of Wine and Art Talk

Holiday Inn, 99 Bradley Drive, Christiansburg • 6:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center, this event features art enthusiast and historian Scott Crawford who will present "Digging Up New Insights into Linton Park's 'The Burial': How an Old Painting Gained a New Name." Tickets are \$20 and include heavy hors d'oeuvres and wine. Space is limited — call 540-382-5644 for reservations.

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Frederick's life reflects passion for arts and math

By Paula Golden

A chance phone call at the same time that I was reading a book whose main character was at the forefront of women in science led me to my interview with Frances Frederick, the person who has been a member of BRAA for the longest amount of time, joining in 1952. And what a fascinating person Frederick is! Her soapbox is railing against the conditioning that makes girls not believe in their abilities to excel in math. The connection to art comes later. Dedication, passion, curiosity and focus are elements that describe Frederick to a T.

Frederick moved from Portsmouth with her mother and father to her grandfather's farm in Nansemond County (present day Suffolk) to take care of her grandmother. But she always considered herself a city person as her musical contacts existed only in a city environment. Her mother went to business college in Portsmouth and graduated valedictorian of her class. Her valedictorian speech is especially treasured by Frederick as it is dated 1901 and in it her mother expressed her wishes to start her own business. Her father was assigned to the infantry and served in France during WWI. Her parents corresponded every day they were apart.

Frederick took her beginning piano lessons in first grade as part of the school curriculum. Her school's music and history teachers would take groups of students to listen to the Norfolk Symphony Orchestra introducing them to the joys of live classical music. This led to a lifetime love of music and in particular, a passion for the violin. Frederick studied and performed on the violin including performances with the Norfolk Symphony and other quality musical groups. Her passion for the violin continues to this day.

Her art interest took form with designing clothing for paper dolls, shadow boxes and interior design. In accordance with the times, she sewed most of her clothes. She loved looking at patterns and never followed the exact idea as presented. But this took second place to her interest in math, in which she excelled. At the time Frederick was attending school, math and science were the domain of male



Paula Golden

Francis Frederick's home and art feature many elements of Asian design.

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Learn with Lee

Lee Sandstead is often referred to as "the world's most fired-up art historian." Sandstead was host of the Emmy-nominated Travel Channel show, "Art Attack," and author of the number one international best-seller on iTunes, "Cleaning Mona Lisa."



Lee Sandstead

This spring take some time to look at our local stained glass. The windows you see in many of our churches and homes is actually the product of a fierce battle between two New York City artists. The American stained-glass movement of the late nineteenth- and early-twentieth centuries forever revolutionized the art of stained glass. Artists John La Farge and L.C. Tiffany challenged six-centuries of stained-glass tradition to form their own patented style and radically new subject matter.



Landscape with a Greek Temple by Louis Comfort Tiffany

Within several years, Sandstead has personally experienced thousands of American stained-glass windows from this era and seen first-hand the genius of the American Stained-Glass Movement. Sandstead will be presenting his discoveries at the Blacksburg Community Center on Thursday, **March 22**, from 2–3 p.m.

Simply Elemental welcomes entries

Simply Elemental is an outdoor art exhibit integrated along the garden paths, plantings, and trees of the Hahn Horticulture Garden at Virginia Tech. Artists, groups of artists, and art teachers and students working in any media are invited to submit a proposal with a conceptual design for consideration by a jury who will select the final 35 pieces for this August 1 – September 30 exhibit.

Because of the show's relatively short duration, materials used in the pieces can be non-permanent but need to hold up for a maximum of eight weeks.

Applications are being accepted until all available spaces are filled. Concept submission should include a .jpg of the planned work with approximate dimensions (all three). Information concerning the feasibility of installation should be included. Please indicate if you envision a specific location for your proposed work. An online application is available by emailing artinthegarden@vt.edu.

Pieces in the exhibit will be selected using the following guidelines:

- Uses the garden setting to advantage
- Makes a strong visual impact
- Non-harmful to the horticultural garden and its plants
- Appropriate to a family-friendly setting
- Requires no maintenance during the exhibition
- Installed in a secure manner
- Safe for the public
- Leaves no permanent impact on the garden

Notifications of acceptance will be emailed by April 1, or until slots are filled. Questions may be addressed via email to artinthegarden@vt.edu.



Water media workshop yields happy faces

The recent BRAA-sponsored water media workshop was by all accounts a fun and rewarding experience. The Feb. 19–22 class was held at The Hahn Pavilion at Virginia Tech and led by Jesi Pace-Berkeley. "I am so proud of the efforts of the participants," said Pace-Berkeley. "Several were absolute beginners who gave it their all, and had success from dedicated creative risk and a can-do attitude."



Matt Gentry

Participants in the advanced watercolor workshop included (back row, left to right) Doreen Roberts, Karen Sewell, Lisabeth Weisband, Jane Schafer, Mary Jane Burn, Rafael Bedia, Teresa Regil; front row, left to right, Jesi Pace-Berkeley, Betty Moore, Teri Hoover, Charlotte Chan, and Gerri Young.

Frederick continued from page 1

students. Her goal — be better than the boys. And in math, she was. Frederick taught school after two years of college and coached basketball and baseball for a year.

But her passions were math and music. Frederick was the only female math major in her graduating class at the College of William and Mary.

Her story of introduction to Virginia Tech is delightful. She was accepted into the advanced degree program co-sponsored by NASA and the University of Virginia. However, the undergraduate engineering courses were not offered that summer at UVA. This meant she had to travel to Blacksburg as Virginia Tech offered the courses.

With 10 dollars in her pocket (and a hat pin for defense) she took the train from Norfolk to Christiansburg. The ticket agent had sold her a ticket to Blacksburg not knowing that the train's destination was Christiansburg. The problem? The next train to Blacksburg was in a week and her class started the very next morning. She ended up paying the taxi driver a special student fare so that she was able to begin class in the morning. Her studies led her to a job at the precursor to NASA as a research mathematician working on air flow and wing design.

She married Dan Frederick, a professor in the engineering science and mechanics department following a two-year, long-distance courtship between Hampton, Virginia and Ann Arbor, Michigan. They raised four children in Blacksburg with sojourns in California, Colorado, British Columbia, China, and Washington, D.C., to name a few. During this time she took classes in sculpture, weaving, oil, and paper making and was a member of the Potomac Craftsman Guild.



Francis Frederick's art is rich in color and texture.

Paula Golden



Paula Golden

Sculpture is often a component of Frederick's art.

Frederick's style has changed over the years and she feels that her signature artwork is yet to be created. When asked about a specific influence, she replies, "Mountains, Asian design, furniture, painting, food ... you name it!" Her art fills her home as well as private and family collections. Her studio is called the "Good Dragon Studio" with the dragon's name being Hepsibah. Sculpture and texture are apparent in most of her work. Her garden is her latest palette and features many Asian design elements, including her Japanese Tea House.

Frederick feels fortunate to continue to cross paths with so many kind and supportive people during her abundantly full 62nd anniversary of her 29th birthday. ■

■ Now Showing

January 15 – April 15

(except where indicated otherwise)

Patricia Bolton, New River Bank, Christiansburg (thru Mar.)

Charlotte Chan, Main Street Inn, Blacksburg

Carole Davis, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Elizabeth Foster, Amy Hunter Dental Office, Christiansburg (thru Mar.)

Paula Golden, Pointe West Management, Blacksburg

Leslie Gregg, *The Keepers of the Tradition* show, The History Museum of Western Virginia, Roanoke (thru May 15)

Maxine Lyons, Virginia Tech Women's Center

Darcy Meeker, Hotel Floyd, Floyd (thru May 16).

David Pearce, Zeppoli's, Blacksburg

Mary Ratliff, Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Blacksburg

Joy Rosenthal, VTLS, Corporate Research Center, Blacksburg

Robi Sallee, Mill Mountain Coffee and Tea, Blacksburg

Karen Sewell, Brown Insurance, Blacksburg

Jane Thorp, Haga Law, Christiansburg (thru Mar.)

Nancy Trump, Christiansburg Library (thru Mar.)

Tom Wilkinson, See Mark Optical, Blacksburg and Glencoe Museum, Radford (April thru May)

"An artist should never be a prisoner of himself, prisoner of style, prisoner of reputation, prisoner of success, etc."

~ Henri Matisse

■ Exhibit Opportunities

Sidewalk Art Show

June 4–5 • Downtown Roanoke

This annual juried show attracts thousands to the streets around the Taubman Museum of Art. Cash awards are \$1500 for best in show, \$1000 for second place and \$750 for third. For more information and entry form, visit zapplication.org. Entry deadline is **March 19**.

Art at the Market 2016

July 16 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. • Downtown Blacksburg

Located next to the Blacksburg Farmers' Market, this annual event attracts a lively audience. For more information and online registration, visit the events page at downtownblacksburg.com or email events@downtownblacksburg.com.

Art at the Barn

July 16–17 • The Jacksonville Center for the Arts, Floyd

This event will take place on the seven-acre lawn surrounding the center. Artists of all media are encouraged to apply by the **May 15** deadline. Prizes totaling \$1000 will be awarded. For more information and application, visit www.jacksonvillecenter.org.

One Chair, 10 Artists

August 2 – September 26 • Alexander Black House and Cultural Center, Blacksburg

10 or more artists will display paintings derived from a photo of a wooden chair. Title of the show will change according to number of artists accepted. For more information, visit the events page at www.blacksburgart.org.

Earth Day Challenge

Join this Habitat for Humanity ReStore challenge by using recycled materials to create a project for the store's Earth Day Contest. There are three categories for both functional and artistic submissions: under 18, adult, and group prizes. Submissions accepted **April 5–12** and the winner will be announced at the Earth Day celebration on **April 23**. For more information, visit habitatnr.org or call 540-381-1155.

The art featured in this month's nameplate is "Peacock" (left, water medium on Yupo, 22 x 28") by Mary Ratliff. This and more of her work can be viewed at Blue Ridge Cancer Care until April 15.

■ Upcoming *continued from page 1*

March 31

Art Talk with Alex Crookshanks

The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg • 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Featured artist Alex Crookshanks will talk about the process behind his art and how it has developed over the years. Light refreshments will be served.

April 1

First Friday Art Walk

Downtown Blacksburg • 5 p.m.

Take a stroll downtown and enjoy the diverse art offered at local businesses. For a list of participating galleries, visit www.downtownblacksburg.org.

April 8

BRAA Monthly Lunch and Art Spot

Famous Anthony's, Blacksburg • 11:30 a.m.

Join your fellow members over lunch to discuss the latest art happenings and hear the featured speaker. This month's presenter is Larry Mitchell, who will be talking about his fused-glass art.

April 13

Reception: Fin, Fur and Fowl

The Artful Lawyer, Blacksburg • 5:30 p.m.

Join the fun at this quarterly Whet Your Palette event opening the exhibition celebrating animals. Artists include Lisa Acciai, Amy Griggs, Joe Jennelle, Ruth Lefko, Sally Mook, Martha Olson, Michele Walter, and Gerri Young.

For more upcoming events at The Artful Lawyer gallery, visit their website at www.artfullawyergallery.org.

June 4–5

Sidewalk Art Show

Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke

This annual show attracts thousands to the downtown streets of Roanoke near the Taubman, and has featured original fine art since 1958.



BRAA Officers

Gerri Young, president
Charlotte Chan, co-vice president
Teri Hoover, co-vice president
Jeanette Bowker, treasurer
Pat Bevan, secretary
Nancy Norton, membership
Robi Sallee, past president



<http://www.blacksburgart.org/>



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