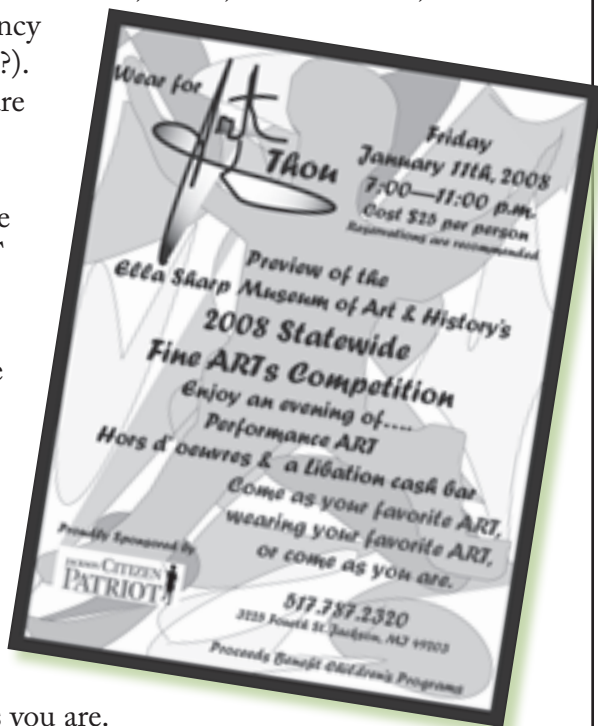


## Ella! Ella! Wear for ART Thou?

Shake off the post-holiday blahs and get thee to The Ella on Friday, January 11, to the *Wear for ART thou?* fundraiser party. ART is “wear” it’s at—with a sneak preview of the 2008 *Ella Sharp Museum of ART and History Statewide Fine Arts Competition*, live performance ART, music, hors d’oeuvres, and a cash bar (fancy a mARTini?). Attendees are encouraged to come as your favorite ART (ART Garfunkel, MARTha Stewart, the Queen of HeARTs, DART Vader...), your favorite work of ART, or simply as you are. The evening will be full of lots of fun surprises including prizes for the best ARTistic portrayals. Tickets are \$25 per person with proceeds benefiting Museum Children’s Programming. *Wear for ART thou?* runs from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Reservations are strongly encouraged. *Wear for ART thou?* is sponsored by the Jackson Citizen Patriot. For more information contact the Museum at (517) 787-2320. For more information on the *Statewide Fine Arts Competition*, sponsored by The Friends of the Ella Sharp Museum, see page 6.



## Tea and Love Letters

Fancy a scone and a “nice cuppa” on a February day? Make a tea time on Sunday, February 10. Held in the beautiful Grand Community Room, the Tea is perfect for a pre-St. Valentine’s Day date, a gathering of friends, mothers, grandmothers, or fanciful little girls. Traditional tea foods are reimaged by the Chocolate Moose catering company including scones, tea sandwiches, and delicious desserts. A special program will be given at 1:00 p.m., preceding the tea, on “Love Letters from the Museum Collection. Tea follows at 1:30 p.m. Reservations and payment are required in advance with a cost of \$17.95 per adult / \$14.95 per child Museum members and \$19.95 per adult/ \$16.95 per child non-members. Please don’t delay—space is limited and this popular event fills up quickly and is always sold out. For more information or to make your reservation, please call the Museum at (517) 787-2320.



## “To Ella!”

The December Taste for the Arts (TFTA) dinner was held in Ella’s Hillside Farmhouse dining room. A lavish seven-course meal was served to guests while string musicians provided a feast for the ears from the sitting room. The TFTA program continues in 2008 with several opportunities to whet your appetite with more extraordinary food, wine, and community experiences... Upcoming TFTAs include a special Valentine’s Celebration, a Mardi Gras event at The Ella in collaboration with Sandhill Crane Vineyards, and an



event in Naples, Florida! Want to get involved with TFTA? Hungry for more information? Contact Rochelle or Dean at the Museum.

# News

## (NOT FROM) THE PRESIDENT

A new year always brings change and 2008 certainly will, particularly for The Ella. For the first time the staff roster won't include Lynne Loftis, outgoing President, as she retires on February 29. We could reflect on the many changes at The Ella since Lynne arrived in its early years (The Museum is just over 40 and Lynne's been here for most of those years). Many Museum members remember when The Ella was only Hillside Farmhouse—no Granary restaurant, no Galleries, no Dibble Schoolhouse or Log Cabin, no *Pioneer Living* or Museum collections. In the past few years we've had a few opportunities to look back at how far the Museum has come with anniversary celebrations and new growth. The theme, it seems, of Lynne's entire run as Museum President (a title she is glad will also retire) has been "What's next? How can we get the Museum into the future?"

So it's only fitting that Lynne's newest title, Volunteer, will facilitate a monumental task that needs tackling. Among Lynne's many plans (this is not a woman that sits idle) is to take on the Organizational Archives and to write a history of the Museum. A funny thing happened in all the time that The Ella has been exhibiting and programming and growing—we became part of the community history ourselves.

Don't be surprised in the months to come when you see a familiar face popping up from the back Granary door or waiting for the storage area elevator. Her name is Lynne and she's our newest volunteer.

--Terri Reynolds, Newsletter Editor

## TRAVEL WITH THE ELLA TO DETROIT

The Domestic Travel Committee's "Day Out in Detroit," featuring visits to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the recently renovated Detroit Institute of Arts, takes place on January 25 (Museum members \$95/non-members \$105). Upcoming trips are still in the planning stage but include a day trip to Grand Rapids on May 22 and the Stratford Festival on September 16-18.

## THE ELLA RECEIVES NEW GRANT FUNDING

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has awarded \$10,000 to The Ella for *3 Days of Clay*, a partnership program between the Museum and the Jackson Pottery and Clay Guild. *3 Days of Clay* brings renowned ceramicist Bill vanGilder in March 2008 to The Ella for a three day workshop in ceramics technique. *3 Days of Clay* also received \$3,860 in a grant award from the Jackson County Community Foundation. The John George Foundation has awarded \$25,000 to The Ella for the *Scenes of Childhood Cultural Exchange Project*. *Scenes of Childhood* is an outreach and exhibit program that will: teach young artists the principles of fine art digital photography, host a major exhibition of Japanese fine art photography at The Ella, and then host a comparable exhibition of participants' fine art photography in Tokyo, Japan.

## POURING THEIR HEARTS OUT

An ongoing partnership between The Ella and the Flatlanders Sculpture Studios (Blissfield, MI) has created opportunities for area artists to work in sculpture using the Blissfield studio space. For current and future "Saturdays with Ella" Flatlander/Ella offerings visit the Museum website at [www.ellasharp.org](http://www.ellasharp.org).



## GIFT SHOP SALE

A pre-inventory sale is in the works in January—stock up for birthday and hostess gifts or get a jump on next years Christmas shopping. The gift shop will be closed January 28-29 for inventory.

## NEW ACQUISITION IN THE ANDREWS COLLECTION OF WILDLIFE ART

*Emerging Crying Crow* by artist Chris Wilson is the newest addition to the Andrews Collection of Wildlife Art. The medium is wood and features a carved crow emerging from a block of wood. The work will be unveiled to the public in May, 2008. *Emerging Crying*

*Crow* is a part of a series of original works by Wilson depicting wildlife carved from a single block of wood and contained in a monolithic form. By showing tool marks and the natural



material from the start, the works illustrate the process of how Wilson creates a sculpture. Wilson was first inspired to start the series while earning his MFA in sculpture at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA in 1999. Wilson's influences include the unfinished works of Rodin and Michelangelo and a book from his teenage years, *Wildlife in Wood* by artist Richard LeMaster—the cover featured a blue-winged teal carved out of a block of wood.

## BREAKING THE ICE: WINTER EDUCATION PROJECTS

The butter churns of *Pioneer Living* are empty until spring, but the Education Department has creative field-trips in the Museum building during the cold, cold month of February. Upper Elementary students are offered the brand new *Ducks in a Row* all-day field-trip which also features a visit to program partners, the Dahlem Conservancy. *Ducks in a Row* classes visit the Dahlem Center and learn about waterfowl in their natural habitat. Students are exposed to concepts of environment, biology, and conservancy. At The Ella students tour the Andrews Gallery of Wildlife Art and apply what they've learned about waterfowl in the field to art projects in the studios. The Junior Duck Stamp Project, a nationwide art competition, is also introduced.

Lower Elementary classes are offered a look at the rich history of the Underground Railroad in *Follow the Drinking Gourd*. Partnering with the Museum for a second year is the Hurst Planetarium where Director Mark Reed uses the stars to show students the routes to freedom taken by escaping slaves. At The Ella, the students learn about travel on the Underground Railroad and how a secret code was established using ordinary objects—such as quilts—to signal “stations” and safety. After examining reproduction quilt squares (courtesy of the Jackson Historical Society), students spend time in the Museum studios where they make their own stamped muslin squares.

*Want to be part of these important Education Department offerings? Contact the Museum today to volunteer.*

### ELLA SHARP MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY WINTER HOURS (JANUARY ~ MARCH)

The Museum is open Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and on Saturdays 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.  
(Closed Sundays and Mondays) - (517) 787-2320 - [www.ellasharp.org](http://www.ellasharp.org)

Ella's Granary Restaurant is open Tuesday-Saturday 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. - (517) 768-8495

The Friends Gift Shop is open Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays noon-3 p.m.

# Exhibits

## ANDREWS GALLERY OF WILDLIFE ART

### *New Exhibit*

Continuing The Ella's tradition of changing the Andrews Gallery of Wildlife Art exhibit twice per year, the



gallery was opened on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007 with 67 new artworks for view. A total of 72 works are now on exhibit with nearly every media represented including etchings, lithographs, oils, acrylics, carvings, bronze sculptures, several rare taxidermy specimens, and of particular interest to many, several historic decoys. Historic decoys include works by Michigan decoy carvers Ben Schmidt (1884-1968), and Russ Bengel (1898-1984) that are exhibited for the first time, as well as other vaunted decoy carvers, Sam Barnes (1857-1926) and Lem Ward (1896-1984).

## HURST GALLERY

### *State Wide Fine Arts Competition*

JANUARY 12 THROUGH MARCH 6, 2008

Special preview at *Wear for ART thou?* on Friday, January 11 (See front page for more details) Opening reception on Saturday, January 12, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Each year The Ella combats the winter grays with a statewide art competition—filling the Hurst gallery with a wide variety of media. Sponsored by the Friends of the Ella Sharp Museum, the exhibit offers a generous purse with prizes awarded at the Saturday, January 12 public Opening Reception. A sneak preview of the exhibit is offered to attendees of the fundraising *Wear for ART thou?* party on Friday, January 11.

Formerly a regional competition, submissions now are eligible from all over the state, are juried by a respected person in the field, and exhibited at the Museum. The 2008 Juror Gary Wertheimer has been teaching

sculpture at Olivet College since 1986 where he serves as the chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department. Mr. Wertheimer's own work consists primarily of animal and plant imagery executed in traditional materials such as bronze, marble, and limestone. The challenge of linking concept, image, and media appeals to him. He states, "The physical engagement of working in cast bronze and stone (seductive materials of consummate beauty, but vastly different capabilities and constraints) is also, in and of itself, impetus for me to produce works that live in three dimensions." His recent exhibitions include a 2005 Solo Exhibition at the Flatlanders Art Galleries (Blissfield), a 2004 Faculty Art Exhibition at Olivet College (Olivet), and a 1997 Solo Exhibition at the Tomato Head Gallery in Knoxville, Tennessee. Mr. Wertheimer was honored with the Olivet College Outstanding Professor Award in 1994. *2008 Statewide Fine Arts Competition is generously sponsored by The Friends of the Ella Sharp Museum of Art and History.*

## EMMET GALLERY

### *Sitting for an Image: Early Commercial Photographers of Jackson*

SEPTEMBER 30, 2007 THROUGH JANUARY 19, 2008

Local historian Gerald Blanchard curates an exhibit featuring the pioneer and early commercial photographers of Jackson. From Jackson's first photographer in 1848 to the many photographers of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a history of their profession is skillfully presented in images of Jackson's early residents. The images tell the story of the lifestyles and occupations of the people who were Jackson's first builders during war and peace, good and hard times.

### *Sam Knecht: Observations*

JANUARY 26 THROUGH APRIL 20, 2008

Artist Reception on Friday, February 1, 6:00-8:00 p.m. A solo exhibition by southern Michigan artist Sam Knecht. Two dozen paintings represent a balanced collection of landscapes and portraits, including musicians—an interesting subject choice as Knecht is an accomplished musician in his own right.

## MEET ARTIST SAM KNECHT

Sam Knecht has been a professional portrait and landscape painter for over 30 years.

Knecht is a versatile artist with a body of work that includes portraits, landscapes and still life images. He is proficient in oil, watercolor, and is one of the few American masters of egg tempera painting. Since 1978 Knecht has taught both studio art and art history and chaired the art department at Hillsdale College. Under his direction the program has developed into one of the nation's strongest collegiate programs favoring traditional art.

Knecht has exhibited widely in national juried exhibits including Romantic Realism, (1992, Grand Central Galleries, New York City,) and the Legacy Lives (1996, Lever House Gallery, New York City). In 2006 alone he installed five solo exhibits (20 North Gallery, Toledo; The Peristyle Lobby, Toledo Museum of Art; Hillsdale College; The Art Center of Battle Creek; and the Palette and Chisel Academy of Fine Art, Chicago)

His portait studies include: Mr. and Mrs. Pat Sajak, Dr. Thomas Courtice (President Emeritus, Ohio Wesleyan University), The Honorable Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas G. Kavanagh, and the Academic Deans of Thomas Cooley Law School.

Sam Knecht is married to Dr. Melissa Knecht, PhD., Professor of Music, Hillsdale College. Together with their twin daughters age 6, the couple lives in Hillsdale in a 1860s Gothic Revival house they have restored.

## FROM THE COLLECTION

These items represent new acquisitions to the Museum collection. For more information about donating items to the Museum, contact the Collections Department during Museum hours at (517) 787-2320.

Standard Oil Company Crown Globe, ca. 1950

In the 1950s each grade of gas required a separate pump. At a Standard Oil Station, the pump with the red crown denoted regular grade gas. This globe came from the Leo Lammers Gas Station located on the corner of Jackson and Trail Streets.

*Gift of Jim Desy*



Mink Stole, Ca 1946

This mink stole was purchased from the Cherin's Company, a furrier located in a home on West Cortland St. in Jackson. In the 1930-50s a mink garment was a necessity for a well dressed lady. The stole is the first garment added to the collection from this previously unknown store.

*Gift of Gene Wandel*



Photograph of the Jackson Automobile:

From 1905 until 1922, the Jackson Motor Car Co.



produced about 10,000 automobiles. This photo from about 1908 shows three Jacksons that forded a stream.

The team of horses in the background leads to the question, did the cars get stuck and require a team to pull them out of the stream?

*Gift of Kathryn Church-Kolster*

## PYRON GALLERY

*It's All in the Details: Ladies' and Men's Fashion Accessories, 1850-1960*

SEPTEMBER 23 THROUGH EARLY 2008

A detailed, intimate look at the Museum's accessory collection including hats, stockings, jewelry, collars, fans, gloves, walking sticks, buckles, cuffs, mitts, muffs, plumes, parasols, handbags and shoes—all the perfect pieces to "finish off" the perfect ensemble.

### More Exhibits...

Can be found in the Jackson History Gallery; the hallway next to the Education Department and Grand Community Room featuring works from the Jackson Civic Art Association (for sale to the public with proceeds going towards the JCAA's ongoing commitment to the Museum); the Merriman-Sharp Interpretive Center (back entrance to farmhouse); and Ella's 19<sup>th</sup> century Hillside Farmhouse (tours offered daily Tuesday-Saturday).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Wintery One Day Wonders

January and February bring long weekend school breaks—so what's a working parent to do? Sign up the kids for a *One Day Wonder* at The Ella! On Friday, January 18, it's a day of *African-American Artists*. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is honored on Monday, January 21 with *American Dream*. On Friday, February 15 kids will create *My America*. President's Day (Monday, February 18) will feature *Election Stuff* and birthday cake. All *One Day Wonders* are full-day offerings (9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) with snacks provided. Bring a brown bag lunch. A full description of these *One Day Wonders* and other winter class offerings is listed on the Museum website.

## Creative Retreat—Expect the Unexpected!

Gather with creative women at a *Creative Retreat* Saturday, February 23, for an afternoon of nourishing the soul and refreshing the spirit. Art activities, delicious snacks, and comraderie are provided. A cash wine bar will be available. Bring a friend or make a new one. Admission for the Retreat is \$20 for Museum members and \$25 for non-members.

Call the Museum to make your reservation at (517) 787-2320. (More information on the Retreat will be available on the Museum website in mid-January.)

## ALL

- On Thursday, January 3, **break that Holiday Break cabin fever with a Museum Discovery Day for families. Drop in anytime between 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**
- *Winter One Day Wonders* keep the kids busy on **January 18 and 21** and **February 15 and 18** (9:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.)
- Raise a little fun (and fundraise) at the *Wear for ART thou?* party and take a sneak peek at the

*State-wide Fine Arts Competition* on **Friday, January 11**, 7:00-11:00 p.m.

- *The Statewide Fine Arts Competition* exhibit opens **Saturday, January 12**. An opening reception and competition awards presentation takes place 2:00-4:00 p.m. Both the exhibit and reception are sponsored by The Friends of the Ella Sharp Museum.
- There's still time to sign up for a Winter Class at The Ella. Adult classes begin **January 14** – Children's classes start on **January 28**. See the website for a full listing.
- Sam Knecht: *Observations* opens in the Emmet Gallery on January 26. An artist reception takes place on **Friday, February 1**, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Taste for the Arts opens with **Mardi Gras** hosted by Amy and Steven Tripp and Stephanie and Matt Rosenberg along with Sandhill Crane Vineyards, on **Saturday February 2, 2008**.
- On **February 16**, a **Valentine's Dinner** will be hosted by Karen and Bart Hawley
- In Naples Florida a **Taste for the Arts** dinner will be hosted by Lloyd and Judi Ganton and Ron and Sharon Griffith, **Thursday, February 28, 2008**. Call Dean or Rochelle for further information.
- The annual Tea takes place on **Sunday, February 10** (1:00-4:00 p.m.) Make your reservation today!

**Call the museum for further information.**

*Relax! Refresh! Recharge! and always  
Expect the Unexpected at the Creative Retreat  
on Saturday, February 23 (1:00-3:30 p.m.).  
Reserve a place for you and a friend.*

## VOLUNTEERS

Join the Friends of the Ella Sharp Museum at noon on **Monday, January 14**, for luncheon and a program featuring the always delightful Judy Horn, Collections Manager, and a look at "Flora Self-Hoffman." Reservations for the luncheon need to be phoned in to the Museum (517) 787-2320 by noon on Friday, January 11.

Lynne Loftis, Museum President, presents "Reminiscing About Ella and Other Things!" at the **February 11** Friends meeting. Reservations for the luncheon that precedes Lynne's program need to be phoned in to the Museum by noon on Friday, February 8.

# MEMORIALS

September through November 2007

**Josephine Avery**

Anonymous  
L.D. and Helen Gieseler  
Christine Hilbush  
Max and Debbie Pierce  
Barbara Rickard and Family  
Jeff and Janet Rogers  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Scheele

**Danny Eugene Brinkle, Sr.**

Keith and Beth Huntley

**Kenneth Clevenger**

Keith and Beth Huntley

**Richard Lee DeWeese**

Keith and Beth Huntley

**Jane T. Graves**

Mr. and Mrs. Rick Flowers and Family  
Myer and Lois Franklin  
Ruthmary Gentry  
Dr. and Mrs. Jon Lake and Family  
Lynne Loftis  
Alice Medlar  
Gene S. Wandel

**Richard Ingwerson**

Jack and Sara Bunce  
Edythe Gilbert  
Robert and Dorothy Kobs  
Doris (Bede) Kudner  
Barbara and Kent Manning  
Doris and Bill McConkey  
T. Harrison and Barbara Stanton  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walker

**James Jackson Johnson, Jr.**

Keith and Beth Huntley

**Orthella Elaine Lameika**

Keith and Beth Huntley

**Jeff McMasters**

Marilyn Knutson  
Scott Knutson  
Steve Knutson

**W. Jack Mosley**

Carl and Pat Bachle

**Lorraine Noble**

Helen and Waldo Breitenwischer

**Marilyn Jeanie Richmond**

Keith and Beth Huntley  
Brian and Misi Higgins

**Margaret Rollins**

Richard and Connie Surbrook  
Doris and Bill McConkey  
Gene S. Wandel

**Larry Schneider**

Susan Fix  
Al and Betty Walter

**Donations to the Collection**

Gerald Blanchard  
Sally A. Davidson  
Dorothy Dyer  
Jim Findlay  
Jewel Gill

Sally and Art Henri

Judy Horn  
Kathryn Church-Kolster  
Janet Layton  
Kirk and Kay Lines  
Gloria Noppe  
Ann Pellegreno  
Gary and Carol Phillips  
Enid Pulles  
Eugene Rueckert  
Ann Seppa  
Alice Shankland  
Jody Shore  
Gene Wandel  
Frank Zaski



*Young visitors to the Museum's Family Christmas Day took imaginary sleigh rides in the Grand Community Room. Caroline and Ashley Hilderly seem to have slipped right out of a chorus of "Jingle Bells!"*

*Dashing Through the Snow!*

*Ella*

ELLA SHARP  
MUSEUM  
OF ART AND HISTORY

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

NEWS

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*Ella*

# Presenting Bill van Gilder

The Functional Pot: Tips, Tools & Techniques

March 14, 15 & 16, 2008

Ella Sharp Museum of Art & History

Jackson, Michigan

Brought to you by the  
Jackson Pottery & Clay Guild and Ella Sharp Museum of Art and History

