



• APRIL 2011 •

RAM GOES ON THE ROAD

Traveling the 101 Corridor

Presenting the Regional Art Museum story with colorful projections and brochures, RAM President **Frank Schillo** and Architect **Francisco Behr** take their show to both large and small audiences. After a lunch presentation to the Thousand Oaks Rotary Club at the Los Robles Greens Golf Course on March 17th, the two made a similar presentation to the new Agoura Hills Cultural Arts Council (AHCAC) at the Agoura Hills City Hall.

Under the 2010 Cultural Arts Initiative the AHCAC was created to work with the City Council and community members to develop a long term focus on arts and culture within the greater Agoura Hills community. The five member group is preparing a roadmap for the community, creating a cultural arts blueprint and founding a Cultural Artists Society. Agoura Hills Cultural Arts Council members are **Ed Ball, Steven Bavin, Cim Castellon, Priscilla Kromnick, and Craig Morton**. **Amy Brink**, Agoura Hills Director of Community Services, coordinates the AHCAC activities for the city.

A few miles west and only a month earlier, a similar presentation was made to the Thousand Oaks' new Cultural Affairs Commission, an advisory body to the City Council. The T.O. commission's priority focus is the Civic Arts Plaza Performing Arts Center's Fred Kavli Theatre and Scherr Forum Theatre. The Cultural Arts Commission includes **Chair Jerry Miller, Vice Chair Robert Biery, John Bradley, Eloise Cohen, Markus Flanagan, Wendy Harper, Jerry Lewi, Judy Linton, David Mead, Harry Selvin, and Stephanie Wilson**. **Tom Mitze** is Director of the Cultural Affairs Department and Executive Director of the Civic Arts Plaza Foundation.



TOP -- Frank Schillo tells the Thousand Oaks Rotary Club about the Regional Art Museum and its plans.

CENTER— Architect Francisco Behr projects conceptual drawings of the proposed visual arts center. — Photos by Dick Johnson



AGOURA HILLS CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL MEETING. (Left to Right—Back row) Frank Schillo, Francisco Behr, Zach Miller, Amy Brink, Craig Morton, Cim Castellon, and Ed Ball. (Foreground — Consultant Constance Jolcuvar, and Priscilla Kromnick.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOLLOWS FUTURE FOUNDATION ROOTS

Fran Brough, a former Executive Director of the Conejo/Las Virgenes Future Foundation fills the vacancy caused by the sudden passing of Michele DePuy Leavitt who served as Regional Art Museum Executive Director, February through November 2010.

Fran, and her retired screen writer husband Walter, moved to Simi Valley at the end of 1998. She says that serving as Executive Director of RAM is a fitting reason for her to come out of retirement. The Regional Art Museum grew out of a seed planted by CLVFF during her final year with that organization.



FRAN BROUGH

Fran was born in the Bronx and raised in Mt. Vernon, New York. She received her BS from the State University of New York at Cortland in Secondary School Education. A math major and English minor, she continued graduate studies at both Fordham and Yeshiva Universities and completed her California Life Teaching Credential requirements at a variety of schools after moving to the state in the early sixties.

Fran taught math for several years in the Los Angeles Unified School District. With a move to Thousand Oaks in 1975 and the birth of her fourth child, she decided to retire from teaching, but remained active in a variety of ways, ranging from owning a small retail business to banking. In 1995 she joined the Conejo/Las Virgenes Future Foundation where she spent the last several years as their Executive Director. After retiring at the end of 2008, she became an active member of their board of trustees. She also serves on the board of Community Conscience/Under One Roof.

I dream my painting, and then I paint my dream.

—Vincent Van Gogh

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
FRANKLY SAID...



FRANK SCHILLO

We are at a very important juncture with the Regional Art Museum. We are about to complete the Feasibility Study which will show the local support for the RAM and will be the beginning of our fundraising phase.

We now have the complete support of the City of Thousand Oaks in this endeavor. The city leaders and the members of the RAM Task Force agree that it makes sense to have the performing and visual arts at the same location—The Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza.

We are revisiting our regional neighbors—the Cities of Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village and Hidden Hills—to determine the level of support we can expect from them.

We will be establishing a very prominent Campaign Cabinet to begin the raising of funds to build the RAM and establish an operating endowment.

I would personally like to thank **Diana Malmquist** for her service as Vice President of the Regional Art Museum and Chair of the Events Committee. She recently resigned from the Task Force to address several health issues. **Dick Johnson** has been appointed by the Board to be the new Vice President, and **Ricki Mikkelsen** has stepped forward to chair the Events Committee.

Our thanks to **Lis J. Schwitters** and **Joe Wertheimer** for their participation over the past year. We welcome new Task Force members: **Pat Brubaker**, **Carmela Elsley**, **Lucy Hernandez**, **Pat and Walt Johnson**, **Albert "Bud" Marley**, and **Hiroko Yoshimoto**.

Larry Janss, **Constance Jolcuvar**, **John LaRocca**, **Judy Lazar**, **Diana Malmquist**, and **Frances Prince** have agreed to serve as members of a new Advisory Board. It is the active participation of our very dedicated Task Force volunteers that will make the Regional Art Museum a reality.



ANSWER TO QUIZ #1— (Nov. 2010)

Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi (1834-1904) was the French sculptor of the Statue of Liberty.

Congratulations to NAME THAT ARTIST winners: Cate Brown, Jerry Miller and Jennifer Zobelein.

See the new quiz on page 4.



Photo by Gisele Friedman

MUSEUM CHOICE AWARDS PRESENTED AT ART SHOW

RAM's first event, hosted in partnership with the T.O. Art Association, was attended by more than 150 artists and patrons at the Thousand Oaks Community Gallery in Newbury Park. TOAA featured more than 40 local professional artists in its November Membership juried art show.

Three cash prizes of \$75 each for the Museum Choice Awards were presented: to **Yoka Yohanna** for her watercolor "Sequoia"; to **Louisa Wallace Jacobs** for her acrylic painting "Rocks Expanding"; and to **Sheila Levine** for her mixed media piece, "Lady in Green."

IN MEMORIAM—

Michele DePuy Leavitt

Regional Art Museum Executive Director for less than a year, Michele proved to be a talented and dedicated leader. She had served as Gallery and Assistant Program Director for Studio Channel Islands Art Center on the CSUCI campus, 2004-2010. Previously she was Gallery Director for the Frank Lloyd Gallery in Santa Monica. She taught as an instructor for the UCLA Extension Visual Arts Department where she created and



MICHELE DEPUY LEAVITT

designed "Exploring the Los Angeles Art Scene", "Living with Art", and the "Los Angeles Art Tour". Michele attended Schiller International University in Strasbourg, France, where she studied music, art history, and the French language. She received her BA in Fine Arts from UCLA and volunteered to be a docent for the Frederic S. Wight Gallery and the Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden and became the first student ever selected to be a docent. Michele was a docent for the Venice Family Clinic Annual Art Walk and Gallery Host at SCIART West in Oxnard. Michele also served as juror for multiple exhibitions and art shows throughout Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.

Photo by Christine Beime

Civic Arts Plaza
REGIONAL ART MUSEUM

THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA

Phone: 805 409-3598

Email: info@regionalartmuseum.org

Website: www.regionalartmuseum.org

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The REGIONAL ART MUSEUM is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt public benefit organization dedicated to making the visual arts accessible to the area. ID#80-0223010

RAMblings
April 2011

This is the second issue of the RAM (Regional Art Museum) newsletter which will be published periodically to update members, contributors, and interested parties of the art museum's progress, planned events, and activities.

Editors/writers

Cate Brown and Naomi Finkel

Contributing writers

Margaret Fieweger, Patricia Grant,

Fran Brough, Frank Schillo

Graphics and Layout

Dick Johnson

Photographs as credited. All conceptual renderings of the Regional Art Museum are by Francisco Behr of Behr Brothers Architects, Inc. of Westlake Village.

Membership UPDATE

By Patricia Grant

Building RAM Charter Membership is a top priority and Task Force members have divided into competitive recruiting teams. The winning group will attend a gourmet dinner prepared by our own Michael Yee. The ongoing competition will end in October and it is hoped that RAM membership will double or even triple its current numbers.

Membership levels begin at \$35 for Individual Senior members and move up to Golden Circle members at \$1000. An application and description of benefits can be found on Page 4 of this issue of RAMblings.

Golden Circle Members

Francisco Behr, Earl Duryea, Margaret Fieweger, Gisele & Leonard Friedman, Pat & Ron Grant, Richard & Joyce Johnson, Edward Lemma, Diana Malmquist, Pat & Irv Morgan, Frank & Marion Schillo, Erin Tenner, Michael Yee

Patron Members

Dr. Albert & Jacqueline Marley

Angel Members

Dr. Morris & Hollis Beck, Carmela & Richard Elsley, David & Valerie Fitzharris, Philippa & Karl Klessig, Michael Pearce, Melanie & Myron Roschko, Geri Schonberg, Doron M. Tisser, Beverly & Roger Wilson

Sustaining Members

Melanie Ashen, Lori Marie Barlow, Evie Bystrom, Mike & Nicole D'Amore, Dr. Paul Dudley, Dr. & Mrs. Michael Edelstein, Frances Elson, Robert & Carolyn Engel, Marian L. Fleming, Howard Halm, Margaret Halm, Dr. Jon & Judith Hillis, Mary Hoover, Nora Howells, Pat & Walt Johnson, Ruth & Dave Knittle, Dr. Charles & Kay North, Howard & Kathleen Reich, Jean Saunders, Audrey & Steve Schmitz, Judie Tetzlaff, Arvin & Connie Tunnick, Bob & Fran Vigne, Richard & Juanita Woolard, Jennifer Zobelein

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John & Janet Amiri, Michael & Kady Appuliese, Charles E. Austin, Lisa Baker, Mort & Barbara Barancik, Joann & Stan Benson, Marie & John Brude, Shannon T. Celia, Elwyn & Pat Ellis, Hershel & Linda Gordon, Geri Gretan, Eric Haupt, Kimberly & Mark Hobscheid, Edwin & Susan Holt, Theodora Ilowitz, Jim & Louisa Jacobs, Carolyn A. Jones, Van Klever, Carole A. Knowles, Michael Koch, Judy & Len Linton, Shannon L. Lundberg-Tice, Julian & Penny Macdonald, Karen & Ian Malatesta, Mario Metzger, Jerry & Margaret Miller, Cindy Powers, Bob & Norma Privitt, John & Susan Rogers, Doug & Marge Rucker, Carole & Bill Salak, Robert & Alix Schaefer, Lis J. Schwitters, Fred & Norma Stone, Gary Talbot & Judith Crowe,

Continued—See RAM Membership • page 4

Profiles by Cate Brown & Photos

Introducing MARGARET FIEWEGER, PhD.

Margaret Ann Fieweger McEnery's substantial curriculum vitae reveals a love of learning and a life devoted to academia but like most factual summaries gives little hint of the belletrist's identity behind the veil in a scholarly world.

Recently retired after more than thirty years in the field of social psychology as Administrator Emeritus from California State University Northridge, Margaret's other faculty posts have also included Cleveland State University, California State University Los Angeles and California State University Northridge as Department Chair of Communication Studies, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Associate Academic Vice President.



MARGARET FIEWEGER

Born in Davenport, Iowa, Margaret was the youngest in a Catholic family of six active children. By the end of her teens she'd decided on a quiet, service oriented life and in 1967 entered the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a teaching order in Dubuque and became a nun. For much of the next seventeen years her life was one of study, teaching, service to others and she could be seen wearing an ankle length, black habit with headpiece of white starched linen.

The sisters of that order were her life's inspiration. "The nuns are the people I have most admired in my life," recalls Margaret. "Their devotion to education and service to others are the ideals that most inspired me in my own life."

After graduating with a BA from Clarke University in Dubuque in 1961 she continued her studies and academic life in Chicago with her MA and PhD in Communication Studies from Northwestern University.

Her calling as a teaching sister eventually put her in contact with another teaching order, the De LaSalle Christian Brothers where she met Brother Dan McEnery. After many years, and after both had left their respective communities, they were married and for the next 31 years they continued their work of service in California in their own fields until Dan's death four years ago.

Today Margaret is busy reading and participating in book groups, art collecting, traveling, serving as a director on the RAM task force and a trustee of the Conejo/Las Virgenes Future Foundation.

A few of her favorite things include: Chicago and the Chicago Art Institute; "A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte", by Georges Seurat; artist Henri Matisse; the Impressionist period; 2016 and a RAM ground breaking ceremony. Still on her "bucket list" are trips to Mexico's Copper Canyon and the Holy Land.

Introducing PAT GRANT

Patricia Lee Farmer Grant, the Regional Art Museum task force's Membership Chairman has an ambitious vision for the task force's 2011 Membership Drive. "The goal is for the task force to bring in 300 new RAM members between now and October 2011 and keep bringing them in," says Pat. "We need to build a large membership, to bring in operating funds, to help identify donors, break ground and start building the museum."

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, art lover and teacher Pat and her husband Ron met in orchestra class in the ninth grade. After that neither looked any further. Following his graduation from Case Western Reserve in 1959, they married, moved to California and settled down to raise what would become their family of three daughters.

But she's just not the kind of blithe spirit who'll stay only in one place. While at home with the girls during the tiny years, and tucked between car-pooling, home work and home-making, she took classes at California State University of

Northridge in preparation for what she knew would be her vocation, that of educator.

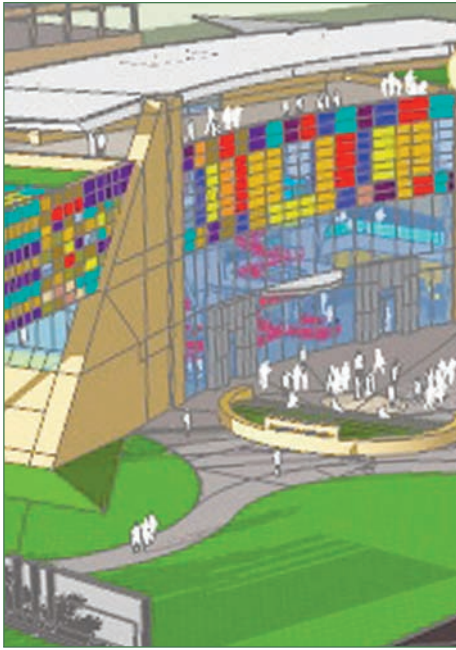
The opportunity came and after more than twenty years and a career as a teacher, middle school counselor and elementary school principal at University Elementary School, Pat retired from the Conejo Valley Unified School District in 1994. When she wasn't in the classroom almost all spare moments have been devoted to far horizons read about in her huge book collection or taught about in her many classrooms.



PAT GRANT

She and Ron have been around the world, on every continent and visited both the North and

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Profile: PAT GRANT

South Poles. When asked about a travel bucket-list, serious deliberation was required before she could identify the Middle East as one of the last, few destinations they wanted to visit and had not already thoroughly explored.

Her community commitments include years of service in leadership positions with the Conejo/Las Virgenes Future Foundation, the Arts Council of the Conejo Valley, the Thousand Oaks Arts Commission, the Conejo Park and Recreation District, and the Youth Congress Leadership Program.

But it's not always all about the peripatetic. Sometimes when she's not out in front in the community she's curled up in a chair with a book. "I can't stand to be without a good book and sitting in front of the fireplace with Ron," says Pat. "That's just about our favorite thing to do when we're not traveling."

Her favorite author: Pearl S. Buck—she has almost every book of that first-female-author-to-win-the-Pulitzer Prize—including first editions. Other Favorite Things are the Hermitage and Prado Museums; paintings by masters Monet and Rembrandt; visits to hometown Cleveland or ancient castles in Edinburgh, Scotland; favorite current book is Kate Morton's history and mystery "The Forgotten Garden"; unfulfilled ambition: author a book on the history and mystery of her own family's Scot and Italian ancestry.

Culture's worth huge, huge risks. Without culture we're all totalitarian beasts.

—Norman Mailer

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RAM Membership

Jim & Margaret Travers, Beverly & John Viola, Robert & Darla Warner, Darylene Heather Williams, Rick & Jana Yost

Individual Members

Pat Adams, Lawrence F. Arnold, Fran Brough, Cate Brown, Patricia Brubaker, Ann Bulloch, Susan Dee Carpenter, Charles C. Cunningham, Phyllis J. Doyon, Naomi Finkel, Armani Fliers, Patricia Gebeau, June Glasmeier, Linda Hensley, Ray Elizabeth Herkner, Joan Howard, Mary K. Kay, Hazel Kenzer, Mary-Gail King, Sandra Laby, John LaRocca, Michele DePuy Leavitt, Sherrill Ann Levinsohn, Mary Elva Lussier, Elizabeth MacGovern, Dr. Roberta E. Madison, Mary Ellen Massman, Jean Maxfield, Darlene McBane, Steven McDougal, Doris Mendenhall,

Diane Milavetz, Elizabeth Miller, David & Debra Oeffling, Walter Okon, Kathleen Rogers, Helene Ross, Linda Shaner, Barbara Shannon, Debra Sokolow, Evryll Swanson, Jon Storovej, Marilyn Sutton, Oto & Carol Tubelis, Barbara Warkentien, Barb Welch, Steve Wiley, Hal Williams, Kerry Williams, Joan Yacavone, Yoko Yohanna

RAM CITY HALL OFFICE

Negotiations are underway with the City of Thousand Oaks and RAM President Frank Schillo. In the near future, the REGIONAL ART MUSEUM will have an office at the Thousand Oaks City Hall adjacent to the city hall lobby. It will be utilized for the upcoming fund raising campaign and provide a central headquarters for public information provided to potential donors.

NAME THAT ARTIST

BY NAOMI FINKEL



She was an American artist who was born at a time when women were told to make a good match and settle for marriage and motherhood. In fact, she became the foremost woman artist of the nineteenth century and the only American member of the French Impressionist School.

Her technical skills were a constant source of astonishment to critics and her fellow painters. Throughout her life, she remained convinced that copying the old masters was the best way to improve technique.

Her love was painting family and maternal scenes. A noted reviewer stated, "For the first time I have seen pictures of children who are ravishing- tranquil and bourgeois scenes painted with a kind of delicate tenderness- completely charming." **Name That Artist!**

Winners will be announced in the next issue of RAMblings. E-mail your answer to RAMblings@RegionalArtMuseum.org. Include the month and year of the newsletter, your full name, and the name of the artist. Good luck!