

# ArtsGram

Monumental Expressions



A Daily Publication of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Wednesday, October 18, 2006

## This Year's Festival First Timers

The camaraderie, the excitement, the cheers of the crowd – you can always expect to find them at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. This year, 56 participants out of the 107 attending are enjoying that adrenaline rush for the first time. As our novice participants, they will share their talents, refine their art and revel in a special fellowship unlike any they've known. Take a look at what some of this year's "first-timers" have to say about this year's event.

**Marc A. Hansen** of Miami, is an Air Force veteran who won first place in two categories of the national music competition. He began singing when he was just ten years old. "I lived with my grandmother who encouraged me to be anything I wanted to be," he said. "I told her I wanted to sing and make people feel something." In last year's competi-



Betty Long of Prescott, Ariz. poses with her winning artwork.



Marc A. Hansen of Miami, Fla., participates in the chorus.

tion, Hansen received high honors but this was his first invitation to attend the annual event, an invitation that caught him by pleasant surprise. To spread the word about his win, "I called my parents, my friends and even the veterans' groups I belong to," he said.



Army veteran **Dan Krehbiel**, from Black River Falls, Wis., began singing when he was about three years old and taught himself to play the guitar in high school.

"Singing, dancing and acting are not just hobbies for me; they are in my soul and lift my spirit, even in the toughest times," Krehbiel said. "It is a very great honor to be selected to participate in the Festival. "My wife and I are both so excited about it. Performing is like breathing for me – even if I wanted to stop it completely, my spirit wouldn't let me. Songs lift me up when I am feeling down. (Don't worry, Krehbiel has no intention of not breathing during his stage show performance of *New York, New York* on Sunday.)

**Betty Long**, a Navy veteran from Prescott, Ariz., won first place in the national art competition in the fiber arts category. Inspired by the beauty and expansiveness of the desert, Long's piece is a tapestry entitled, *Persistence of Desert Vision*. "It is an incredible honor to be chosen to display my work at the Festival," Long said. "My art has given me a voice when I had no words or song. It gives me hope when there is no light or tunnel to look for at the end – it is a truly meditative process for me."

See "First Timers," continued on page 2



Presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Help Hospitalized Veterans and American Legion Auxiliary



# Studio Notes

## Woodcarving Tips for Beginners

Our first art workshop at 9 a.m. in the Sheridan room, explores woodcarving. Before you get started, here are some basic tips for carving wood.

1. Wear a thumb guard on your carving hand. (You can wear one on the hand that holds the wood, too.)
2. Realize that everybody's hands work differently, so you need to develop your own way to comfortably hold a knife, other tools and wood.
3. When your knife starts to catch in your project and breaks off little pieces of wood, stop carving and turn the wood the other way.

4. Take your time and make small chips. Work at your own comfortable pace; you are not in a race to complete your carving. You also need to learn how to feel the wood and what it is telling you.



5. Check your work from time to time to see where more attention is needed.
6. Don't be afraid to ask questions when you are in a carving class.
7. Stop carving every 30 minutes or so to rest. Shake your hands occasionally and run hot water over them to prevent cramping.



"First Timers," continued from page 2

Army veteran **Paul Harry**, from Fresno, Calif., also won in two categories in the national music competition, along with the other members of the Swinging Valley Vets. Harry, along with the other 10 first-time Festival participants in the band, will perform *American Patrol* in Sunday's show. In addition to the Swinging Valley Vets, Harry and several of the other members also play with the 509<sup>th</sup> Military Band of the Association of the United States Army. "Music is the greatest form of therapy, and those who are involved in music are better equipped to face life," he said. "Music is a second language – when you play, it soothes your soul."

Fellow group member **Robert Clark**, a Navy veteran also from Fresno, is happy to be here as well. "I was pleasantly surprised by winning the competition and being invited to perform at the 2006 Festival," Clark said. "This is an exciting

experience. When one retires they shouldn't quit living, and the arts give people an activity to help keep them going. Anyone who has talent and ability should continue to enrich their lives."

Well said, Robert. Welcome to you all!



## Highlights from the Artist Interaction Session



*George S. Moore from West Haven, Ct., shares his artwork, "Fellow Veteran Artist" during Tuesday's Artist Interaction Session.*

The room was abuzz at Tuesday's Artist Interaction Session. With an audience of fellow gold medal winners, three local television stations, local residents, volunteers and staff, nearly 40 veterans described their award-winning artwork. With stories of healing from combat experience to interpreting the beauty of nature, this year's artists shared their stories with pride and emotion. The Artist Interaction Session is an opportunity for veterans to learn more about each other and various artistic mediums.



## The Lakota People of South Dakota

All around you this week, you will see and hear references to the Lakota People (especially from several of our local participants who share this proud heritage). They are the largest division of the Dakota Nation, the name given to a group of Native Americans who occupied the land referred to today as the Great American Plains. There were several groups in the Dakota Nation. Divided by slight distinctions in dialect, the groups had many similar lifestyles and philosophies.

The Lakota People are associated with the adoption of wild horses which were used in buffalo hunts. Their success as buffalo hunters allowed them to develop a deep and respectful relationship with the land and the gifts it provided the People.



Their lifestyle was characterized as a nomadic tribe that hunted vast buffalo herds from spring to autumn. In the winter, the tribe would return to their winter lodges. Well known Lakota People associated with the history and development of the west include Chief Sitting Bull, Red Cloud and Crazy Horse.

The Lakota, along with the other tribes of the Dakota Nation, depended on nature in many ways to support them with food, shelter and spiritual growth. The harmonious relationship with the world around them is



*Famous Lakota Chief,  
Sitting Bull*

apparent when viewing Lakota art. Leather from buffalo and elk makes many useful items including teepee covers, clothing, moccasins and bags. After the leather work is completed, it is often decorated with beads, bones or other objects of beauty.

The Black Hills region is sacred to the Lakota people. Lakota celebrations, including political council meetings, religious ceremonies, sporting events, marriages and coming-of-age ceremonies were held in various locations in the region. In the mid-18th century, there were about 20,000 Lakota in the region. The number has now increased to about 70,000, and 20,480 of them still speak their ancestral language.



### Tour Ellsworth AFB



Be sure to join us today on our trip to Ellsworth Air Force Base. Ellsworth is home to the 28<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing and the B-1B Lancer aircraft, and has a long, proud history of excellence and innovation. The Bomb Wing trains and equips combat-ready forces to support Joint Chiefs of Staff tasking and applications of conventional airpower. Their mission is to provide rapid, decisive and sustainable combat airpower and expeditionary combat support — anytime, anywhere.

Ellsworth's population of approximately 11,000 includes the more than 4,000 active duty personnel and their family members, as well as about 1,100 civilian employees.

Your trip today will start with a 40-minute visit to the South Dakota Air and Space Museum. The museum will provide an up-close look at more than 25 historic bombers, fighters, utility aircraft and missiles, plus many indoor exhibits of aviation memorabilia. After the museum, Ellsworth personnel will put on three demonstrations: Explosive Ordinance Disposal, Fire, and Survival Training. At 5 p.m., dinner will be served at the Dakotas Officers Club.

Buses depart the hotel at 1:45 p.m. and will leave Ellsworth at 6:15 p.m.



## Woodcarving Workshop

When asked “Does whittling a stick for roasting marshmallows count as a woodcarving?” Jim Wheets, a member of the Hay Camp Carvers replied, “I guess it does, but if that is all the woodcarving you’re doing, then you would really enjoy the wood carving workshop!” Wheets, along with several other members of the Hay Camp Woodcarving Club, will be leading a workshop for Festival participants today that provides the basic concepts and tips to new woodcarvers. It takes place from 9 a.m. till noon in the Sheridan Room, Convention Center II.



During the workshop, students will learn the various characteristics of wood to help woodcarvers with wood

selection. Also, a demonstration of the various types of woodcarving cuts will include stop cuts, 3-D carving and relief carving. Individual projects will also be available. “Folks can choose to carve from either a toadstool or Santa Claus Christmas ornament pattern,” Wheets said.



If you have a good carving knife, bring it. If you do not have a carving knife, the Hay Camp Carvers will have some loaners available for today’s workshop. All of the wood and patterns will be furnished by the Hay Camp Carvers Club, and we appreciate their contributions to our event.



### Techniques of Art Display in a Non-Gallery Setting

Attend this session to expand your creative horizons and get the cutting-edge ideas you need to show off our veterans’ artistic masterpieces.

With so many talented veterans receiving care at VA facilities nationwide, there can sometimes be challenges finding just the right venue to display their art. At this morning’s session, we discover some answers. There are many ways to display visual art at both VA facilities and in the community – it just requires some imagination and lots of creativity.

Today’s educational session will teach you how to display art outside of the gallery setting. “Techniques of Art Display in a Non-Gallery Setting” takes place today from 9:30 – 11 a.m. in the Pactola Room, Convention Center II. When you attend, you will learn how to design an aesthetically pleasing art display, display art effectively, describe techniques of room design to augment art display, and many more new and different ways to display pieces of art. The session will be held in an actual art display area set in a hotel.

Instructing the class will be Linda Colletti, who has taught at San Diego Community Colleges for 32 years as a special education art instructor. Along with her many academic accolades, Colletti has 30-plus years of experience setting up art displays for local San Diego Art Guilds, local community colleges and the VA San Diego Healthcare System in a variety of locations (including shopping malls, hospitals, theaters and recreation centers).



*Highlighting some of our medal winning artists and performers.*

- Army veteran **Albert Gray Eagle** of Oklahoma City, who has been invited to this annual event on several past occasions, not only plays the flute but he also makes every flute that he plays. (Imagine making your saxophone if you played the sax!) This year, he won first place in two national categories, which include both music and drama. Gray Eagle was also featured on the Creative Arts Festival poster in 2003.
- Army Air Corps veteran **Bill Plaster** of Flagstaff, Ariz., has made belt buckles for two U.S. presidents, and one can be found in the Smithsonian Institute. He has also made several others for Air Corps and Air Force officers. Plaster won first place this year in the national art competition in the jewelry category.



# Photos from the Festival



Opening Ceremonies



Monumental Expressions from the Festival





# Stage Notes



## Tips for Better Dancing!

We have some wonderful dance numbers in the Festival stage show again this year, and some extremely talented dancers are here with us this week. Do you want to be a better dancer, but are not sure how? Here are a few simple tips that will make dancing a breeze!

1. Invest in comfortable shoes and clothes for dancing.
2. Technique is better than moves. (But new moves are still cool if you've got the technique!)
3. Positive attitudes are contagious. So are negative ones.
4. It's the music that drives the dancing. Good music makes you want to dance.
5. You spend both money and time on lessons. Don't waste both by not practicing!

6. Is the lady not getting those leads? Is the gentleman not leading well? Ladies, don't fight it. Gentlemen, don't lead harder – lead smarter, lead earlier or lead easier patterns. Listen to your partner – he or she may be able to give you a clue as to what is expected.
7. Better personal grooming makes for a better dance partner.
8. Some learn fast. Some learn slow. With effort even the turtle arrives! Have patience with yourself and others.



## Veterans History Project

Thank you to those veterans who have already recorded their military histories for the Veterans History Project (VHP). You have helped make history!

Interviews continue through Saturday in the Needles Room, Convention Center I. Artists – stop by in between workshops and trips, and performers, come over when you aren't busy rehearsing! Sign up for your interview with Butch Miller in the VHP taping room. This historic project honors our nation's veterans by creating a lasting legacy of their military experience. Last year, we had outstanding results at the Festival in Denver.

The VHP taping schedule for today through Saturday is from 8 a.m. – noon and from 1 – 5 p.m. Please participate in this important national effort.

## October Birthdays



- Allen Eckman turned 60 on October 5  
 Dan Krehbiel turned 58 on October 7  
 Douglas Heatherly turned 58 on October 9  
 Marvin Hooper turned 57 on October 10  
 Gaylen Young turned 53 on October 11  
 Don Morrison turns 63 TODAY (October 18)!
- Happy Birthday, gentlemen!

## Oldest Participants:

- Male: Thomas Austin, 88, Fort Thomas, Ky.  
 Female: Frances Eckart, 84, Minneapolis, Minn.

## Youngest Participants:

- Male: John Bigham, 36, Rosemont, Pa.  
 Female: Charlene Grant, 39, Baltimore, Md.

## Cyber Stop

An Internet Café, sponsored by Hewlett-Packard Company, will be available in the Bear Butte Room, Convention Center I. Computers will be available for participants to access the internet.

Hours of operation: Wednesday, October 17 through Sunday, October 21, 7 – 8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and 7 – 9:00 p.m. (except for Thursday and Sunday evenings).



# F - Y - I



Meet with your team leader every morning (today through Friday) at 8:30 a.m. at the designated location determined at Monday

night's meeting. On Saturday, October 21, the team meetings will begin at 9 a.m. On Sunday, October 22, the meetings will begin at 11 a.m.

## NVCAF Web site [www.creativeartsfestival.org](http://www.creativeartsfestival.org)

Would you like your friends and family back home to be able to see what you are doing this week? Tell them to log onto the Festival Web site to check out the daily editions of the *ArtsGram* (on the main home page) as well as individual news releases and photos, located on the "Participant Information" tab.

## Medical Suite

The medical support team is located in Room 1702, and team members are available at all times during the Festival week. They will also accompany all tours away from the hotel and will be wearing red hats. Many activities and long eventful days are happening this week, so please try to get adequate rest and drink plenty of fluids. If you have a medical concern or health issue, please contact your team leader. We hope you are having a wonderful time!



The Hospitality Room (Ramkota Room 1114) will

be open today from 9 a.m. – 11 p.m. There are games, magazines, newspapers and refreshments. Our hostesses are the best! Stop by for a snack or just some good conversation!



High: 53° Low: 41°  
40% chance of rain

# Today's Menus



All meals, unless otherwise indicated, will be provided in the Rushmore Room, Convention Center I.

Meal hours are as follows:

Breakfast: 7 – 8:30 a.m.

Lunch: Noon – 1 p.m.

Dinner: 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.

### Wednesday, October 18, 2006

#### **Breakfast**

- Sausage Links, Egg Bake, Waffles with Warm Syrup  
Butter, Strawberry Sauce, Whipped Cream  
Breakfast Potatoes
- Bagels with Cream Cheese and Jelly, Danish Pastries  
Orange, Apple and Tomato Juice  
Milk (Soy Milk Available upon request)  
Oatmeal, Dry Cereal  
Individual Yogurts, Fresh Fruit

#### **Lunch**

##### South of the Border

- Building Your Own Taco Bar, Tortilla Chips with Nacho  
Cheese
- Corn and Flour Tortilla Shells, Seasoned Ground Beef  
Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Black Olives, Sour Cream,  
Salsa, Mexican Rice, Refried Beans

#### **Dinner (Performers)**

##### A Touch of Elegance

- Chef Carved Beef, Chicken Breast with Wildberry  
Hollandaise
- Wild Rice Blend, Baked Potato, Sour Cream, Butter  
Seasonal Fresh Vegetables, Garden Salad
- Assorted Dressings, Garden Broccoli Salad, Oriental Pasta  
Salad, Bistro Roll and Butter  
Variety of Cheese Cake for Dessert

#### **Dinner (Artists)**

##### Dakotas—EAFB

- BBQ Beef Brisket
- Grilled Chicken Breast with Mushrooms
- Oven Roasted Potatoes, Candied Carrots
- Tossed Garden Salad, Dinner Rolls and Butter  
Dessert



### Wednesday, October 18, 2006

7 — 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at hotel — Rushmore Room

8 a.m. Team leaders meet with Katy Ryan — Sheridan Room, CCII

8:30 a.m. Team leaders meet with artists

9 a.m. — 11 p.m. Hospitality Room Open — Suite 1114

9 a.m. — Noon Art Workshop #1 — Woodcarving, Sheridan Room, CCII

9:30 — 11 a.m. Educational Session — “Techniques of Art Display in a Non-Gallery Setting” by Linda Colletti — Pactola, CCII

Noon — 1:30 p.m. Lunch at hotel — Rushmore Room

1:30 — 5 p.m. Local art committee takes down art exhibit

1:30 p.m. Board buses for Tour — Ellsworth Air Force Base

2 p.m. Tour location — Ellsworth Air Force Base

5 p.m. Dinner at Ellsworth Air Force Base, Dakota Club

8 — 9 p.m. Slide Presentation of the Military Combat Experience entries from the 2006 national art competition — Sheridan Room, CCII

9 — 11 p.m. Karaoke and Talent/Social time at hotel — Legion 2, CCII

7 — 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at hotel — Rushmore Room

8 a.m. Team leaders meet with Amy Kimbler — Badlands Room, CCI

8:30 a.m. Team leaders meet with performers

9 — 11 a.m. Chorus number rehearsal with music director (ALL participants) — Washington Room, CCI

9 — 11 a.m. Auditions for solos and narrations — one person at a time will be called out of chorus number rehearsal — Badlands, CCI

9 a.m. — 11 p.m. Hospitality Room Open — Suite 1114

9:30 — 11 a.m. Educational Session — “Techniques of Art Display in a Non-Gallery Setting” by Linda Colletti — Pactola, CCII

11 — Noon Production numbers stage placement (ALL participants) — Washington Room

Noon — 1:30 p.m. Lunch at hotel — Rushmore Room

1:30 — 5:15 p.m. Complete run-thru in show order, including chorus numbers, stopping to fix problems, we will get as far through the show as we can - ALL VETERANS NEEDED — Washington Room Continue fitting for chorus member vests and other acts — Lincoln Room

5:30 — 6:45 p.m. Dinner at hotel — Rushmore Room

7:00 p.m. — ? Finish with the complete run-thru in show order, including chorus numbers, stopping to fix problems — ALL VETERANS NEEDED — Washington Room



#### Schedule legend:

CCI - Convention Center I  
 CCII - Convention Center II

Please check with your team leader or the posted schedule outside of the Washington Room for any changes or updates to your daily schedule.