

MARCH 2017

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The Arts Issue

LOCAL MUSICIANS
-- A LOVE OF MUSIC
& THE LOWCOUNTRY

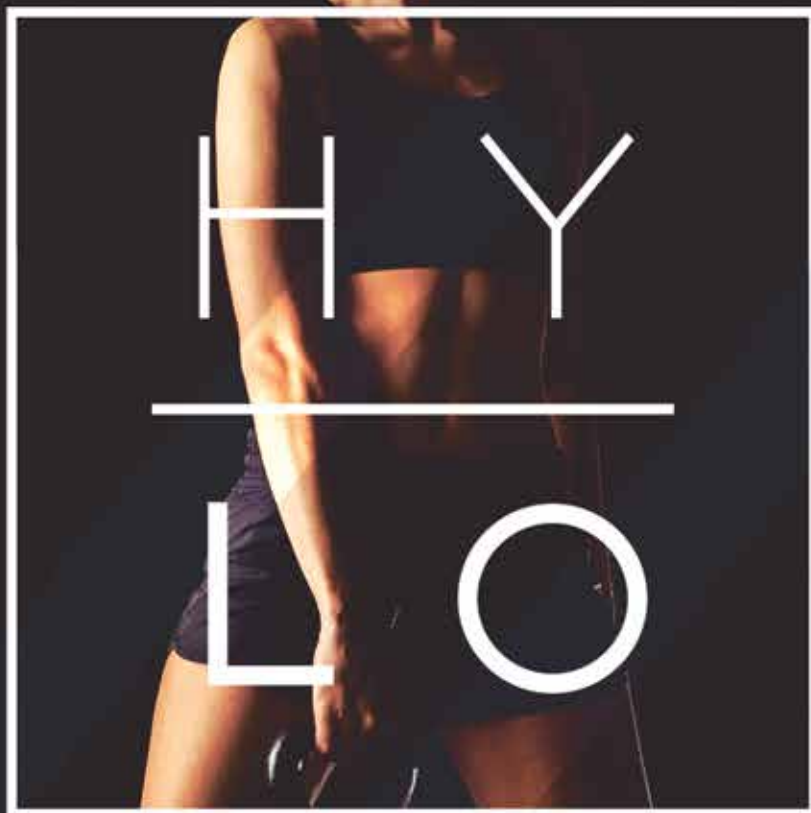
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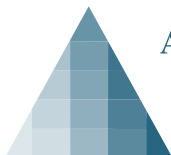
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Creativity Takes Courage

As I begin this new journey as Editor of *Mt. Pleasant Lifestyle Magazine*, I do so with an open heart.

The publishers, writers, photographers and staff who helped me create our first arts-themed issue are consummate professionals—artists—in their own right and I'm incredibly honored to work with them.

I grew up in a very small Southern town with no cultural venues nearby. Art surrounded me though—small productions in our school and church—and writing, painting, singing and music were commonplace in our home. Nature was our canvas for inspiration and my sisters and I transformed our backyard into some pretty magical places.

My father, a self-taught craftsman, artist and farmer, reupholstered furniture and could make a clunker car look brand new—inside and out. He sketched pictures of playhouses and said to us girls, "Pick one." We played for hours in a playhouse shaped like Old Mother Hubbard's shoe that he built. His paintings and creations are scattered throughout our homes now, a part of him always with us, through his art.

My mother, a culinary master and seamstress extraordinaire, plucked home-grown vegetables from the ground, making a week's worth of meals from the earth's bounty and transformed simple ingredients into delicious organic food. She could sew anything, including our clothes at times, and if there wasn't a pattern, she'd make one out of newspaper. She now periodically creates colorful clothing for children in [third-world countries](#).

Inheriting a creative spirit led me to write, paint, reinvent and then, here, to this community, this beautiful place I call home.

We are from everywhere—some "been-heres," some "come-heres," but we share a love of this pristine landscape. We are a community that looks to the future and respects time-honored traditions.

This issue is about those individuals who make our lives more beautiful by creating masterpieces that give our souls sustenance and make our hearts sing. Our community is blessed with a panoply of artists—from sweetgrass basket artisans to painters, musicians and thespians—as well as those who encourage and educate. The virtuosic variety we have at our disposal is limitless. You'll read about your community neighbors in this issue and their stories may inspire you to explore your own creative outlets.

Henri Matisse wrote, "Creativity takes courage." I believe that to be true and I believe that each of us has our own creative offering. When we create something and present it outwardly, we are taking a leap of faith, inviting others to view a part of ourselves.

We are saying: *This is me. Here I am.*

Enjoy.

Brigitte Surette, Editor
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TALK TO US



MARCH 2017

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Proverbs 3:5-6

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Pub Talk

I love the movies.

I'm so grateful that I'm married to a woman who enjoys them as much as I do.

We love going to Mount Pleasant Towne Center. And, what a local delight Cinebarre is. Cinebarre's motto is "Eat. Drink. Watch movies." I mean, you can enjoy a beer and wings brought right to your seat. How cool is that? To cinephiles like us, it just doesn't get any better.

For several years now, we have challenged ourselves to see every *Best Picture* nominee prior to the Oscars. In so doing, we end up seeing most of the *Best Actor*, *Best Actress* and *Best Director* nominees as well. It really makes watching the Oscars fun because you have honest opinions about who was the best this or that.

The challenge is actually being able to find all the movies in Charleston. A couple of years ago, the Academy expanded the number of *Best Picture* nominees and so now there is always an "art" film or two which the critics love, but are hard to find in our local theaters. Charleston is not Atlanta, which can support art house-type movie theaters and venues, so it can be a challenge to get that last movie in. Sometimes we get lucky and find it on video which is kind of cheating because our "rule" is we have to see it in the theater for the full experience.

We attend lots of movies throughout the year and we have our rituals. First, the movie has to have received halfway decent reviews on Rotten Tomatoes. We're open to lots of genres, but not bad movies. Second, we MUST arrive early. This has been an ongoing sore spot in our marriage. My wife insists we have to be seated before the first preview rolls. So we are. Third, we always sit middle of the row halfway up. When you arrive early you have choices.

I find the movies such a delightful escape. Sitting there in the semi-dark waiting for the movie to begin there's an anticipation of what's to come. Sometimes you're disappointed. But, sometimes you leave truly delighted. *La La Land* was that for me this year. Seemed kind of like a chick-flick-musical-love story at first and then it turned out to be so much more. I was smiling from the opening scene and thoroughly enjoyed their engaging and refreshing take on a well-worn theme.

So get out to the movies! Go to Mount Pleasant Towne Center and splurge on a big tub of popcorn. You have my permission. Or, venture to Cinebarre and order a bourbon.

Then, wait for the lights to dim and enjoy the show!

Bill Northrop
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I LOVE God
I LOVE My Country
I LOVE My Family and
I LOVE Dentistry
 ~Steve Crossland

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Wando High School Open House

Students, teachers and parents gathered recently at Wando High School for the Second Semester Open House. Student volunteers were on hand to assist parents find their way at Wando's expansive campus.



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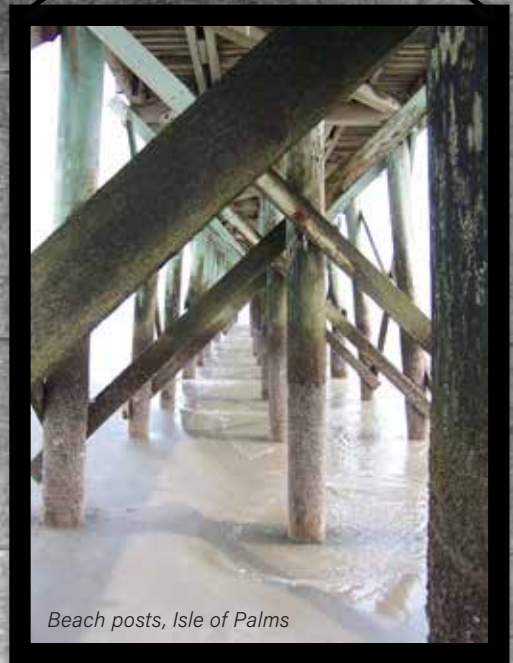
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ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPHY BRIGITTE SURETTE

Beauty surrounds us. Art--manmade, living and natural--is a short drive or steps away. Our community is rich with historical landmarks, phenomenal architecture and artists and artisans that bring their vision to life. We pass by these works, structures and vistas daily. The stroke of a brush, the writing of a story, screenplay or novel, capturing a moment through a lens, inventing a musical score, acting or continuing a centuries-old tradition--artistic expressions and creations are born through everyday inspiration.

The colors, hues and flora that paint our sunsets, decorate our marshes and beaches, and warm our woodlands are continuous reminders of how we can all be inspired, every day and anytime we choose to be.



Beach posts, Isle of Palms



Sculpture by Raymond Kaskey, Memorial Waterfront Park, Mount Pleasant



Sunset, Between Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island



Intracoastal Waterway and Shrimp Boat, Mount Pleasant



Mural by Odeith, Mount Pleasant



Pitt Street Bridge Park, Old Village, Mount Pleasant



Arthur Ravenel Bridge, Memorial Waterfront Park, Mount Pleasant



Oak Alley, Mount Pleasant

Farming and Community Merge at Boone Hall Farms

Farming has been a part of Boone Hall Plantation for over three centuries. There aren't many farms left in this country that can make that claim. The agricultural arm of the plantation today is known as Boone Hall Farms. This small community farm is located on a part of Boone Hall that has some of the richest coastal farmland in the state. There's something about that black dirt combined with today's safe farming practices and a staff whose dedication is second to none...that comes together to produce some of the healthiest freshest produce available anywhere. Boone Hall Farms works closely with agents from the Clemson Extension Service to grow a wide variety of produce in the spring, summer, and fall that have become essential parts of family dinner tables all over the Lowcountry.

Much of the produce sold by local grocers is shipped in from far away places. The produce grown at this local farm in season is sold at Boone Hall Farms Market right across the street and also at their Roadside Produce Stand located right next to some of the farm fields. It doesn't get any fresher than that.

Additionally, Boone Hall Farms believes it is important to reach out to their neighbors in local communities to give opportunities to stay involved and engaged with the farm. Crop fields are open for U-picking of certain crops throughout the spring and summer. The Lowcountry Strawberry Festival in the spring and the Boone Hall Pumpkin Patch in the fall are two of the largest agritourism events presented in the state each year. All provide great family fun on the farm. The farm-to-table program provides produce for many of Charleston's finest restaurants and grocery stores. Shares for the Boone Hall Farms Community Supported Agriculture Program are offered in the spring and the fall for local residents.

It is also worth noting that for several years in a row, both the farm and the CSA program have been voted winners in their perspective categories by the readers of The City Paper in the annual Best Of Charleston awards. While ownership and staff are grateful for this type of recognition, more importantly, awards of this kind help to validate that farming and community involvement go hand in hand at Boone Hall Farms.

Visit www.boonehallfarms.com to learn more.



Boone Hall Farms Foreman Erik Hernandez - Mt. Pleasant Mayor Linda Page - Boone Hall Owner Willie McRae - Boone Hall Director Of Operations Jadie Rayfield at opening ceremony to Lowcountry Strawberry Festival.



Boone Hall Farms staff picking the superfood Kale.



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Strawberries are king at Boone Hall Farms each spring.



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Fine Arts Flourish at Wando High

Spotlight on Theatre Director Lori Carroll

ARTICLE SYDNEY HERWIG
PHOTOGRAPHY JESS WOOD

It's no secret that Wando High School is home to some of the most gifted young men and women in the Charleston area. From excellence in academics to superior sports teams, Wando seems to be teeming with talented students.

The Fine Arts Department is no exception.

The department is comprised of theatre, art, band, chorus, dance and orchestra. After being recognized nationally year after year, it's safe to say some of this can be chalked up to leadership, and the woman behind the curtain: Lori Carroll.

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Carroll, who is the Theatre Director and Fine Arts Department Chair, has been at Wando since it opened in 2004, but her background in theatre began long before then. Her childhood involved dance, band and choir and now, in the professional sphere as well, where she has been in theatre education for over 25 years.

Carroll, who refers to herself as a born educator, began her career as an English teacher before moving into theater education. After moving to Mount Pleasant from Ohio, she started teaching acting classes with the Charleston Stage Company.

"I think I was always interested in theatre, but just didn't always have the accessibility to it until Charleston Stage," Carroll says.

She soon realized she could make more of an impact on students in theatre versus English and received her MA in Theatre Education from the University of South Carolina. Up until that time, she had never visited New York. She now visits every year for various workshops and to keep up with what's happening on and off-Broadway.

"I love learning what is changing in theatre and bringing it back to Wando," Carroll admits.

She currently teaches Theatre 1, 2, 3 as well as the Honors Theatre Ensemble. "You can honestly just see the kids get sucked into theatre. It's such a cool thing to be a part of."

The theatre department is busy throughout the year, with over 20 public performances each school year; including a fall play, comedy show, coffee house, Thursday Night Live, student-directed plays and a musical each February.

Carroll notes it truly is a school-wide effort with the musical, involving everyone from the band to techies to teachers, who help with the costumes. Their participation has resulted in it becoming a community tradition.



Photo provided by Wando High School



Photo provided by Wando High School



Many students participate in Drama 1 as an elective and then have the option to continue to pursue some of the more advanced classes. Carroll estimates there's around 100 or so students who are heavily involved in the theatre department.

"In such a huge school, everyone needs a safe space and, for many, the theatre is that safe space where people don't have to worry about being judged," Carroll says.

Some of Carroll's students have gone on to work in professional theatres or study theatre throughout the Southeast, New York and London, with one student stage managing a theme park in Dubai.

"They're learning life skills along the way and it ends up being much more than a grade. From psychology to marketing. It's honestly like a small business for them. The students create the posters, write the press releases, oversee lighting and sound, costuming. They're forced to problem



"It's not just about teaching theatre . . . it's about preparing these students to be successful and overall good human beings," Carroll says.

solve, work collaboratively, follow instructions and take initiative," Carroll says.

Carroll believes that the students who decide not to pursue the theatre gain valuable life lessons—beyond acting skills—as a result of being involved in the theatre department.

"It's not just about teaching theatre . . . it's about preparing these students to be successful and overall good human beings," she says.



Photo provided by Wando High School



Photo provided by Wando High School

Watch the theatre program in action at their Coffee House event on May 4, 2017 at Wando High School's Black Box Theatre. For more information and to view a full calendar of events, visit wandotheatre.weebly.com



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**ARTICLE DEBORAH SLEDZIONA
PHOTOGRAPHY JESS WOOD**

Of all music, there is perhaps none more intimate than chamber music.

Characterized by small ensembles, this classical music has been described by poets as “a conversation between friends.” Most are familiar with some of chamber music’s most famous composers, such as Beethoven and Brahms; however, as this elegant form of music continues to transcend time and place, you’ll be pleased to know that you don’t have to travel far to find two of the world’s most sought after musicians of the genre.

“Cellist/pianist soul-mates,” “deeply touching,” and “beautifully expressive,” are just a few accolades that critics around the globe have used to describe the Natalia Khoma – Volodymyr Vynnytsky Duo. Prior to their becoming a duo, Khoma and Vynnytsky distinguished themselves as soloists, recitalists, and chamber musicians. They have appeared with major orchestras and premier chamber music series throughout the United States and Europe. Despite the many places that their music has taken them—from New York, New York to France and Los Angeles, California to Spain—the pair chose Mount Pleasant, South Carolina as home.

CONTINUED >

MUSICAL SOULMATES (CONTINUED)

Winning several awards and competitions around the world, the electrifying pair brings something remarkable to the Charleston music scene and delivers unforgettable performances.

The Post and Courier writes, “Khoma is an extremely skillful cellist, revealing all of the subtle and burnished aspects of her instrument and Rachmaninoff’s music. Reflecting incredible technique and deep musical understanding, Vynnytsky is as masterly a keyboard artist as you will ever hope to find.”

Hailing from Lviv, Ukraine, Khoma and Vynnytsky both studied at the prestigious Moscow Conservatory. However, it wasn’t until they both performed together in New York that their partnership was formed.



Photography provided by musicians





Natalia Khoma and Volodymyr Vynnytsky will present a night of intimate chamber music at the Charleston Music Fest on April 13 at 7:30 PM. For more information and to purchase tickets online visit www.music.cofc.edu/concerts/charleston-music-fest/ or email Natalia Khoma at khoman@cofc.edu or Volodymyr Vynnytsky at vynnytskyv@cofc.edu.



“We went to the same music school, and after, we went to Moscow Conservatory. But we never met,” Vynnytsky recalls.

Shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Vynnytsky and Khoma were invited to New York to perform. “We met in New York when we were invited to play together,” Khoma says. “We first played together in 1992.”

In addition to their phenomenal portfolio and work as composers, performers, and musicians, the two also share their passion, knowledge, and love for music with students of the Lowcountry, day after day. Both work as professors at the College of Charleston; Khoma as Associate Professor of Cello and Director of the Charleston Music Fest, and Vynnytsky as the Director of Chamber Music. College students aren’t the only group who are privy to their amazing talents and knowledge.

They also teach young musicians of the Charleston International Music School in Mount Pleasant. For the past two years, Khoma and Vynnytsky have served as invited professors at the organization’s summer program.

“You have to have a full education and art is one of the most important aspects. If you don’t study music, then you will never know history,” Khoma says.

“It is the feeling of different times,” Vynnytsky adds.

Khoma and Vynnytsky picked up their instruments at the ages of five and three, respectively. Vynnytsky recalls that at age three, he didn’t imagine that his music would take him around the globe, but notes that his professors always spoke of the opportunities and taught the importance of hard work.

“We want people to know that we are here and that we can help ... there are a lot of possibilities for young musicians in Charleston, and the opportunities to learn are incredible.”

Khoma and Vynnytsky welcome all and encourage everyone to learn more about this brilliant and elegant form of music.



meet your local

SWEETGRASS BASKET WEAVER

ARTISAN AIMS TO KEEP GULLAH TRADITION ALIVE WITH BASKET WEAVING

On any given day, the Charleston City Market is a bustling place filled with artisans making unique goods. One of the staples at the market are sweetgrass baskets—crafted by various artisans throughout the market, these baskets have one thing in common: Gullah culture.

For Mount Pleasant local, Corey Alston, basket-weaving is his way of preserving the Gullah tradition and culture in the Lowcountry.

The sweetgrass baskets have been a part of Alston's family for five generations and he picked up the skill himself at age 17, when his girlfriend, who is now his wife, taught him.

If you visit the market, you'll find Alston and his sister Carlene Habersham at their booth, "Gullah Sweetgrass Basket," located at the entrance on Meeting Street. Here, they display work from various artisans in their family. Baskets of all shapes and sizes, as well as various pieces of art made from sweetgrass as well—fans, roses, coasters, even earrings.





CONTINUED >



Alston's grandmother started running the booth back in the 1970s and over time, they made their way to the front of the market. Alston describes the front spot as an honor and something that was earned in part for their storytelling ability.

He clarifies that although you can find many of the baskets being sold at the market and along Broad Street, the market was not the original place the baskets were sold.

"These baskets and their history were first brought to the Charleston area, Mount Pleasant specifically, and began at Boone Hall. When slaves came over from West Africa, they brought this piece of their culture and used the baskets for different tools—to gather, separate rice seeds and make daily jobs easier," Alston says.

Back as early as the 1940s, if you rode along U.S. Route 17, you'd notice various stands along the sides of the road selling the baskets. Many of these stands still operate today.

For Alston, basket weaving is his way of keeping the Gullah culture alive and not letting the industry go silent.

"Once you realize how unique your culture is, you find avenues to keep it alive and relevant. Being an artisan lets me do this in different ways," he says.

He explains that various avenues for keeping the culture alive differ from region to region—some have Gullah influences in their food, others have the craft of blacksmithing. Basket weaving is Lowcountry specific.

When he's not at the market, Alston works with the Charleston community through libraries, museums and schools to ensure that Gullah stories are told and taught. Children grow up understanding the rich culture that's part of the place in which they live.

Alston has also branched into the realm of photography, Gullah Woven Photos, where he features sweetgrass baskets in Lowcountry settings

While he continues to do the traditional designs, Alston constantly adds new patterns and designs to keep the art form fresh. He got the community involved in this by recently releasing a 3D app, "Build Your Sweetgrass Basket," which allows one to design a unique basket. The user chooses the colors, designs and sizes and from that, Alston creates a custom piece of art.

One of his latest creations is the Unity Rose. Representing peace, harmony, unity, acceptance and trust, the piece is rapidly growing in popularity through word of mouth and social media. The objective: Take a snapshot (selfie) of yourself, the Unity Rose and someone who is different than you—whatever those differences may be—religion, physicality, age or any other kind of difference—and post to the Unity page at [Facebook.com/UnityAsOne](https://www.facebook.com/UnityAsOne).

Alston's stand at Charleston City Market in downtown Charleston has a steady stream of patrons—regulars and visitors alike—and they wave as they pass by. Others gather to hear the stories behind the pieces.

Alston lends a hand in keeping the Gullah Culture alive.

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SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST.

**THE HOW
AND THE WHY**
BY SARAH TREEM

MARCH 2-18
SOUTHOFBROADWAY.COM



Recently **SOLD** Mt Pleasant Properties

NEIGHBORHOOD	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	%SOLD/LIST	DOM*	BDRMS	BATHS
Rivertowne	\$1,600,000	\$1,550,000	96.9%	3	6	6.5
Belle Hall	\$1,469,000	\$1,430,000	97.3%	50	5	5.5
Old Mt. Pleasant	\$1,150,000	1,150,000	100%	1	5	3.5
Molasses Creek	\$1,049,000	\$985,000	93.8%	72	5	3.5
The Groves	\$950,000	\$955,000	100.5%	3	5	4
Hamlin Plantation	\$895,000	\$895,000	100%	16	4	3.5
Oyster Point	\$887,900	\$887,900	100%	103	6	5
Snee Farm	\$758,000	\$749,000	98.8%	16	4	3.5
Park West	\$750,000	\$746,500	99.5%	5	4	4
Shell Point	\$750,000	\$740,000	98.6%	43	4	3
I'on	\$749,999	\$727,000	97%	12	3	2.5
Hidden Lakes	\$718,750	\$696,400	96.9%	1	4	3
Dunes West	\$699,000	\$684,000	97.8%	44	5	3.5
Old Village	\$678,000	\$675,000	99.5%	26	3	2
Darrell Creek	\$659,500	\$644,000	97.6%	31	4	3.5

Information obtained from Comparative Market Analysis for 08-31-16 through 10-31-16.



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ARTISTS DEDICATED TO THEIR
ART AND THEIR COMMUNITY

THE *Charleston* ARTIST COLLECTIVE

It all began with a vision.

Seven years ago, Allison Williamson, Director of the Charleston Artist Collective, set out on a mission to challenge the way that Charlestonians and people around the world found and collected art. Tom Freston, an American entertainment industry executive, said, "Innovation is taking two things that already exist and putting them together in a new way." In 2010, Williamson and her team of artists did just that.

Combining technology with the art collection process, The Collective is distinguishing itself as one of Mount Pleasant's most innovative and diverse art galleries.

CONTINUED >

ARTICLE DEBORAH SLEDZIONA | PHOTOGRAPHY JESS WOOD

Artist's Palette (CONTINUED)

Eclectic furnishings and gorgeous art welcome visitors to the Gallery.



Divine Sorrow by Anne Keane, provided by Charleston Artist Collective




Moody Blue by Shannon Wood, provided by Charleston Artist Collective



Blue Lagoon by Way Way Allen, provided by Charleston Artist Collective





Our goal is to make artwork assessable, affordable, and not intimidating! — Allison Williamson, Director, Charleston Artist Collective

Without the need for a brick and mortar store in the beginning, the Charleston Artist Collective primarily operated online—through their website, newsletters and social media. With a strong online presence, the organization has succeeded in shipping local, original artwork to thousands of homes in the Lowcountry and beyond. Williamson explains that while most art galleries require that you walk in to see the artists that they represent, Charleston Artist Collective’s online presence has allowed them to get their artwork in front of more eyes than ever before.

“Our goal is to make artwork assessable, affordable, and not intimidating,” Williamson says.

Since its inception, the Charleston Artist Collective has grown to include sixteen local artists. While many may think of art as a primarily solo activity, The Collective challenges the traditional ways in which people think of art. Artists from Mount Pleasant, Sullivan’s Island and Isle of Palms bring their own unique vision to the gallery, yet unite as a “collective spirit” for the same ultimate purpose and goal:

“We are a collective of local artists who are dedicated to giving to local charities. We have a mission to provide the world with access to affordable, original art.”


Each month, artists meet to decide on quarterly themes. In addition, they choose one local charity and donate five percent of all sales proceeds to the selected charity. Since their launch in 2010, the Charleston Artist Collective has donated over \$100,000 to local charities in Charleston and the surrounding area.

Until Christmas of 2016, the Charleston Artist Collective has primarily operated online. Now, Williamson and her team of artists are excited to announce the opening of their new Mount Pleasant studio gallery and welcome everyone to stop by. The beautiful new gallery, centrally located, in Mount Pleasant on 414 Whilden Street is a space where one can meet the artists and view their work.

“Until now, I’ve had all of this [work] in my home,” Williamson says. “I couldn’t be more thrilled with our location, and now that we are in this space, I hope we can host more events.”

Abstracts, figurative, traditional, folk art and more—there’s something for everyone at the Charleston Artist Collective. Not sure which piece will work with a space? The Charleston Artist Collective offers art consultation services to ensure customers find the perfect piece (or pieces) for their home.

For news, shows, events and more, please visit Charleston.ArtistCollectives.org.



Allison Williamson and son, Henry

March



MARCH 1-5, 2017, VARIOUS LOCATIONS AND EVENT TIMES

CHARLESTON FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Celebrate Charleston's culinary excellence and fine wine selections. More than 100 events and culinary collaborations over five days. For more information and to buy tickets call 843.727.9998 or email: nysa@charlestonwineandfood.com.

Photo by Andrew Cebulka courtesy of *Charleston Wine + Food*.

MARCH 3-4, 7:30-9:30 PM

BEETHOVEN'S PASTORAL
GAILLIARD CENTER

Charleston Symphony Orchestra. Ken Lam, Conductor, Yuriy Becker, Violin. Symphony No. 6, *Pastoral*.

MARCH 3

CHARLESTON GALLERY ASSOCIATION ARTWALK
DOWNTOWN CHARLESTON

Over 40 galleries participating with many artists in attendance. Email: info@CharlestonGalleryAssociation.com for more information.

MARCH 4


FRONT BEACH FEST
ISLE OF PALMS

Free Admission! Enjoy live music, local restaurants, craft vendors, jump castles, face painting and balloon artists.

FROM NOON TO CLOSE

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY
PALMETTO ISLANDS COUNTY PARK

Enjoy all the play with none of the pay! ~~Parks waving all admission fees includes: Palmetto County Island Park in Mount Pleasant as well~~

~~as McLeod Plantation Historic Site, Ravenel Caw Caw Interpretive Center, North Charleston Wannamaker, James Island and Laurel Hill County Parks. While in the parks, visitors can register for a chance to win a Gold Pass Membership. For a fun-filled day of~~  ~~entire, whisk the family away to palmetto-lined vistas, savor a picnic lunch along tidal creeks, or stroll leisurely on self-guided nature trails.~~



EVERY TUESDAY

STORY TIME

BARNES & NOBLE, MOUNT PLEASANT TOWNE CENTRE

Join B&N at 11 a.m. for children's Storytime every Tuesday throughout the month of March for story time and crafts.

MARCH 13

NEXT STEPS OF MOUNT PLEASANT (NSMP) TRAINING
MOUNT PLEASANT

The Next Step Program Affiliate in the Mt Pleasant area is an ecumenical Christian organization of Cooperative Churches serving people in poverty living in our community and is seeking volunteers. To learn more about NSMP and receive introductory training as a Next Step Program Volunteer, please contact Deacon Ed Dyckman at 843-367-564.

Location: Eastbridge Presbyterian Church

MARCH 14-18, VARIOUS TIMES

CHARLESTON FASHION WEEK
MARION SQUARE

The event showcases emerging designer and model talent across the East Coast. Experience a five-night celebration featuring runway shows and competitions.

For more information visit charlestonfashionweek.com

MARCH 17-18, 7:30 PM

A SEA SYMPHONY
GAILLIARD CENTER

Charleston Symphony Orchestra. Margaret Kelly Cook, soprano; Peter Tomaszewski, baritone; Ken Lam, Conductor. Symphony No. 1, *A Sea Symphony*.

MARCH 18-19; 10 AM TO 4 PM

PET FEST

PALMETTO ISLANDS COUNTY PARK

Pets and their owners are invited to join Charleston County Parks for a full weekend of exhibits, demonstrations, experts, entertainment, and more at Charleston's premiere pet festival! Pet Fest provides an opportunity for local pet-related organizations and businesses to showcase their causes, products and services in a fun, animal-friendly environment. Leashed pets are welcome with their owners! Or, come to the festival in search of your new best friend from area rescue groups, who will have adoptable animals on site. Admission \$8/person. Children under 12 free!



MARCH 18

RUGGED MANIACS OBSTACLE RACE

BOONE HALL PLANTATION

Rugged Maniac is returning to Boone Hall Plantation on March 18th with 25 epic obstacles and 1 rockin' party! Here's how it works: Register for the race and

you'll get a chance to run our 3-mile course where you'll climb towers of shipping containers, rocket down a massive water slide, crawl through underground tunnels, and experience some BIG new obstacles! A day-long festival with mechanical bulls, adult bounce houses and other games and activities!

To register or get more info, visit their website at ruggedmaniac.com/events/southcarolina/

MARCH 18

ART FEST



MOUNT PLEASANT TOWNE CENTRE

This annual festival at the Mount Pleasant Towne Centre brings families and cultural enthusiasts together with budding and professional

artists for an event that showcases a diverse array of local and regional artistic talent.

Local music, dance and visual arts studios offer stunning performances by some of the area's most talented individuals and groups. Free admission! Free parking! Free activities!

MARCH 18

CHARLESTON JAZZ ORCHESTRA CHARLESTON MUSIC HALL



Charleston Jazz Orchestra Season 9: Unforgettable: A Tribute to Nat King Cole (featuring Freddy Cole). 843.641.0011.

MARCH 23

MUSC CENTER ON COLLEGE - SENIOR EXPO OMAR CONVENTION CENTER



Free Health Screenings by MUSC for 65+, including blood pressure, memory screenings, bone density scans, lung checks, vision and hearing, fall risk assessment, dental, movement disorders and stroke rehab. Also, cooking, exercise demos, exhibitors and food! Free admission! Email dillonk@muscedu for more information.

MARCH 30

SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM PLASTIC POLLUTION SUMMIT THE CHARLESTON GAILLARD CENTER



The South Carolina Aquarium and the 5 Gyres Institute and the Lonely Whale Foundation for Breaking Down Plastic, is hosting a summit to find solutions to the problem of plastic pollution. The Plastic Solutions Pavilion, free and open to the public during the entire summit, will host exhibitors ranging from product vendors to innovators and agencies and features interactive displays on conservation initiatives.

Call 843.577.3474 for more information.



What's on our Website?

- PAST ISSUES
- CURRENT ARTICLES
- BUSINESS DIRECTORY
- CONTEST REGISTRATION

Visit us at MTPLEASANTLIFESTYLEPUBS.COM

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ARTICLE LINDA PAGE

THE TRANSFORMATIVE NATURE OF ART

HONORING CREATIVITY

I am sometimes overwhelmed by life, but always overwhelmed by art. Art can be transforming, while connecting a community that may not be otherwise connected. It has been an honor serving the Mount Pleasant community for seven years, and in that time, engaging in hundreds of public meetings centered on or including the conversation of art. The elected body has supported studies to identify the need for art. Organizations have been formed to express the need for it. We have created videos to apply for grants to support the arts, and through all of these efforts—it has been a pleasant challenge to come to understand what art means to me, and to learn what it means to our town.

Several years ago, we had a chance to support a local theater group. This meant we needed to find cold hard cash funding. As a community this was a new conversation. We had long supported recreational programs that allowed youth to experience art, but we'd never agreed to put cash on the line to support a theater group. One theater group in question chose to relocate to Charleston; it was a hard hit, but we soon landed another one. Your mayor even had the opportunity to be cast in one of the plays, "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers." Honestly, I had anticipated playing a lover—though I was cast as a dowdy, matronly figure that suited me to a tee—it was an honor to support the arts in our community.

I have always been a creator of things; journals, repurposed furniture, decorations, knick knacks, and I have had my share of art classes and craft parties. I only wish I had more talent. The first time I visited a museum, I was taken aback by the glory of the exhibits. Not just paintings, but whale bones swaying in the wind in the entrance. I had the great opportunity to take art in high school under the direction of Virginia Bolton, who went on to experience commercial success (which may in some ways define an artist) and I have several pieces of her work in my home. I will always treasure them.

Not so long ago, The Town of Mount Pleasant was called out for not being more supportive of more arts, so we changed the name of the Civic Pride Committee to the Cultural Arts Committee. The Cultural Arts Committee focuses on public art and supporting the arts in general. I am honored to serve with like-minded people when it comes to honoring the importance of this fiber of our town. In January, I posed this question on my Facebook page: "What do the arts mean to you?" Some responses from friends were: *How great to be in a town that feels art like this . . . Art is private, sanity, an experience apart from reality, expansion . . . It's expression . . . Art is life.*

Imagine what that means. Is life art, or is art life? Then, there was this: *A canvas, inspiration, creative activity, or perhaps a part of the heart and a diversion from the mundane.*

These days, my most creative self comes forward in journals. It is a great pleasure to buy a new notebook, new pens, pencils. The opportunity to write this column for *Mount Pleasant Lifestyle* has helped me realize a creative dream. I'm following my artist dream and I hope you are as well.

Remember, don't just live . . . create a life.

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