

Spring 2004

Avenue to the Arts



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The newsletter of VSA arts of Ohio, an affiliate of VSA arts, an international organization affiliated by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

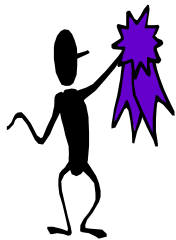
Old Friends Reunite, Artists Honored at Reception

April 20, 2004 was a day of recognition as VSA arts of Ohio honored artists, friends, sponsors and former board presidents for their talents and contributions to VSAO. Artistic honorees included the prizewinners from Key's Accessible Expressions Ohio, the 2004 Young Soloists and the artists selected to participate in the VSA arts International Festival. Corporate Construction Services, KeyBank and Vectra, Inc. received PassionWorks

flowers in thanks for their corporate sponsorship.

The highlight of the day was the presentation of the first annual Fran Bay awards, in memory of Fran's dedication to the arts and persons with disabilities. Fran's husband, Tom, was on hand to commemorate her devotion as Joan Beifus, Jim Chapple, Ann Chasser, Paula Hammer, Ron Linville, Frank New, Bobbi Newcomer, Anita Penn and Karen Wilkins were named as the 2004 award recipients.

Congratulations Vectra, Inc.!



VSA arts of Ohio congratulates Vectra, Inc. on receiving one of the Greater Columbus Arts Council's Business Arts Partnership Awards on April 20, 2004. VSAO nominated Vectra for this award in recognition of their ongoing and generous contributions to the note card project and the *Avenue to the Arts* newsletter. Congratulations Craig Taylor and Vectra on your well-deserved award.

Music Filled the Air in May

The stars shone brightly on May 11 as the 2004 VSA arts of Ohio Young Soloists performed on the picturesque 31st floor of the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts. The first annual *Evening with the Young Soloists* was a great success with Erin Byrne (pictured), Meghan McNamara and Allissa Baker demonstrating and receiving prizes for their musical talents (see pictures page 6). Thanks to the contributions of Vito's Catering, Honda of America Mfg., Inc., the Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities, the Buckeye Association of School Administrators, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, Deloitte, KeyBank and many other donors and sponsors, the event has superceded its goals. Based on the extremely positive responses, plans are already being made for next year's *Evening with the Young Soloists*!



And the Winners Are...

Despite the cold and snow, more than 100 artists, friends and family members gathered at the Gallagher Student Center of Xavier University as the prize winners for the 8th Annual Key's Accessible Expressions Ohio visual arts exhibition were announced. Fifty-nine participating artists were recognized along with the prizewinners who were presented with cash awards and ribbons.

Best of Show

Bryan Tyler, Strongsville - "Saying Hello"

Professional

1st prize - John Evans, Akron

"Airing Out the Long Johns"

2nd prize - Traci Parks, Columbus

"Graceful"

3rd prize - Barbara Misheck, Willoughby Hills

"Sunflower I"

Emerging

1st prize - Pamela Mackey, Cincinnati

"Invincible"

2nd prize - Cidney Johnson, Cleveland

"Fish in Existence"

3rd prize - Patty Kadar, Dayton

"Indian Artifacts"

Youth

1st prize - Jenny Maeder, Parma

"Beautiful Sunflowers"

2nd prize - Renee Yanak, Parma

"Sunshine Dreams"

3rd prize - Julia Reising, Vermillion

"Soldier"

*"Airing Out the Long Johns" by
John Evans*

The AEO artwork tour is listed in the calendar of events on page 7. For more information contact VSAO at info@vsao.org or 614.241.5325



"Saying Hello" by Bryan Tyler

Artist Spotlight: Derek Mortland Down Under

Derek Mortland, a Columbus guitarist, represented Ohio at the VSA arts International Festival this June. Recently, VSA arts of Ohio learned of his return from another trip, halfway around the world to Australia.

Q: Why did you go to Australia?

A: *Two reasons: To perform in and take part in Wataboshi Asia-Pacific Music Festival for People with Disabilities and to see Dr. George Dangel who has had success in treating people with spinal cord injuries with an energy healing modality called Pranic Healing.*

Q: Was this festival only for artists with disabilities?

A: *Wataboshi was for people with disabilities, but anybody was invited to attend and take part*

in the workshops. All of the performers at the festival had a disability and there were performers from 14 different countries there. Many of the workshops had people who were non-disabled attend and participate in them, so it was a fairly integrated event.

Q: What other kinds of performers were there? Were there others from the USA?

A: *Bands, dance, comedy, other musicians, theatre, poets, artists. I saw a couple of people from Wyoming at the festival who worked with boards of MRDD there, but did not have disabilities themselves and were attending the festival, not performing. I was the only US artist at the festival to perform.*

(Article continued on next page)

(Mortland, continued from previous page)

Q: Did you get to perform? How often?

A: Yes, I played 4 times during Wataboshi. I had a concert in the theatre with Jeff Usher, Australian Jazz Pianist who is blind and Motoyuki Niwa, Japanese Taiko Drummer. We did selections off of my CD "Medicine Wheel" and one of Jeff's tunes called "Song for Mother Earth." We performed as a trio and the event was called "Healing from the Medicine Wheel". I also performed solo at the Summertime Jazz and Blues Fest sharing sets with Jeff Usher and Aussie singer/songwriter Barry Charles. I played for the BEAM Book Fair and at the Gala Concert as well. I also traveled to Sydney and performed at the International Day of People with a Disability. I went to Woodford Folk Festival, the largest Folk Festival in Australia, and played a set with Jeff Usher again and did a solo performance at the "Welcome Swallow" stage.



What kind of professional development experiences did you bring back with you?

A: I wrote an article about the trip for NEW ARTY magazine. Check out the March 2004 issue. I can use my experiences with this festival as a resume builder and boost to promote myself for other festivals and performances. I got to make contact with people from all over the world and network with some great people.

Q: Would you recommend this type of trip to others?

A: Well it depends. The plane flight is long and grueling. Depending on the type and nature of a disability, it could be a difficult journey to make. Most of Australia is accessible and I didn't have many problems getting around. If you are a performing artist and are serious about your development, this is definitely the type of event you want to get to as the network and development opportunities are excellent.

For more information about Derek, his trip and his music visit www.derekmortland.com.

Internship Opportunities

Mt. Gretna Playhouse is seeking candidates for one full-time and one part-time internship in arts management for the summer of 2004. Interns will have the opportunity to work in customer service, PR, promotions, corporate and community relations, artist relations and marketing. The internships are in Mt. Gretna, PA. Contact Carl Kane at 717.361.1508 for more information.

Calling All ADA Coordinators

ADA-OHIO is searching for ADA Coordinators in Ohio. If you are an ADA Coordinator for a state or local government entity, a business or an organization, or other entity, or know someone who serves in this capacity contact ADA Ohio at 800.232.6446 or ADAOHIO@aol.com.

Dance Workshop

Dancing Wheels is offering Summer Dance Workshops in June in Cleveland for youth and adults with and without disabilities who wish to learn the Dancing Wheels technique and style. For more information contact Professional Flair at 216.432.0306.

Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability

The annual training and conference for Accessibility Managers is being hosted by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts ADA/504 Coordinators & Accessibility Managers in the Cultural Arts Network on August 12-14, 2004 in Washington DC. For information contact: Kennedy Center Accessibility office at 202.416.8727 or access@kennedy-center.org.

Acting Workshops

Renegade Garage Players, Cincinnati, Ohio's inclusive arts, service and education organization, offers weekend educational workshops for participants with and without disabilities. Contact Renegade Garage Players at 513.328.6300 or visit <http://www.rgplayers.org>.



MusicLink

MusicLink is an educational exchange project sponsored by VSA arts for students from around the world. Each year, students aged 7-12 years have the opportunity to share their culture, heritage, and communities through vocal, instrumental, and/or dance presentations. Each participating classroom selects, performs, and videotapes musical pieces, interspersed with narration, which express something special or unique about their culture. The project culminates with the MusicLink World Video, a compilation video of selected MusicLink pieces produced that year. Each participating classroom receives music, lyrics, and cultural background material on the musical pieces presented in the video. For more information and an enrollment form contact VSA arts of Ohio at 614.241.5325 or info@vsao.org. Deadline is **July 30, 2004**.



Book Feature

The VSA arts of Ohio Resource Library has added a new book featuring ideas for parenting from adults with disabilities by VSA arts Advisory Board member John Kemp. *Reflections from a Different Journey: What Adults with Disabilities Wish All Parents Knew* hears from people who have lived the disability experience and can provide all parents with essential information about the possibilities for their children. Please contact VSAO at 614.241.5325 or info@vsao.org for ways to borrow the book. To purchase your own copy, contact Stan Klein at 617.879.0397 or email him at stan@disabilitiesbooks.com.



WEBNews

☞ New York Foundation for the Arts' (NYFA) website "NYFA Interactive" offers access to the most comprehensive list of opportunities for artists in the nation.

Contact: www.nyfa.org

☞ Visual art competitions nationwide are listed on the Art Deadlines List website.

Contact: www.artdeadlineslist.com

☞ The complete resource for careers in the visual arts including job postings, career guidance & links.

Contact: www.artcareer.net

☞ Autism Asperger Publishing Company's (AAPC) website offers information about persons with autism, Asperger's Syndrome and other pervasive developmental disorders.

Contact: www.asperger.net

☞ The Pollock-Krasner Foundation, Inc. provides financial assistance to individual visual artists of established ability.

Contact: www.pkf.org



ArtLink

ArtLink, sponsored by VSA arts, is an international adventure in cross-cultural discovery - a way for students to expand beyond their locality through educational exchange. Each year, students' aged 7-12 years have the opportunity to share their culture, heritage, and communities through the visual arts. Students from each participating classroom create visual artwork based on a theme to share with students from their partner classroom. When the pieces are complete, the student artists compose individual descriptions of their work, and have the option of making an introductory video. Together, these items

comprise the ArtLink exchange packet to be shared with the partner classroom. The project culminates with a color art portfolio of digital prints, a compilation of the projects created that year.



Additionally, selected pieces of art are showcased in both live and virtual exhibitions. For more information and an enrollment form contact VSA arts of Ohio at 614.241.5325 or info@vsao.org. Deadline is **July 30, 2004**.

Discover Camp!

The National Center on Accessibility has partnered with several organizations to develop an on-line resource for parents of children with disabilities sending their child to camp for the first time. "Discover Camp!" answers questions ranging from selecting a camp to

considerations for attending open houses and meeting with camp staff. For more information contact the National



Center on Accessibility at www.ncaonline.org/discover or 812.856.4422 (V), 812.856.4421 (TTY).

Access to Community-Based Organizations

"Starting Points: An Introduction to Creating Access for People with Disabilities in Community-Based Organizations," is a document aimed to help users identify where and how they can begin to make their organization more accessible in the areas of Communications, Facilities, Program, Technology, and Web site. It is to be used as a companion piece to the publication, "Access Aware: Extending your Reach to People with Disabilities," developed by the Alliance for Technology Access (2003) (Guide). For more information, visit: <http://www.ataccess.org/resources/acaw/startingpoints.html>

The Basics of ADA

An online basic ADA course has been developed through a collaboration with the 10 Regional Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers (DBTACs) and hosted by the Southeast DBTAC. The ADA Basic Building Blocks is an introductory web course that explores the legal requirements and the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For more information and to register for the course go to www.adabasics.org.

Assistive Technology

AT Ohio is an organization that has a mission to make sure all persons with disabilities "who need technology or related services in order to live, learn or work will receive the required equipment or services in a timely manner." They give special attention to rural and other underserved populations. Additional information is available on their website at <http://www.atohio.org/> or call 800-784-3425.

The Ohio Community Pooled Trust

Established by The Disability Foundation, Inc., The Ohio Community Pooled Trust is a fund helps individuals with disabilities and their families who have inherited or received money or property that may affect disability benefits. The foundation will establish an account to provide a lifetime plan of payments to support the individuals supplemental needs, without interfering with Medicaid and SSI benefits. For more information, contact Teresa Thomas at The Disability Foundation, 937.225.9939 or via email at disabilityfdn@daytonfondation.org.

Evening with the Young

Soloists

At right (from left): Erin Byrne, first prize Young Soloist; Kimberly Murray; Patrick Wadsworth, VSAO Board President; Margaret Burley, of the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (first prize donor) and Suzanne Carroll, Emcee of the Young Soloist event.

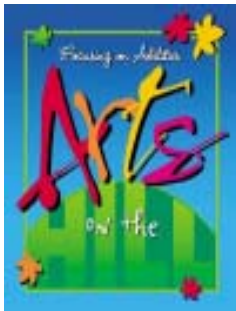
Young Soloist CD's available for purchase. Contact VSAO at 614.241.5325 or info@vsao.org.

Above (from left): Kimberly Murray; Patrick Wadsworth, VSAO Board President ; Meghan McNamara, recipient of second prize; Suzanne Carroll, Young Soloist event Emcee and Jerry Klenke of the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (second prize donor).

Above (from left): Kimberly Murray; Patrick Wadsworth, VSAO Board President; Allissa Baker, recipient of third prize; Suzanne Carroll, Young Soloist event Emcee and David Zwyer of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (third prize donor).

Call for Entries

An International Art Exhibit for visual artists with disabilities will be on display in Kansas City, Missouri, September 9-10, 2003. *Arts on the Hill* is calling for entries for this exhibit from artists with disabilities. Entries are due **July 16, 2004**, for consideration. For more information or an entry form, contact Dana Chatlin at 816.751.7815 or via email at dana.chatlin@rehabkc.org.

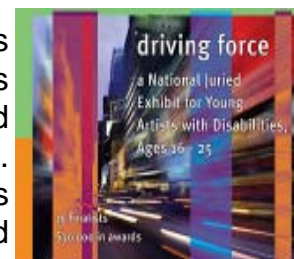


Open Arts Studio, LLC

The Open Arts Studio, LLC (OAS), located in Columbus, Ohio, offers an art program for people with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness. OAS provides a variety of art classes and activities to meet the consumer's needs and functioning levels. Artists will learn skills development and marketing of their artwork to local businesses. Assistance with transportation is also available for local residents. For more information, contact Jennifer Kerr at 614.404.2346 or jenartkerr@aol.com.

"Driving Force" - A Call for Entries


VSA arts & Volkswagen of America, Inc. are sponsoring a call for entries for the annual, national, juried exhibit for young artists with disabilities, ages 16-25 called "Driving Force". Fifteen finalists, ages 16 - 25, will be awarded cash awards and their artwork will be part of an exhibit in Washington, D.C. during October of 2004, and tour throughout the United States. This year's theme, "Driving Force", challenges artists to consider what motivates and inspires creativity. **Entries must be postmarked by Friday, August 6, 2004.** For applications, please contact VSA arts of Ohio at 614.241.5325 or info@vsao.org or visit: <http://www.vsarts.org/programs/vw/>




June

2-30 - Key's Accessible Expressions Ohio touring exhibit
Location: Lorain County Metroparks, Carlisle Visitor Center, LaGrange, Ohio
Contact: VSA arts of Ohio, 614.241.5325 or info@vsao.org

17-19 - INSITE (In-home Sensory Impaired Training and Education) Basic Training-Session #1
Location: Ohio Center for Deafblind Education, Columbus, Ohio
Contact: Kim Christensen, 419.372.7299 or kchris@bgnet.bgsu.edu

20 - Opera Columbus presents "Iolanthe"
Location: Southern Theatre, Columbus, Ohio 
Contact: Opera Columbus, 614.469.0939 or www.operacolumbus.org

24 - Actor's Theatre presents "Hamlet"
Location: Schiller Park Ampitheatre, German Village, Columbus, Ohio 
Contact: Actor's Theatre, 614.444.6888

24-26 - National Center of Education, Disability and Juvenile Justice Summit
Location: Denver Marriott City Center, Denver, Colorado
Contact: www.edjj.org

July

11-14 - The 15th Annual APSE: The Employment Network Conference
Location: Marriott Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana
Contact: 804.278.9187 or www.apse.org/

Did You Know?
July 26, 2004 is the 14th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act!

August

1 - Opera Columbus presents "The Student Prince"
Location: Southern Theatre, Columbus, Ohio
Contact: Opera Columbus, 614.469.0939 or www.operacolumbus.org

1-31 - Key's Accessible Expressions Ohio touring exhibit
Location: United Disability Services, Akron, Ohio
Contact: VSA arts of Ohio, 614.241.5325 or info@vsao.org

1-31 - Key's Accessible Expressions Ohio touring exhibit
Location: Sandusky Artisans Cooperative, Sandusky, Ohio
Contact: VSA arts of Ohio, 614.241.5325 or info@vsao.org

12-14 - INSITE (In-home Sensory Impaired Training and Education) Basic Training-Session #2
Location: Ohio Center for Deafblind Education, Columbus, Ohio
Contact: Kim Christensen, 419.372.7299 or kchris@bgnet.bgsu.edu

13-15 - Ohio Advocates for Mental Health Annual Meeting
Location: Holiday Inn Worthington, Worthington, Ohio
Contact: OAMH, 614.340.6264 or oamh@ohioadvocates.org

15 - The Ohio Network for the Chemically Injured presents the Prevention Convention
Location: Playhouse Square Center State Theatre, Cleveland, Ohio
Contact: Playhouse Square Center Box Office, 216.241.6000 or www.tickets.com



Promoting the creative power in people with disabilities.

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THANK YOU

VSA arts of Ohio would like to thank all the people who have donated time and money towards VSA arts of Ohio programming during the first half of 2004. (*denotes Young Soloist Event donor)

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of Ohio events.

time year round to presenting VSA arts

and all the volunteers that commit their

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