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Friday, July 20, 2012

# Valdosta in pictures



PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

**ABOVE:** Kayla Timmons looks over the photographs on display at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts for the 2012 City of Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest. **BELOW:** Kayla Timmons takes a closer look at one of the photographs in the 2012 City of Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest on display at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. A reception will be held 5-7 p.m. today at the center to announce the winners of the contest.



## PHOTOSCAPE



QUINTEN PLUMMER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

## As Time Goes By

Lowndes County Manager Joe Pritchard offers a velvety rendition of 'As Time Goes By,' popularized by the movie 'Casablanca,' during the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' 'American Soundtrack' musical at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center Saturday.

# Opinion

6A Saturday, July 14, 2012

## WHAT WE THINK

### Thumbs up

**THUMBS UP:** To the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts for presenting this evening's "American Soundtrack" concert featuring music from throughout the 20th century. The show will include big band, rock & roll, country, pop, and more. While "American Soundtrack" highlights numerous songs, it also showcases numerous Valdosta and Lowndes County singers, musicians and dancers. Valdosta is blessed with many talented people from many walks of life. The show plays 7:30 p.m. today, James H. Rainwater Conference Center.

**THUMBS UP:** One more time for Peach State Summer Theatre. Today and Sunday are the last opportunities to see the 2012 shows. "Go, Dog. Go!" plays this afternoon. "Legally Blonde The Musical" plays tonight. "The Light in the Piazza" plays Sunday afternoon. If you haven't already seen these fine musicals, this is it. Fans are already waiting with antici-

pation for the announcement of the 2013 PSST! shows.

**THUMBS UP:** To Georgia General Assembly House Speaker David Ralston, Speaker Pro Tempore Jan Jones and Majority Leader Larry O'Neal for visiting Valdosta earlier this week. While each legislator represents a district in the state, they represent all of Georgia as legislative leaders. It's good to see leaders who are traditionally more known for their roles in Atlanta visit South Georgia.

**THUMBS UP:** To Cole Tucker, a 10-year-old Hahira Elementary School student who won a Terry Fator ventriloquism scholarship. As part of winning the nationwide competition, Cole travels this weekend to attend a ventriloquists convention in Kentucky, where he hopes to meet the famed ventriloquist Terry Fator.



QUINTEN PLUMMER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

## Valdosta swings to an 'American Musical'

**ABOVE:** Robert Plummer, Amber Gibson, Philip Barr, Bobby Godwin and David Hutcherson sing Harry Warren's ode to Tennessee's iconic locomotive, 'Chattanooga Choo-Choo,' at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center Saturday night, during the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' 'American Soundtrack' musical.

**RIGHT:** Mara Register, assistant to the city manager for the City of Valdosta, Laura Rudisail and Carolyn Upson entertain the 'troops' with a thrilling rendition of the Andrews Sisters' 'Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy.'



QUINTEN PLUMMER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Percussionists Paul Campiglia and Al Turner challenge each other to a drum duel, a highlight of the 'American Soundtrack' program. A fundraiser for the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, the event will be held on Saturday, July 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Rainwater Conference Center and will feature music from the 1940s to the 1970s.

## Arts Center celebrates songs of the 20th Century

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

**V**ALDOSTA - The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts celebrates the great American music of the late 20th century this weekend with "American Soundtrack: A Musical Celebration."

Based on past musical programs, the arts center expects a large enough audience that it is holding this concert at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center, says Cheryl Oliver, arts center executive director and the concert's director.

Backed by the popular local Ed Barr Orchestra, with Barr as the musical director, the show will feature everything from big band to rock & roll. Barr's orchestra will also back several Valdosta celebrities such as Lowndes County Manager Joe Pritchard, Valdosta Police Chief Frank Simons, Assistant to the Valdosta City Manager Mara Register; Valdosta State University icons Dr. David Johnson and Dr. Karl Paoletti; Valdosta crooners Robert Plummer, Rob Evans and Keith Blevins; Dominion of Power Gospel Choir, directed by Brandon McCrae; soloist Marti Schert; dancers Jeani Synyard, Dr.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jerry Newman, who will be the Country Music Star for American Soundtrack, and Chip Tanner, a sound technician, do a sound check for the Musical Celebration on July 14, a Turner Center for the Arts fundraiser.

Ron Zaccari and The Valdosta Tappers, etc., Oliver says.

As part of a salute to the military, the Moody Air Force Base Color Guard will present the colors, veterans will be honored, and retired Air Force Master Sgt. Louis Edwards will perform the National Anthem.

This show comes in response to last year's Veterans Day musical program, a similar event featuring various area singers and musicians in a salute to the region's veterans. Directed by Oliver, the show proved so successful that several people requested an additional concert. "This show, too, began

**'This program will cover about a 75-year span of American music.'**

**Ed Barr**

as a salute to our veterans and our military but it gradually expanded to include more than music from the big band era and World War II," Barr says. "There is a significant amount of big band and patriotic music on this program. There will be a musical tribute to all branches of the military; members of the various branch-

## SHOWTIME

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts presents 'American Soundtrack: A Musical Celebration.'

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 14.

**Where:** James H. Rainwater Conference Center, off Norman Drive.

**Tickets:** \$40, individual; \$75, couples. Tickets available online (see below), at the Turner Center, Steel's Jewelry or the Conference Center.

**Reservations, more information:** Call the arts center, 527 N. Patterson St., (229) 247-2787; or visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org)

es will be asked to stand as their song is played ... but there will be an equal amount of popular music. This program will cover about a 75-year span of American music. It will include big band, rock and roll, beach music, Motown, gospel, country, Broadway and standard songs from what is commonly referred to as the American Songbook."

Barr said the concert showcases the number of talented people living in Valdosta; folks who may

## FROM PAGE ONE



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Valdosta Police Chief Frank Simons, Assistant to the City Manager Mara Register and Lowndes County Manager Joe Pritchard will be featured performers in 'American Soundtrack.'

## ARTS

FROM PAGE ONE

not make their livings as musicians but who nonetheless offer professional performances.

Between these performances, Oliver and Bob Harrison serve as emcees, providing ongoing commentary and introductions.

In addition to the featured performers, Barr's 20-piece orchestra will perform various arrangements and provide backing instrumentation to the singers. The band will also play an hour after the show so the audience may enjoy an evening of dancing in addition to an evening of fine performances.

The evening's program includes "Moonlight Serenade," "In the Mood"; "It's Been a Long, Long Time" / "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree," Robert Plummer with Tania Myers, Mara Register, Craig Ward; "Chattanooga Choo Choo," Robert Plummer and Amber Griner with Philip Barr, Bobby Godwin, David Hutcherson; "Jump, Jive & Wail," featuring Jeani Synyard and Ron Zaccari, dance; "Someone to Watch Over Me," Marti Schert; "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," vocal trio Mara Register, Laura Rudisail, Carolyn Upson; "White Cliffs of Dover," Dr. David L. Johnson; "Big Band Trumpet Medley," Dr. Lar-

ry McWilliams, trumpet; "Sing Sing Sing," featuring drummers Al Turner and Paul Campiglia and trumpet section; "As Time Goes By," Joe Pritchard; Louis Armstrong Medley ("Wonderful World," "Hello Dolly") Dr. Kenneth Trimmings; "American Patrol," Jeani Synyard dance group; "Salute to the Armed Forces," MAFB color guard, presentation of colors, recognition of veterans; "Star Spangled Banner," Louis Edwards.

Following an intermission, the show rocks into another era. "Rock Around the Clock," Buddy Holly Medley ("That'll Be the Day," "Peggy Sue," "It's So Easy"), Keith Blevins; Rock Medley (Fats Domino/Little Richard/ Chubby Checker/ James Brown/ Ray Charles), Brandon McCrae; Jerry Lee Lewis Medley ("Great Balls of Fire," "Whole Lot of Shakin'"), Chief Frank Simons; Elvis Medley ("Love Me Tender," "Heartbreak Hotel," "Don't Be Cruel," "Jailhouse Rock"), Craig Ward; Country Medley ("Hey, Good Looking," "Folsom Prison," "On the Road Again"), Jerry Newman; "Joyful, Joyful," Dominion of Power Gospel Choir with Brandon McCrae, director; "My Girl," Dr. Kenneth Trimmings; Beach Music Medley ("I Love Beach Music," "Be Young, Be Foolish," "Under the Broadwalk"), Craig Ward; "Night & Day," Dr. Karl Paoletti; Beatles Medley ("Something," "Gotta Get You Into My Life"), Rob Evans; "After the Lovin' band feature; finale - "Bring Me Sunshine," featuring band and full cast.

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts  
presents

# American Soundtrack

*A Musical Celebration*

**July 14 at 7:30pm**

**at the James H. Rainwater Conference Center**

The Ed Barr Orchestra will perform with local song and dance celebrities in a celebration of American music and a salute to the Armed Forces. The audience will be invited to the dance floor following the show.

Tickets are \$40 each, \$75 per couple and may be purchased by contacting

the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

527 N. Patterson St. Valdosta, Georgia

[www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org)

229-247-ARTS(2787)

Event Sponsor

**James H. Rainwater Conference Center**

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PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

## Chamber holds reception

**ABOVE:** Tim Jones, chairman of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce, introduces the local legislative delegation, from left, Rep. Jason Shaw, Sen. Tim Golden – and Rep. Ellis Black, during the Chamber's Champions of Business reception at the Annette Turner Center for the Arts Monday. **BELOW:** Georgia State Sen. Tim Golden was presented with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce 2012 Senator of the Year award by Kevin Curtin, chairman of the Georgia Chamber Government Affairs Council, during the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce's Champions of Business reception to honor the local legislative delegation at the Annette Turner Center for the Arts Monday.



PAUL LEAVY | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES



# Chamber of Commerce celebrates a century of service

BY DAVID S. RODOCK  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — After 100 years of leadership in the Lowndes County business community, the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce took a brief respite Monday afternoon to celebrate its rich history before they approach the next century of influence.

Hosted at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, the Chamber Centennial Luncheon provided leaders a chance to social-

ize and take a trip down memory lane to look at some of the pivotal moments of the Chamber's past involvement in the community.

The event kicked off with a delicious meal from Covington's and a quick update on the many planned activities sponsored by the Chamber for their 100 year anniversary.

Along with various planned social events, the Centennial Tree Project promises to leave a lasting and effective statement on

the community with the planting of 100 live oak trees around the community.

After lunch, a Powerpoint presentation guided the audience through 100 years, from their formation and support of local farmers to the establishment of the Industrial Authority and their various initiatives with industry in the area.

"It's truly an honor for me to be in the leadership



DAVID RODOCK | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Betty Morgan, Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce vice president, and Erika Bennett, director of government affairs and marketing, round up previous Chamber presidents and chairmen for a photo outside of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts Monday afternoon.

# Life

## A Taste of Arts Future

A sneak peek at some area arts organization's 2012-13 seasons

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — From Moliere to Mozart to mixed-media exhibits, expect the unexpected from the coming 2012-13 arts season.

The Times recently polled a few area arts organizations for a peek into their coming seasons. This list is impressive but is by no means the full spectrum of shows, plays, exhibits and concerts opening in the coming months. In addition to these shows, there will be more children's productions and high school musicals. The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts will announce its Presenter Series of visiting professional shows later this year.

So, consider this a cool taste of the arts to come, something to fill your calendars for the rest of this year and even into next year.

### ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

**Where:** 527 N. Patterson St.  
**Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays. Most opening receptions, however, are 5-7 p.m. Mondays on designated dates.  
**Admission:** Free.  
**More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org)

### EXHIBITS

— Artists Jim Touchton, Josh Rosen, Moody Air Force Base students, City Photo Contest. Shows run now through Aug. 1.  
— Artists Dominick Gheesling, Vincent Keesee, Donna Leigh Jackins, South Georgia Regional Library youth. Shows run Aug. 6-Sept. 19.  
— Artists Scott Fox, Smith, Pearl, McClain; GAEA Members; Southern Artists League. Shows run Sept. 24-Nov. 1.  
— Artists Jeffrey Baisden; Volkmann, Moskovitz, Hofreita; Leslie Peebles. Shows run Nov. 5-Jan. 9, 2013.  
— Hispanic-American Visual Artists Project, Drawproject 2013. Shows run Jan. 14-Feb. 20, 2013.  
— High School Competition, Youth Art Exhibit, Art Contest Display. Shows run Feb. 24-March 25, 2013.  
— Spring Into Art 2013. Show runs April 8-June 5.

### GINGERBREAD PLAYERS

**Where:** The Dosta Playhouse, 122 N. Ashley St.  
**More information:** Call (229) 24-STAGE; or visit [www.theatreguildvaldosta.com](http://www.theatreguildvaldosta.com)  
**Note:** Gingerbread Players is the children's organization of Theatre Guild Valdosta.

### SHOWS

**THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER:** A play based on Barbara Robinson's 1971 book, "The Worst Kids in the World." Never having attended church, a family of six children go to a worship service for the free snacks and are cast in the principal roles for the Christmas pageant. The regular church-goers are none to happy that these wild ones



The Valdosta School of Ballet's 'Cinderella' returns early next year as a fundraiser for VSU Theatre & Dance.

DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES



'The Annunciation at the Blue Note Cafe,' artist Vincent Keesee. The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts presents his works later this summer.

will tell the Christmas story from a different perspective. Show plays Nov. 29-30, Dec. 1-2.

**JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH:** After "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," this is probably the most famous children's book by British author Roald Dahl. In this outing, a young orphan boy named James has strange adventures after entering a giant, magical peach. Mostly with talking insects. Show plays March 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 2013.

### THEATRE GUILD VALDOSTA

**Where:** The Dosta Playhouse, 122 N. Ashley St.  
**More information:** Call (229)

24-STAGE; or visit [www.theatreguildvaldosta.com](http://www.theatreguildvaldosta.com)

### SHOWS

**INTO THE WOODS:** "In this fractured fairy tale, a Baker and his Wife, who learn they've been cursed with childlessness by the Witch next door, embark on a quest for the special objects required to break the spell, swindling, lying to and stealing from Cinderella, Little Red, Rapunzel and Jack (the one who climbed the beanstalk). Everyone's wish is granted at the end, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later, with disastrous results. What begins as a lively irreverent fantasy becomes a moving lesson about community responsibility and

the stories we tell our children." Stephen Sondheim composed the music and penned the lyrics; James Lapine wrote the book. Patti Cook directs the Guild production; she is joined by Ricardo Ipina as the Guild's musical director. Show plays Aug. 9-12, 16-18.

### LOVE, SEX, & THE IRS:

"Here is a wild farce with twists of fate, sight gags, mistaken identities and hilarious comic lines. Jon Trachtman and Leslie Arthur are out-of-work musicians who room together in New York City. To save money, Jon has been filing tax returns listing the pair as married. The day of reckoning comes when the Internal Revenue Service

informs the 'couple' they're going to be investigated by a Mr. Spinner. Leslie masquerades as a housewife, aided by Jon's fiancée, Kate. Complicating matters further Leslie and Kate are having an affair behind Jon's back, Jon's mother drops in unexpectedly to meet her son's fiancée, and Leslie's ex-girlfriend shows up demanding to know why Leslie has changed and won't see her anymore." Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore wrote this comedy. The show plays Oct. 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20.

### THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL:

Originally a 1950s television play by Horton Foote, the show was adapted into a 1985 movie starring John

Heard, Rebecca DeMornay and Geraldine Page, who won an Oscar for her performance. Following the 1951 television broadcast, the "The Trip to Bountiful" was performed on Broadway.

Set in the 1940s, this is the story of an older woman who wants to leave Houston for her old hometown of Bountiful, Texas. Her family tries stopping her, but she persists and finds her way to a place near her old hometown ... The show plays Jan. 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 2013.

**CLIFFHANGER:** Theatre Guild ends the season with playwright James Yaffe's comic mystery. A college department head wants to force a philosophy professor into retirement, pushing the mild-mannered professor to the point of violence.

Variety described the show's mix of comedy and mystery as combining "the warmth and humor of 'On Golden Pond' with almost as many plot twists as 'Deathtrap.'" The show plays May 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 2013.

### VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY ART

**Where:** VSU Art Gallery, VSU Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood.  
**Gallery hours:** The gallery is open Mondays through Fridays.

**More information:** Call (229) 333-5835; or visit [www.valdosta.edu/art](http://www.valdosta.edu/art)

### EXHIBITS

**VSU ART FACULTY EXHIBITION:** VSU Art Department faculty showcase their works, Aug. 20-Sept. 7, with a free, public reception, 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20.

**TRUTH IN ANIMALS:** Mixed-media paintings and installations by Linda Mitchell, Sept. 17-Oct. 5, with a free, public reception, 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, September 17.

# ARTS

FROM PAGE 1C

**JUST SUPPOSE:** Images by Jerry Uelsmann and Maggie Taylor, Oct. 15-Nov. 3, with a free, public reception, 7-8:30 p.m. Friday November 2.

**FALL SENIOR EXHIBITION:** Graduating seniors showcase their works, Nov. 11-Dec. 3, with a free, opening reception: 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13.

**VALDOSTA NATIONAL 2013:** Annual, nationwide all-media juried competition, Jan. 14-Feb. 3, with a free, public reception, 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, January 14.

**EVERYDAY SOMETHING NEW:** Recent Works by Mathew McConnell, Feb. 11-March 1, with a free, opening reception, 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11.

**STUDENT COMPETITION:** All-media juried competition for VSU students, March 11-April 5, with a free, public reception, 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, March 11.

**SPRING SENIOR EXHIBITION:** Graduating seniors showcase their works, April 14-29, with a free, public reception, 1-3 p.m. Sunday, April 14.

## VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY THEATRE & DANCE

**Where:** Theatres in the VSU Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood.

**More information:** Call (229) 333-5973; or visit [www.valdosta.edu/comarts](http://www.valdosta.edu/comarts).

### SHOWS

**LOVE, LOSS & WHAT I WORE:** "A chamber play of monologues and ensemble pieces about women, clothes and memory covering all the important subjects — mothers, prom dresses, mothers, buying bras, mothers, hating purses and why we only wear black." Playwrights Nora Ephron and Delia Ephron's

script based on the book of the same name by Ilene Beckerman. Duke Guthrie directs. The show runs Sept. 6-12, Lab Theatre.

**FRESH TRACKS:** The VSU Repertory Dancers in Concert. "Once again, Sawyer Stage will be alive with expressive movement through a variety of dance genres. This year's annual concert presents fresh works and renewed repertoire choreographed by VSU's Dance faculty for the VSU Repertory Dance Company." The show runs Oct. 4-7.

**MOLIERE'S THE WOULD BE GENTLEMAN:** "A rousing comedy combining elements of music, dance, and fantasy, one of Moliere's most popular works follows the tale of a newly rich bourgeoisie merchant who would like to be a part of the nobility. Humor abounds as he seeks to learn philosophy, dancing and singing skills so he can enter the upper class." This season's classical work. Jacque Wheeler directs. The show runs Nov. 8-14, Sawyer Theatre.

**FREE TO BE ... YOU & ME:** The annual touring children's show. "Instead of telling children who they should be, 'Free to Be ... You and Me' opens them up to the possibilities of who they could be. Music and humor along with life-enhancing themes help to expand children's personal horizons, enabling them to invent their own futures without limitation, while dispelling some old constraints and worn-out conventions in the process. A timeless classic for kids of all ages, 'Free to Be ... You and Me' will be enjoyed by young and old alike. For tour information or to book a tour date for February or March, 2012, contact show director Jacque Wheeler, (229) 333-5820. Adaptation written for the stage by Douglas Love and Regina Safran. From the book "Free to Be ... You



Cleveland International Piano Competition winner Alexander Schimpf joins the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra next spring for Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 2.

and Me" conceived by Marlo Thomas and friends. Contributions by Judy Blume, Dan Greenberg, Carol Hall, Sheldon Harnick, Bruce Hart, Edward Kleban, Elaine Laron, Stephen Larence, Betty Miles, Shelley Miller, Carl Reiner, Mary Rodgers, Shel Silverstein, Peter Stone, and Charlotte Zolotow.

This show presents public performances, Feb. 1, 2, 2013, Sawyer Theatre.

**THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH:** This 1943 Thornton Wilder play "broke from established theatrical conventions and walked off with the Pulitzer Prize for Best Drama. Meet George and Maggie Antrobus (married only 5,000 years), their two children (though it hasn't always been the same two) Gladys and Henry, and their eternal Sabina, the maid ... Combining farce, burlesque, satire, and elements of the comic strip, Thornton Wilder brings to life an Everyman Family as it narrowly escapes one end-of-the-world disaster after another, from the Ice Age to the Deluge to Armageddon. Whether they are inventing the alphabet, crusading for marriage, saving the world from apocalypse, or just trying to figure out what this play is about, the redoubtable Antrobus family somehow manages to survive — by

the skin of their teeth." Jimmy Bickerstaff directs. The show plays Feb. 21-27, 2013.

**PIPPIN:** VSU's annual musical. "Once upon a time, a young prince longed to discover the secret of true happiness and fulfillment. He sought it in the glories of the battlefield, the temptations of the flesh and the intrigues of political power (after disposing of his father, King Charlemagne the Great). In the end, he found it in the simple pleasures of home and family. 'Pippin,' as created by original director/choreographer Bob Fosse, is a hip, tongue-in-cheek, anachronistic fairy tale that captivated Broadway audiences and continues to appeal to the young at heart everywhere. The energetic pop-influenced score by three-time Oscar-winning composer/lyricist Stephen Schwartz ('Godspell,' 'Children of Eden,' and the animated films 'Pocahontas,' 'The Hunchback Of Notre Dame' and 'The Prince Of Egypt') bursts with one show-stopping number after another, from soaring ballads to infectious dance numbers." Book: Roger O. Hirson. Eric Brandt Nielsen directs. The show plays March 28-April 3, 2013.

### EMERGING ARTISTS

**SHOWCASE:** Musical theatre performances and student dance choreography on alternating days. "VSU Theatre and Dance audiences have long enjoyed watching our students as they progress through their programs of study," according to the organization. "Last year's first showcase met with great response. Now audiences can enjoy a performance of musical theatre or dance performance or both as graduating seniors from the musical theatre program and student choreographers from the dance program make their 'final' presentations. Each performance of the showcase will spotlight our outstanding students." Musical Theatre Showcase runs April 18, 20, 2013. Student Choreography Showcase runs April 19, 21, 2013. Sawyer Theatre.

## SPECIAL VSU THEATRE & DANCE EVENTS

**AND THE TONY GOES TO —** The 14th Annual Cabaret Fundraiser. A meal and a show featuring music from Broadway's Tony Award winners — all while helping raise funds for VSU Theatre & Dance student scholarships. This event occurs Nov. 18, St. John's Parish Hall, 800 Gornton Road.

**CINDERELLA BALLET:** Valdosta School of Ballet and VSU Theatre & Dance partner to raise money for VSU Theatre & Dance student scholarships. This show plays Jan. 19, 20, 2013, Valdosta High School Performing Arts Center, 3101 N. Forrest St.

**DANCING WITH THE VALDOSTA STARS:** VSU Theatre & Dance partner with VSU Music to raise funds for both departments' student scholarships, by featuring well-known Valdosta residents dancing with area dance professionals and students. This event occurs April 13, 2013, VSU Student Union Grand Ballroom.

## VALDOSTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Where:** Whitehead Auditorium, VSU Fine Arts Building, corner of Oak and Brookwood. Exceptions noted.  
**More information:** Call VSU College of the Arts Outreach (229) 333-2150; or visit [www.valdostasympphony.org](http://www.valdostasympphony.org).  
**Conductor:** Howard Hsu.

### CONCERTS

**SEPT. 15:** The orchestra presents Shchedrin's "Symphonic Fanfares"; Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major, Op. 107, featuring the VSO's Steven Taylor on cello; Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 74 "Pathétique."

**NOV. 17:** The orchestra presents Higdon's "String"; Schumann's "Konzertstücke for Four Horns, Op. 86"; Mozart's Symphony No. 25 in G minor, K. 183.

**THE NUTCRACKER:** Dan Arts and Valdosta Symphony Orchestra partner for the third year on this long-running Valdosta Christmas tradition. The show plays Nov. 30; Dec. 1, 2.

**JAN. 26, 2013:** The orchestra presents Berlioz's "March troyenne from Les Troyens"; Debussy's "Prelude" (orchestra by Colin Matthews); "La fille aux cheveux de lin," "La cathédrale engloutie," "Minstrels"; Decruck's Sonata in C# for Saxophone (Georgia Premiere), with Jore Cain, saxophone; Ravel's "Alborada del gracioso"; Debussy's "La Mer."

**MARCH 9, 2013:** The orchestra presents Hayden's "Die Schöpfung — The Creation," with Paul Nease conductor.

**APRIL 27, 2013:** The orchestra presents Bates' "White Lies for Lomax"; Strauss' "Don Juan"; Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat Major, featuring Alexander Schimpf piano, first-prize winner of the 2011 Cleveland International Piano Competition.



Art by Josh Rosen.



Art by Josh Rosen.

# Twisted Visions

Albany artist creates a brooding world

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Last year, artists Josh Rosen and Jim Touchton had two simultaneous, though separate exhibits, in the Moultrie area. It seems only natural that they might both inhabit separate galleries but the same building again with the current Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Yet, theirs does not seem a natural fit. Touchton's larger-than-life, vivid paintings fill the center's two main galleries. Rosen creates three-dimensional pieces from found materials.

While Touchton's work shines from the canvases, Rosen creates dark, meticulous, brooding creatures of rust, anguish and rage.

The Albany artist's sculptures appear to be the populace of some nightmare world of twisted metal and hacked wood, jetti-

## GALLERY

Sculptor Josh Rosen, Josette's Gallery; painter Jim Touchton, Boyette and Price-Campbell Foundation galleries; City of Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest, Tillman Gallery.

**Where:** Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.  
**Run dates:** These shows run through Aug. 1.

**Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays (with exception of opening receptions).

**Admission:** Free.

**More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or [www.turner-center.org](http://www.turner-center.org)

soned into the stark light of Josette's Gallery.

Yet, all imaginative, all gloriously detailed, all endlessly fascinating.



Art by Josh Rosen.



From 'Landing Lane,' artist Jim Touchton.

# The Return of Big Jim

Arts center dedicates two galleries to Touchton exhibit

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

## GALLERY

VALDOSTA — Panoramic views. Dazzling colors. Big canvases. Big open spaces. Welcome to the world of painter Jim Touchton.

It's been nearly a decade since Touchton returned to live and work in his South Georgia hometown. It was 2004 when the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts presented a retrospective of his paintings from the Hamptons.

While he has since made the Valdosta area his home, the arts center welcomes Touchton back with a show that gives his work and its energy more elbow room.

In a rare move, the Turner Arts Center dedicates its two main galleries, both the Sallie and Harmon Boyette Gallery and the Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery, to Touchton's exhibit, which opens Monday with a free, public reception.

Given his New York art scene pedigree, his connection with the legendary DeKoonings, and his sheer dynamic talent, two galleries may still not be enough space to contain Touchton's new works.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts opens new shows, including painter Jim Touchton, Boyette and Price-Campbell Foundation galleries; Josh Rosen, Josette's Gallery; City of Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest, Tillman Gallery; Student work from Moody Air Force Base and the Boys & Girls Club, Roberta George Children's Gallery; Fine European Porcelain, Howard Gallery.

**Where:** Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

**Reception:** A free, public reception is scheduled for 5-7 p.m. Monday, June 11.

**Run dates:** These shows run through Aug. 1.  
**Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays (with exception of opening receptions).

**Admission:** Free.

**More information:** Call (229) 247-2787; or visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org)



ABOVE: 'Ocean Pond,' artist Jim Touchton.

BELOW: 'How Do I Look?' artist Jim Touchton.



valdostadailytimes.com



SELF-PORTRAIT: JACQUELYNN BUCK

Photographer Jacquelynn Buck of Lowndes County is donating 15 family portraits to help Megan's House.

## *Photographer creates portraits to help Megan's House*

**BY DEAN POLING**

THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Photographer Jacquelynn Buck wanted to share her talents while helping others.

Looking for a worthy cause, she discovered Megan's House, which provides specialized care for children with disabilities and special needs. Say a family has a special-needs child who cannot travel. The child can stay at Megan's House while the family travels to a wedding or for work, or simply takes a day off to rest.

Buck became intrigued by this concept and wanted to help Megan's House. Using her talents, she is donating proceeds from 15 portrait settings to Megan's House.

Buck's Fifteen Families Fundraiser will provide an 8x10 family portrait either in her Lowndes County studio or in the outdoors for \$100. A \$100 donation to Megan's House provides one child with 24-hour respite care at Megan's House, helping families in need.

That's one day that a parent can have for them-

selves to rest and recharge," Buck notes.

She plans to offer 15 of these sessions with the proceeds going to Megan's House. Already, she has arranged one for a Pennsylvania family, which Buck will photograph on a trip there later this year, with the proceeds still coming to the regional Megan's House. Another person has simply offered a donation which Buck will forward to Easter Seals, which is the Megan's House sponsor.

Buck is a Moody Air Force Base wife. She and her military husband have lived in the Valdosta area for the past two-and-a-half years.

She has photographed subjects nationally and internationally. Several months ago, Buck presented an exhibit of her photography at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, and she will teach a phone photography class this summer at the center.

More information on Buck's Fifteen Families Fundraiser, visit [www.jacquelynnbuck.com/portraitblog/fifteen-families](http://www.jacquelynnbuck.com/portraitblog/fifteen-families).



'Gator,' an aluminum print by artist Paul Leavy.

# A Few of Our Own

Two Times staffers show in Spring Into Art

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Two Times staffers are among the hundreds of area artists displaying works in the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts' annual Spring Into Art.

Paul Leavy is The Valdosta Daily Times photographer. He has been with the paper many years.

With Bobby Lacey, Leavy has presented two Space Shuttle photo exhibits this year: One at the arts center, a second currently on display at Smith Northview Hospital. Leavy has one work showing in Spring Into Art.

Derek Schaper designs magazines, specials sections and other items for

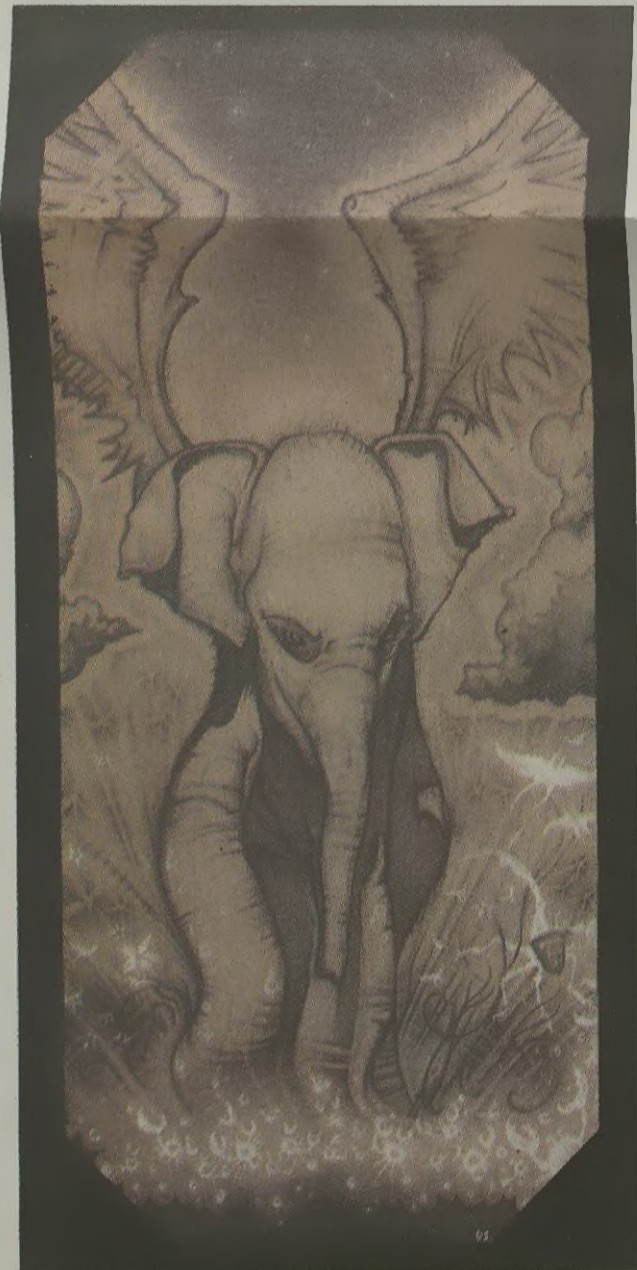
## SPRING INTO ART

The exhibit continues through June 6, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

More Information: Call (229) 257-2787; or visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org)

print within The Valdosta Daily Times. Whenever you open an issue of the Valdosta Scene magazine, you have seen Schaper's design work from page to beautiful page.

He is a graphic artist with two pieces showing in Spring Into Art.

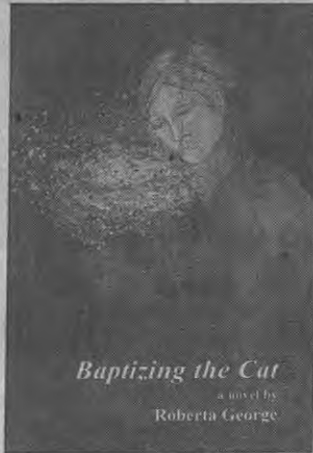


ABOVE: 'Elaphas Avis,' a charcoal work by artist Derek Schaper. RIGHT: 'S.S. Milwaukee,' a mixed-media work by artist Derek Schaper.



# Book event highlights authors George, Smith

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES



VALDOSTA — The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts hosts two Valdosta authors Monday.

Roberta George will discuss and sign her novel, "Baptizing the Cat." Morris Smith will do the same for her novel, "Big Iris." Locally based Snake Nation Press published both books; George is also the founder of Snake Nation.

George's "Baptizing the Cat" is as mesmerizing as the hypnotic Milky Way swirl of Ann Johnston's painting for the book's cover.

George tells the story of Phillip Craine, a middle-aged artist who has fallen out of love with his wife, his art and his life. Phillip believes he can recover his life if he kills the wife whose inheritance allows him to paint and spend his days as he pleases. Falling for a neighbor woman who is estranged from her husband inspires Phillip to follow through with his murderous musings to kill his wife.

The plot may sound like something from a Lifetime movie, but "Baptizing the Cat" is far more than some made-for-TV movie.

George writes the book with Phillip as narrator. She discovers an authentic male voice in Phillip's character. He is a fully realized human being with multiple dimensions, and he fits George's definition of evil.

George has discussed the character of Phillip for years. She often told friends, artists and fellow writers that she had creat-

ed in Phillip a character who scares her. Those who knew little else other than this comment regarding Phillip may have envisioned him in any number of ways, as overtly abusive, a bully, a sinister devil, or some other obviously malevolent force.

Yet, Phillip's evil is something more insidious. It is an evil spawned by boredom, a brooding darkness inspired by uninspired idleness. Phillip's art is by the numbers. He does not need to work because he is funded by the fortunes of his wife's family. He spends his days between a beach condo shared with his wife of about a dozen years, their two young daughters and a maid and his art studio.

His wife handles their shared life's indolence by overeating. Phillip deals with his malaise by constructing myths that he's a CIA agent, by spying on neighbors, and imagining the death of his wife.

So why would George, a woman who's known for her cheery hospitality, who teaches a popular yoga class, who has promoted

the region's writers and artists while often muting her own muse, write a sexually charged novel about a man plotting murder?

Because Roberta George wanted to better understand why

Why thousands of women are harmed or killed by their husbands each year. She discusses the statistics of violence and a curiosity to find a possible meaning within those sums.

She paraphrases Vladimir Nabokov's reason for writing about a middle-aged man's obsession with an underage girl in "Lolita." He wanted to understand what would drive a man to ruin his life in such a pursuit.

While Roberta George wanted to understand why a man would want to kill his wife, she is better known for understanding the needs of artists and writers.

One of those writers is long-time friend, Morris Smith, a talented author of several books, such as the short-story collections, "Spencer Road," "Zambian Texts: Stories from

Ngambe Mission," "Above Ground: Cemetery Stories" and the novel "Better Than Jail."

"Big Iris" is also a novel about a woman named Iris who has some big problems.

She lives with her aging mother. Pushing 40, Iris tips the scales at about 200 pounds. She was done wrong by the man in her life.

Walking the grocery store aisles, Iris sees an imaginary friend, whom she envisions as "Fat Jesus," trying to warn her away from fattening foods. Her therapist resembles the 1980s Harrison Ford and she hopes to insinuate her way into his life by any means possible. Iris compulsively stalks and lies her way through South Georgia.

Yet, despite her many frustrating faults, Iris is at times amusing and charming and always utterly compelling.

Iris is the latest in Smith's compelling gallery of characters.

"Better Than Jail" featured an aging New Orleans printer losing his career to a world leaving him and his business behind.

With Iris, Smith has created not only her most unforgettable character but arguably one of the most unforgettable characters in recent literature.

Iris may possibly be the most exasperating, irritating, frightening, and amusing character that readers find themselves rooting for since Ignatius O'Reilly in John Kennedy Toole's "A Confederacy of Dunces."

Smith is not afraid to write characters into being

who are not necessarily likable but who are all too human. Her characters are authentic and that authenticity urges them to grow on the reader.

**The Snake Nation Press book signing** featuring authors Roberta George and Morris Smith is scheduled for 5 p.m. Monday, May 14, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Book sale proceeds go toward Snake Nation Press and the arts center. More information: Call 247-2787.





'Visual Symphony' by artist Daniel Hanifan.



From left to right: Artist Daniel Hanifan's 'Coexist,' 'Examining One's Inner Self' and 'Seven in One.'

# Geometrix

Artist finds the balance of shapes, color and white space

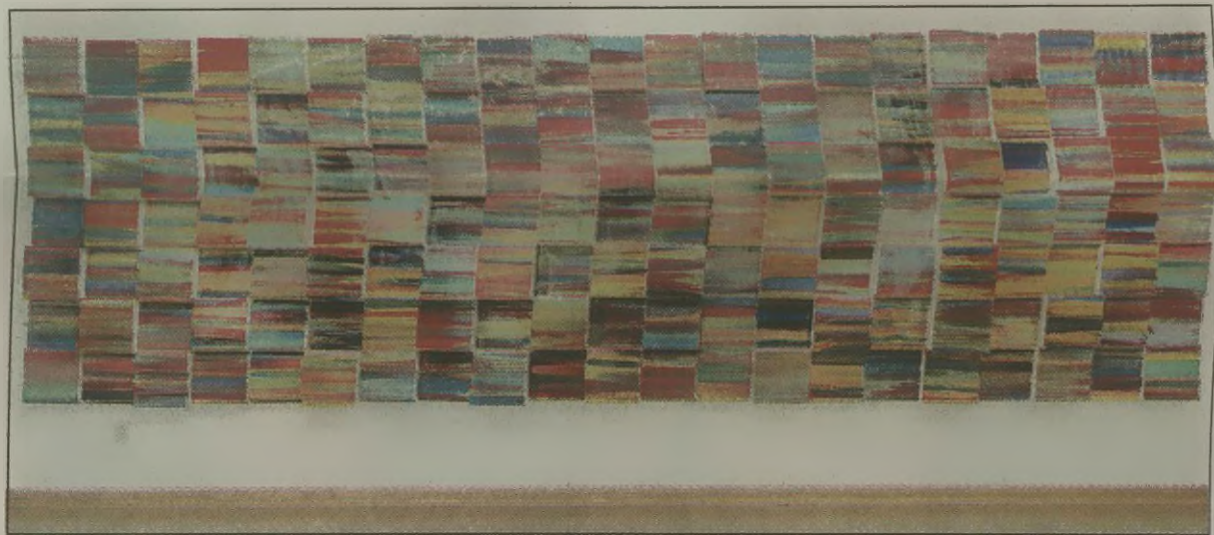
BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — In his latest exhibit, artist Daniel Hanifan finds the connections between the spaces. As with his past works, those on display in his latest exhibit "Geometrix" at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts remain large, but instead of bold colors arrayed on massive canvases, Hanifan creates a rhythmic show using deftly arranged shapes.

Granted, these shapes are often colorful but the kinetic energy of these works are fueled as much by the white spaces within each work. These white spaces and the shading of corresponding shadows add a counter-beat to the balance of Hanifan's geometric designs.

With a background in theatre arts, Hanifan gave himself to visual design less than a decade ago. During this time, he's attracted a following with his works included in collections that range from the United States to Europe to Japan.

His "Geometrix" program biography states, "Hanifan remarked that Agnes DeMille had



Artist Daniel Hanifan's 'Infinite Horizons.'

several dance programs that she would take on tour and would decide which one she felt would meet the artistic needs of the different audiences in each city where performances took place.

Daniel states that he would like, regardless of the exhibit or the city, every person attending to walk away with a personal satisfaction and a unique experience for any of his exhibits."

With massive wall displays mounted in the arts center's Boyette Gallery, Hanifan weaves a hypnotic spell to entrance viewers.

## GALLERY

"Geometrix" by artist Daniel Hanifan is on display in the Boyette Gallery; along with "All in the Family," works by four related artists, Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery and Josette's Gallery; City of Valdosta People's Choice Photo Contest, Tillman Gallery; and VSU Sullivan Literacy Center & the Turner Center's Art Exploration Program, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

**Where:** Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.

**Show dates:** These exhibits run through July 31.

**Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays (with exception of reception evenings).

**Admission:** Free.

**More information:** Visit [turnercenter.org](http://turnercenter.org); or call (229) 247-2787.



BRANDON POWERS | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

## Reception held at arts center

**ABOVE:** Patrons examine artwork from the 'All in the Family' exhibit during Monday's opening reception at the Annete Howell Turner Center for arts.

**RIGHT:** Daniel Hanifan stands in front of his piece, 'Infinite Horizons', comprised of 147 handmade and painted birch boxes. More of his work from his collection, called 'Geometrix' - A Contemporary Study of Simple Shapes, is on view in the Harmon Boyette Gallery.

**BELOW:** Ron and Thomas Thomson, along with their mother, D. Arthur McBride, pose for a photo during the reception. The family, including grandmother Esther Arthur, is exhibiting work from all three generations of artists in an exhibit called 'All in the Family'.



BRANDON POWERS | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES



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'The Church,' art by Esther Arthur.



'Chief Fast Elk-Oglala Sioux,' art by D. Arthur McBride.

# ALL IN THE FAMILY

## Four artists, two galleries, one show



'BlueBerry,' art by Thomas M. Thomson.

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Paint may well be in their blood. That and talent.

Before going any further, it may help to name the players and getting their relationships straight.

Think of Esther Arthur as the grandmother then there's her daughter, D. Arthur McBride. Then, there are McBride's two sons, Thomas M. Thomson and Ron Thomson, who are, of course, Arthur's grandsons.

Each is an artist in her and his own right. Each impressive in their specific styles and skill sets.

Together, ah, together, they have the promise to create a stunning and memorable show.

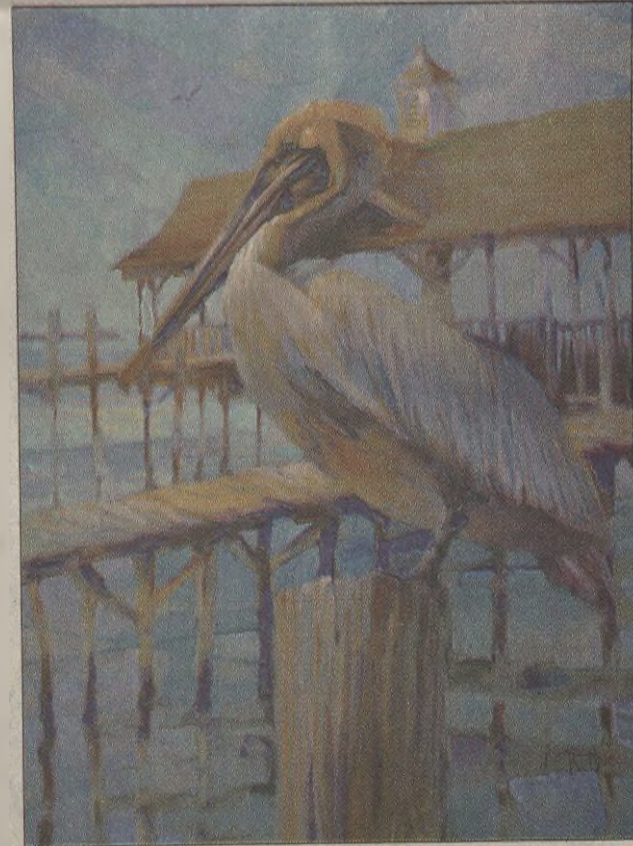
"All in the Family" will feature approximately 120 works from these related artists, says Bill Shenton, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts curator.

To accommodate the number of paintings, the arts center has dedicated two galleries for the "All in the Family" exhibit, opening with other new shows in a public reception Monday evening at the center. The "All in the Family" paintings will be displayed in the Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery and Josette's Gallery.

The crux of this Valdosta show started with D. Arthur McBride and Thomas Thomson. They are professional artists, working from their home base of Havana, Fla., known for their portraits, but South Georgia viewers should also find their works familiar.

McBride and Thomas Thomson are regular participants in the Turner Center's annual Spring Into Art show. In 2011, Thomson's "Ink Well," a portrait of a young girl, captured Spring Into Art's best in show prize out of the 464 artworks entered by approximately 240 regional artists that year.

"Seeing the way his mother was glowing after



Art by Ron Thomson.

the announcement was made at the opening gala, one would think she had won the award," Shenton says. "But it was easy to understand a mother's pride in her son's accomplishment."

Their talents and support of one another's works made them a natural for a combined show.

Enter Ron, also a professional artist, who recently moved from Colorado to Fairhope, Ala. "The close proximity to his family in Havana made it possible for him to join in exhibiting with his family," Shenton says. With herself and her two sons aboard, McBride asked if her mother, the woman who arguably started this artistic family tradition, could join them in the exhibit. After seeing Esther Arthur's work, "there was no question that they all had great talent and highly refined techniques."

While they may all share these talents, their techniques vary widely based on sneak peeks of their works.

Esther Arthur has a

vivid style, finding the contrasting interplay of contrasting colors as well as light and shadows.

D. Arthur McBride uses muted colors, combining painterly strokes with illustrative details to capture souls beneath oil flesh and vistas.

Thomas M. Thomson paints in an illustrative, high-photo-realistic style that captures the life and light of a face, and a subject's personality as subtly as a well-turned shoulder.

Ron Thomson's style and subject matter differ most from his family members, at least judging from a few advanced samples of his work. He paints in thick swatches of vibrant color, almost in an impressionist style. He focuses on landscapes, seascapes and still-lives. Ron Thomson will also host a painting workshop, July 26 and 27 at the arts center; contact the center for more details.

Viewing these works, "All in the Family" seems to have it all.

For additional art, please see page 6C.

## GALLERY

"All in the Family" opens in the Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery and Josette's Gallery; along with exhibits "Geometrix" by artist Daniel Hanifan, Boyette Gallery; City of Valdosta People Choice Photo Contest, Tillman Gallery; and VSU Sullivan Literacy Center & the Turner Center's Art Exploration Program, Roberta George Children's Gallery.

**Where:** Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St.  
**Reception:** These shows open with a free, public reception, 5-7 p.m. Monday, June 10.

**Show dates:** These exhibits run through July 31.

**Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays (with exception of reception evenings).

**Admission:** Free.

**More Information:** Visit [turnercenter.org](http://turnercenter.org); or call (229) 247-2787.



'Thief of Hearts,' by Thomas M. Thomson.



Art by Ron Thomson.

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

Show opens at Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts on June 10



'Memories of His Own,' by D. Arthur McBride.

### Profile: Catching up with LL Cool J

BY SEAN DALY  
SCRIPPS HOWARD

**C**hiseled rap royal LL Cool J and haggard guitar god Eddie Van Halen may seem like strange bedfellows. (For instance, one loves the gym; the other loves the Jim Beam.) But to the famously muscled hip-hop mogul, their unlikely flow-meets-fret pairing on his bold new album makes a beautifully twisted sense.

After all, at this point in their careers, they've both earned the right to mix it up.

"I really wanted to do something unconventional," the 45-year-old star says.

Right now he's promoting "Authentic" as part of the ballyhooed Kings of the Mic Tour: "I wanted to surprise you guys musically, get people I've respected and put 'em on the album. I wanted to make a crazy workout record, you know?"

Thus, Blink-182's Travis Barker, alt-rockers Fitz and the Tantrums, soulster Seal and country singer Brad Paisley (more on him in a second) all play on "Authentic." Eddie VH, now 58, shreds on two cuts, "Not Leaving You Tonight" and "We're the Greatest."

**"I'm not doing music for controversial reasons. I do it for the love. There are no rules in music, you create what you create. When we decided to do 'Accidental Racist,' we didn't know people on the fringe would react the way they did. But music is like a Rorschach test, isn't it?"**

"Eddie is an absolute genius and a mad scientist in the studio," says LL, who then proceeds to rap a verse from "We're the Greatest": "I'm on a hacksaw tour! Eddie got a Frankenstein aimed at your door!" By the way, it's a total geeked-out thrill having LL Cool J slam a vicious verse just for you.

Ladies Love Cool James — his real name is James Todd Smith — admits that being one of showbiz's most notable multi-hyphenates — other jobs include hosting the Grammys and starring on the CBS show "NCIS: Los Angeles" — has taken juice away from his first love: music. "Authentic" is his first album since 2008's "Exit 13."

"If I stayed in the game, I'd get sharper for sure," he admits. "Music is always calling me, but I wanted to try other stuff. So I have to adjust my expectations a bit. But this is a good start."

With dozens of smashes (such as "I'm Bad," "I Need Love" and "Mama Said Knock You Out") since his prodigious 1985 debut album, "Radio," he's earned the right to take wild chances, not just to inspire fans but to inspire himself, as well.

Of course, palling around with Eddie Van Halen is one thing. Making "Accidental Racist" with Paisley is another.

The infamously polarizing duet is a dialogue between a Southern white man and a black man from New York: "Dear Mr. White Man, I wish you understood / What the world is really like when you're livin' in the hood."

It means well. People despised it anyway.

"As an artist, you express the thoughts that are on your mind," says LL about people taking issue with any of his songs.

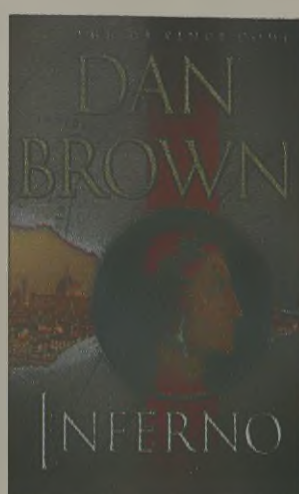
"I'm not doing music for controversial reasons. I do it for the love. There are no rules in music, you create what you create. When we decided to do 'Accidental Racist,' we didn't know people on the fringe would react the way they did. But music is like a Rorschach test, isn't it?"

LL Cool J has always possessed great amounts of swagger and lip-licking sex appeal and, well, usually not much need for a shirt. On the other hand, he's been happily married to Simone Johnson since 1995; they have four children together. He's a driven pro and family man, which hasn't always helped his reputation. LL has never been a headcase like Kanye or a distant overlord like Jay-Z or an instigator like Lil Wayne.

Still, not many have adapted to showbiz with the cunning of LL. And rusty or not, few MCs — no matter what age — throw down with the same nimble force and confidence.

When he goes up against the other Kings of the Mic — Public Enemy, Ice Cube and De La Soul — he's going to come out fighting.

"Everybody's going to try and rip that stage in half," he chuckles. "I don't want to be the weakest link."



### BOOKS

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

#### INFERNO: Dan Brown

**D**an Brown's "Inferno" is one of those books that you either have already bought, already read, plan to buy or plan to read, or simply have no interest in it at all, and no review will likely keep anyone from reading it or encourage anyone not already interested to open it.

Since the phenomenal success of "The Da Vinci Code," the release of a Dan Brown book has become something of an event, not on a level of J.K. Rowling's releases of her "Harry Potter" books, but still a Dan Brown book is a guaran-

teed best-seller, at least, so far. "Inferno" features Brown's Harvard symbology professor Robert Langdon. It includes the expected race against time as Langdon pieces together arcane clues, in this case: a man wanting to reduce the world's population with help from Dante's "Inferno."

Brown again teams Langdon with a brilliant, young woman who works with him during their travels and travails.

One could argue the story's merits, whether these books are formulaic, etc., but, again, if you're going to read it, you will; if you're not, you won't, no matter what is written here or elsewhere.

Instead, I prefer mentioning the difficulty of reading a book series then seeing the movies then returning to newly written books in the series.

Reading "The Da Vinci Code" and "Angels & Demons," I developed a mind image of how I thought Robert Langdon should appear. My imagined image of his face was something between Dan Brown's dust-jacket photo and Harrison Ford. That's how I pictured him while reading those books. Then came the movie adaptations of the books, the movies starring Tom Hanks.

Now, reading a new Dan Brown book, my mind flits between picturing Robert Langdon as my original version and Tom Hanks, a strange combination that often detracts from the enjoyment of the plot.

If a book is a one-shot, which you read then see the movie version, it works out OK; you choose the characters' faces while reading then accept the actors' faces while viewing.

But if it's a series of books that are still being released as movie adaptations are being produced, such as James Patterson's Alex Cross books, or Rowling's Harry Potter, or "Game of Thrones," etc., finding the balance from what your mind created and what Hollywood gives you can be a confounding limitation to the imagination.



Work by artist Jim Touchton.

# Artist Jim Touchton readies a Grand show

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — Energy still consumes artist Jim Touchton's canvases. Looking at paintings planned for his "A Grand Affair" exhibit at Artists on Ashley this week, Touchton dwells less on subjects than in the past while increasing his dynamic approach to painted colors and brushstroke rhythms.

Viewers will find the suggested beach scenes, the frenetic clouds whirling above the foam-churning ocean waves, the beach drawing from and thrusting into both sky and water.

Visitors will also discover canvases that don't so much imply a specific scene rather than spark the soul on a pure aesthetic level. The clash of opposing colors, the sublime euphoria of brushwork, the neighboring calm of gradations and complementary hues. The epic power of what appears to be a spontaneous moment ripped from time and nailed down by paint onto canvas.

Touchton came of age in South Georgia. Life and art carried him on many paths and journeys. He found a place in the New York art scene. He worked and showed his works in numerous metropolitan galleries, including the Fischbach. He became a protege of the De Koonings, 20th century art titans. He's enjoyed an international clientele for his work. He lived in the Hamptons.

In 2004, Touchton returned to his native Lowndes County. The visit became a return. Here, Touchton has displayed his work in various venues, including a rare, double-gallery showing at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts. He's taught art classes. He shows works in other cities. He paints.



Work by artist Jim Touchton.

## GALLERY

**A Grand Affair, featuring the works of artist Jim Touchton.**

**When:** 6-9 p.m., Friday, June 7, as part of Downtown Valdosta's First Fridays.

**Where:** Artists on Ashley, 203 N. Ashley St.

The show will remain on exhibit throughout the month of June.

# Arts center, VSU name scholarship recipient

VALDOSTA — The 2013-14 Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts scholarship has been awarded to Valdosta resident Fania C. Braaf, a junior Valdosta State University art studio major.

Fania Braaf was selected by the VSU Scholarship Committee as the scholarship recipient based on her outstanding academic achievements and commitment to celebrating the art in life. With her personal and professional credentials, she stood out from the talented pool of candidates.

From funds earned through the 2013 DrawProject event, the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts provided a Fall 2013/Spring 2014 scholarship to a VSU art student. Through her application and interview with the VSU Scholarship Committee, Braaf displayed an interest in serving the community as an advocate of the arts.

In Braaf's recommendation letter, Dr. Lai Orenduff, Valdosta State's professor of art history, says, "she is always prepared, dependable and she actively engages in the material that was presented in class lectures." Orenduff continues, "Her eagerness to learn, her strong intelli-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Cheryl Oliver, executive director, Turner Center for the Arts; A. Blake Pearce, VSU Department of Art chair; Fania Braaf, 2013-14 Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts scholarship recipient; Michael T. Schmidt, VSU professor of art, ceramics & foundations, 3D design; Archie Waldron, board president, Turner Center for the Arts; all pose during the recent scholarship presentation.**

gent ability to grasp ideas, and her responsible attitude of getting things right make teaching a pleasure."

Jessie Whitten, supervisor at Valdosta State's Information Technology Department where Braaf works full-time as a lead technician, also gave a recommendation. She says, "dedicated, creative, responsible and witty are just a few words that come

to mind when I think about Fania. If there is anyone who has brought art and life together it would be her."

In her application, Braaf states, "Art allows me to make a perceivable mark on my environment as the knowledge gained from my classes allows me to make those marks cohesive and original. In every work I strive to respectfull-

ly render the impressions made by the stroke of a key, the turn of a press, or the explosion of charcoal."

Braaf intends to use the award to invest in a computer and the essential software to make her work more efficient and competitive following graduation. She will serve as a liaison between the Turner Center and the VSU Art Department.



BRANDON POWERS | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Only a few days are left to visit the 26th Annual Spring Into Art exhibit on display at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

**BEST IN SHOW: 'Collector/Believes Every Work of Art is a Missionary,' Barbara Balzer, Tallahassee, Fla.**

# Farewell, Spring Into Art

Few days left to see the region's most inclusive art show

BY DEAN POLING  
THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

VALDOSTA — If you haven't seen it, or — given its immense number of works, if you've only seen parts of it, or if you wish to view one work or all of it again, you only have a few days left to visit the 2013 Spring Into Art exhibit at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Come Wednesday, June 5, the largest Spring Into Art in the annual exhibit's quarter-century history closes. Featuring about 500 works from hundreds of artists, the 26th annual Spring Into Art fills the walls, partitions and display tables throughout the arts center's many galleries.

Visitors may not agree with what won the show's top prizes — they never do no matter the year, but everyone should find several works to please their eyes, soothe their souls and do what art should also do — challenge their perceptions.

Following Wednesday's close, the arts center's galleries will go dark for a few days as new exhibits are prepared for the summer. But after Wednesday, if you want to see the most inclusive art show in South Georgia, you will have to wait nearly another year when the 27th Annual Spring Into Art opens in early April 2014.



**Spring Into Art** continues through June 5, Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. More information: Call (229) 247-2787.

**PAINT/DRAW/MIX FIRST PLACE: 'Picture This,' Cynthia W. Council, Valdosta.**