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# Community Archives - Turner Center for the Arts Scrapbook Collection

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2015-2022

## Turner Center Binder 12 2015-2022

Turner Center for the Arts

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UUID: 9CFC1FF7-7773-4899-81B5-6172221C79F9

### **Recommended Citation:**

Turner Center for the Arts. "Turner Center Binder 12 2015-2022." *Turner Center for the Arts Scrapbook Collection*, Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections, Valdosta, Georgia. <https://hdl.handle.net/10428/7101>

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# Snow Village brings holidays to Turner Center

SARAH WARRENDER | THE  
VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES  
**Santa receives a key to  
the Snow Village in part  
of the display.**



**BY DESIREE CARVER**  
desiree.carver@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — South Georgia residents may not be walking in a winter wonderland this holiday season, but they can visit a miniaturized one at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

More than 1,000 creative pieces were donated by Joan Byrne in 2010 and are

## **MORE INFO**

The Turner Center is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Admission is free. The next gallery opening will be 5-7 p.m., Jan. 13, and will feature the DrawProject and VSU President Richard Carvajal as the guest auctioneer.

typically set up in one of the galleries.

This year, the art center decided to convert its second-floor youth art classroom into the Snow

Village, complete with Christmas music, a sitting area and hot chocolate.

Please see Turner, page 8A

# TURNER: The Snow Village contains more than 1,000 pieces



[valdostadailytimes.com](http://valdostadailytimes.com); see 'SNOW VILLAGE'

"We hope patrons will take some time to enjoy the Snow Village and the many hands that put it together: Joan Byrne, Cheryl Oliver, Gail and Walter Hobgood, Mala Vallotton, Jordan Ganas as well as our staff members," said Sementa Mathews, center executive director.

While the Turner Center was closed Dec. 23-25 for the holiday, the Snow Village will remain up through Dec. 28. The Turner Center is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday-Saturday. Admission is free.

The next gallery opening will be 5-7 p.m., Jan. 13, and will feature the DrawProject and VSU President Richard Carvajal as the guest auctioneer. The DrawProject proceeds support the Annette Howell Turner Center for the



SARAH WARRENDER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

**The Snow Village at the Turner Center of the Arts has more than 1,000 pieces.**

Arts Scholarship and the Danielle B. Harmon Merit Scholarship. The scholarships provide financial assistance to students from the bachelor of arts and bachelor of fine arts programs in art, art education and interior design.

Upon the opening of new exhibits through Feb. 26, guests can view works by Mary VanLandingham and Christine Cabral and the Turner Center's East African Art and Fine European Porcelain permanent collections.

Edna  
m

# Lifestyles

8C

Sunday, December 22, 2019

www.valdostadailytimes.com

## Artist visits Valdosta High

BY LOGAN COLE  
VCS PR Intern

VALDOSTA – Award-winning artist visits Valdosta High School art classes to speak to students about art and how it has impacted his life.

Steven Walker has been included in several local and national juried competitions where he has won awards of excellence and honorable mention. He also was a part of a statewide traveling exhibition with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. His work is currently being represented in Kentucky, Washington State, Ohio, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Oklahoma and Washington, D.C.

Walker visited Jo-Ann Adams and Elisha Craig's beginner's art classes to speak with students about art and how it made an impact on his life. Students had many questions for him asking if

they could one day get famous for creating anime' or manga-style work.

He responded by saying there is a demand for all types of styles and that all students need is a passion for what they do and the willingness to work hard to find an audience for it.

There are so many talented students at Valdosta High School, but so few enter the art world professionally. Walker said there is a misconception that an artist has to be dead to be famous or a person will be a starving artist if going into that field, but he is living proof that neither is true.

Meeting a real-life famous artist and seeing his work in person made a huge impact on these young artists. Adams said she feels it has opened their eyes to other possible scenarios for their future and that people of all cultures can find an art career reachable and lucrative.



Steven Walker paints on a canvas. The artist recently visited with Valdosta High School art students.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## GAYLE: Mayor receives rooster as parting gift; names it 'Dosta'

once the black cover was removed.

"It's so cute!" exclaimed Peggy Gayle, the mayor's wife.

The common theme of the night was a deep appreciation for Gayle's earnest nature with his peers and employees.

"You never had to wonder where you stood with him," said Jason Shaw, commissioner for the Georgia Public Service Commission. "The one thing I really respect about him—probably more than anything—is he didn't care who you were or where you worshipped, what street you lived on, what political party you had attached to you. It did not matter."

Barber echoed Shaw's sentiments, saying Gayle was an invaluable mentor during his first two years as city manager.

"Personally, I love the way he interacts with folks. He loves our employees," Barber said. "You never have to wonder where you stand with Mayor Gayle. He lets you know in a good, nice way where you stand with him, so I'm going to miss that."

Gayle's county counterpart, Lowndes County

Commission Chairman Bill Slaughter, appreciated his work on their combined projects and commended him as a person.

"He's a hard worker," Slaughter said. "He's taken the office of mayor very, very seriously and has served very, very well. Just great character."

When asked about that common depiction, Gayle humbly recited a quote from famed football coach Vince Lombardi that read "the achievements of an organization are the results of the combined efforts of each individual."

"You can't do it by yourself. You have to depend on all of your people," Gayle said. "I've always believed that in business, and so that way, I've always befriended my employees and all the people who worked with me."

The evening was a joyous one, filled with gift-giving and storytelling.

Teresa Bolden, Valdosta City Clerk, presented Gayle with a pair of camouflage Crocs after remarking the mayor claimed his fashion sense would never allow him to wear flip flops, sandals or Crocs. She also gifted him a fishing pole for

his impending leisure time.

Members of the Valdosta City Council each gave short remarks thanking Gayle for his guidance and leadership. Councilwoman Sandra Tooley asked for a short, final dance with the mayor, and the pair two-stepped to a crowd of cheers. Councilman Tim Carroll joked he would stop calling so much as gift.

Pastor Winston Taylor traveled down from Lexington, Ky., to attend and gave Gayle a pair of sunglasses saying his "future is so bright."

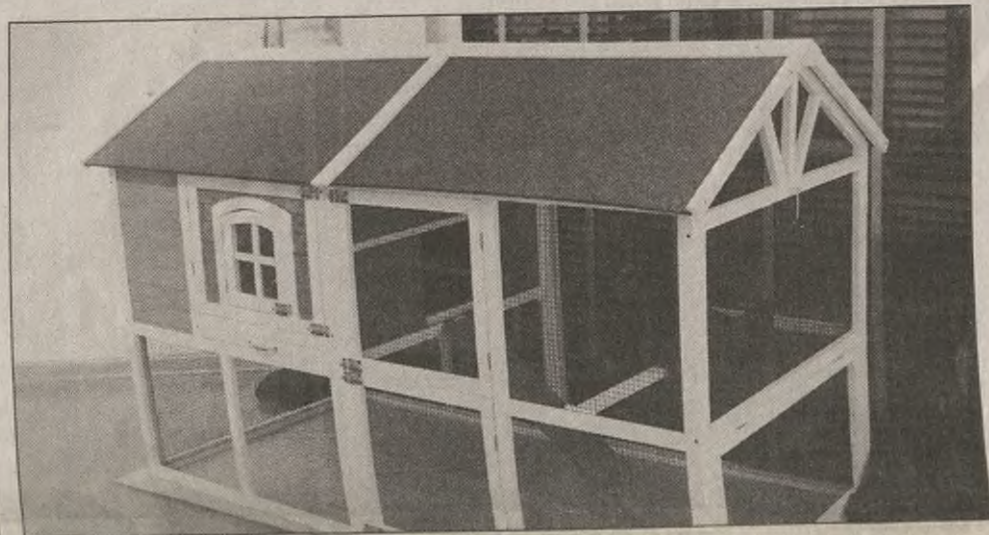
Gayle already has picked out his first destination once he passes the gavel officially to mayor-elect Scott James Matheson Jan. 9.

His first vacation will be a trip with his wife to visit their granddaughter in Nashville, Tenn., Gayle said.

In the meantime, he has a chicken coming home to roost.

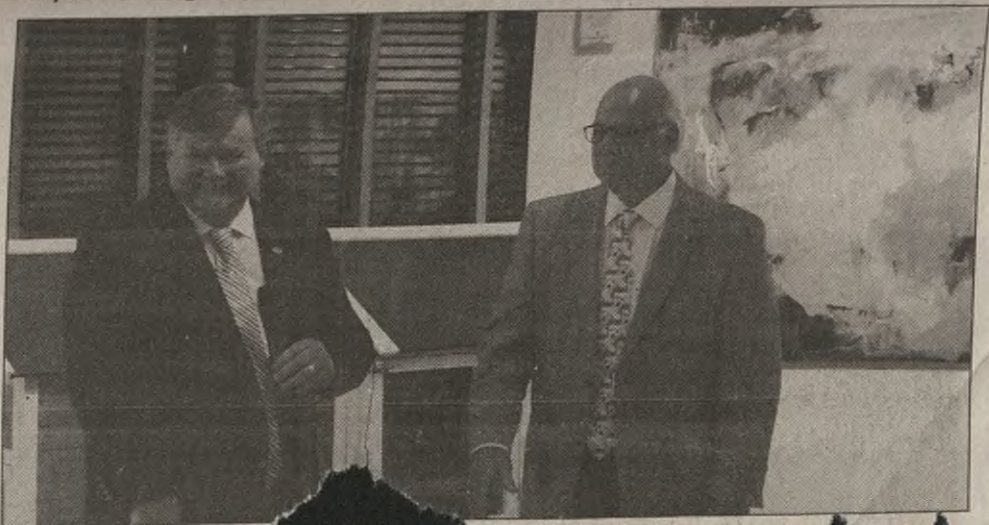
"It's going to give me another job when I get up in the mornings feeding that rooster," Gayle said.

"I'm going to get a couple of hens for him, so we won't have to buy any eggs for a while."



CHRIS HERBERT | VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

**Dosta, Valdosta Mayor John Gayle's new rooster, enjoys a lovely one bed, one bath cage with ample natural lighting.**



# From Page One

8A

Saturday, November 30, 2019



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Author Janice Daugharty, Managing Editor Jean Arambula and Editor Sue Braun attend the South Georgia Book Festival at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

# Turner book fest highlights reading, art

11-28-19



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Jordan Ganas helps his 1-year-old daughter, Audrey Ganas, paint a kindness rock at the South Georgia Book Festival held at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts recently.

BY AMANDA M. USHER

amanda.usher@gaffnews.com

VALDOSTA — When author Roberta George first founded Snake Nation Press in 1998, she established small gatherings shortly in a place she would still relate to years later.

These gatherings, focused on promoting literacy, have blossomed into what is now the South Georgia Book Festival.

Snake Nation Press recently sponsored the festival at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, a venue George said has always been her home.

George was the first executive director of the center and has utilized the center to spotlight awareness for reading and writing.

“Reading points you in the right direction and writing it down tells you what you think,” she said.

Through the festival, she encourages people to read tangible books rather than e-books. In doing so, they can make use of

the margins and circle important elements.

“Your books become like your friends and you keep going back to them and you can’t do that with digital stuff or stuff on the internet,” George said.

Jean Arambula, managing editor at Snake Nation Press, shares the same sentiment with George — printed books should overshadow e-books.

She said the festival allows the roster of authors at Snake Nation Press to become more visible.

“The thing that this does, it keeps us out there. That’s the important thing is keeping the book out there because e-books are great but people need a book, a printed book,” Arambula said.

The South Georgia Book Festival exhibited the genres of poetry, prose, science fiction and memoir.

Authors included Janice Daugharty, James Calemine and John Griffin.

George — who has won Georgia

Please see Book Fest, page 8A



DESIREE CARVER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

**The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts opened its new art park Saturday at the annual ARToberfest.**

# *City welcomes local Art Park*

**BY DESIREE CARVER**

desiree.carver@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA – The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts kicked off its Second Annual ARToberfest with the ribbon cutting for its newly created Turner Center Art Park.

The park is located at 605 N. Patterson St. and brings 1.5 acres of green space to the heart of the city.

“This is a gift to the community,” Turner Center Executive Director Sementha Mathews said. “This is really a fantastic day for the Turner Center for the Arts.”

The art park is the first of its kind for Valdosta and is designated for the appreciation of public art and art activities.

Art Park sponsors include the City of Valdosta, the Price-Campbell Foundation, the Center for the Arts Guild, Citadel Construction, U.S. Navy Facilities Command, Georgia Power, Ace Electric, The Home Depot Valdosta, Denzer Tree Surgeons, Reames Concrete, City Electric, Mike Scott Painting, Griffin Concrete, Signature Landscapes Inc., Lawn King Landscaping & Irrigation LLC, ASA Engineering & Surveying LLC, South Georgia Rocks and Keep Lowndes Valdosta Beautiful.

More than \$70,000 was donated to create the park, which will now be available for use by the community and can be rented for special occasions.

Two metal sculptures by artist Wilby Coleman are currently located in the park. His pieces include “Curlew Liftoff,” a 105-inch tall full-spread winged metal sculpture positioned to the left of the pavilion, and “Baby the Rain Must Fall,” a 119-inch metal sculpture of clouds and faucets that has been installed to the right of the pavilion.

Art center staff plan to add more public art pieces in the months and years to come by other local artists.

After the ribbon cutting, ARToberfest officially began its full day of activities, including live music by 2 River Station and Kenji Bolden Trio, food from Woodstack BBQ and La Meza Food Truck, coffee from Red Owl, literary readings by Chery Carvajal and Roberta George, and a hula dance demonstration by Jan Gochenouer.

Mathews said she hopes ARToberfest will become an event staple for the Valdosta community, much like the Christmas parade and Azalea Festival.



THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS GUILD PRESENTS

# Kids Holiday Treats

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WITH LYN  
ABRAMCZSK

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Turner Center  
ARTS

10-14-18

# Turner to debut art park

BY AMANDA M. USHER

amanda.usher@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA - Artoberfest, a fine arts show, will look slightly different this year.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts hosts the event 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at the center as part of National Arts and Humanities Month.

A brand-new art park will be introduced with a dedication at 10 a.m.

The art park is equipped with a new 16-foot-by-32-foot pavilion and will be utilized as an outdoors classroom or as an event space.

Along with the main building where galleries are featured, the Turner Center is home to a pottery studio and art annex.

"The art park, it gives us another venue to showcase arts in our community and to celebrate them," said Semantha Mathews, executive director.

Valdosta Mayor John Gayle and Lowndes County Commission Chairman Bill Slaughter have been invited to attend the ribbon cutting, she said.

Artists of all forms are needed for Artoberfest including poets, authors, potters and painters.

The gathering will feature art demonstrations.

The Red Owl Coffee Bean Machine, La Meza Taco Truck, Woodstack BBQ Tavern and Birdie's Market

## Downtown calls for sidewalk artists

BY AMANDA M. USHER

amanda.usher@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA - Downtown Valdosta is joining the Artoberfest activities.

Valdosta Main Street is sponsoring a sidewalk chalk contest, 8 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, on the historic Lowndes County Courthouse lawn.

It is held in conjunction with Artoberfest, a festival that gathers the community for various art shows and food at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

"We are really excited to bring this new event into Downtown Valdosta, the heart of the City Center Arts District," Rachel Thrasher, Main Street program coordinator, said.

"We are always looking for new and fun things to bring to the table for downtown. This is just another way that anyone, no matter their skill level, can come out, have fun, do some art and maybe win some prizes."

Check-in is from 8-8:30 a.m. for individual artists and art groups. Participants will have until 11 a.m. to create their artwork.

Awards given to overall best in show

and Catering will provide food and beverages.

2 River Station and Kenji Bolden Trio will offer live music.

Valdosta Main Street activities, such as a sidewalk chalk competition and youth art sale, will be at the event, according to organizers.

Rebecca Gallagher, public relations and marketing

and people's choice winners.

They will be given to the first-place winners in the following age categories: 11 and younger, 12-18, 18 and older and Top Blazer (only awarded to Valdosta State University students).

Judging is based on first impression, creativity, originality, skill and use of color.

Artists are encouraged to bring their own chalk, design, knee pads, water, camera, sunscreen, grid/pattern and plastic tarp in case of rain, according to organizers.

Only non-oil based washable chalk is allowed and designs cannot go beyond their designated square, according to organizers.

Artwork has to be appropriate for public viewing. Organizers ask participants not utilize any political messages, words or symbols intended for advertising.

Available spaces are first-come, first-served.

Entry is free. Pre-registration must be completed by Oct. 18.

Call (229) 259-3577, or email rthrasher@valdostacity.com, for more information.

Booth registration for artists is \$75, which includes an artist-level membership to the Turner Center.

Donors for the art park include the Navy, ACE Electric, the Price-Campbell Foundation, Center for the Arts Guild, City of Valdosta and Home Depot.

More information: (229) 247-2787; turnercenter.org.

administrator, attended the first Artoberfest in 2018 prior to being employed at Turner.

"As an artistic person who's a spectator, it was very well put together," she said. "It was very well done, very colorful and lively."

She said the community event welcomed a diverse crowd.

# Artists, community show up for ARToberfest



THOMAS LYNN | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES  
Traci Harrell holds one of her paintings at ARToberfest Saturday.

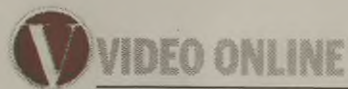
BY THOMAS LYNN  
tom.lynn@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA — Roughly 200 people toured local artists' booths at the first ARToberfest in 20 years.

Sementa Mathews, executive director for the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, said the main purpose of the festival is to observe the talent of local and regional artists and their contributions to culture and community.

Fine art was displayed and sold on site under the tree canopy along the north perimeter of the center's property.

The event kicked off at 10 a.m. and concluded at 2 p.m. Mathews said ARToberfest



[valdostadailytimes.com](http://valdostadailytimes.com); see 'ARTOBERFEST'

was something the arts center celebrated back in the 1990s when it was located on North Patterson Street. As the new executive director, she wanted to bring it back to bring art and the community together.

"Once I found out about it, I thought it was a great opportunity to bring it back," Mathews said. "We want the artists to be involved in the arts center. The main reason we're here is to promote and celebrate the art, so it makes sense that the local artists should be a part of it."

One such artist was Traci Harrell, a former crime scene investigator from Oklahoma, who sold paintings and ceramics at the festival.

Harrell retired seven years ago and moved to Valdosta when her husband, also a crime scene investigator, got a job at the Valdosta-Lowndes Regional Crime Laboratory.

After retirement, she turned part of her job as a compositor into a passion.

When police found an unidentified body, Harrell would three-dimensionally sculpt the face on the skull, and she would do the composite drawings. If someone saw the perpetrator,

See ARToberfest on 10A

same

# Lifestyles

2C

Sunday, October 13, 2019

www.valdostadailytimes.com

## Menagerie of Origins

### Artists create collaborative experience

BY DEAN POLING

dean.poling@gafnews.com

VALDOSTA - "The Menagerie of Origins" is an exhibit that stands as the definition of a partner show.

The artworks of Jenny Hager and D. Lance Vickery on exhibit in Josette's Gallery of the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts complement one another, synchronize, play off each other, contrasts one against the other and likely challenged the artists as the exhibit challenges the viewer.

Makes sense, they are not only partner artists and University of North Florida art instructors but a married couple, too.

Hager is a proponent of collaboration. As noted in her artistic statement/bio, "she is also very

interested in collaboration; the spirit of community is important in both her teaching practice and in her own work.

"In 2014, Hager created Sculpture Walk, an outdoor sculpture park for downtown Jacksonville. Sculpture Walk, Inc., a registered 501(c)3, has hosted over 26 outdoor sculptures, bike racks and sculptural benches by international, national and local artists. She created a sculpture park in Jacksonville Beach, called UNF Seaside Sculpture Park, which showcases large-scale outdoor sculptures by UNF Sculpture students."

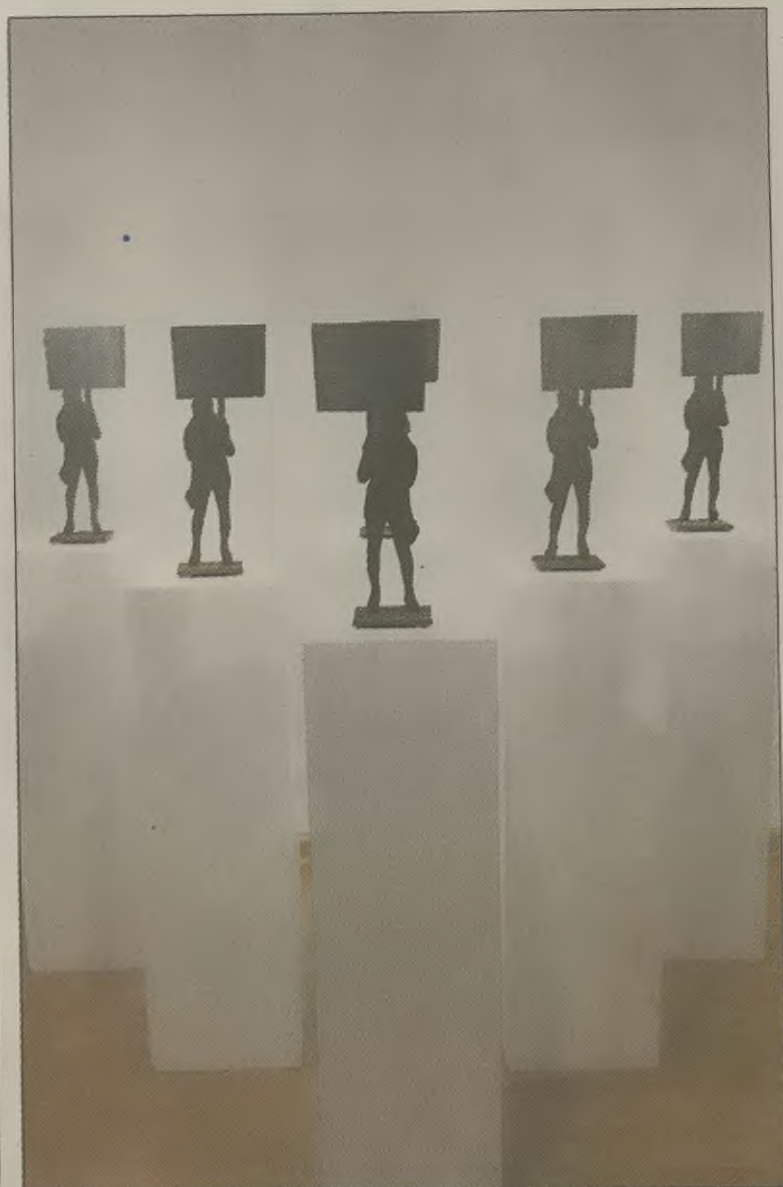
Vickery seeks collaboration between media and formats, as well.

"Lance has the facility to move freely between two and three dimensions without com-

promising the elements of his aesthetic," according to his artistic statement.

"Lance's work balances between formalist sculpture and aesthetics and conceptual considerations of materials. His work often works towards the tension between interiority and exteriority, both metaphorically and physically. These ideas manifest themselves in process, materials and concepts. The pieces are rich in surface, texture and color, while visceral and physical in the process by which they were created."

The combination of three-dimension and two-dimension coupled with the dynamic pairing of Hager and Vickery create a vital exhibit experience.



WORK FROM THE EXHIBIT BY JENNY HAGER AND D. LANCE VICKERY.

### GALLERY

"The Menagerie of Origins," featuring the artwork of Jenny Hager and D. Lance Vickery, is on exhibit in Josette's Gallery; along with Sean Hurley's "Space and Time," Price-Campbell Foundation Gallery; "Cactus Tongued," the art of Kristy Hughes, Sallie & Harmon Boyette Gallery.

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

**Run dates:** The show runs through Oct. 30.

**Gallery hours:** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; closed Sundays and Mondays.

**Admission:** Free.

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



WORK FROM EXHIBIT BY JENNY HAGER AND D. LANCE VICKERY.

## BOOK FEST: Festival debuted film documentary about Valdosta veteran

Author of the Year – had her book, "The Day's Heat," on display.

Sementa Mathews, current executive director of Turner, credits George with assisting authors to gain recognition.

"Roberta is the reason why we have a strong author community," she said. "She exposes them and she offers things for people to be better at their writing."

Mathews said she believes literacy is a tool that lends itself to escaping and better handling life.

Celebrating the written word is essential, she said.

"The process of writing, as well as the process of reading, it's all so beneficial to life. I can't imagine not having books and not having the ability to express yourself through writing," Mathews said.

"Roberta brings that together through this festival and she allows us to participate as partner and she allows us to meet a need in our community by offering

that writers workshop upstairs."

As an addition to the festival, activities for children were held in the Turner's new Art Park.

Jeanna Ganas was one of the vendors as she presented her children's book, "Boo."

Patsy Casteen, South GA Rocks! administrator, read aloud from "Sally the Stone and Friends" by Sally Schnarr to kids.

They all huddled

around her, listening to her read, before moving to tables where they painted kindness rocks.

"It's fun listening to the great books," said Emerson Jowers, a 7-year-old attending the event.

She was busy painting a heart on her rock.

"I'm painting a heart because I want everyone to know that everyone in the whole wide world should be (loving) to one another," she said.

Not too far away from her, Jordan Ganas assisted his 1-year-old daughter, Audrey Ganas, with painting her rock.

Audrey Ganas gained exposure to art through the festival, her dad agreed.

"Teaching her about art early on and helping her appreciate (it) will only help her throughout the rest of her life," Jordan Ganas said. "I think that's one of the most important

things that you can teach a kid."

Another festival first was the showing of the documentary, "Aigen: One Man's War." The film is about George Aigen, a Valdosta World War II veteran who died earlier this year.

The documentary is narrated by Louis Schmier, a retired Valdosta State University history professor, and produced by John Brown.

AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

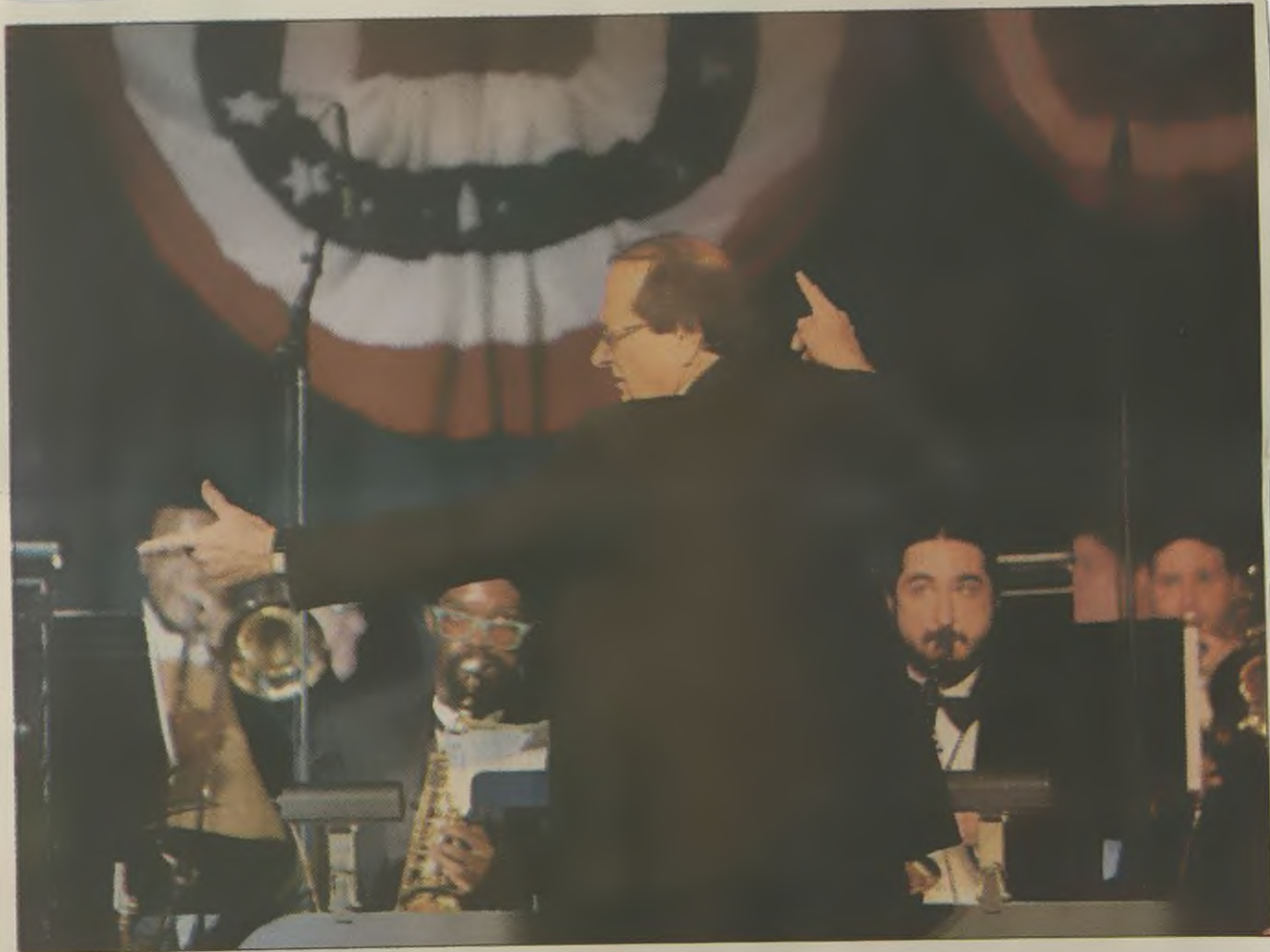
**Emmerson Jowers, 7, spends time painting a kindness rock during the South Georgia Book Festival held at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.**

AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

**Roberta George, Georgia Author of the Year and founder of Snake Nation Press, was one of the writers showcased at the South Georgia Book Festival held at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.**



Celebrating C



SALLY TURNER QUERIN | SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Leader of the Band

Ed Barr leads the band that carries his name. Hundreds of guests heard 'big band style' hits, compliments of the Ed Barr Orchestra and numerous other South Georgia talents recently during the American Soundtrack, Vol. VI. The event celebrates America's favorite music. It is hosted by the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts and held at the Rainwater Conference Center. More information on upcoming Turner Center events, visit [www.turnercenter.org](http://www.turnercenter.org).

9/4



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Nancy McGhee, Brooks County resident, retrieves her purchased bowls from the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts during the Empty Bowls reception. She had the winning bid of \$60 for one of the bowls.

# Empty Bowls

## Turner tackles hunger, provides 12,000 meals



valdostadailytimes.com;  
see 'EMPTY BOWLS'

BY AMANDA M. USHER

amanda.usher@gaffnews.com

VALDOSTA — About 12,000 meals will be supplied to families due to a \$1,500 donation that will combat hunger.

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts presented the offering to Second Harvest of South Georgia Monday evening during an Empty Bowls reception.

The Second Bi-Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser began in June when professional and novice artists submitted food-safe bowls for the philanthropic effort.

"Each bowl will help us fund up to 150 meals because every one dollar will help us provide about eight meals," said Eliza McCall, chief executive officer of Second Harvest.

After all of the bowls sold for \$20 each, contributions were still made by patrons at Turner, according to center staff.

Potato soup, along with chicken and vegetable soup, were served to purchasers by members of Center for the Arts Guild at the gathering.

Brooks County resident Nancy McGhee purchased five bowls and won a sixth one for \$60 in an auction during the reception.

The auctioned bowl was a group effort made by multiple community members during a Turner pottery workshop led by Julie Smith, said Bill Shenton, center artistic director.

"It's such a wonderful concept and they're beau-



AMANDA M. USHER | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

Nancy Warren, chair of the Presenter Series for the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, retrieves a bowl that she'd previously crafted for Turner's Empty Bowls fundraiser to benefit Second Harvest of South Georgia. She bought it Monday evening during a reception.

tiful bowls, so it's a win-win," McGhee said.

McGhee works with a backpack program at Quitman United Methodist Church and said some of the children she assists occasionally have no food during the weekends.

"Second Harvest is one of the places we go to (and) get donated food to send home with the kids, so it's just wonderful that we're feeding children," she said.

Nancy Warren, chair of Turner's Presenter Series, crafted two bowls for the event, including a smokey blue one that she decided to buy.

Warren characterized Empty Bowls as a worth-

while project that inspires her to participate. While she didn't make a bowl during the first year of the fundraiser, she previously bought one.

"The things that I do at the art center are usually for the performing arts, and so, this is something that really touches children in a different way than the things that I normally get to do," she said.

The concept of Empty Bowls began at a university and is now a nonprofit organization, Shenton said. It initially included a photography display that highlighted hunger.

Shenton said Turner will move forward with

Empty Bowls, furthering its mission to assist Second Harvest.

"I think we've done really good with this," he said. "\$1,500 might not sound like a whole lot of money but it feeds a lot of people."

McCall said the center and the food bank are likely helping many of the same children.

"The same kids that they serve through their Art Explorations program are the same kids that we're feeding at the Boys and Girls Club; and so, we're actually working to help the same populations, just in different ways," she said.

# George novel wins Author of the Year

**BY DEAN POLING**

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VALDOSTA – A South Georgia author has won another award for her writing.

Roberta George of Valdosta and her novel, "The Day's Heat," won the literary fiction category of the Georgia Author of the Year contest earlier this month.

One-hundred-and-ten authors were nominated in 14 categories for the awards sponsored by the Georgia Writers Association, according to a

statement from the organization.

"This novel quietly stole the day — and this reviewer's heart," noted Stacia Pelletier, who judged the literary fiction category. "Lee James is a young Lebanese American mother married to a white plumber and eking out a living in a small South Georgia town in the early 1960s. When local Catholic priest Father Palmer loses a tooth in an accident, Lee's quick thinking saves the tooth and launches a

**See Author on 8A**



FILE PHOTO: DEAN POLING | THE VALDOSTA DAILY TIMES

**Roberta George won the literary fiction category of the annual Georgia Author of the Year awards for her novel, 'The Day's Heat.'**





A 40-piece collection by Katie Dobson Cundiff will be at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts until Sept. 12. Here she stands with one of her paintings, 'Mystic Shrimper.'

FILE PHOTO

# A Canvas Worth Painting

## Artist fulfills her dream

BY AMANDA M. USHER

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VALDOSTA — It was the artistry of visual interpretation that first inspired a young Katie Dobson Cundiff.

During her toddler years, the future oil painter would sit in a chair and overlook her father's shoulder as he worked on his drawing board.

Now her paintings are hanging on the walls of the Price-Campbell and Margaret Mittiga galleries at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Her 40-piece collection, "Visual Impressions," was unveiled during an art reception on July 30. The paintings are all available for sale and will stay on display until Sept. 12.

Born to an illustrator and potter, Cundiff became heavily involved in the arts while in high school doing screen-printing and creating school posters.

"I knew by the time I was 15 that I wanted to make art a career, and basically, I really wanted to be a painter," she said.

At the age of 16, Cundiff won a scholarship through the National Scholastic Magazine affording her to later attend Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Fla.

Primarily a producer of oil painting, opaque watercolor and gouache, the Florida resident

earned a bachelor's of fine arts from the college in 1971.

Outdoor imagery motivates the plein air artist, who said it's the contrast of light and dark shapes that stimulate her. She paints outside and said real-life scenes or events inspire her.

"That usually is what attracts me are the light and dark patterns on objects," she said. "My paintings generally look a little abstract to begin with, and then I start refining the shapes."

An adjunct professor at Ringling for the last eight years, Cundiff teaches figure drawing, drawing for illustration and 2-D design to illustration majors, computer animation majors and game art majors.

Cundiff said she teaches her students there are no lines in nature. She prefers the term contour.

"I try to explain to relate all shapes to one another, so if you draw one shape, you have to relate every other shape that you draw to that shape," she said.

Her collection at Turner spotlights scenes from Florida, Georgia, Maine, Hawaii and the Carolinas.

One of the featured canvas oil paintings, "Mystic Shrimper," shows a group of shrimp boats in Apalachicola, Fla. Cundiff said fog makes the depiction mystic.

The exhibit marks the second



Artist Katie Dobson Cundiff portrays Honalua Bay in Hawaii.

time Cundiff has exhibited art at Turner. The Florida artist previously participated in Plein Air Painters in the Southeast at the art center.

An upcoming opportunity will allow community members to work hands on with Cundiff during a two-day workshop at Turner 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Aug. 17 and

Aug. 18. The art instructor said she accepts students of all abilities and levels.

Cundiff advises any aspiring artists to commit to their passion much time and practice.

"Whether you want to be a painter, or an illustrator, or you want to draw cartoons, or you want to be a motion designer, you

have to put in a lot of hours ... and a lot of dedication" she said.

She urges artists to never stop learning. She believes talent is a small part of being an artist.

"You can draw really well, or you can paint really well ... you have to gather something from inside, as well, and put something of yourself into that," she said.



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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### MONDAY

**Powerful Tools** for Caregivers, 1 p.m. Aug. 6, 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, My Friend's House, 109 West Moore St. Free six-weeks (90 minutes a week) caregiver training program. Anyone from Lowndes, Brooks, Cook, Lanier, Tift, or Turner counties may attend. Training has been designed to support caregivers to enhance their well-being as they care for their loved ones. Taught by Certified Class Leaders. To RSVP or more details, call (229) 293-6146 or (229) 740-9396.

**Baytree Fellowship** AA meetings, 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Friday, 7 p.m. Thursdays; 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; 7 p.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays, 200 S. Lee St. Monday - Fridays and Sundays are open discussion AA meetings; Saturdays will be an AA speaker meeting; All of the meetings are non-smoking and wheelchair accessible.

**Exhibit, Turner Center** for the Arts, 527 N. Patterson St. Exhibit runs through September 12, 2018. Featured Exhibits: Katie Cunduff, Music Makers, Empty Bowls, and East African Art. For more information, call 247-2787.

members share their experience, strength and hope. For more details, call Cindy at (229) 794-9405 or Martha, (229) 247-0764.

### WEDNESDAY

**Diabetes Class**, 5 p.m. Aug. 8, Chancy Drugs Valdosta Classroom, 2333 N. Ashley St. Learn how to conquer your diabetes from topics like Medication Mysteries to Delicious Dishes, we cover it all! Everyone is welcome to attend. For more details, call (229) 245-9922.

**Southern Georgia** workforce Development Board meeting, 11 a.m. Aug. 8, Sports Complex and Civic Center, 786 Austin Avenue East, Pearson, Ga. This meeting is open to the public.

**Preschool Story** Time, 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays, Salter Hahira Library, 220 E. Main St., Hahira. Stories, finger plays, puppets, and activities that will help little ones learn to love reading. Suitable for children birth - 3 1/2 years. Call 229-794-3063.

**Preschool Story** Time, 11:30 a.m. every Wednesday, Johnston Lakes Library, 720 Lakes Blvd., Lake Park.

**Preschool Story** Time at 10:30 a.m. every Wednes-

ing, 12:30 p.m., Aug. 9, The Egg and I, 2953-A N. Ashley St.

**Board of Assessors** holds Special Called meeting 9 a.m. Aug. 9, 1st floor of the Lowndes County Governmental Building, 302 N. Patterson St.

### UPCOMING

**A Comedy Mystery** Dinner Theater, "Death by Desert" by Nathan Harts-wick, Aug. 11, Northside Baptist Church, 200 E. Park Ave. 11:30 a.m., lunch performance includes light Italian box lunch, \$20/ticket; 6:30 p.m. Dinner performance includes great Italian buffet, \$40/ticket; Reservations for stage-side table, \$350 (seat 8) for both performances. For more details/tickets, see Barbara Tomlinson-Jones or call the church office at (229) 242-4940.

**Membership** meetings Post 13 Legionnaires and Ladies Auxiliary Unit 13, 7 p.m. Aug. 14, American Legion Post 13, 1301 Williams St. All veterans, in the Valdosta area, who have served are invited to attend. A meal will be served at 6 p.m. with a donation of \$5 is requested but not mandatory. Find out what our mission is at [\*\*Youth Health Care\*\* Fun Day, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Aug. 18, Courtland Church of Christ gym, 601 Courtland Ave., Quitman. Sponsored by Primary Care of Southwest Georgia. There will be providers from all major children health insurance groups. Providers will be available to check hearing, vision, preventive demos for the kids. Bounce houses, games, door prizes for the kids and lunch will be provided.](http://www.galegion-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

**Diabetes Class**, 5 p.m. Aug. 29, Chancy Drugs Valdosta Classroom, 2333 N. Ashley St. Learn how to conquer your diabetes

from topics like Medication Mysteries to Delicious Dishes, we cover it all! Everyone is welcome to attend. For more details, call (229) 245-9922.

**Diabetes Class**, 5 p.m. Sept. 12, Chancy Drugs Valdosta Classroom, 2333 N. Ashley St. Learn how to conquer your diabetes from topics like Medication Mysteries to Delicious Dishes, we cover it all! Everyone is welcome to attend. For more details, call (229) 245-9922.

**Diabetes Class**, 10 a.m. Sept. 20, Chancy Drugs Valdosta Classroom, 2333 N. Ashley St. Learn how to

conquer your diabetes from topics like Medication Mysteries to Delicious Dishes, we cover it all! Everyone is welcome to attend. For more details, call (229) 245-9922.

**5th Annual SoopaFitt** Health Expo, Valdosta Mall, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Oct. 13, 1700 Norman Drive. A health expo and festive community day of fun and dancing outside, with medical screening, health food samples and raffle prizes.

**East Brooks Volunteer** Fire Department Board of Directors quarterly meeting, 7 p.m. Oct. 15, Fire Station, Cates Road, Brooks County.

## Coming Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup> NEW AGE OF AGRICULTURE



*An In-Depth Look At  
Local Agriculture*

The SunLight Project is a team of journalists from throughout Georgia and North Florida who are committed to gathering facts,

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