



Friday, October 24, 2008

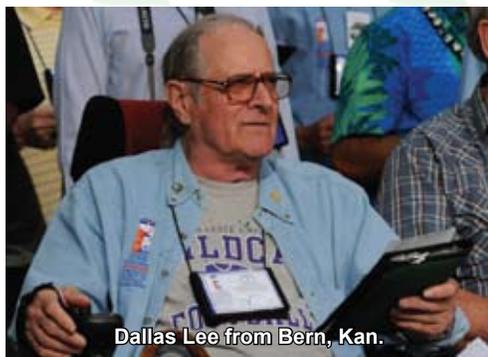
Some Stars Continue to Shine

Not unlike a popular television show, Veterans Got Talent, too! So much so, that 33 of the artists and performers at the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival are repeat participants. Attending the Creative Arts Festival is by invitation only and is achieved through local, regional and national competitions.

Marc Hansen of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., credits his repeat status to the hard work and dedication of his recreation therapist. Hansen returns this year as a member of the chorus in Sunday's stage show. Since last year, Hansen and his musical partners from the Miami VA Healthcare System have been booked to perform at three separate Florida American Legion Auxiliary events. One fellow group mate is also attending this year's Festival; Christine Pointer has participated in the event since 2003. Both won gold medals in the national music categories this year, with Pointer winning another in dance.

"The creative and performing arts help take my mind away from my numerous medical conditions," said Hansen. "You don't forget them, but this helps you get away, and perhaps help someone else who witnesses your talent."

Leilani Corley, an artist from Prescott Valley, Ariz. was in the Air Force when she injured her right shoulder and could no longer perform her duties as an airframe repairman. Corley was in the second class of women in airframe repair, and the first female honor graduate.



Dallas Lee from Bern, Kan.

"I think my most challenging piece was the Japanese fan I received third place for three years ago," said Corley. This year's piece, entitled, "The Guardian," took 1000 hours to stitch. "I enjoy the challenge of

difficult patterns, but it also has to appeal to my creative side," said Corley. "Just finishing a piece is rewarding because I don't



Marvin Hooper from Temple, Texas

know how long I will be able to continue with my crafting, so I try to make every one count."

Another performer, Dallas Lee from Bern, Kan., is attending the Festival for the second time as a medalist in the national drama competition in the senior-drama solo category. Lee's gold medal win last year was for a piece he performed about the musical notes found on a piece of paper in the pocket of a Civil War soldier. The musical

notes became those of "Taps." Lee attributes his confidence during performances to the Creative Arts Festival. Being in a wheelchair, the former teacher and administrator once more enjoys being before the public, participating in Veterans Day programs at a local school.

Marvin Hooper, a 59-year-old Army veteran from Temple, Texas has been invited to perform in the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival numerous times. This year, he won first place in the vocal group pop category at the national level. "By participating in music, I have grown not only as a person but as a role model to those around me," Hooper said. "The love I have for music shows in everything I do."

There are many brilliant visual and performing artists at this week's event who have been featured in past ArtsGrams, and they are still in an elite group – those whose talents never fade. So, if you're wondering where in America the talent is, check out the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival because it's here where the veterans "got talent!"



The Meaning of Three

In the world of thoroughbred horseracing, the highest accomplishment is winning the Triple Crown. We've all heard the saying "the third time's the charm," or "good things happen in threes." For one very talented veteran at this year's Creative Arts Festival, the number three holds a special meaning as well.

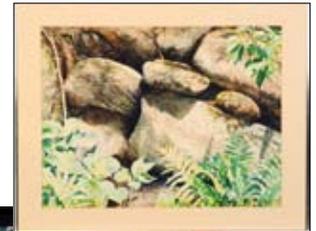
Dennis Linn, an Air Force veteran from Rapid City, S.D. is here with first place wins in three visual art categories including pastels, watercolor and oil painting. In the pastel category his piece, entitled "Koi," uses texture, color, rhythm and balance to represent numerous Koi (a type of carp) swimming in a circular motion. His watercolor, "Mending Wall," shows subtle and abstract colors in rocks, plants, forms and leaves. The inspiration for that piece comes from Robert Frost's poem by the same name and symbolizes that a wall can be a barrier between people, giving those on the inside a feeling of safety and protection and those on the outside a feeling of restriction and boundary. "Into the West" is the title of his awarding winning oil painting. The painting is a stunning portrait of his friend, Tonantzin Carmelo as an Indian maiden, and features impressionistic colors and style.



Linn says he has been painting, drawing and sculpting all of his life, a life that has been a balance between the arts and a career dedicated to serving his country. He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting and sculpture and a Masters of Fine Arts in art, painting, sculpture and art history. He taught art at the Air Force Academy and has shown his works in various venues, enjoying the simple pleasure of sharing his artistic endeavors with others as well as competing in and winning several local, national and international awards. "Nature continues to be the starting point for my art," he says. "In my artwork,

images are analyzed, synthesized, imagined and then re-created using spontaneity, creativity and always pushing for more. It's about the excitement of experimentation and creating new forms using degrees of abstraction and distortion."

In contrast to the creativity and spontaneity of his art work, Linn has enjoyed a distinguished 30-year military career that began with his Air Force enlistment in 1972. He has served in Operation Southern Watch in Joint Task Force – Southwest Asia, Operation Enduring Freedom, Northern Watch, Joint Endeavor, Guardian Assistance, and Joint Guard. Throughout his decorated military career he led others with precision and a commitment to excellence.



Dennis Linn's three winning art pieces.

This is Linn's first experience with the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. His artwork and his military career have taken him around the globe and exposed him to a variety of people, cultures and experiences. "It is an honor and a privilege to participate in the Creative Arts Festival," Linn says. "I am excited to be attending and sharing my work as well as seeing art created by my talented fellow veterans. Their works offer insight into the ideas and values of our society, and have a beauty and enduring value for all generations."

Stars of the Stage Prepare and Practice

In just a few days, we will face an audience. How much you will enjoy performing is closely related to how thoroughly you prepare for the show.

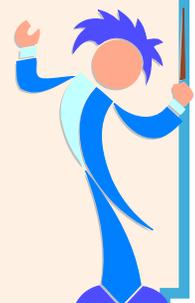
Prepare

Do you really understand what you are singing or saying? Read every line carefully and make sure you know what it means. This is especially true in ensemble songs. It's up to you to share with the audience how you feel about what you are singing. Say the lyrics out loud, like dialogue. It will help you to know how to put the sung lines across. Do you know for sure what you are wearing, and when? Do you know for sure

where you stand, how you enter and exit? Do you know exactly when to start singing, dancing, or speaking? If you have any questions, ask Suzanne, the Stage Manager.

Practice

When it comes to performing, practicing – over and over – leads to success. Can you go through your act smoothly and remember every nuance? Only YOU can learn and fine tune your act. Do you know how you will look to the audience? Practicing in front of a mirror is one way. Another way is to watch yourself on video. You will quickly see for yourself how much every move and expression counts. Thank you for your hard work, as it will make a big difference in the final show. We're going to have winner!



California

Horray for Hollywood!

Today we tour Hollywood! Before we go, here are a few facts about Hollywood you might like to know:

- Hollywood received its name in 1886 by a man named Hobart Johnston Whitley and his wife Gigi, who came up with the name while on their honeymoon. Their inspiration—the strands of native Toyon, or “California Holly,” that cover the hillsides with clusters of bright red berries.
- The first motion picture studio in the region was built in 1909 by the Selig Polyscope Company in Edendale, just east of Hollywood.
- The first studio in Hollywood proper was Nestor Studios, founded in 1911 in an old building on the southeast corner of Sunset Boulevard and Gower Street.
- The first motion picture filmed in Hollywood was filmed at a home located on the corner of Prospect (now Hollywood Blvd.) and Wilcox. Thus, the fame of Hollywood came from its identity with the movies and movie stars.
- The famous Hollywood sign originally read “Hollywoodland” and was erected in 1923 to advertise a new housing development in the hills above Hollywood. For several years, the sign was left to deteriorate, but in 1949 the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce stepped in and offered to remove the last four letters and repair the rest.



- The first Academy Awards presentation ceremony took place on May 16, 1929 during a banquet held in the Blossom Room of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel on Hollywood Boulevard. Tickets were \$10 and there were 250 people in attendance.
 - The Hollywood Walk of Fame was created in 1958, and the first star was placed in 1960 as a tribute to the artists working in the entertainment industry. Honorees receive a star based on career and lifetime achievements in motion pictures, live theatre, radio, television, and/or music, as well as their charitable and civic contributions.
 - The Kodak Theatre, which opened in 2001 on Hollywood Boulevard at Highland Avenue, where the historic Hollywood Hotel once stood, has become the new home of the Academy Awards.
- While motion picture production still occurs within the Hollywood district, most major studios are actually located elsewhere in the Los Angeles region. Paramount Studios is the only major studio still physically located within Hollywood. Other studios in the district include the Jim Henson Studios, Sunset Gower Studios, and Raleigh Studios.

Stars of the Studio

Tips for preparing clay for throwing

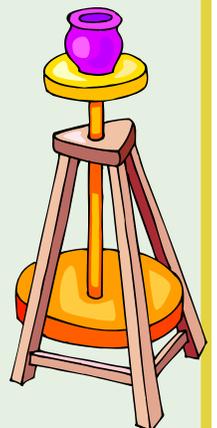
It is very important to use caution when using dry clay because clay dust contains harmful asbestos fibers. If possible, use premixed moist clay for your project.

When deciding which clay to use, consider what type of piece you'd like to create, what its function will be and what temperature you will be dealing with to fire the piece.

Dry clay can be mixed in a large plastic bucket or plastic barrel. First, add enough water to cover the clay. Then allow

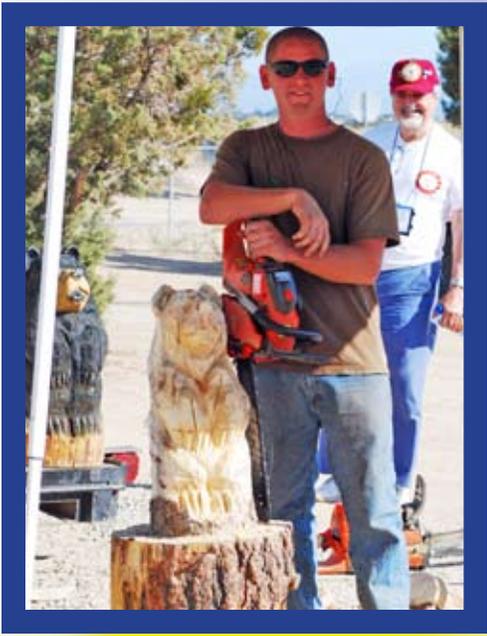
enough time for the clay to absorb the water completely. You can stir the clay water mixture by hand—part of the fun is getting your hands dirty! Continue to add water to the clay until it has a batter-like consistency. More water is better than not enough.

Once thoroughly mixed, let the clay stand. Once some water has risen to the top, sponge the excess off. You'll then need to pull the clay out of the bucket in clumps. This process takes several days to complete. Once finished, turn the clumps of clay out onto a large plastic sheet to begin the mixing and wedging process.



Festival Photos





Festival Performers: "The Show Must Go On"

As the lights dim and a hush falls over the audience, a buzz can be heard backstage as the nervous and excited performers prepare to take center stage in the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival stage show. Cumulating a week of long hours, restless nights and jittery nerves, our performers will soon be taking their bows in the spotlight. This year's performance will commence at 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Riverside Convention Center - Ben Lewis Hall, immediately following our outstanding art exhibit.

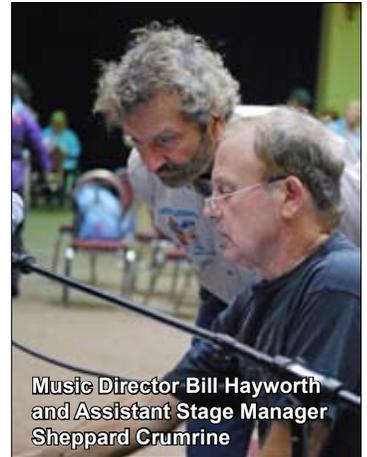
Music Director Bill Hayworth, and stage show co-directors, Suzanne Anderson and Jennifer Lewis, have again created another award-winning show.

Internationally known film and television star and National Honorary Chairperson for the Department of Veterans Affairs' National Rehabilitation Special Events, our Mistress of Ceremonies this year is Bo Derek. Joining us on Sunday to watch the show are Charles Hopkins, VA's Assistant Secretary for Operations, Security and Preparedness, Mike Lynch, Executive Director of Help Hospitalized Veterans; and Desiree Stoy, National President of the American Legion Auxiliary.



Some Festival favorites are back again, along with some new faces and talent! This year's tribute to Hollywood will bring back

fond memories as the 2008 Festival chorus kicks the show off with their "Hollywood Medley." Another popular piece, originally recorded by the Chordettes in 1954, the song "Mr. Sandman" has been featured in many film soundtracks. We have another wonderful treat in store for you when "the Bachelors" perform their rendition of this popular song. Along with several solo and group acts, get ready to be entertained with creative writing, multimedia videos, dance, music and song during Sunday's performance.



Music Director Bill Hayworth and Assistant Stage Manager Sheppard Crumrine

Riverside has hosted many talented veterans this week. Each and every veteran who is here has worked tirelessly to make sure this year's performance will have you glued to your seats – right after the art exhibit leaves you completely awe inspired. We thank you for your service to this country and your wonderful contributions to the creative arts. Good luck, everyone – break a leg (or perhaps a paintbrush!).

Lights, Camera, Action!

Wow, our performers have been rehearsing for four days already. Can you believe it?

In just two days, the big show will go on and all your hard work will be realized as you step onto that stage.

As thrilling as Sunday's show will be, tonight is just as exciting because it is the first dress rehearsal. For the first time, you'll be rehearsing as a group and you'll be able to see how the whole show fits together. For some of you this is old hat – for others, it is brand new. The flow of the acts, the cue from the side stage, the markings on the stage floor, seeing how the costumes look under the lights, all make the dress rehearsals so important to a successful performance.



All the whirlwind activity that takes place backstage before the final show is now in plain site along with perhaps a few butterflies. (Don't worry though, there are some good ways to combat them!) This is your chance to take it all in, to relish the feeling and explore the rush. Our performers don't miss a beat.

Your team leaders have all the details, but in case you need a reminder, be ready to head over to the convention center at 5:45 p.m. for the 7 p.m. dress rehearsal. It is very important that you are available when it's your time to be on stage. Being aware of how all the pieces fit is an important part of the show, and knowing where you fit in is equally important. So relax and go with the flow! Remember to take deep breaths and focus on your part and we know you'll do just fine!

Saturday's final dress rehearsal is from 1:30 – 5 p.m. in Ben Lewis Hall.

Caricature Drawings Today



Caricature artist Daniel Minamide has been drawing caricatures in the Southern California area for over 30 years. Minamide draws in a "quick-draw cartooning" style and is a Vietnam era veteran. is



sketches grace walls around the world and provide a unique touch to every piece he draws. Everybody loves to watch! Join Minamide from 6 to 9 p.m. today in the Riverside Convention Center West Foyer and have your caricature drawn! Check out his Web site at: <http://www.danthecartoonman.com/>

Did you know?



There is a published author among us! David Primrose, an Air Force veteran from Prescott, Ariz., has written a book entitled, "Letters to Tobitha," featuring letters written from his great-grandfather to his wife, Tobitha. The book describes in detail his grandfather's experiences in the Civil War and his life after the war. A riveting account using original writings, the book is a must read for those Civil War buffs and those interesting in the *speak* of that era in history.



Festival Sound Bites



“This is the hardest working vacation I’ve ever had! You become too tired to sleep, and the next day you’re punch drunk.”

Dezire Lauture
Army veteran from Temple, Texas

“The Festival is wonderful, fantastic, and there’s no way you can beat it! Everything you do here-you just can’t beat it!”

Joseph Lamb
National Guard and Army veteran
from Warren, Wis.



“I am having a ball. This is better than I expected.”

Herbert Christopher
Army veteran from Columbia, S.C.

“It is amazing the amount of energy and time that people have invested in this production and the number of people involved. It’s overwhelming!”

Daniel Brehm
Army veteran from Prescott, Ariz.



“I am having a wonderful time and I’m glad I was invited. I hope to be invited back again.”

Eugene Oldaker
Army veteran from Fairmont, W.Va.

“I am so excited about visiting Help Hospitalized Veterans’ headquarters! I was introduced to arts and crafts while I was in the hospital through HHV, and that did so much to help me. From my very first dreamcatcher to the string art that won a gold medal this year, it’s because of HHV that I discovered my artistic abilities. I just love that organization – they have really helped me and so many veterans.”

Jacqueline Bowens
Army and National Guard Veteran from Country Club Hills, Ill.



DAILY MENU

Friday, October 24, 2008

Meals will be served in Raincross Ballroom in the RCC unless otherwise designated.

Breakfast: 7 - 8:30 a.m.

Lunch: Noon - 1 p.m.

Dinner: 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Breakfast

Spinach, Mushroom, Artichoke & Egg Frittata; Sliced Ham; Waffles with Warm Syrup and Butter, Strawberry Sauce and Whipped Cream; Breakfast Potatoes; Oatmeal & Dry Cereal; Assorted Muffins; Sliced Fresh Fruit; Orange Juice, Apple Juice and Tomato Juice; Milk (Soy Milk is available upon request); Coffee, Hot Tea

Lunch - Tour to Hollywood and Santa Monica Pier (Box Lunches Provided)

Ham, Turkey or Vegetarian Sandwich; Whole Fruit; Chips; Dessert; Beverage

Dinner

Caesar Salad; London Broil in Sauce; Baked Mahi Mahi with Citrus Cream sauce; Wild Rice; Fresh Seasoned Vegetables; Rolls and Butter; Dessert Assortment; Coffee, Hot Tea & Iced Tea



Just 4 Grins



Friday, October 24

Star Artists

6:30 – 8 a.m.	Breakfast – RCC Raincross Ballroom
7:30 a.m.	Team leaders and support staff meet with National Art Chairperson – RCC Aviators East, 2nd floor
8:15 a.m.	Load buses for Tour to Hollywood and Santa Monica Pier
8:45 a.m.	Depart for Tour – Box lunch provided Team meeting with artists on the bus
9 a.m. – Midnight	Hospitality Room Open at Marriott Hotel – Suite 1228
3 p.m.	Load buses for return to Riverside
5 – 6:45 p.m.	Dinner – RCC Raincross Ballroom
6 – 9 p.m.	Caricature Drawings – RCC West Foyer

Please check with your team leader and/or the posted schedule outside of Ben Lewis Hall for any changes or updates to your daily schedule.



VETERANS HISTORY

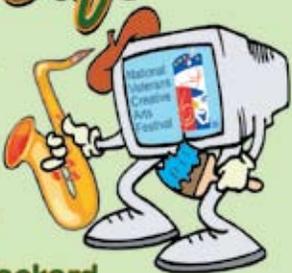
FINAL DAYS! Veterans History Project interviews conclude tomorrow, so get them recorded as soon as possible. Interviews will be recorded today from 8 a.m. – noon, and from 1 – 5 p.m. Final interviews are on Saturday morning, from 10 a.m. till noon. To sign up, go directly to the VHP interview room in the University Room on the first floor of the Marriott Hotel.

Internet Cafe

Where: Northeast Foyer
Riverside Convention Center

When: Through
Saturday, October 25

Hours: 7 – 8:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
7 – 9 p.m.
(Not open Saturday evening)



Provided by Hewlett Packard



WEATHER

Weather for October:
Average low - 53°
Average high - 83°
Average of .26 inches of rain for the month

Today's Weather
Low - 50°
High - 94°
Sunny and bright!

Star Performers

6:30 – 8 a.m.	Breakfast – Raincross Ballroom
7:30 a.m.	Team leaders & support staff meet with Amy Kimbler – De Anza North
8 a.m.	Load buses for Tour to Hollywood & Santa Monica Pier
8:30 a.m.	Depart for Tour – Box lunch provided Team meeting with performers on the bus
9 a.m. – Midnight	Hospitality Room Open at Marriott Hotel – Suite 1228
2:30 p.m.	Load buses for return to Riverside
4:45 – 5:45 p.m.	Dinner – Raincross Ballroom
5:45 – 6:15 p.m.	Prepare for dress rehearsal at Ben Lewis Hall – Individual acts into costumes – no make-up and NO WHITE shirt/black pants needed
7 – 10 p.m.	Dress rehearsal with orchestra for all performers – Ben Lewis Hall

The **Hospitality Suite** is located in the **Marriott Hotel, Suite 1228** and is open today for your convenience. The wonderful volunteers in the hospitality suite have snacks and drinks available if you need something – along with a lot of welcoming smiles!



Hours of operation for the week of the Festival are as follows:

Friday, October 24	9 a.m. to Midnight
Saturday, October 25	9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; and 8:30 - 11 p.m.
Sunday, October 26	10 a.m. to Noon; and 10 p.m. - Midnight



The **Medical Suite** is located in the **Marriot Hotel, Room 901 & 902**.

Hours of Operation: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Medical Suite phone number, if you are calling **inside** the Hotel, is **extension 7901**. **Outside** of the Hotel, call **(951) 784-8000** and ask for **Room 901**.

Participants should inform their team leader(s) of any medical concerns, and the team leaders will then assist with contacting the Medical Suite. Medical personnel will accompany veterans and support personnel on all trips away from the hotel.

NVCAF WEB SITE

www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov

Be sure to check the Festival Web site for continuing updates. All hometown news releases have been posted (check "Participant Information"), and photos are continuing to be added. A full photo gallery of the week's activities will be added in the weeks ahead.