

THE KELLY SPRING 2020

Canvas

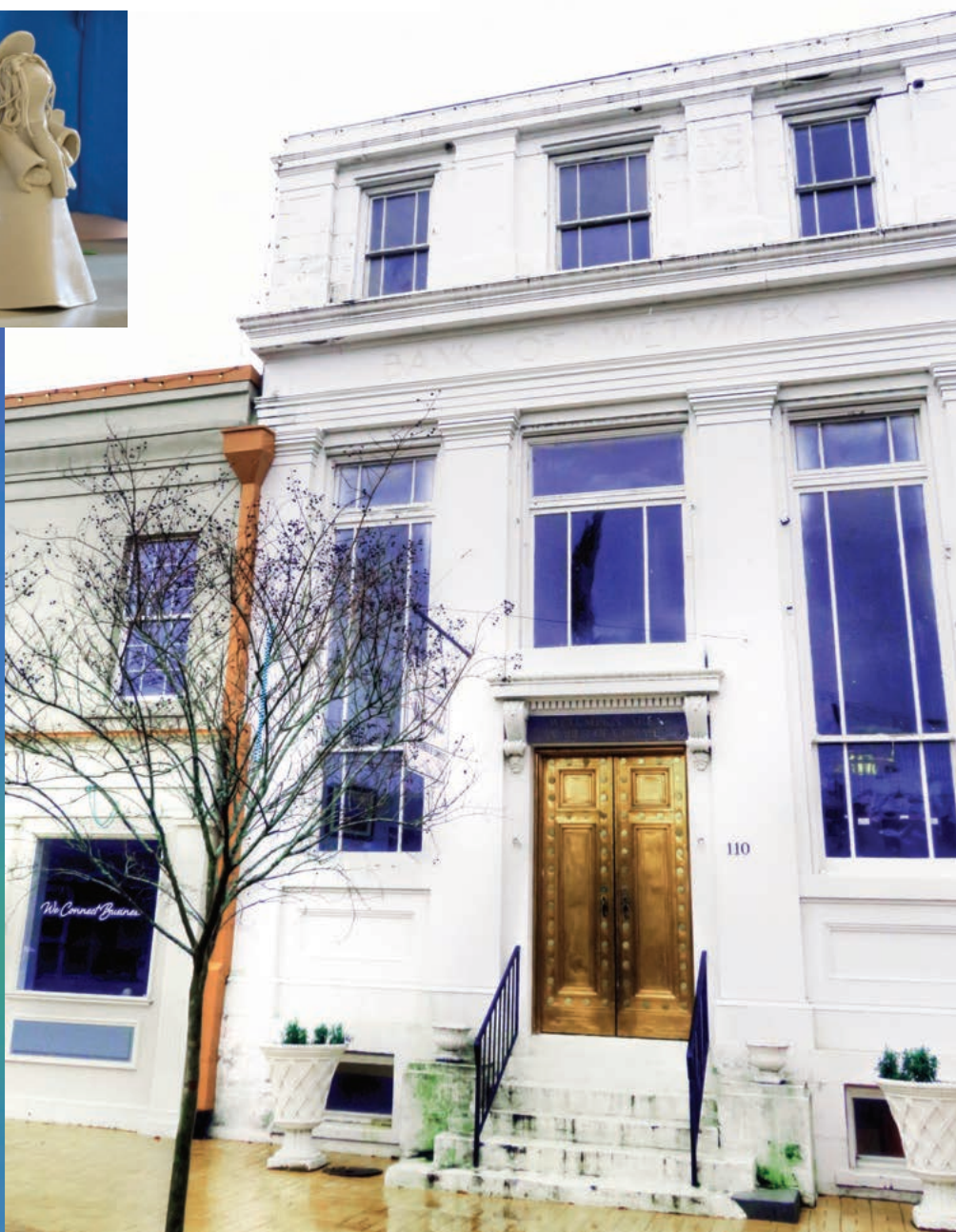


photo collage by LJ Christensen

Home, sweet HOME!

We are thrilled to have a place again to display, store,
and host receptions, Tuesday with Kelly and
workshops.

Join us in supporting
**The KELLY FITZPATRICK
MEMORIAL GALLERY 501(c)(3)**



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Become a **FRIEND** \$100...

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SINGLE MEMBERSHIP \$35...

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ADVOCATE FOR ARTS \$250...

[click](#)

PATRON OF THE ARTS \$500...

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KELLY BENEFACTOR \$1000...

[click](#)

OUR RECENT BENEFACTORS:
**RIVER BANK AND TRUST
CO. COMMISSIONER HOLT**
Barbara/Mike Bennett
Libby/Bob Christensen
Wanda/Mit Fontaine
Carol/Lewis Hickman
Phyllis/Crawford Kennedy
Belyn/Jim Richardson

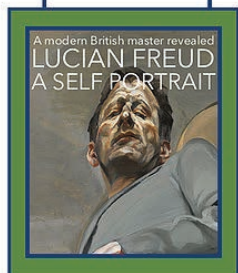
Room here for more!

**ABJECT APOLOGY TO
BENEFACTORS Beth and Spencer Coleman.**
In the winter 2019 issue, they were accidentally
listed as Nobleman.
While they are no doubt "noble," that isn't their
last name.
Mea culpa--Editor

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SAVE THE DATES



March 6, 3 pm
The Capri, MGM
Call Cookie Knott
to caravan from
Wetumpka
(334) 531-6930

Thursday, MARCH 12, 5-7pm

**Opening reception to "Southern Spectrum"
exhibit at The Kelly, 110 Bridge Street**

Saturday, APRIL 18

7am-3pm, **Metal Arts** in Merchants' Alley

2-4pm, **Silent Auction of ART-FOR-SALE**
in The Kelly

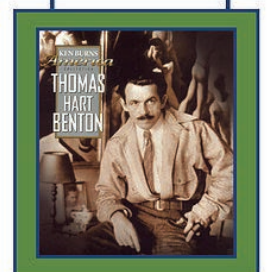
3-5pm, **People's Choice Awards for Metal
Arts** in Merchants' Alley with refreshments

APRIL 18-26 weekends

Kelly's "Art in the Garden" Pop-Up Exhibit
(with submissions from the Treasure Hunt)
at Jasmine Hill Gardens



[More info on films-click here](#)



April 9, 5:30 pm
at MMFA, MGM
Call Cookie Knott
to caravan from
Wetumpka
(334) 531-6930

ART BANK OF WETVMPKA *

March 12th, The Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery will celebrate its new home—the gorgeous Bank of Wetumpka building at 110 East Bridge Street. Its first exhibit is the museum’s Permanent Collection, *Southern Spectrum*, which showcases the Kelly’s collection of Kelly Fitzpatrick and other significant local and regional artists.

“We are excited to celebrate The Kelly’s new home in the historic, beautifully restored Bank of Wetumpka,” says Kelly President Belyn Richardson. “Viewing the historic Kelly Collections inside a national landmark building only seems appropriate. Visitors will find themselves immersed in both the art and the place .”

The building has witnessed over a 100 years of Wetumpka history including floods, fires, flu and drug epidemics, booms, busts and a burgeoning art community. Its construction was announced in the January 30th edition of *The Weekly Herald* in 1913:

BANK OF WETUMPKA TO ERECT \$20,000.00 BANKING BUILDING

“A modern, fireproof bank building, three stories high, will be built on the site of its present building by the Bank of Wetumpka. Plans have been prepared by Fedrick [sic] Ausfeldt, architect . . . and every effort will be made to have the building completed and occupied within the next four months.”



*If you look carefully at the cover shot, you’ll see that “WETVMPKA” with a V is how the word is engraved in the front of the building, with a little “artistic license.”
—editor LJC

By the Way:

The Weekly Herald appeared from 1895 to 1927 when it changed its name to *The Wetumpka Herald*, the banner under which it is still being published today.

If \$20,000 had been invested in the S&P 500 index in 1913, the investment would nominally be worth about \$524,729,314.49 in 2020. The inflation-adjusted real return of the \$20,000 is \$20,195,353.36 today.

The predicted “four months” to complete was a little optimistic; they moved into the completed structure early 1915. In the meantime, the bank occupied temporary quarters in the Hotel Lancaster across the street.

Of the 25 “contributing buildings” listed as East Wetumpka [sic] Commercial Historic District, by the National Register of Historic Places in 1992, only two were designed by architects. The Bank of Wetumpka is one; the flatiron First National Bank building the other.

Authored by David Luck with invaluable research support from Linda Blankenship, Archivist, Elmore County, and Sharon Fox, Museum Curator/Genealogist at Elmore County Museum. Any historical inaccuracies are mine. -DL

Layout and graphics by David Luck
Recent photos by D. Luck and Libby Christensen

You may not recognize the name . . .

Frederick Ausfeldt was born in 1860 in Rinken, Germany. He immigrated to the U.S. and was designing buildings in Philadelphia by 1890. He spent most of his professional years practicing in his adopted home of Montgomery. Ausfeldt was elected into the American Institute of Architects in February of 1916. He became one of the leading architects of his day, designing outstanding buildings throughout the South, including *The Bank of Wetumpka*. Many are listed in the National Register of Historic Places ([NRHP](#)).

. . . but surely you know his buildings:

The *Bell Building*, one of the Montgomery's first skyscrapers, was designed by Ausfeldt, and built between 1906 and 1910. The NRHP designated building was recently renovated and converted to condos. Ausfeldt had already been working on *The Bank of Wetumpka* when the *The Weekly Herald's* headline appeared in 1913. Between 1914 and 1915, he built the *Covington County Court House and Jail* in Andalusia.

He also designed the *Empire Theatre*, which opened in 1919, and is considered the first theater in the United States to have air conditioning.

The *Shepherd Building*, built in 1922, was donated to Troy University in 2002. It was listed on the NRHP in May of 1986 until its demolition in November 2010.

In 1927-1928, Ausfeldt designed and supervised the building of *Sidney Lanier High School*. In 1984, the school was listed on the NRHP as a continuing resource to the Garden District of Montgomery. At the same time that he was working on the high school, Ausfeldt designed the NRHP-listed *Jefferson Davis Hotel*.

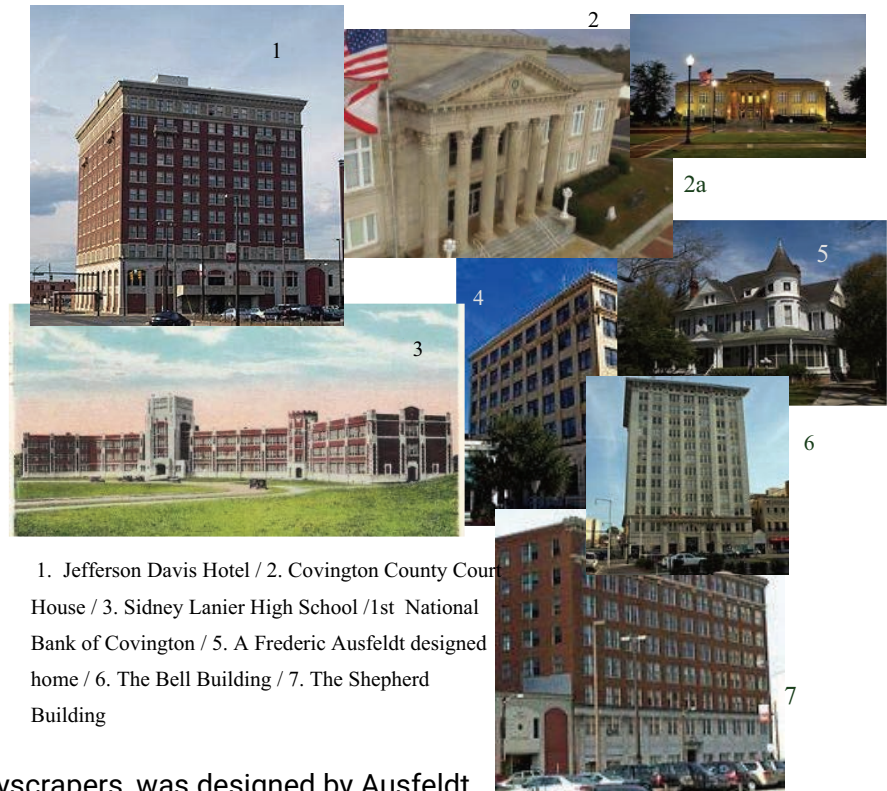
Mr. Ausfeldt died in Montgomery during March of 1930 and is remembered today as one of America's outstanding architects.

Boom

In its January 1st, 1901, edition, *The Weekly Herald* gushed Wetumpka is on a boom.

"Everybody feels it. Property commands a great price, and added to all this, on the 16th of February, 'The Bank of Wetumpka' will open its doors for business . . . This institution has been incorporated with a paid up capital of \$25,000 . . . The bank people have purchased the old Buyck Bank Building and are having it arranged in a modern and up-to-date style. They have bought a \$1,000 burglar proof safe and time lock."

Among the officers of the bank mentioned by *The Herald* are brothers-in-law B. L. Gaddis and W. L. Lancaster from the Kellyton area. They and other like-minded investors were widely diversified, forming mini-conglomerates. Brothers Adolph and Morris Hohenberg were involved in a wide range of activities. Their firm, M. Hohenberg & Co., was involved in banking, cotton and general merchandising.[return to menu](#)



1. Jefferson Davis Hotel / 2. Covington County Courthouse / 3. Sidney Lanier High School / 1st National Bank of Covington / 5. A Frederic Ausfeldt designed home / 6. The Bell Building / 7. The Shepherd Building



In 1911, Hupp was the first U.S. vehicle maker to use all-steel car bodies.

Born in Germany, the Hohenberg brothers settled in Wetumpka during the late 1870s. Widely admired, Adolph and Morris were progressive entrepreneurs with a strong sense of public duty. They helped the needy and donated land for the Agricultural School, which eventually became Wetumpka High School.

The 1st National Bank of Wetumpka was formed by the Hohenberg brothers in 1905. The bank got off to a rocky start when their building suffered a devastating fire in 1908. Despite the First National's early travails, both banks prospered.

The nineteen-teens were prosperous for banks and bankers. *The Herald's*

May 28th, 1914, edition boasts: "Wetumpka has two strong banks—Hon. W. L. Lancaster is President of the Bank of Wetumpka. He was recently nominated for State Treasurer is[sic] one of the most progressive citizens of the town. He is a farmer of large means. His specialty is stock raising. Adolph Hohenberg is President of the First National Bank."

In 1915, *The Herald* announced that "Mr. John A. Gaddis, the popular Cashier of The Bank of Wetumpka, has purchased a handsome five passenger Hupmobile, which adds another link to the chain of good looking cars owned by Wetumpka people." Hupmobile was built from 1909 through 1939 by the Hupp Motor Car Company of Detroit. A vehicle license application shows the car registered in the name of the bank and a model year of 1912. A paved road to and from Montgomery wasn't completed until 1924.

In May of 1922, Bank of Wetumpka directors received a 20-year extension of their bank's charter from H. H. Montgomery, State of Alabama Superintendent of Banks.

Bust

Despite the optimism shared by its officers and the State Superintendent in 1922, the Bank of Wetumpka was dissolved about 1927, early in the Depression Era. The website Econproph.com tells us:

"On average, more than 600 banks failed each year between 1921 and 1929. Those failures led to the end of many state deposit insurance programs. The failed banks were primarily small, rural banks, and people in large metropolitan areas were generally unconcerned. Investors and other businessmen thought that the failing institutions were weak and badly managed and that those failures served to strengthen the banking system."

However, during the banking crash of 1933, depositors nationwide (rural and urban) saw \$140 billion disappear through bank closures. Opened in 1905 by the Hohenberg brothers, The First National Bank of Wetumpka printed \$482,350 worth of currency, typical output for a national bank of its size. The bank stopped printing money in 1935. First National outlived the Gaddis-Lancaster bank by about eight years.

By the Way: How Rumors Get Sarterd

from the 9.09.15 *Weekly Herald*

Mr. Kelly FITZPATRICK is entertaining a bevy of young ladies at his home, Echo Farm, this week. Among the number are Misses SKEHAN, of Montgomery, SIMPSON, of Birmingham, and Aldora GOODWYN, of Montgomery.

By the Way: From the 9.09.1915 Weekly Herald

The town's prosperity may be gauged by the advertising displayed in *The Herald*. Its April 9th, 1909, edition includes

"With each Spring the question of a new Buggy or Carriage comes up. . . . Think of me . . ." J.P. JOHNSON
AUSTIN & SANFORD "Ladies' and Men's low cut shoes . . ."
CAIN-SEDBERRY Drug Co., "Drugs and Seeds"
"Before you wire your house. . . see S. J. McMORRIS, Jr., Agent for Tungsten Light"
LULL & FAIN, headquarters for Fertilizers
"\$1.00 starts a bank account with the Bank of Wetumpka. 4% interest paid in savings department. . ." W. L. LANCASTER, President / B. L. GADDIS, V. Pres.



A forlorn Bank of Wetumpka building, old County Courthouse (end of the street), and Lancaster Hotel circa late 20's. Construction on new courthouse started in 1930.

After the bank's closing, the building endured nearly 90 years of additional wear and tear. The Wetumpka Area Chamber of Commerce website tells us that it has housed barber and beauty shops, jewelry store, insurance and accounting offices, gift shop, restaurant and eatery, drug prevention and treatment facility.



In the 20's through the mid-30's, you could get a hair cut for 20 cents in the basement of the bank building at the King's Barber Shop. Perkins' beauty shop was open for business there in the late 30's into the 40s.



The bank housed an eatery that apparently served Coke circa 1960s.



Alternatives Inc., an addiction counselling service, occupied the space circa 1990.

In 1992, the National Registry of Historic Places (NRHP) added the bank to its inventory on February 20th. The NRHP listing describes the building:

Two story landmark bank building at southeast corner of East Bridge and Court Streets. White masonry structure with strong vertical emphasis created by tall narrow windows and neoclassical detailing. Pilasters support wide architrave above first floor windows. The pattern is repeated on a smaller scale at the second level. Built as Bank of Wetumpka.

The architectural style is variously described as "late 19th and 20th Century Revival," which covers a lot of ground—including Greek Revival and Gothic Revival. *Neoclassical* is more appropriate.



Photos from NRHP's survey of downtown from 1992, used in selection process.

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Landlord With Vision: *The Chamber Years*



Shellie Whitfield, Executive Director of The Wetumpka Area Chamber of Commerce, surveys improvements made to the old Bank's lobby from a balcony overlooking the 2-story the old bank lobby.



In early 1995, the The Wetumpka Area Chamber of Commerce, seeking a permanent home, made “a leap of faith” and purchased the historic building at 110 East Bridge Street and its connecting structures. On June 1st, the Chamber moved into the structure and has been raising monies needed for improvement and repair of the building.

Some of the major projects listed on the Chamber's website include “replacing the roof, painting the interior, replacing marble tile front steps, repairing window framing, cleaning and painting the exterior surface and awnings, and polishing and reinstalling the sliding copper and brass doors at the front entrance.”

BELOW: Today, East Bridge Street is a mecca for all who are dedicated to appreciation of the art of Central Alabama.



100 block of south East Bridge Street before and after most recent transformation.



About The Kelly

Since its inception in 2011, The Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery has functioned as both a museum to house and display permanent collections and a gallery for local artists to exhibit and sell their works. At the end of 2019, The Kelly had hosted 61 exhibits and displayed artwork of over 700 artists. The organization is dedicated to the collection, preservation, presentation of artwork, the promotion of art education and advancement of the visual arts. It is a fitting anchor for the hive of art activities residing on East Bridge Street.

A typical bank is where the money is. The Bank of Wetumpka is now where the art is --The Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery.



View of work on Bridge Street from Wetumpka Area Chamber of Commerce & Insight Security, February 2020



In addition to sources already acknowledged in text, “The Heritage of Elmore County, Alabama,” published by Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., is a primary reference for this article, along with the National Register of Historic Places and Wikilink websites.

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Window view from The Kelly with Hope Brannon's vivid painting of what is now the New Kelly building.

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SOUTHERN SPECTRUM

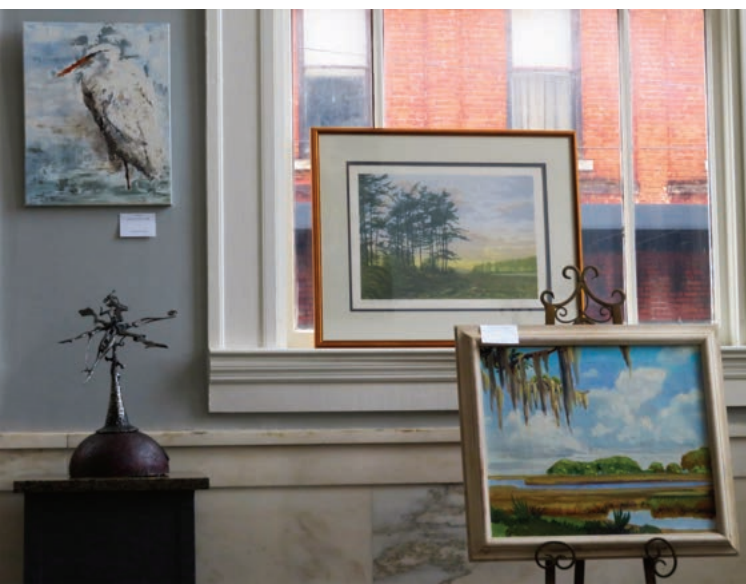
After several weeks of arduous moving and grooving, banging nails and hanging paintings (and security cameras), the first exhibit is open. New Kelly Curator Carol Hickman and her team of excited volunteers have managed to move all the Kelly art, furniture, records, and miscellany into the newly rented space at the Wetumpka Chamber of Commerce complex. This exhibit, called ***Southern Spectrum***, combines the Kelly Fitzpatrick paintings and other donated regional art of the permanent collection with "Art-for-Sale" pieces donated by Kelly members for the purpose of raising funds for the building. Some works are on commission while many are donated outright.



"Step Up to the New Kelly" All photos by LJ Christensen

Treasurer Barbara Bennett was happy to show that ***The Kelly*** sold nearly \$3000 worth through the the online auction. Among those were one by Eloise Oviatt Hawkins, one of the featured historical artists, two by Carol Hickman, the Curator, and other art by Donna Pate, Libby Christensen, Mary Jacobs (Libby's deceased mother), Sunny Donaldson, Kathy Atchison, Shellie Whitfield, Robin Rogers, Ildiko Andrews, Mary Hanby and Kelley Alford. There will be an opportunity to buy the remaining pieces during a Silent Auction, 2-4 on Saturday, April 18 (while the Main Street is hosting the Metal Arts downtown.) Visitors during the **opening reception on Thursday, March 12, 5-7 p.m.**, may also talk to Carol or President Belyn Richardson about buying art on display.

Belyn promises that the reception will be a fabulous epicurean delight as well as one for the eyes since **chefs will be preparing the generous hors d'oeuvres donated by the Windcreek Casino.** There will also be a cash bar for those interested, with wine and beer available to sip as visitors browse through the art and the new areas of The Kelly. **"We've waited over a year for this moment," says former president Carol Hickman, "and we want to be very special."** --LJ Christensen



Kelly Fitzpatrick untitled painting on right along with a variety of other art.

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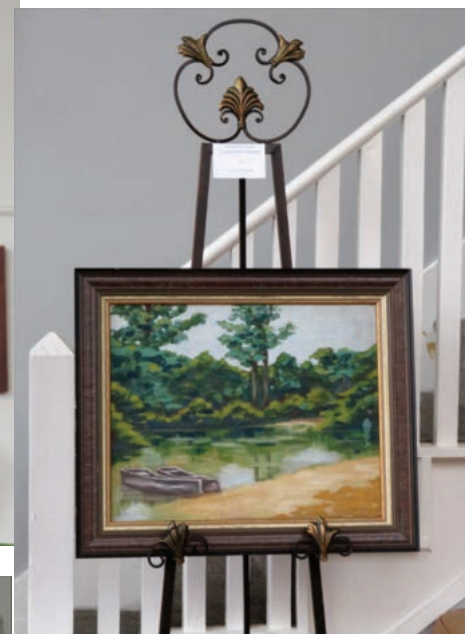
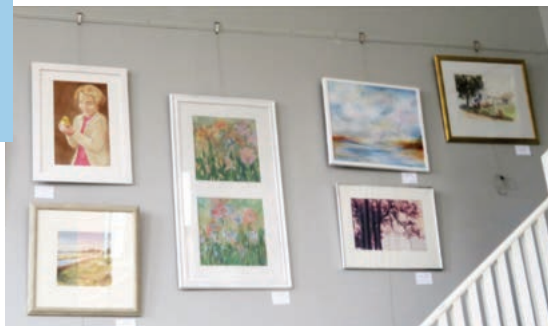
A recently donated regional painting
by T. A. Immler, 1950



Some contemporary pieces by Mary Hanby and
Cindy Beumer available for sale, but bottom left
by Shellie Whitfield is already sold.



Paintings above and below right
are from the main gallery area--
some permanent, several sold,
and a few for sale.



Above--the Eloise Oviatt Hawkins
landscape that has sold.

Photos by LJ Christensen



Tuesday, March 17, 2020

**Noon-1 p.m. at the
Wetumpka Civic Center
(410 S. Main St., Wetumpka)**

Jackson Hospital Foundation: The Healing Arts Collection

Since 2008 when the Jackson Hospital Foundation first acquired 15 paintings, it has been collecting more art to house in the hospital, now up to 260 works of art. This unique program turns a house of illness into an art museum, with benefits to the patients and also to visitors. You can pick up brochures in the main lobby, guiding you to the hallways with art or to a particular artist of the 175 representing the Central Alabama Region.

One artist the foundation features is Elmore DeMott, our TWK speaker from February 2020, with her “Flowers for Mom” collection, which is not only on display but available to order for prints through the hospital. There have also been contests, such as one in 2017 for photography of Montgomery downtown. Kelly Secretary/Editor Libby Christensen had two selected, which are now hanging in patients’ rooms.

Two representatives from the foundation will visit Wetumpka for the TWK presentation: Sandra Hicks Larson, JHF Board member and Patrick Wood, the Foundation President. Bring a “brown bag” lunch. Drinks and dessert are provided.

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

**Noon-1 p.m. at the
The Kelly
(110 Main St., Wetumpka)**



“Downtown ‘Dental’ Work”
by LJ Christensen.

Beauty in Wood

Neill Thompson, owner of the Longleaf Wood Shop at 3116 Wetumpka Hwy, will share his love and experience in wood craft at the April TWK. He is also promising to set up a special tour of his shop for Kelly members. They’ll get to take part in a clinic and learn more about the beauty of wood and some of his techniques. His shop gives classes for anyone from beginner to expert and also takes orders for custom furniture.

–LJ Christensen

Masks and Mardi Gras

In February, the Kelly donated \$125 to the Wetumpka High School Art Club.

Kelly's Education Director **Cookie Knott** helped and encouraged the busy students to finish their float in time for the Wetumpka Mardi Gras Parade. Their art teacher/"float coach" explained that the money was very helpful in helping pay for the supplies. She said that Cookie bought the colorful but pricy metallic fringe, for instance, used on the bottom of the float.

—LJ Christensen



Art teacher Adriane Duvall took photos of the float, including the one below of her daughter, husband and friend, which shows the Kelly logo sign included by the grateful students.



Art in the Garden

On the weekends of April 18-26, *The Kelly* will be hosted at Jasmine Hill Gardens in its beautiful lobby for the first Kelly “Pop-up” Exhibit.

Curator Carol Hickman expects to be planning other “Pop-ups” at banks and businesses throughout the region as opportunities arise. “We really want to reach out and take art to the community, to the places where people will see it and enjoy it. Beauty and expression should be shared,” she says, expressing her deeply held belief.



“Triplets” by LJ Christensen



“Serenity” by C. Hickman

Jasmine Hill Gardens boasts a magnificent collection of high-quality Greek sculpture reproductions, such as the Three Graces below and the “ruins” of a Temple to Hera as well as sumptuous tree-lined walks, ponds, fountains and beautiful flowers. Watch for more details next month as detailed plans develop. However, there will definitely be art on display and for sale by Kelly members.

--LJ Christensen



“Three Graces Grace the Gardens”
by LJ Christensen



“Shadows” waterscape by G. Kline



“Sparkling Water” by C. Beumer



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Judy Ruffer: Worker Extraordinaire



Judy Ruffer has been a Benefactor of *The Kelly* in more ways than financial. We are sorry to see her leave the Board, but that was just one of the many hats she's worn at *The Kelly*.

In fact, Judy's worn many hats in her career as well. Most notably, she worked for the Alabama Senate for 30 years as an Administrative Assistant. Asked whom she worked with, she starts naming off six, eight, ten senators. She explains that some senators she was assigned to and others asked for her by name, giving her a really interesting career. Before that, she worked for a construction company and a veterinarian, so her experience has been extremely varied. At the Senate, though, she learned to be truly precise and detail-oriented. "You have to go by the rules," she insists.



This belief has led her to volunteer to be one of the chief participants on the committee to review the core documents for *The Kelly*. "It's important that the committees know what to do when a new chairman steps in." This point she knows well because she's worked to head up the Exhibition Committee and stepped in to be *The Kelly*'s Historian, taking over for Cookie Knott and taking charge of a huge pile of materials in the scrapbooks. She's typed up numerous documents for Hope Brannon, assisting with the curating, and volunteered for many other tasks. She may be retired from a formal job, but she's still busy at work, commuting to Wetumpka from her lovely home on Lake Jordan instead of to Montgomery.

Judy likes to keep busy. Helping at the Tulatoma Art Trail, rearranging furniture, cleaning out closets, and generally helping wherever it's needed is what she does with a smile. She says she's not an artist, but her mother was. She even helped needlepoint canvases her mother had painted. She joined *The Kelly* because she learned to really love art and because she "wanted to help." Most recently, she was found climbing the ladder to help hang the *Southern Spectrum* exhibition and then sitting on the floor untangling the hanging lines.

So we don't say "Farewell" to Judy; we say "Thank you for all you've done and all you continue to do. See you next week!"

--LJ Christensen



Candid shots of
Judy Ruffer working
by LJ Christensen

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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Robin Rogers: Creator of Angels

There are angels amongst us. Some oversee Christmas. Others dance in poetry. And a host of them are baked into being by Robin Rogers.

Known for her annual design of small clay angels, potter Robin also creates a variety of bowls, dishes, vases and crosses, using different glazes. She has acquired the touch for cutting, rolling and shaping clay into beautiful shapes, which helps satisfy her desire to create even though she's become legally blind. However, since the kiln's temperature is exceedingly dangerous, she gets help from her husband to deal with that aspect: "I make it; he bakes it," she jokes.



Robin's angels

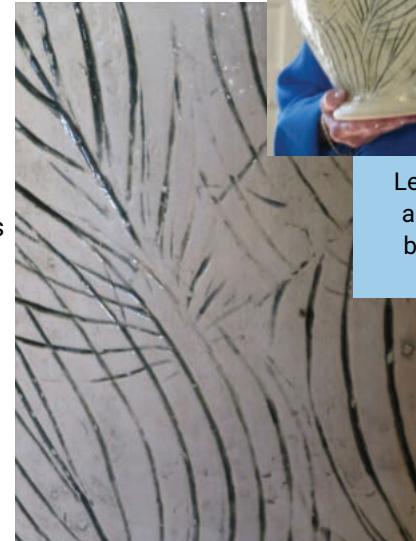
At the November 2019 **Tuesday with Kelly**, Robin exhibited a range of her pottery, including some with leaf impressions and others that she uses horse hair in! She explained that the horsehair burns away, but it leaves interesting marks. She even incorporates antlers into some of her clay pieces for a very unique combination.

Kelly members enjoyed hearing about her methods and seeing samples of her work at TWK and also at the **Artists Market** in December, showing us all how to believe in angels.

—LJ Christensen



Leaf impressions in a vase. Photos all by LJ Christensen



Horsehair markings



Wavy pedestal bowl



Shiny glazes



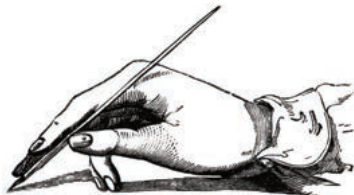
RECAP from October 2019

Fine Penmanship: Melissa Tubbs

While Melissa Tubbs may or may not have wonderful handwriting, there is no denying that she has the finest penmanship (penwomanship?) of any artist in the South, literally fine in all senses of the word. During the October 2019 **Tuesday with Kelly**, Kelly members were treated to a slide display of some of the exquisite drawings in her booklet, "Celebration & Preservation: Drawing Alabama's Architectural History." Some of these are so delicately detailed as to truly resemble photographs because her layers of cross-hatching are as thin as hairs.

This slim volume of pen-and-ink drawings, produced as a special project of the Alabama Bicentennial Commemoration, covers architecture throughout the state from 1820-1997. Tubbs explained that she wanted to include a wide range of structures, not just important community buildings such as the Capitol or university buildings. Therefore, she traveled throughout the state to choose not only elegant mansions but also small family homes and cottages, not only government buildings but also small businesses, not only churches but also a mid-century club. One of the most fascinating drawings depicts a Sears home, built from Sears catalog "kits," featuring modular sections for custom designs, delivered by railroad. She also drew the only Frank Lloyd Wright-designed structure in Alabama, built from his plans for his noted low horizontal lines and natural materials.

You might say the booklet "draws you in." The content rests primarily in the pictures. Tubbs tells us she purposely kept the descriptions to a minimum, just a paragraph for each to describe some of the most salient facts. She gives examples of styles ranging from grand neo-classical style with columns, an Italianate-style Carnegie library and an Art Moderne (late Art Deco) bank all the way to a Victorian jail, a pre-fabricated metal house from right after World War II in a retooled aircraft plant, and even a very old and tiny 6'x9' pre-railroad folk house. It is extremely interesting to read and SEE all this Alabama architecture. —L.J. Christensen



To find out if copies are still available, contact her through <https://inkartist1.wixsite.com/melissabtubbs> This would make a great addition to architectural, drawing or history collections. If you missed the talk, do go to her site to see her work. You can order prints through her Etsy shop as well (and note the Wetumpka header illustration!): https://www.etsy.com/shop/melissabtubbs?ref=hdr_shop_menu Find out about her next project, a booklet on Palladio's work in Venice and his influence on American architecture.



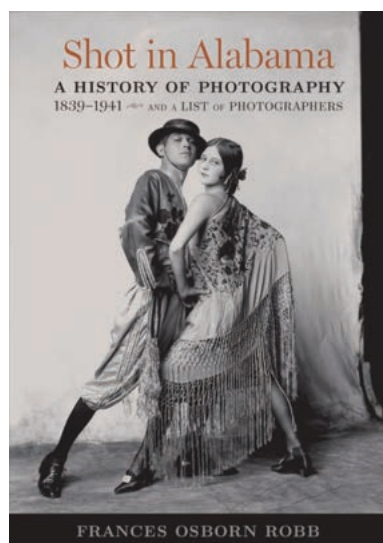
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RECAP from October 2019

A Great Picture Book: Frances Osborn Robb



Pictures may be worth 1000 words, but when Frances Osborn Robb augments the historical photos with the stories behind the intriguing images, the effect is even more amplified. At the September 2019 Tuesday with Kelly, she shared a slideshow of photos she had collected for her fascinating book, *Shot in Alabama*. This is not merely a photography book; it is truly a social history of Alabama from 1839 to 1941.



The cover picture is deceptive and amusing. A dashing romantic hero a la Rudolph Valentino is seen in a tango move with his beautiful Spanish lady. In reality, it was a young dance instructor from Anniston posing with his sister in front of a white sheet. These background stories are the heart and soul of the book because Robb chose the photos as much for their compelling content as for their artistic composition.

Included are such unique scenes as an early University of Alabama vs. Auburn football game, a disarming picture of film star Tallulah Bankhead as a teen posing in her "skivvies," and even a possum with 13 babies. Many of the earliest photographs are formal shots of families, but she found a precious one of a little boy dressed up in his best kilt, but scowling over the shoes he's holding, clearly preferring to stay barefoot. Her research was far-reaching. She had romantic messages and photo exchanges from young couples in love to the Civil War Sulphur Creek Trestle built for a railroad but destroyed six weeks later. From the US Geological Survey, she obtained a view of Noccalula Falls, showing just a trickle during a drought.

This book would definitely appeal to many types of readers as it contains such diverse subjects. Bringing all together under the umbrella of Alabama photos was a massive project. A very fine speaker, Frances Robb explained dozens of her slides adroitly and efficiently as she quickly moved from scene to scene, easily holding our interest. —LJ Christensen



For those interested who missed the lecture or just interested in buying the book, it is available through the University of Alabama press at <http://www.uapress.ua.edu/product/Shot-in-Alabama,6501.aspx><http://www.uapress.ua.edu/product/Shot-in-Alabama,6501.aspx>

B. M. Mattocks. Barefoot Boy. Early 1890s. Wiregrass Archives, Troy University.

Made under protest.



Frances Benjamin Johnston. Forks of Cypress, Lauderdale County. 1939. Library of Congress.
Made to show us beauty. Make us want to preserve it forever.

Beautiful mansion above. Photographer on a moving beam.
All images from Robb's slide show except book cover.



O. V. Hunt. O. V. Hunt on Beam. July 18, 1913. Birmingham Public Library.
How daring does a photographer have to get?



RECAP from February 2020

Flowers for Us All: Elmore DeMott

"Since August 2, 2016 I have taken a photograph of a flower every day....my artistic response to being the daughter of one with Alzheimer's," says Elmore DeMott. Kelly members attending TWK in February were treated to slides of her world-renown "Flowers for Mom" series. Elmore's family owns the well-known Jasmine Hill Gardens, which **The Kelly** will be partnering with in the up-coming Pop-Up Exhibition in April. Full of flowers, trees, and Greek statuary, it is a place of great beauty as are her "Flowers for Mom," which can be seen and copies purchased through her website: www.elmoredemott.com

-- LJ Christensen



The Kelly President Belyn Richardson (left)
with Elmore DeMott by LJ Christensen



Elmore's business cards.

RECAP from January 2020

Modern Mending: Heather Logan

Heather Logan, from a new company called Art Recovery Technologies of Alabama, amazed Kelly members at TWK with her knowledge of art restoration. She works with damaged art, murals and taxidermy, and the company specializes in water and fire damage. She shared details about repairing canvas and paint, surprising us to hear that oils are actually repaired with acrylic. She emphasized that repairs should be always be reversible in case new techniques arise. **Contact her company at 107 Jesse Samuel Hunt Blvd. in Prattville. They repair electronics, appliances and computers as well, though she herself specializes in art.**

--LJ Christensen

DECEMBER DELIGHTS



December was a whirlwind of activity with the Artists Market, followed closely by the Members Party with Silent Auction. In just a few hours, the pop-up **Artists Market** sold over \$4000 of art submitted by 17 Kelly members. From jewelry to pottery, quilts to paintings, and woodwork to photographs, the gallery was festive and appealing. Many of the Kelly members dressed in Dickens garb to celebrate that weekend's Dickens Downtown Festival. Then they celebrated again at the Members' Party, many taking home special treats from the Silent Auction or Lucky Cup (very ably emceed by Mabrey Whetstone). Many thanks to Charlotte Whetstone, who heads up the Special Events committee, and the many volunteers who helped with both events.

--LJ Christensen



<---Photo of Christensens by C. Hickman.

Other photos by LJ Christensen
Artists Market above,
Members' Party below



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[to menu](#)

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Did you always enjoy climbing trees as a child? (Or as an adult?)

Come help us hang art pieces at The Kelly. Monkeys welcome.

Are you obsessed with counting your money and arranging your dollar bills all the right way?

Help the treasurer, especially at our Artists Market—we can use some help with accounting.

Barbara's eyes were crossing after we took in over \$4000 in 11 hours.

Does the title "Computer Nerd" show up on your T-shirts?

We can use some help with the website and some of the apps we use, please. Nerds, unite.

Do you constantly rearrange your furniture or redecorate your house?

Volunteer to help with the exhibitions and decorations. Always changing, always fun.

Are you a mover and shaker, and friendly with everyone?

Join us on the membership drive, or better yet, help us get donations. We need \$\$\$.

Did you make A's in handwriting?

We always need help with thank-you notes. (Templates available.)

Are you comfortable speaking in front of groups without quivering knees?

Be on a team available to speak to clubs and companies on behalf of **The Kelly**. Help get the word out!

Do you love to share with others, teaching something you've learned?

Teach a workshop on the skill of your choice—any art-related subject. (We have a space to use now.)

Do you love children, even when they are messy?

Volunteer to teach some art workshops for children, skill or no skill required—just patience and a sense of humor.

Are you a Facebook addict?

Help us promote **The Kelly** activities. Share, share, share!

Do you have a specialized professional career or experience in construction, legal assistance, advertising, floral arranging, accounting, grant-writing, bartending, weight-lifting, graphic design, printing, typing, auctions, teaching, firefighting (climbing ladders well) or maybe even art?

Seriously, we need donors, consultants, and mentors in many different areas. How can YOU help even if you aren't an artist? **CALL PRESIDENT BELYN IF YOU'RE WILLING (334) 328-0249**

Contact editor at libbychr@yahoo.com if you'd like to write articles or take photos. We need you!

If you don't have time, how about donating \$\$\$?

We have rent and utilities to pay now.

Benefactors were listed on page 1, but we also have generous patrons we want to thank:

Jacki and Mark Brown
Beth and Spencer Coleman
Lynda and Dennis Fain
Dot and D.C. Franklin

June Ward
Louise and Edgar Welden, Jr.
Charlotte and Mabrey Whetstone
Elmore County Commissioner Stubbs
First Community Bank