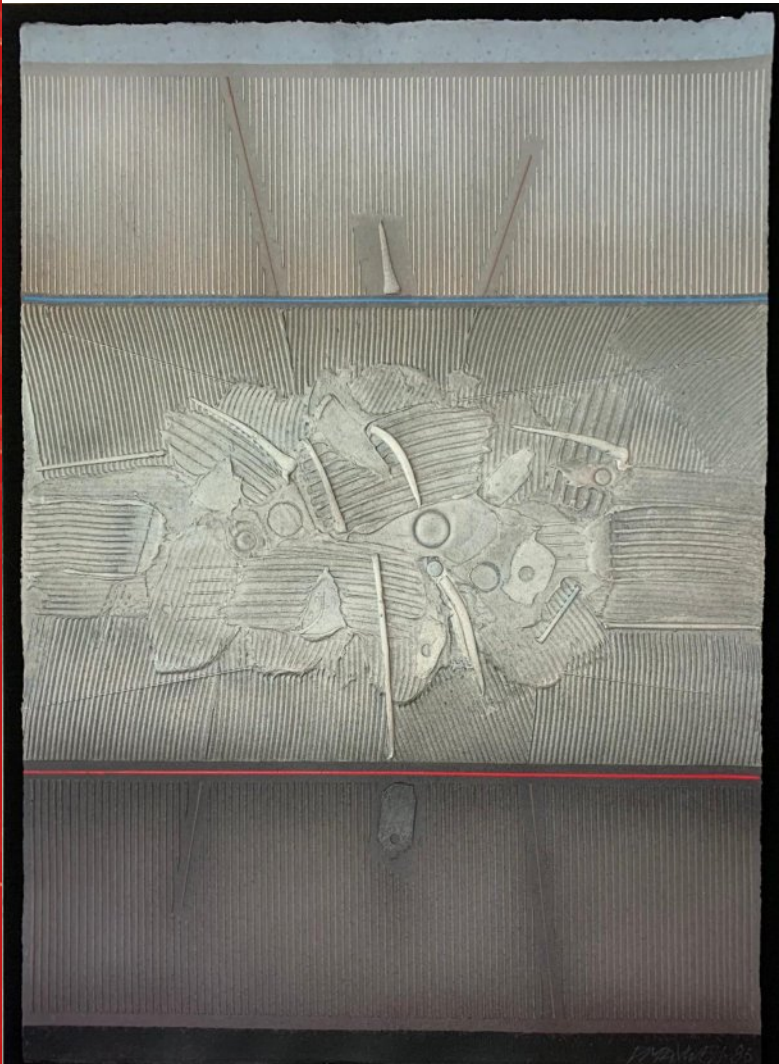


THE KELLY

November 2019

Canvas™

artists collectors members sponsors patrons volunteers art lovers





It's that time!

Time to **RECHARGE**

Time to **RENOVATE**

Time to **RENEW!**

We need your support more than ever as we search for a new Kelly home. The Board has examined 19 properties but is still looking for that great place. **We have 180 works of art in our permanent collection** and a mission of **education, preservation and inspiration.** **Join us!**
(We are a 501(c) 3 organization and will be happy to provide a receipt for any donation)



To become a KELLY FRIEND \$100

[click](#)

For a FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$50

[click](#)

For a SINGLE MEMBERSHIP \$35

[click](#)

To become an ADVOCATE for the ARTS \$250

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To become a PATRON of the ARTS \$500

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To be a generous KELLY BENEFACTOR \$1000

[click](#)

Cover collage by LJ Christensen

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SAVE THE DATES

TWK -Nov. 17, noon

ARTISTS MARKET--Dec. 6, 5-8

Dec. 7, 1-8

Members’ Party--Dec. 10, 6-8

**We have a KELLY FITZPATRICK
PAINTING for sale! If
interested, attend the
Members’ Party.**



Carol Hickman Presiding
by LJ Christensen

November 2019

Dear Members and Supporters of The Kelly,

Thank you for supporting The Kelly during this devastating year. We started off with a bang with the last Collectors' Exhibit. It was hung on Thursday, January 17th, and came down too quickly on Tuesday, January 22nd, in a whirlwind move after the tornado.

The Kelly Board immediately appointed a search committee to start looking for a new gallery. Although we've looked at 19 properties, none has worked out. We're looking for a space to take us into the future, not just to hang art. We'll let you know when that perfect place is found.

Even though we haven't had a gallery or conventional exhibits, we've been very busy. The Kelly Treasure Hunt closes out its final challenge on November 21st. We have over 130 pieces of art on our website. If you are looking for a fabulous Christmas present, check it out.

<https://thekelly36093.wixsite.com/treasurehunt/treasure-hunts>

We have another opportunity for artists called "Art to Print." A local business wants to purchase art prints. We asked artists to submit pictures of their art to be reviewed by the business. If chosen, the works will be printed by a local photographer. The artists will receive a stipend for their print, which will be displayed on the walls of the business. We're helping the business, the artists and sending work to a local photographer (a win/win/win situation).

I'm so proud of how The Kelly helped plan and provided volunteers for the Alabama 200 Exhibit at the Elmore County History Museum. We had 1,127 children and adults visit the exhibit. Alabama history was displayed on interactive computers, and Elmore County history displayed on screens. In the future, the huge screens will be available to teachers to use in their classrooms. Cookie Knott and Phyllis Kennedy were instrumental in planning and getting volunteers for this exhibit.

Unfortunately, both Phyllis and Cookie are retiring from the Board. We hope they'll both continue to volunteer and advise because they've both done exceptional jobs. Be sure to read about their accomplishments. Also, congratulate Cookie on being selected for the 2019 Senior of Achievement Award by Montgomery Council on the Aging.

I'm looking forward to Artists' Market on December 6th (5-8 p.m.) and 7th (1-8 p.m.) during the Dickens Downtown Christmas in Wetumpka at the former Driver's License Office in the strip mall by Coaches Corner. Then on December 10, 6-8 p.m., we'll have our annual Members' Party, business meeting, election, and silent auction at the Wetumpka Depot Players Theater.

Another thing keeping us busy is developing our Core Documents and Strategic Plan. A committee is polishing these documents and are busy as Santa's elves getting them ready. These will help us start long-term plans to move forward and to obtain grants.

We also have a new slate of officers and board members that you will vote on at the members meeting. They are:

President: Belyn Richardson

Vice President: Linda Lewis

Recording Secretary: Libby Christensen

Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Willis

Treasurer; Barbara Bennett

New Board Member: Ed Montoya

This is the time of year for our membership drive. I am personally inviting you to join The Kelly. I realize we are not having exhibits, which means there are no fun receptions to attend. However, we have been busy, as you can see from above. We've accomplished so much this year and will continue to work very hard for the arts in our community. We've kept everything going that we can do without a gallery. We WILL find the right space for The Kelly and will be back better than ever; I can't wait.

It's been my honor to be president of The Kelly. I'm so proud of what The Kelly has accomplished and all the new people I've met through The Kelly. My life has been enriched because of you. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this wonderful organization. I hope you all have great Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year plans.

*Carol Hickman
Kelly President*



The Kelly Board 2019 by LJ Christensen

"A Downtown Dickens Christmas"

in Historic Wetumpka December 6 and 7

Step back in time to the origins of our Christmas traditions . . .

Thirty Christmas trees and wreath-festooned lampposts will usher celebrants along a streetscape full of surprises: shop owners arrayed in **Victorian garb, carollers singing, horse-drawn carriages clomping, snow falling, a Victorian Santa and even an occasional elf.**

This inaugural event is hosted by the Wetumpka Area Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Wetumpka and the City of Wetumpka. Shellie Whitfield, Executive Director of the Chamber, is coordinating the effort. **"For three hours each night you'll be transported to scenes from *A Christmas Carol* replete with old-timey candle makers, silhouette artists, and blacksmiths. Mayor Willis plays the special role of lamplighter, magically lighting each decorated shop to open the festivities on Friday,"** says Whitfield. "There's something for everyone, and we believe it will bring our community together in fun and the true spirit Christmas."

Annual Tree Lighting

The City of Wetumpka annual **tree lighting is scheduled for Friday, December 6th at 6pm** on the Elmore County Courthouse lawn (100 E Commerce St).

Christmas Tree Walk

Thirty donated trees will line the downtown sidewalks for our **Christmas Tree Walk**. At each tree, strollers can listen to a page out of the Rick Osborne's inspirational book, *The Legend of the Christmas Tree*.



Meet Father Christmas

Our Chamber of Commerce will be transformed into an enchanting Victorian headquarters for Father Christmas. Children and parents will meet Father Christmas, resplendent in a velvet and brocade costume made by seamstress Nancy of Nancy's Alterations. Barry Chrietzberg will **photograph kids with Father Christmas** to preserve the memories. A giant Christmas tree, donated by the Wadsworth Christmas Tree Farm, will be festooned with handmade organic decorations created by Elmore County Master Gardeners. There will even be treats for the kids. The Chamber of Commerce is downtown at 110 E Bridge Street. The event is **FREE**, thanks to the generosity of Valley National Bank of Wetumpka.



Meet Scrooge

The Wetumpka Depot Players present **three performances of *One Christmas Carol*** on Friday at 7pm Friday and Saturday at 4pm and 7pm. Get advance tickets at www.wetumpkadepot.com

Ye Old Dickens Shoppes

Participating shops will be decorated in Victorian style with shopkeepers in period dress. In Victorian times, shopping was a leisurely, friendly occupation. Take your time strolling through our Victorian marketplace. In special booths along the streets and The Alleyway, you'll discover artists and craftsmen, including glassblowers, silhouette artists, old-timey candle makers and blacksmiths from Ft. Toulouse. Thread My Needle Quilting Club and Rumbling Water Studios (featuring woodcarvers Carole Jean Boyd and Dylan Goodson) are expected to showcase their wares.



The Kelly Artist Market



2nd Annual Kelly Artist Market will be housed in the former driver's license office at 303 Hill Street across from Coaches Corner during A Dickens Christmas evening celebrations and Saturday afternoon. A choice selection of artwork will include original paintings, 3D sculptures, quilts, jewelry and pottery. Hours will be 5-8 pm on Friday and 1-8 pm on Saturday. You are sure to find the perfect gift for yourself and loved ones. [more info](#)

The Sounds of Christmas Area church choirs will fill the air with your favorite Christmas songs.

... into a Dickens Christmas village

The True Spirits of Christmas

HumBug!



At the dawn of the Industrial Age in Britain, the celebration of Christmas was in decline. English families suffered dislocation from countryside farming communities to overcrowded industrial urban centers, rampant poverty, and cruel work conditions--including unprotected child labor.

Church attendance plummeted. The singing of Christmas carols had all but disappeared at the turn of the century. Christmas was considered a holiday for children of the wealthy or simply an anachronism from an agrarian past. "Merry Christmas" was not a greeting commonly shared on the streets.

The Revival of Christmas

In 1843, the week before Christmas, all of that changed with the publication of *A Christmas Carol. In Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas* by Charles Dickens. A secular vision of a sacred holiday, the "ghost" story of the redemption of Ebenezer Scrooge is also a story of social reconciliation through charity and altruism, a vision of Christmas embraced by young and old, then and now. Dickens had previously written three Christmas stories for children and was inspired, following a visit to a charity center for some of London's 30,000 street children, to write another. He wished to use the novella to argue against prevailing British attitudes toward social welfare and poverty.¹

The treatment of the poor and the ability of a selfish man to redeem himself soon became the key themes. The story shows Scrooge as a paradigm for self-interest, and the impact of ignoring children in poverty, personified by the allegorical figures of Want, Ignorance and Tiny Tim. One of the greatest wordsmiths of all time, Dickens characters' names were often similes. "Ebenezer" has its root in the Hebrew word for "stone," an apt simile for a stony heart. His surname is a play on commonly used Victorian slang for miser, a "screw." You know him by his name: Ebenezer Scrooge is a stony-hearted miser.

Following its first publication, the story was hailed "a new gospel." Dickens scholars emphasize that there is a Christian theme running through the novella, and it should be seen as an allegory of the Christian concept of redemption. Redemption is a theme that universally captures the imagination of adult readers; it is more than just a story for children.



"Want and Ignorance" by Sol Eytinge, Jr. (1868)

The book is said to be "unique" because it makes people behave better. In 1844, an article in *The Gentleman's Magazine* attributed a rise of charitable giving in Britain to Dickens' novella. Near the end of the Victorian era, author G. K. Chesterton wrote, "The beauty and blessing of the story...lie in the great furnace of real happiness that glows through Scrooge and everything around him....Whether the Christmas visions would or would not convert Scrooge, they convert us."²

Ever since the novella's release, readers have observed that Dickens puts a human face on the holiday by portraying family gatherings, seasonal food and drink, dancing, games and a festive generosity of spirit. Popular English Historian Ronald Hutton, currently professor at the University of Bristol, writes that Dickens "linked worship and feasting ... with social reconciliation."



First Edition of
A Christmas Carol



You know him by his name.



Dating back to medieval times, Christmas observances were typically an amalgam of secular and religious celebrations. Dickens' great accomplishment was bringing them together in a more "modern" Victorian context. In *A Christmas Carol*, Dickens showed that Christmas could be celebrated by all ages in cities, towns and rural communities. Today's observances are largely the result of a mid-Victorian revival of the holiday.

In 1849, Dickens began wildly successful public readings of the story, primarily in Britain and the United States. He performed over 127 readings until his death in 1870. For 179 years after its first publication, *A Christmas Carol* continues to be relevant, sending a message that cuts through the materialistic trappings of the season and gets to the heart and soul of the holidays." It has never been out of print.

Charles Dickens has probably had more influence on the way that we celebrate Christmas today than any single individual in human history...except One." ¹ Unattributed

¹The population of England tripled in the 1800s, including immigrants escaping from the potato famine in Ireland. Starving families would put children to work at an early age, or even turned them out onto the streets. In 1848 an estimated 30,000 homeless children lived on the streets of London.

² Overall, the Victorian times produced one of the most intense periods of philanthropy and charity to help the plight of the poor, the destitute and the street children. Many modern-day charities, such as the Children's Society, began their work combatting poverty in the Victorian era, and continue to address more modern concerns of poverty even in the 21st century.

Merry Christmas!

The earliest known use of the expression was in a letter from 1534, but Dickens' use of the phrase in *A Christmas Carol* popularized its use among the Victorian public. "Merry Christmas!" was frequently shouted on the streets and out the windows of Victorian London.

Victorian Christmas Trees



The Christmas tree was a deep-rooted German tradition beginning in the 18th century. The first Christmas tree was introduced into England in 1841. At Windsor Castle, Victoria's Prince Albert decorated a large evergreen, reminiscent of his childhood celebrations in Germany. The evergreen fir-tree was viewed as a sign of hope throughout the winter season—hope in the promise that the rest of nature would also awaken to a new life in the coming spring. The meaning for Christians was simple: "*through Jesus Christ, we too have hope for everlasting life.*"

Most old-fashioned Christmas trees were decorated with hand-made holiday ornaments and decorations. Home-made paper cornucopias filled with sweets, fruits and nuts were popular. Making raisin and popcorn garlands, gilding English walnuts, and glazed orange baskets were fun Christmas tree activities for families.

In 1850, a tinted etching of the royal family celebrating around a decorated Christmas tree in Windsor Castle was published making an evergreen a "must have" for every Victorian home. The tradition caught on fast in Victorian England. However, it was not yet commercialized. Leave that to New York's Macy's in 1880.

Victoria & Albert Decorate the Christmas Tree, Illustration from Godey's Lady's Book, December 1860

Some of the resources consulted and adapted for this article:

www.aboutbritain.com/charlesdickenspage.comhttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Father_Christmasen.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Christmas_Carolvictoriana.com/christmaswilliamsonheritage.org/self-contradictory/category/christmasen.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Clausvictoriana.com/christmas/craft5-2000

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papisthttps://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_gift-bringerhistory.combbc.co.ukhistorytoday.com

Dickens, Charles (1843). *A Christmas Carol*. London. (Calla Editions)
Hutton, Ronald (1994). *The Rise and Fall of Merry England*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Evolution of Father Christmas

In pre-Victorian personifications, Father Christmas had been concerned with adult feasting and games. He had no particular connection with children, nor with the giving of presents. But as Victorian Christmases developed into children-centric family festivals, Father Christmas eventually became associated with gift-giving.

Father Christmas first appeared in the 1400s as "Sir Christmas." At parties and feasts, it was Sir Christmas' job to announce the news of Christ's birth and encourage his listeners to "drink and be merry."

His career stalled in the mid-1600s, when Cromwell's Puritan-controlled government legislated to abolish Christmas traditions. After the monopoly of the Church of England on Christian worship was ended, he made a brief comeback as old Father Christmas. "He wore a crown of yew and ivy, and he carried a long staff topped with holly-berries. His dress was a long brown robe which fell down about his feet, and on it were sewed little spots of white cloth to represent snow."



Father Christmas depicted in *The Vindication of Christmas*, 1652



Although Father Christmas' public profile declined, his character was sustained in the late 18th and 19th centuries at old English midwinter festivals. He made brief appearances in Christmas folk plays, known as mummers' plays, where he traditionally dressed in green as a sign of the returning spring.

The Dutch-American myth of Santa Claus arrived in England in the 1850s and Father Christmas started to take on Santa's attributes. 1854 marked the English publication of *The Christmas Stocking* by popular American author, Susan Warner. Characters in the book include both Santa Claus (complete with sleigh, stocking and chimney) leaving presents on Christmas Eve and—separately—Father Christmas (on foot or riding an ass).

Knowing a good thing when he saw it, Father Christmas also became a bringer of gifts. By the 1880s, the nocturnal visitor was sometimes known as Santa Claus and sometimes as Father Christmas, often illustrated wearing a long red

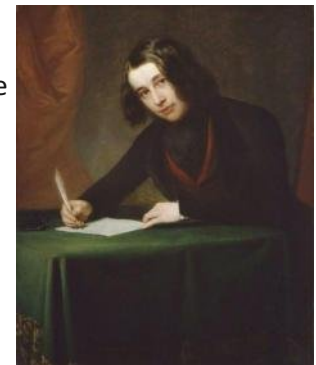
hooded gown trimmed with white fur. Today, Santa Claus and Father Christmas are considered synonymous.

Revival of the Carollers

The singing of Christmas carols had all but disappeared at the turn of the century. With the popular revival of Christmas traditions on the uptick, carol singers again appeared on the streets of London, visiting homes, shops and hospitals, singing the latest new, most popular carols in the kingdom.

Here are the favorite carols of the Mid-Victorian Era:

- 1843 – O Come All Ye Faithful
- 1848 – Once in Royal David's City
- 1851 – See Amid the Winter's Snow
- 1868 – O Little Town of Bethlehem
- 1883 – Away in a Manger



Charles Dickens 1842 by Francis Alexander

Why We Celebrate a "Dickens" Christmas

In *A Christmas Carol*, Dickens defines the true spirit of Christmas with emphasis on charity and redemption for all. The story's optimism is contagious. A Dickens Christmas reminds us what a holiday without crass commercialization is like: gifts and ornaments made by hand, rather than stamped out by machine; purchases made from small, family-owned stores, instead of impersonal Black Friday online sales. A Dickens Christmas is more natural, more human, more genuine and more joyful. It's an antidote to a more cynical vision of Christmas and **a great family event.**

Henceforth all is changed. Christmas joy, good cheer and wassail prevail, and "Peace on earth, Goodwill to men."--Scrooge's creed

--David Luck



ARTISTS MARKET at DOWNTOWN DICKENS CHRISTMAS

When? Dec. 6, 5-8 p.m. and Dec. 7, 1-8 p.m.

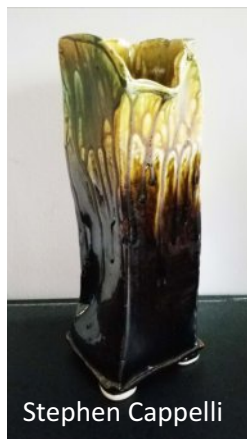
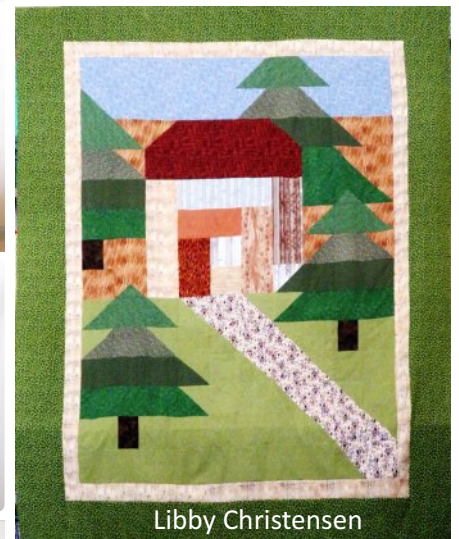
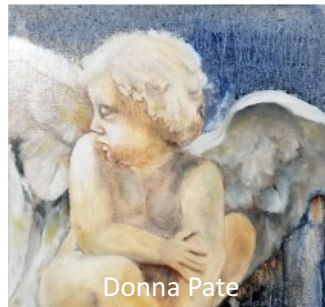
Where? Former Driver's License Office
in strip mall near Coaches Corner
303 Hill St., Wetumpka, AL

Why? 1) Fill up Christmas packages with
art, jewelry, quilted gifts, pottery
2) A portion of the proceeds will help
The Kelly get a new home

**Kelly members
receive 10% discount**



SNEAK PEEK



Everyone Loves a Champion...

Jonathan, Joe, Torie, J., Jr
Champion (lt to right))
by LJ Christensen



.. and we especially love a family of Champions. Joe Champion, his wife Torie, and sons Jonathan and J., Jr., have made a huge donation to our **Kelly Collection**. They are lending us a precious Paul Maxwell original on extended loan.



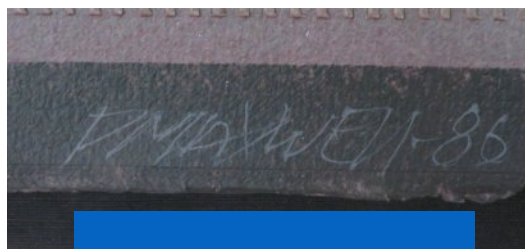
Paul Maxwell piece.
Photo by Hope Brannon



Paul Maxwell pochoir closeup by
LJ Christensen

It is not really possible to call it a painting because Maxwell actually created this piece that seems to be a combination of abstract and sculptural *pochoir*,

which is a thickly layered dimensional stencil casting. Interestingly, Joe found it in a thrift shop and was intrigued enough to do some research. Realizing that it was very valuable piece, this honorable man returned to the shop and offered a higher price.



Paul Maxwell signature
closeup by LJ Christensen

That's not surprising because Joe and his family are more than upstanding and honorable. He and his sons have all served the country. Joe started as a Marine field radio operator. Later, he became a paramedic, eventually a firefighter investigator and now a state trooper. He was also a special operations training diver. His wife Torie works at Red land Elementary school, yet another service to the community.

Now the fine young men they have raised are following their dad's footsteps by serving in the Marines. They both graduated from Parris Island, South Carolina, Marine Corps Recruiting Depot. J., Jr. is in the rifleman infantry while Jonathan is currently working in electra-optical ordinance repair while hoping to get into special ops. They are supported and encouraged in their goal by the lovely young women in their lives, J.'s fiancée, Kiera Woods, and Jonathan's girl friend, Cheyenna Driggers. This beautiful extended family is clearly very patriotic and very united.

Joe is a man of many talents. He's very artistic. While modestly saying he just dabbles and doesn't like to do projects that take long, the truth is that he's created many fun and artistic projects.



**Jonathan (left) with Cheyenna Driggers
J., Jr.(right) with Kiera Woods
by LJ Christensen**

Last year he donated some large wooden fish sculptures to the Tulotoma Art Trail, which sold like hot cakes. He's painted gourds, made clever chicken wire fish, created concrete snails and made what he calls "random pieces" for the Craft House and Coosa Cleaver restaurants in Wetumpka. If that's not enough, he's also building a cabin. His sons say his most memorable project, though, is the "Moa tiki bole totem made with a chainsaw" (see photo on left).

When asked **why** he is lending the Maxwell to The Kelly, his answer was, ***"It was a no-brainer. I'm an advocate for the arts and I'm a Kelly supporter."*** Indeed, he is, and we are proud to have him and his family as OUR Champions. What a selfless group they are! We look forward to exhibiting this fine work of art as soon as we have a new gallery.

--Libby J. Christensen

Some of Joe Champion's best creations:



Paul Maxwell (1923-2015)

Maxwell was interested in art from a young age, and claimed to be influenced by the waves of tall grass and drawing in clay that he associated with his early years in Frost Prairie, Arkansas. Certainly, he developed an affinity for linear patterns, which he later called invisible energy lines, and working in a thick medium. He patented a technique of stencil casting, later dubbed the "Maxwell pochoir."

Although Maxwell exhibited and taught primarily in California and Texas, his work has received international commendation, and for many years he maintained a gallery in Switzerland. In later years, he collaborated with film artists, and his "Max Wall" even became the backdrop of the futuristic movie *Logan's Run*.

--LJ Christensen

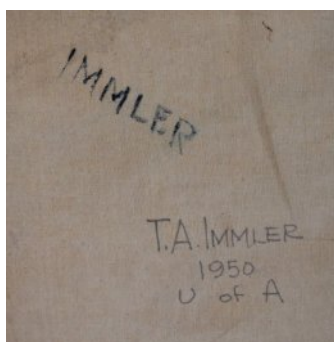
[http://www.paulmaxwell.com/
prelude.html](http://www.paulmaxwell.com/prelude.html)

Other recent Kelly Contributions: Gifts and Loans

Which is which?

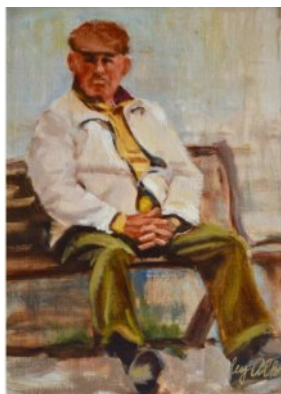
Mark Brewton? Immler? JimGunter ?

Stay tuned for more information and future exhibits!



Photos by Libby J Christensen

Kelley Alford
"Temps Mort"
FIGURE



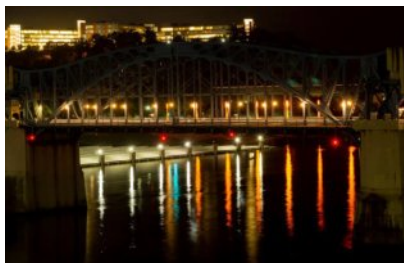
Kathy Atchison
DRAWING



We currently have a total of over 130 on display in 8 categories on line!

[CLICK TO GO TO FULL DISPLAY](#) , but here are a few samples:

Elizabeth Henry
"Life in the Fast Lane"
WATERSCAPE



Genie Kline
"Shadows"
WATERSCAPE



Libby Christensen
"Corner Window on the Anasazi"
ARCHITECTURE



Cheryl Teel
"Brush Me, Please"
DRAWING



Carol Hickman
"Serenity"
LANDSCAPE



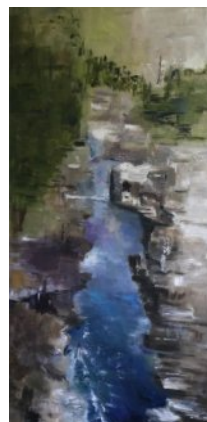
Donna Pate
"Jazz Man"
PORTRAIT



Hope Brannon
"Alternate Endings..."
YOU NAME IT



Sunny Donaldson
WATERSCAPE



Cindy Beumer
"Sparkling Water"
WHIMSY, FANTASY



E. Heindl
FLORA AND FAUNA





***"Making Alabama"* at Elmore County Museum**

Making Alabama, Alabama 200's traveling exhibit, celebrates far more history than two centuries' worth—for Elmore County, that is. Starting 85 million years ago with Wetumpka's meteorite, the exhibit takes us all the way to 2019 when a tornado struck the town's center. Eight kiosks feature prominent periods in Alabama's history, and eight banners highlight Elmore County's history, in particular.

A project of the Alabama Humanities Foundation, ***Making Alabama*** was originally scheduled for display at **The Kelly**. When the tornado temporarily deprived The Kelly of a home, Elmore County Museum stepped up.

Although **The Kelly** was unable to host ***Making Alabama***, it played a vital role in bringing many important visitors to the museum. Because of a transportation grant obtained by Cookie Knott, Alabama history came alive for all 1,200 of Elmore County's fourth graders. They made connections to what they were learning in the classroom and participated in a scavenger hunt, scouring the exhibit for answers to questions, such as "What year was the Wetumpka Impact Crater first discovered? Who named the town of Eclectic? What are the names of two buildings destroyed by Wetumpka's tornado in January, 2019?"

Thanks to Making Alabama, maybe some of us grownups can answer these questions, too!

--Carla C Luck



Photos by LJ
Christensen



Volunteering at Jasmine Hills Gardens 90th Birthday

What a beautiful day and experience I had in Wetumpka on October 20th. I got to spend the afternoon doing art with kids. Mary Elizabeth (Ebba) Dunn and Julie Banks, and I had the opportunity to volunteer at Jasmine Hill Gardens at an art event Shellie Whitfield and the Chamber of Commerce organized. Most kids didn't need help because they had strong ideas about what they wanted to do. They picked out fabric, cut it to their desired shape, glued it to recycled cardboard, and left with a beautiful collage.

The most interesting thing I saw was Moms and Dads working together to ensure their kids had a great experience. I see and hear so many bad things on the news, but this day gave me inspiration and hope for the future. To see Dads just involved as their Moms with their experience at Jasmine Hill Gardens' 90th birthday party was wonderful.

Thanks, Jasmine Hill Gardens, for giving us this opportunity to visit your beautiful gardens, to be inspired and see kids so interested in art. --Carol Hickman



Photos by
Carol Hickman

The Kelly Connection: *Fitzpatrick Cousins at Jasmine Hill*

The love of art is a common characteristic in many families, and the Fitzpatrick family is no exception. Wetumpka artist Kelly Fitzpatrick and Jasmine Hill Gardens founder Ben Fitzpatrick were cousins as both were grandsons of Alabama Governor Benjamin Fitzpatrick.

Kelly and Ben appreciated the beauty in nature and cultivated their love of art differently: Kelly created through beautiful, vibrant paintings; and Ben, assisted by his wife Mary, created through the development of stunning, elaborate gardens. Jasmine Hill Gardens and Outdoor Museum has always been known by the Wetumpka locals simply as Jasmine Hill. Many lifelong residents can remember when the Fitzpatricks, affectionately known as Mr. Ben and Mrs. Mary, gardened regularly on their magnificent property overlooking the hills and valleys of the Wetumpka Impact Crater. At the time that they lived on the property, there was no charge to tour the gardens. The Fitzpatricks wanted to share the beauty of their gardens with those who appreciated the beauty of the property. Those lucky enough to visit when Mr. Ben was in the garden were treated to his explanation of the mythological stories depicted in the Greek statuary carvings.



Photos by Libby J. Christensen



There are meandering paths of flagstone harvested from neighboring valleys, part of a WPA skills instruction project in the 1930's. Lush plantings of pines, dogwoods, camellias, azaleas, seasonal blooms of annuals and perennials, to name a few, grace the property as stately stone statuary and soothing fountains with secret gardens beckon the visitor to wander further in the Grecian-styled paradise.

The garden was always a work in progress. Mr. Ben and Mrs. Mary visited Greece over 20 times to purchase their art objects, to study at the American Classical School in Athens, and to enjoy the beauty of the Greek culture. There are many ideal settings for artists who wish to capture the ethereal beauty of the gardens. Kelly Fitzpatrick visited his cousin frequently and brought his artist friends as well.



Photo of Ben and Mary Fitzpatrick, courtesy of June Carpenter



*Photo of Hera's Temple
by Libby J. Christensen*

Jasmine Hill recently celebrated its 90th birthday, and over time the property has seen changes. The Jasmine Hill Foundation was formed by Jim and Elmore Inscoe in 1971 when they purchased the gardens from Mrs. Mary. After her death in 1982, her 1830s cottage was also transferred to the Foundation. The gardens were expanded in the 1990s with new statuary and the building of the Olympian Centre. The Olympic Flame passed through the gardens on its way to the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. Many celebratory events have been held at Jasmine Hill over the last 40 years, and while there is now a fee to tour the gardens, it is well worth the cost to enjoy the lovely views that have been captured on canvas by Kelly Fitzpatrick and many other artists.

--June Carpenter



*Kelly Fitzpatrick, left, with the Winged Victory of
Samothrace in 1930, courtesy of June Carpenter*



*"Dogwood Tree" by Kelly Fitzpatrick,
courtesy of June Carpenter*



*The Winged Victory of Samothrace by June Carpenter,
2019. during 90th birthday*



A Force of Nature Named Cookie

IRREPRESSIBLE.

EFFERVESCENT.

A GENEROUS HEART.

FORCE OF NATURE.

**Cookie Knott is all these
things. And more.**

Since joining **The Kelly** in 2013, Cookie has been an extraordinary volunteer.

By virtue of her enthusiasm, fountain of ideas, and tireless work, she has proven hugely instrumental in **The Kelly's** success. On the Membership Committee, she has helped grow our roster from 28 members in 2013 to 231 today. She conceived the idea for **The Kelly's** signature, monthly **"Tuesdays With Kelly"**—scheduling speakers and volunteers for all 58 lunch-and-learn events.

The Montgomery Council on the Aging celebrated Cookie's copious contributions with its Seniors of Achievement 2019 award at a ceremony at the Montgomery Country Club.

Convinced of the vital role of the arts in education, Cookie has chaired the Education Committee, arranging workshops for teachers and serving as liaison between educators and **The Kelly**. And thanks to Cookie, 1,200 fourth graders in Elmore County visited **Alabama 200's "Making Alabama"** traveling exhibit. Cookie secured the grant that funded the children's bus trips to and from the Elmore County Museum.

It's not just children Cookie cares about. Concerned that senior citizens may lack the capacity to take vacations, she came up with the idea of short road trips to art events. Among those she has organized are outings to the Marble Festival in Sylacauga and Deb and Steve Garst's show in Talladega.

Cookie did not appear out of nowhere at **The Kelly**. Her talents and experience were honed over many years of service for nonprofit arts organizations—including Montgomery Ballet, Alabama Shakespeare Theater, Community Concert Series, and Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. ***The Montgomery Council on the Aging celebrated Cookie's copious contributions with its Seniors of Achievement 2019 award at a ceremony at the Montgomery Country Club.***

Cookie was born in Gadsden and grew up in Montgomery, graduating from Lanier and later from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She and her late husband Ken, an accountant, had two daughters. Eileen lives in Finland with her husband Ilari and their two girls, Evi and Lili. Emily and her husband Joey Brackner, director of the Alabama Center for Traditional Culture, are parents to Jeb, filmmaker and graduate of the University of Alabama.

The Kelly treasures Cookie almost as much as her family does. From the bottom of a great many hearts—**THANK YOU, COOKIE KNOTT!**

--Carla C. Luck

Cookie Knott (right) with Ebba Dunn (left), Adriane Duvall and her daughter at the Heritage Hall quilt show in Talladega
"On the Road."
Photos by LJ Christensen



There are volunteers—and then there are VOLUNTEERS. Cookie Knott is one of the second kind. So is Phyllis Kennedy.



VOLUNTEER STAR: Phyllis Kennedy

Known as a mover and shaker, Phyllis was asked to join **The Kelly's Board**, where she is "the idea person," according to Carol Hickman. She's practical and hard-working, too, serving as Recording Secretary and member of the committee diligently searching for a new home for **The Kelly**. Her byline also appears here in ***The Kelly Canvas***.

"It has been a labor of love and a source of great satisfaction to see an idea grow into reality."

As the first leader of the Exhibition Committee, Phyllis conceived the idea for "Abandoned Rural America" in 2016 and brought Georgia artists to Wetumpka for multiple visits that were often spent at her home. She secured exhibit sponsors, helping to put **The Kelly** on sound financial footing. Of her work with the many exhibits during her tenure, Phyllis says, "It has been a labor of love and a source of great satisfaction to see an idea grow into reality."

From 2012 through 2017, Phyllis was in charge of receptions. No job was too grand or too small. She cooked, coordinated menus and volunteers, did publicity, booked live music, arranged flowers, decorated, designed receptions to sync with exhibits' themes—and took out the garbage.

Speaking of Phyllis's creation of elegant receptions, Hickman observes, "She could have been a professional caterer." Well, she could have been a professional anything. And she has been. Phyllis's service to **The Kelly** during its formative years is only the latest chapter in a many-storied life.

The oldest child of three, Phyllis was born in Titus with deep, widespread roots in the area. She grew up there and in Wrens, GA, and graduated from what is now Georgia College and State University with a major in home economics.

Phyllis began to build an impressive resumé of diverse, challenging jobs that all rendered valuable service to her community. Here are just some of her interesting (and sometimes quirky) tasks over more than four decades: producing a weekly TV show, sponsoring 4-H and homemakers' clubs, subbing as a TV weather girl, putting on fashion shows, organizing charity benefits and press breakfasts, counseling women returning to college, handling business affairs of clients under guardianship of the court, serving as a U.S. Congressman's "right hand man" with all the variety that entailed, and lobbying for small business interests in the Alabama legislature. Along the way, she met three U.S. presidents.

Phyllis's professional career culminated with a position as Director of the Dept. of Industrial Relations in Governor Riley's Cabinet. Of this job, she says, "I enthusiastically accepted the position and set forth on another huge learning experience." This zest for challenging new experiences—"the opportunity to do things I could barely imagine"—is a major theme of Phyllis' life.

Since retiring in 2007, she has hardly sat at home, eating bonbons and watching soap operas. Besides her work with **The Kelly**, she has served on many boards, including Main Street Wetumpka. For 15 years, she secured sponsors for the Titus Bluegrass Festival.

During all this work, professional and volunteer, more stories happened in Phyllis' life. She married, raised two children, Brad and Leah, divorced, remarried husband Crawford, and became grandmother to Sally and Jake. She says, "Our greatest pride and joy is our family."

Phyllis' zest for life includes art. She has a substantial collection that started at the Piedmont Art Festival when she was a college student, watching W.J. Gordy fashion pottery. As soon as she could afford it, she bought two pieces. These days, she especially enjoys art created by people she knows. Paintings of cows leave her weak-kneed. Colors she loves send her off on flights of fancy. And "sometimes I see a painting that I simply crave. Many times it will be due to the name the artist has given the painting, especially if it is something that makes me laugh.... **I dearly love things that make me laugh or smile.**"

Keep on laughing and smiling, Phyllis! THANK YOU!

--Carla C. Luck



Tuesdays With Kelly – November 19

Robin Rogers



Vases. Bowls. Candlesticks, and lots of angels! All these pieces of pottery, both functional and decorative, are creations of Robin Rogers—**Tuesdays With Kelly's** speaker on November 19. Some of these intriguing pieces—described by *blackbelttreasures.com* as having “unique designs in variations of Robin’s favorite copper glaze”—also will make an appearance at **Tuesdays With Kelly**.

A potter for 30+ years, Robin graduated from Auburn with a degree in home economics. She married, had children, and worked at Alabama Power. Then, at age 28, she was diagnosed with a type of early-onset macular degeneration. Now legally blind, she left her job and found herself at home with three children and limited ability to do homey things she loved, like cooking and sewing. Craving stimulation, she cast about—and found pottery.

Robin has never looked back. Over the years, she has fashioned hundreds of pieces, and she favors raku and horsehair glazes. Her potter’s imagination and range of techniques are virtually limitless. She creates both wheel and hand-built pieces, both coil pots and pinch pots. Perhaps her most distinctive creations are angels. Now in her 31st year of making them, she has shaped a new angel annually for 25 years, in addition to remaking previous editions.

Recently, Robin has tended toward making larger and more decorative items. She thrives in making a piece and changing it. Lately, she says, “giving things character has been my focus.”

Because deterioration of her vision has accelerated over the past two years, Robin needs assistance in the studio. That’s where her husband, who mixes and glazes, comes in. As he puts it, “Robin makes it and I bake it.”

Please join us at **Tuesdays With Kelly** on November 19 to hear more from Robin Rogers about her fascinating process and to see some of her fabulous pieces. You’ll get another chance at **The Kelly’s Artists Market**—just in time for Christmas shopping!

--Carla C. Luck



**Angie Dodson by
Mit Fontaine**



Recap

Advice from Angie Dodson, MMFA Executive Director

When Angie Dodson became the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts' new executive director, she reunited with her first professional love. That love was evident in her presentation at **Tuesdays With Kelly** on August 20, when she sang the museum's praises. She highlighted features and programs, such as the outdoor sculpture garden, the children's interactive wing, the current Jacob Lawrence show, and the upcoming "Alabama Landscapes" exhibit honoring the state's Bicentennial. Among her goals for the MMFA are increasing attention to local artists, frequently changing exhibits, working with community organizations, and **"trying to tell a more inclusive story."** This last goal is achieved by not only showcasing the work of historically overlooked artists and appealing to a wide variety of museum goers, but also by diversifying museum staff.

During the second part of her presentation, Dodson addressed many questions and generously shared her expertise. Especially relevant to **The Kelly** as it looks to the future were the following recommendations and observations:

- ✓ **To ensure the organization's continuing viability, cultivate private, ongoing funding, such as endowments, in addition to government support.**
- ✓ **Commit to the ideal of "public trust." Take care of art, and do not sell art except to buy more art.**
- ✓ **"The Kelly" is a "snappy," fresh way to refer to the organization.**
- ✓ **Pay strict attention to tax issues involved with being a nonprofit.**
- ✓ **Develop a strategic plan to guide the organization's continuing growth.**

Fortunately for **The Kelly**, Angie Dodson has agreed to advise us in fashioning a strategic plan. We look forward to working with her in the fall.

--Carla C. Luck

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Kelly Canvas Staff:

Editor--Libby J. Christensen

Writers--Carla Luck, David Luck
June Carpenter, Carol Hickman

Libby Christensen

Photographers--Mit Fontaine,
Carol Hickman, June Carpenter,
Libby Christensen

Kelly Executive Board:

President--Carol Hickman

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Kennedy

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