

The Mayflower Log



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Merle Zirkle, Netia Worley, and the Arts at Mayflower

Merle Zirkle and Netia Worley exemplify how the arts flourish and Mayflower residents enjoy creative expression.

In November and December of 2017, the two artists had a show in the Stewart Gallery of the Grinnell Area Arts Council: "Art for Light Places/Art for Dark Places."

Zirkle's pastels depict local scenes, including Mayflower gardens, Arbor Lake views, and nearby farm fields realistically rendered. Worley's acrylics, both metallic and non-metallic, feature abstract realism, with the metallic glints in the acrylics lightening up dark areas.

Throughout their careers in art, Zirkle and Worley have explored many media. For example, Zirkle used to work in sculpture, ceramics, and jewelry, but, wishing to work in a lighter medium and inspired by her former colleague Bobbie McKibben, she has taught herself pastels.

In addition to producing their own work, the two have also been long-time members of the Mayflower art acquisition committee. With other members, they have chosen art works for hallways and common areas of the Mayflower complex. In Buckley alone, there are 134 works of art, chosen to suit various tastes in art, from abstract to realistic, from landscape to portraiture. The committee acquires the works through donations, loans, and purchase.

Worley and Zirkle encourage other Mayflower residents to create their own art, whether in their own homes or in a shared space. They have helped to manage what the Mayflower administration calls the "basement craft room" in the basement of Edwards Hall (reachable through the tunnel system). Here residents can have a space of their own to work on projects and to store materials and products. The space, newly enlarged and repainted, has full spectrum lighting and many newly installed electrical outlets. Soon to come is new floor tiling.

Worley and Zirkle emphasize that the space, with its large tables and cupboards, can allow people to work on and store materials from their own projects as well as to meet and be inspired by other artists. It can accommodate woodworkers, sculptors, weavers, quilters, painters, and many other artists and craftspersons. Merle and Netia hope all Mayflower residents are inspired to use this great space!

Judy Hunter



Merle Zirkle
with her
Watercolor

Netia Worley
and her art



Welcome Glen Riddle -



RIDDLE, Glen

Glen Riddle wishes he'd been born in the 19th Century rather than the 20th. He has a fascination with the era in which the western part of the country was settled. He also has a genetic link, through his paternal

grandmother, to the Cherokee Native American Nation. Despite his longing to live in the West's wide open places, Glen has spent most of his life living in a small town (Grinnell) and in large metropolitan cities. Now he lives in Pearson.

The middle son of a family with three boys, Glen was born in Dallas, TX. His paternal grandmother, who was one-half Cherokee, lived in the home. Glen doesn't have many memories about his grandmother, and she died when he was still a young child, but his interest in his heritage bloomed because of her. Glen's father didn't talk about how he grew up. Glen has done research in various court houses and genealogy centers, but hasn't learned much because many Native American records are lost or were destroyed long ago.

When Glen graduated from high school, he was drafted into the Army. The Korean Conflict ended while he was still in boot camp, so his service was with the Combat Engineer Company stationed in Fort Carson, CO. There he met Grace DeHart, a young widow with two small boys. Glen and Grace got married, and once Glen was honorably discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant, the couple moved to Grinnell, where Grace had family.

Here they added three children to the family: Saundy, Chris and Jeff.

Glen started working at Donaldson Company, a multi-state manufacturing plant that produced large mufflers and air-filters for large trucks and farm equipment. Glen didn't know how to weld when he first began working at the plant, but he learned, as he said, by "going to the school of hard knocks." By the time he left Donaldson after 26.5 years, he was doing welding in the Sample Shop where the most highly skilled welders in the plant created sample mufflers for engineers to consider for production.

Glen and Grace and their youngest son, Jeff, moved to Mesa, AZ in 1981. There, Glen began working as a welding inspector at the Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant. Grace, however, developed serious heart problems and died.

Eventually, Glen married Shirley Dick. After 13.5 years with Palo Verde, Glen decided to try other lines of work that offered more flexible hours so the couple could travel. He worked variously as a certified security officer for Pinkertons, operated a gift shop and drove new cars and luxury motor homes from a dealership in AZ to delivery sites in other states. Glen and Shirley travelled all over the western states and went as far as Hawaii and British Columbia.

When Shirley died of a progressive lung disease about four years ago, Glen's Grinnell family urged him to come back home and be with two of his children, 11 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. We may not be the Wild West of your dreams, but we're friendly and have a good time. Welcome, Glen.

Alice Breemer

THE BUSINESS OFFICE

HELPING MAYFLOWER COMMUNITY RUN SMOOTHLY

Tucked away behind the front desk at Pearson Hall is Mayflower's business office. The seven person staff may be in the background, but it is vital to helping the Mayflower Community run smoothly.

Bob Mann, Mayflower's executive director, sees the business office as carrying out Mayflower's mission, which he considers a ministry. "We have to perform ministry in a financially sound way so that we can do this work into the unforeseeable future," he said.

The business office is headed by Pam Vosburg, chief financial officer. A CPA, Pam oversees all aspects of Mayflower's business operations. She came to Mayflower in 2009 after a long career in private accounting. The position of CFO was newly established at the time.

Pam said she actually contacted Bob about the job opening. "I was ready for a

change," she said. "I wanted to do something to more directly help people."

Each of the six other staff members has a specific area of responsibility. Janet Neff has been at Mayflower for 32 years, making her the longest-serving employee in the office. She manages the payroll, employee information and the database, and prepares the checks. She has stayed at Mayflower so long, she said, because she likes the feeling of helping.

Deb Jack is the receptionist. She handles the phone calls, answers all sorts of questions, and interacts with residents who come and go and chat in the Pearson lobby. Denise Smith, an accounting specialist, handles resident billing, including government billing for Medicaid. Christy Kaisand, whose office is located next to the Carman Center, is the human resources coordinator. Elizabeth Haas is a part-time employee who compiles and produces the bi-weekly *Informer*.

Kristin Davidson is a staff accountant. She began working at Mayflower as a CNA while still in high school. When it came time for college she started out in nursing but after a semester switched to accounting. "I realized I liked math," she said.

After receiving an accounting degree from the University of Northern Iowa, she returned to Mayflower, this time in the business office. Two years later she left again, this time to try the world of tax accounting. Another two years and she was back at Mayflower. "I missed the



Seated; Deb Jack, Pam Vosburg
Standing: Elizabeth Haas, Janet Neff,
Christy Kaisand, Kristin Davidson,
Denise Smith

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MRA 2017 REPORT by Karen Phillips

One year ago Karen and Ed Phillips became the Co-Presidents of the MRA. On the first day in office they received a thick notebook full of papers chronicling the previous year's work. The problem was that the notebook was too heavy to lift and had no more room in it for anything that might happen in the coming year. Realizing the enormity of the paper trail, they decided they needed to bring the MRA into the 21st Century! By this, it was understood that the MRA needed to make more reports and communications available electronically online, and also the organization hopes to save some trees by making far fewer copies of reports, messages and documents.

This decision, made in consultation with incoming Co-Presidents Elect Kent and Katherine McClelland, resulted in a project spanning two semesters with Professor Sam Rebelsky's computer science class at Grinnell College (Team Software Development for Community Organizations.) These students have helped the officers launch an on-line directory of Mayflower Residents. Next semester a team of students from a new class will take up the project and build on the skilled work done by the first two classes. The officers continue to meet regularly with these gifted students and are grateful for all the computer expertise available through this unique community-college connection.

The directory is ready to be tested with

a small number of volunteers, and when deemed to be completely user-friendly will be launched for the entire MRA Resident community. The MRA officers emphasize that this directory is available to those who choose to use it and give written consent. Paper copies will continue to be available to those who do not have computers or do not wish to be part of the online directory.

Once the basic resident directory is available, along with pictures and bios, then the same website can become a place to make available to participating residents the MRA committee work, the executive council decisions, and the town hall actions and minutes. That will be when the trees will actually be saved.

For more information about the online directory, or for information about how to give consent to be included, Mayflower residents may contact one of the MRA officers named above. Additionally, if you have information on the consent form that you would like to update, that can be done easily by one of the web site administrators. Again, contact one of the MRA Co-Presidents. The officers for 2018 taking office on January 1st are:

Co-Presidents: Kent and Katherine McClelland

Co-Presidents Elect: Bob and Linda Myren

Treasurer: Montie Redenius

Secretary: Suzanne Schwengels



IN 2017 WE REMEMBER



Joann Y. Orr
 Mary B. "Mamie" McClelland
 Mary Williams Hatch
 Barbara Franz
 Ruth Higdon
 Robert S. Brierly
 Eva Mae Proudfit
 Richard Darrell Ebert
 Shirley Ann Wilcox Conn
 Joan Shaw
 Horace B. Hegg
 George Fairchild
 Gretchen Hegg
 Barbara Joan Fisher
 Velna Kolodziej
 Donald L. Pederson
 Barbara A. Aszman
 Lillian Alberta Ryan
 Arlene Hoffert Johnson
 Thomas Hunt Evans
 James A. Yungclas
 Frank Blazek



Russell D. Winburn
 Leo J. Landkamer
 Barbara Lavent
 Lester W. Thompson
 Mary Ann Ringgenberg
 Bruce E. Baarda
 Irene S. Eggers Engelmann
 Betty Jane Thompson
 Sylvia Lorene Todd Dixon
 Irene Ranfeld
 Dorothy Faye Miller
 Gladys B. Hendrickson
 Iona Mae Huff
 Mary Lou Clotfelter
 Virgil Redding
 John Paul Marwin
 Carol A. Arendt
 Kenneth A. Christiansen
 Vicki Lee Sopher
 Rosalie Hartzell
 Paul Gordon Borthwick

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Mayflower environment. It has a family feeling. No drama."

Pam echoes Kristin's feelings about Mayflower's atmosphere. "The staff works well together. There is no competition, no tension. Everyone is willing to help each other. I think it's a cultural thing, and it comes from the top down."

The business office is also the primary Mayflower contact for most residents. "We're here to assist," Pam said. The services include such things as copying documents, faxing documents, and providing a notary public.

Pam praised the support of other departments at Mayflower, noting that Facilities Operations expertly enlarged and remodeled the business office two years ago into a wonderful light-filled space. "It has made all the difference."

The business office faces daily challenges in keeping abreast of ever-changing government rules and regulations in the health-care field. The privatization of Medicaid in Iowa has been an especially difficult transition, Pam said.

It's clear from the staff's commitment and dedication, however, that they are up to the task. Mayflower is the beneficiary.

Mary Schuchmann

A NEW LOOK FOR GRINNELL'S CENTRAL PARK

The orange plastic fences are gone, many new trees have been planted, and the multi-colored fountain has been tested and admired by adults and children. The renovation of Central Park is all but done.

City manager Russ Behrens and co-chairs for the park's fund raising, Dianne and Tom Latimer and Betty and Sandy Moffett talked about their involvement in this huge project.

Dianne said that, for a long time, Tom has wanted Grinnell to be a "city of fountains." When he learned about the proposed park renovation, he told Russ that he'd like to be involved and to contribute if the plans included a water feature. The Latimers agreed to co-chair the fund drive with Sandy and Betty Moffett.

Funding for the project came from a variety of sources. Russ pointed out that the Master Parks Plan Culmination began as far back as 2007. Great Places was one of the first funders. Support also came from the Iowa Reinvestment Act. Sandy stated that local institutions, corporations, and civic clubs were major contributors. And Mayflower residents, some of whom consider Central Park their "front yard," contributed almost \$100,000. Tom praised Grinnell as a philanthropic community.

RDG, the landscape architects chosen for the job, are well respected throughout Iowa. The Latimers said that their company, ASI, and RDG worked together on several projects, and RDG had restored the terra-cotta work at the Sullivan bank. Tom and Dianne loved RDG's plans from the beginning and especially appreciated the way they incorporated the bank's features. Sandy praised RDG for their sensitivity to problems and their willingness to make adjustments. He said the whole project has been a collaborative

effort, a work in progress from start to finish. A major adjustment involved additional winterizing, because people really wanted "toasty-warm, lovely restrooms." The inviting soft surface of the playground was also an addition. Tom stated that Parks and Recreation director Kelly Rose has worked hard and effectively toward making this project succeed.

Besides RDG, Bushong Company of Montezuma and Van Mannen Electrical, from Newton, have worked on the renovation, so much of the business has been done more or less locally.

Some major concerns remain. Tom pointed out the necessity of a strong maintenance program for the park and said that vandalism is an anticipated problem. "The lighting is good, and that will help. At one point, cameras were considered, and may come up again." Russ said that staff training for general maintenance will be important.

And there are still things to be done. Yes, the tiger fountain is coming back, as is the J. B. Grinnell memorial rock. Seats and tables to accommodate 80 people will be installed in the pavilion. Circular seating will be built around some of the trees, and more plantings, especially perennials, will appear. And, according to Tom, you can still get on the list for a dedication brick; in fact, any additional contributions to the park fund will be more than welcome. Informative signs about major events and notable people in Grinnell history, such as the Underground Railroad and Billy Robinson, will be erected along the history walk. And, of course, the future of the Veterans Memorial Building is of interest to us all.

Dianne and Tom, Russ, and Sandy all have great hopes for Central Park. The Latimers anticipate picnics, music, weddings, and plays. Sandy wants the

grass to grow and the trees to flourish. They all agree that the park has exceeded their expectations. But Russ said, "It's not done for me until I see people having

picnics in the shelter, music playing on the stage, and kids playing in the fountain."

Betty Moffett



"City of fountains"



*Photography
by
Luther Erickson*





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The Stewart Gallery of the Grinnell Area Arts Council:

"Art for Light Places/Art for Dark Places"



Merle Zirkle

Netia Worley

