

*Making Waves is our honor roll for residents of Southwest Florida's island coast who, in their everyday lives, make the community special.*

## Southwest Florida Craft Guild



*Student at Craft Bash*

If you spot a stunning piece of jewelry at a local gallery, an exquisite piece of pottery at an area museum, or a lovely glass vase at a high quality art show, and it was created locally, there's a good chance that the artist is a member of the Southwest Florida Craft Guild.

Created in 1975 by a small group of fiber artists in Cape Coral, the Guild has since grown to nearly one hundred members who work in a variety of mediums such as clay, glass, wood, fiber, paper, sculpture, mixed media, and jewelry, all while following the Guild's mission to "encourage high standards of performance and accomplishments in fine crafts through participation, promotion, and education through shows, exhibitions, demonstrations, and art scholarships."

"We volunteer as teachers for the

Craft Bash at the Cape Coral Art Studio, and conduct demonstrations at the Alliance for the Arts 'Walk through the Arts,' Artfest Fort Myers, and art shows held at BIG Arts," says Cynthia McIntyre, a fusing and beadmaking artist as well as the Guild's president for the last three years.

In addition, Guild members meet once a month to enjoy lectures from visiting artists, or for discussions about upcoming shows such as their annual Craft Bash held in January, one of their four juried exhibits that they hold every year. The quality of the work that is displayed in such Guild-sponsored events is held to strict standards and is reviewed beforehand by all five members of the Guild's Review Committee. "Our committee reviews work three times a year based on the following criteria: the artwork's design, originality, craftsmanship, and imagination," says McIntyre, adding that they are the only local art league open to three-dimensional artwork.

The Southwest Florida Craft Guild is



Helen Baller, Basketry



David Goodspeed, Raku teapot



David Goodspeed, Raku Demo



Phil Krim, Wood Turning

allied with the Arts Coalition (started by the Alliance for the Arts) and are members of the Sydney and Berne Davis Art Center, Alliance for the Arts, and the Florida Craftsmen.

—Ann Marie O'Phelan

### For More Information:

Contact Marsha Bisson, 239-454-1140, marsha26@cox.net; yearly fee: \$35

## ♥ Patty Sprankle

In 1896, Patty Sprankle's great-grandmother, Anna B. Leonard, painted a gilded porcelain chocolate set for Queen Victoria. "At that time the queen didn't usually accept gifts presented to her," said Sprankle. "But these were so beautifully done and exquisite, that she made an exception."

Now Sprankle herself has taken up the art of porcelain painting. Faced with an empty nest four years ago, she decided to take a class and today is selling her hand-painted pieces on commission and by word-of-mouth.

"There was a big upswing of a learning curve because I never did art before," she says with a laugh. "With porcelain, there's the added dimension of learning how to fire properly."

She specializes in decorating Limoges boxes; vases and platters decorated with shells, bugs, or birds; and personalized gifts such as clients' homes painted on platters. She mixes her own paints and fires pieces in her kiln at home.



Why porcelain painting? Something passed down perhaps? "I never thought it did [have to do with heredity], but then one day I realized of course it did. I just love what [my great-grandmother] did. I was always close to my grandmother [Leonard's daughter], who collected painted porcelain, and I had always collected it too. It must be in the genes."

— Chelle Koster Walton

## ♥ Randon Eddy

Artist Randon Eddy is well-known on the islands for her paintings, but after illustrating a children's book, *Dillo*, for friend Kyle Miller, Eddy decided to try her hand at writing one.

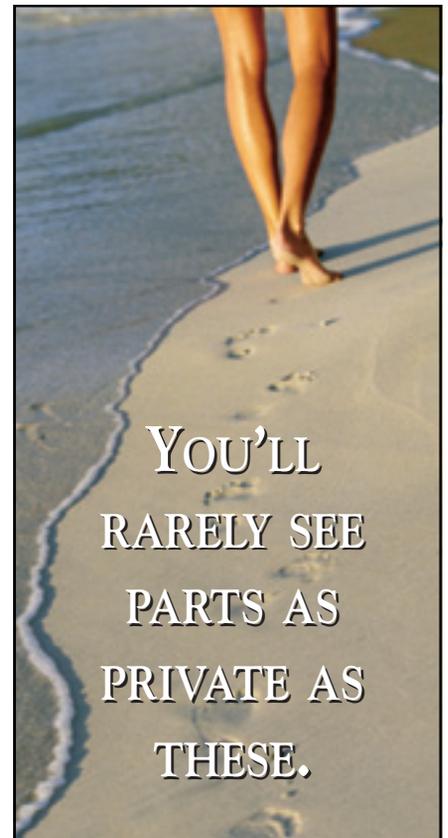
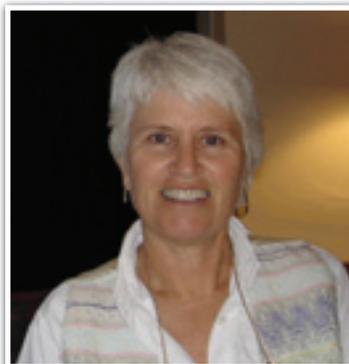
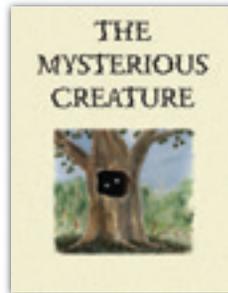
*The Mysterious Creature* is about rumors and features a lot of animals—brown bears, panthers, prairie dogs, and red-eyed tree frogs among them. They spot a mysterious creature and begin to spread rumors and panic, until they finally come face-to-face with... the creature. "It made me laugh when I was working on it," said Eddy. The book is available at Bailey's General Store, Jerry's, Sanibel Island Bookshop, and Macintosh Books & Paper. Grandparents have happily reported to her, "I had to read it over and over."

Randon Eddy's landscapes and wildlife paintings (especially birds) can be found at Seaweed Gallery on Captiva, Sanibel, and Matlacha. She was nominated for the 2008 Angel of the Arts best visual artist (our press time was before the April 13 Alliance for the Arts presen-

tation date).

In her pre-Sanibel life she was not encouraged to pursue art, but being "down here has been good to me, artwise; very encouraging and supportive. And there are wonderful visual resources to tempt me," she says.

— Karen Nelson



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## ♥ Danny Morgan

Whenever island singer/songwriter Danny Morgan is performing out of the area, one of his self-introductory lines is “where I come from, it’s always summer.” And it is, on his new CD.

*It’s Always Summer* winds through happy territory, with a catchy opening to James Taylor’s “Summer’s Here.” There are reflective moments along the way. On “Love of a Lifetime,” former Sanibel Chief of Police Lew Phillips’ 15-year-old daughter sings a duet with Danny.



Joining Morgan on “Love Is for Everyone” is the song’s composer, Livingston Taylor, who according to Morgan, “was kind enough to come down here and cut the vocal.”

“Wish Upon a Seashell” came out of post-Hurricane Charley recovery days, when Danny and a friend were blue-skying ideas for a Captiva resort. One was to bring music to the beach for a toss-a-shell-and-make-a-sunset-wish serenade. The plans faded with a changing tide, but this song was born.

Inspired by visiting stockbrokers, Morgan conjured a song about a rogue trader on his way to Cuba who gets the “Mucky Duck Blues”—with harmonica accompaniment by “The Duck’s” Victor Mayeron. “Captiva Cowboy” is a crazy song about “wild-ass fishing guides coming out to Captiva and roping tarpon in Pine Island Sound. I’ve read Randy White,” Morgan said “I just expanded the imagery a bit.”

“I am so tremendously appreciative and aware of how blessed I am, to be able to live and work here,” says Morgan, who

performs at several island venues. He has also added talent booking to his portfolio, creating a boutique agency that represents artists he knows well.

*It’s Always Summer* is available at most stores on the islands and online at Amazon.com and [www.dannymorgan.com](http://www.dannymorgan.com).

– Karen Nelson



## ♥ Ron Bishop

Under the guidance of director Ron Bishop, the gallery at Edison College in Fort Myers has been reborn as the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery and has found a niche in the community. Attendance has grown to ten thousand annually as Bishop works “to bring in things that would not be available to the community otherwise.”

“Mr. Rauschenberg has been a huge influence,” notes Bishop. “With his name on the building, who’s going to say no?”

Bishop is particularly proud of a recent three-part series that exhibited the new work of Robert Rauschenberg and the visual work of composer John Cage and of dancer/choreographer Merce Cunningham. They knew one another and worked together as friends doing collaborative work.

He has also mounted three exhibitions from the Martin Z. Margulies Collection, most recently this past win-

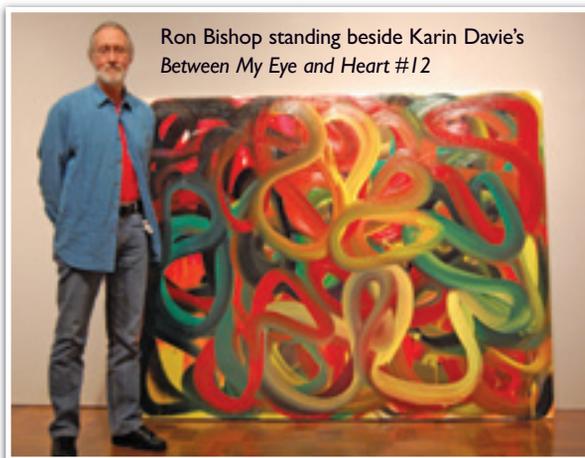
ter’s “New Century, New Painting.” Collectors like Margulies, notes Bishop, help “preserve our culture and establish our heritage in the art world.”

Bishop paints and draws but does not show locally. Teaching stints led to a position as director of an Ormond Beach cultural center and—ten years later—to Edison College.

*Times of the Islands* met with Bishop as he was placing the Margulies exhibit. “Installation is the most work, but it’s also the most rewarding,” he explains. “How you saw the piece in the setting when you selected it versus now is very different...It’s hard to have preconceived notions about how things will flow.”

He places a show “so that it helps

Ron Bishop standing beside Karin Davie’s *Between My Eye and Heart #12*



the viewer move through the exhibit and see a connection between the paintings. Every piece is influenced by the pieces beside it. It can be a good or a bad influence.

“I try to make it easy to absorb the ideas. It’s about the ideas.”

– Karen Nelson

♥ **Christine Lemmon**

Wading in the water at Lighthouse Beach with her boys (a preschooler and a first-grader) is one of the Sanibel joys that provide inspiration to novelist Christine Lemmon. Her novels are born out of that joyful sense of discovery.



While walking down Periwinkle, she “had a burst of inspiration for *Sanibel Scribbles* and ran into a store to ask for a pen and paper.” Watching the sun blaze a golden path to the western horizon at Blind Pass found its way into *A Portion of the Sea*. Her almost-daily bike ride with her 15-month-old daughter is “how I get all my ideas.

“By the time I hit Tarpon Bay Road at Bailey’s on my way home, I don’t want more ideas because I have to keep them all inside until the kids are asleep.” The kids are in bed by eight and she writes from nine o’clock to eleven o’clock every single night. “Lying in bed, I think about what I will write the next day.”

She has grown as an author. Lemmon is working on her third novel and loves the process of writing. There’s sadness when a book is finished and a feeling of vulnerability when it’s published. “There is more intention to my writing now... but there’s still a learning curve. I’m not there yet.”

– Karen Nelson



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## ♥ Carol McArdle

When I see nature, my heart skips a beat,” says artist Carol McArdle. “It’s magic, and it thrills me.”

Born in Jamaica and raised in England, McArdle moved to Fort Myers in the mid '90s, when mural painting and faux finishing were just catching on. There was a huge market in Naples, and her first job in faux finishing led to a solid business from referrals. She did very well for over seven years. However, she had gained an aching arm, back, and neck, and she had lost touch with her own voice as an artist.

Taking one day a week to paint for herself, she persisted despite the inner voices chorusing: Is it marketable? Will people like it? She discovered abstract painting but was unable to find a market. Faced with the need to find a subject she could believe in, enjoy painting, and sell, she discovered the magic of natural Florida.

Camera in hand, she began visiting state parks and recording details that found their way into her paintings. “I really hope that other people see that magic in my paintings,” she says of her Florida scenes like mangrove roots in sparkling waters, shorebirds, and pine-and-scrub uplands.

Her work can be found at WildChild



*Mangrove Highlights, Oil*



*Egret Outlook, 15" x 30" Acrylic*



Art Gallery in Matlacha, Sona Gallery in Naples, and on Amelia Island. She participates in the Coconut Point Mall Art Nights, she's the Resident Artist at Delnor Wiggins State Park, and she also recently served as president of the Fort Myers Art League.

She still paints abstracts but has found a passionate voice in her natural paintings. "I'm hoping as an artist that I am portraying my own unique point of view about Florida's natural beauty. And I also hope the viewer takes away a sense that we need to preserve this."

– Karen Nelson

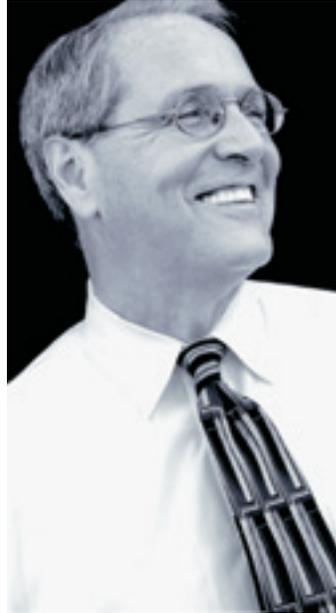


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