



Ann Vernon shares art, poetry & passion through TAO



The YWCA's Dorothy Height Racial Justice Award winner, Virginia Art Museum's Educator of the Year, Art Museum Educator of the Southeastern United States, and Hampton Roads Business Community's Outstanding Woman in the Arts—is there anything Ann Vernon hasn't achieved?

Vernon's life began just outside London, and Vernon remembers growing up during World War II: "We rarely

went to London, and even in our town no one went to movies or to the fairs or gathered in large groups because of the threat of bombs." Eventually, she and her parents moved to New York and made their way south until Vernon ended up at UNC-Greensboro, where she earned two degrees and plunged herself into the Civil Rights Movement as the first white woman to join the Greensboro Four in their historic sit-in at the Woolworth's lunch counter. "It really didn't seem like much," she remembers self-effacingly. "I was eating breakfast with two girlfriends, and we read in the paper about the sit-in. I thought, 'Why, how silly that those young men can't order a cup of coffee.' We went

down to support them." Because of her action, however, Vernon and her friends were expelled from college—"The administration said, 'Our girls don't do that.'" She soon was reinstated, however, but her ordeal was far from over. "Because of the animosity in the community, we couldn't leave campus for the rest of the year, our phone calls and mail were all screened. People wrote letters to the newspaper telling me to go back to England. We couldn't even attend our graduation because of possible protestors. I was shocked by all of it."

In addition to her interest in civil rights, Vernon loves teaching, a passion that *(cont'd on p. 4)*

Jonatha Brooke To Headline Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival



Mark your calendars! TAO's Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival kicks off on Thursday, April 9, with Jonatha Brooke in concert at the Naro Theater!

Inclusive Visual Arts at VB Kids' Arts Palooza, Jan. 24

Tidewater Arts Outreach is partnering with Physicians for Peace on a visual arts workshop that will allow area children the opportunity to create art for children living in the Dominican Republic.

TAO and Physicians for Peace are creating a special, inclusive arts workshop for the Virginia Beach Arts Commission's annual Kids Arts Palooza, a free, open to the public event which takes place on January 24 from 1 to 5 pm at the Sandler Center

for the Performing Arts in Virginia Beach.

The workshop invites children to work with everyday materials such as pasta, sand, sponge shapes, magazine pictures, buttons, rice, pieces of lace, trimmings, twine, shells, beads and toothpicks to create art. They will use markers, watercolors, glitter and puff paint to create framed letters or postcards with messages of peace and goodwill to send to children in the Dominican Republic.

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ARTISTS/CREATIVE
PEOPLE: IF YOU
CAN VOLUNTEER
FOR AN HOUR
HELPING KIDS
MAKE ART ON
JANUARY 24,
PLEASE CALL
410-4010

We are looking for free or inexpensive arts materials for this project—we need 120 pieces of heavy card stock paper and a quantity of sand, buttons, shells, ribbon, raffia, feathers, glue sticks, glitter and clothespins and other decorative items for this project.

Email TWartsoutreach@cox.net if you are able to provide supplies or volunteer for any part of the event.

Thank you!

TAO Artists' Appreciation Event January 17 at the Landman's

WHEN: Saturday, January 17
7 pm until 11 pm

WHERE: Drew and Kate Landman's Norfolk home, email twartsoutreach@cox.net for confirmation/directions.

WHO: TAO musicians, artists, board, friends and supporters

WHAT: We will have a stage set for a slate of TAO musicians to perform. Huge Thanks to Drew and Kate, who have graciously agreed to open their home to us for this event.

We will have concert seating, standing room and some refreshments on hand. Feel free to bring a beverage and/or snack to share (please, no RED wine). We hope many of our friends, supporters, artists, activities directors, administrators, committee members and more will join us to celebrate the start of another year and to recognize the important contributions by dozens of talented, creative people. We look forward to seeing you!

Hampton Roads Youth Guitar Ensemble



Rick Stirr, fingerstyle guitarist, instructor, session player and side-man, has put together Hampton Roads' first youth guitar ensemble. His music practice is located in Newport News, and that is where his best students come together weekly to practice as

an ensemble. They play requintos, classical and steel string guitars, bass and mandolin to create their unique sounds. Rick has researched arrangements for guitar orchestra, and has created some of his own, for his talented students.

Their musicianship, maturity and professionalism have made them regular favorites for Tidewater Arts Outreach at many Peninsula locations. Rick, and many other TAO musicians, can be reached through our website, www.TWartsoutreach.org.



JANUARY 2009

2-Jan-09 Sentara VB General Hospital, Thad Dixon, Pianist

5-Jan-09, 6:30 pm, 13th Street Shelter, Stuart, Bob & Kara, Youth Beginner Guitar Lessons

7-Jan-09, 2:30 pm, Commonwealth AL, Hampton, Shirley Confino-Rehder, Holiday Stamps - Visual Arts Workshop

8-Jan-09, 10:30 am, Berger Goldrich Home, Paul and Marilyn Jersild, Classical Music on Violin and Piano

9-Jan-09, 11 am, Beth Sholom Sands, Pam Getty, Pianist

13-Jan-09, 11 am Golden Living Center, Meade Stith, Fingerstyle Guitarist

17-Jan-09, 2:30 pm Chesapeake Place, Tangent Trio, Acoustic Folk with banjo, mandolin & guitar

17-Jan-09, 1 pm, Mennowood, Blush, Acoustic Bluegrass, Folk and

Country Ensemble with Autoharp and Mandolin

24-Jan-09, 1:00 pm, Sandler Center, Virginia Beach, TAO Table at Kids Arts Palooza, Inclusive Children's Visual Arts Workshop

25-Jan-09, 2:00 pm, Veteran's Army Hospital, Julie Clark, Award-Winning Singer/Songwriter

26-Jan-09, 2:00 pm, Consulate Healthcare Center, Norfolk, Michele Barnes, Inter-generational Visual Arts Workshop

27-Jan-09, 2 pm, Eden Court,

Hampton, Acclaim! Barbershop Quartet

28-Jan-09, 6:30 pm, Centerville Girls' Group Home, Tour of the Chrysler Museum with Ann Vernon

29-Jan-09, 6:30 pm, YWCA Crisis Shelter, Norfolk, Narissa Bond & Dara Bergman, Humanities Program - History of Women at Work

30-Jan-09, 10:30 am, Beacon Shores Nursing & Rehab Center, Paper Mountain, Acoustic Folk Duo

Thank you for your interest in, and support of, Tidewater Arts Outreach. We value your privacy and do not share our mail list with anyone. If you would like to comment on this newsletter, volunteer, make a donation, or be removed from our mail list, please write to us at TWartsoutreach@cox.net, or call 410-4010.

Facilities Partner with TAO to keep music, arts coming

Since 2004 we have worked to develop great relationships we have built with the activities directors, administrators and other staff at the facilities, programs and shelters where we send artists. TAO initiated a formalized partnership program in July 2008, and we have invited more than 60 facilities to join in our efforts to bring more music, arts, and compassionate community members into the lives of those we serve. Partner donations are a critical part of our ongoing funding. Thank you, for partnering with us! Your support means so much to TAO.

Beth Sholom Village (Berger Goldrich Home, Beth Sholom Terrace, Beth Sholom Sands)
Brighton Gardens
Chesapeake Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center
Children's Resources of Hampton Roads – 13th Street Shelter
Churchland House
Coliseum Park Nursing Home
ForKids
Harbor Pointe Rehab. Center
Gardens at Warwick Forest
Lake Taylor Transitional Care Hospital

Nansemond Pointe Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center
St. Francis Nursing Center
Sentara Nursing Center – Norfolk
Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital
The UP Center
Virginia Health Services (The Arbors at Port Warwick, James River Convalescent Center, The Newport, Northampton Convalescent Center)

House Concerts!

Roll up the rug, push back the sofa, bring in folding chairs, lights and sound, and presto! Your very own house concert unfolds before your eyes. Seating is limited, refreshments are home-made, the mood is intimate and casual and the musicians are in their glory.

Karl Werne and friends perform at John and Mary Jane's Norfolk home on Friday, January 23.



Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival Grows into its Second Year

Ghent locations will host TAO concerts, events and workshops April 9—12, 2009

We're delighted to report that national recording artist Jonatha Brooke is the Thursday night headline artist to kick off the Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival on April 9.

The festival's focus is on great songwriting. Workshops will be geared toward singers and musicians, but the concerts are for everyone. This year's event will showcase the talents of area musicians and artists

throughout its four-day run.

"Jonatha Brooke is a terrific match for the Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival," said Kelly Murphy, TAO board member and festival committee chair. "We have a dedicated group of folks working to put together excellent concerts, an artistic silent auction, workshops, a guitar raffle and more."

The goals of the festival committee are to put on a great event, and to raise support and awareness for Tidewater Arts Outreach. The festival will take place

throughout Ghent, a wonderful community with a great mix of retail, restaurants, and residential spaces. The TAO website will be updated with Sea Level Festival information throughout the winter months. So please, check often, purchase tickets to the concerts, volunteer or consider placing an ad in the keepsake program book.

Also we are looking for festival sponsors. If you want to promote your business and support TAO, call 410-4010.

Jimmy Masters and Trey Pollard play at Robert Nowak's home in Williamsburg on Saturday, February 28.



Make your reservations now and bring your friends.

For the full scoop, go to www.TWartsoutreach.org.



JONATHA BROOKE

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The instruments to heal are in our hands.

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Thank You.

On October 2, 75 golfers and volunteers took part in our 4th annual Twilight Golf Tournament. Eagle Sponsor Brydges, Geroe, Rosenblatt & O'Brien, PLLC; Birdie Sponsors David & O'Brien, PC, Kaufman & Canoles; and Flight Sponsors Crawford One Beauty Salon and Farm Fresh Foundation helped to make this event a financial success. This event keeps growing with the support of administrators, artists and friends. We greatly appreciate all our golfers, sponsors, our photographers Mary Pat Stephenson and Scott Weersing, and wonderful committee members.

On October 12, the Look Alive Project at the Granby Theater was the place to be in Norfolk. Brainchild of creative genius, marketing savant, website designer and super go-getter Jarrett Beeler, the event featured DJs, four bands, more than a dozen visual artists, and hundreds of participants. Jarrett donated all of the event proceeds, more than \$1500, to Tidewater Arts Outreach. The repercussions from his act of generosity will be felt for a long time.

Claudia Puopolo hosted a house concert featuring Sonya Lorelle Band at her spacious waterfront home in Virginia Beach. What a fun place for a party! Claudia graciously invited her friends and friends of TAO to relax and enjoy an evening of great music for an important cause.

December TAO programs were a hit! Many thanks to our wonderful artists: 13th Street Guitar instructors Stuart Goldwag, Bob Woodard and Kara O'Brien; VB Hospital pianist Thad Dixon, Girl Scout Junior Troop 155, Mosaic Steel Orchestra, Occasional Singers, Michele Barnes, Eddie Sal, Angela Stroup and Wicked Hips Tribal, Sid Sward and his daughters, MuuMuu Mamas, TraLa (Tony Zito, Amanda Nitz and Nora Crouch), Paper Mountain (Sean Parker and Alice Conner), Rick Stirr and the Hampton Roads Youth Guitar Ensemble and board member/pianist Pam Getty.

To all our committee members, funders, donors and artists: Thank you for all your efforts and support on TAO's behalf. We wish you a happy, creative and enriching 2009.



Ann Vernon (cont'd. from page 1)

served her well in her 26 years as Director of Education at the Chrysler Museum of Art. "I love teaching children. Time slows down—there're no distractions for them—no TV, no cell phones. My classes are a place where they can be introspective without outside influences. They're in a safe place and nothing unexpected is going to come in and blindside them."

Vernon has facilitated several classes at the Chrysler, among other places, for TAO. "No matter what

their background, all children have a dream—where they'd like to end up. Many gifted and talented kids end up in trouble because they get side-tracked. Just because they are in trouble doesn't mean they aren't gifted—someone needs to appreciate their gifts and let them know that they are appreciated." Vernon has even kept several poems from students: "One little girl's poem really saddened me-- it's called 'My Cry'." Vernon reads: "'I'm crying for you when I'm getting beat./ I'm crying for you when I'm in

need of help./ I'm crying for you when the wind blows./ I'm crying for you when I'm in need.'"

Vernon finishes with a thought that we hope all TAO artists have felt: "The person doing the program takes away a lot more than the participants of the program. I have learned so many things—like an enormous appreciation for the gifts I was given. I am humbled when I finish a program, and my faith is always renewed."