Yes we can!
Celebrating the Creative Legacy of Artists, Scientists, Scholars, and Community Leaders 80 and Older
Creative 360
Yes We Can… Celebrate Greatness!

Creative 360’s innovative Yes We Can! program returns for its third year. Yes We Can! recognizes and honors those 80 and over in a way that respects their knowledge and taps into their legacy of creativity. This amazing but often disregarded segment of the population offers a wealth of experience and knowledge that should be shared with people of all ages. Our multi-faceted series is open to all ages and offers programs in which you can learn about community leaders, authors, musicians, artists, and scientists. It gives participants ongoing opportunities to engage with and learn from a compelling group of senior presenters and educators. In response to positive feedback and demand for more programs following our inaugural program in the winter 2014, Yes We Can! has become a signature program for Creative 360.

This group of Great Lakes Bay artists, scientists, scholars, and community leaders will share their stories and experiences through performance, lecture, discussion, and an exhibition that express and showcase their creative thought process. The events take place from January through May 2016.

Yes We Can! is designed to share the wisdom and experiences of people over 80 while stimulating, encouraging and motivating others to be more active and to realize by example that they also can continue to be contributing community members.

Yes We Can! Art Exhibition Opening
Friday, February 26 – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. no charge
Join us to celebrate truly masterful artists and their art. Barry Brown (80), S. Preston Jones (80), Robert Laueka (81), and Moses (Nick) Millard (85). We will celebrate each of these artists, their creative process, and their life when we feature each artist in their own artist talk during our Tuesday Tributes. On exhibit through April 29.

Yes We Can… Honor Our Community Leaders!
Luncheon Soirees
Join us in honoring these artists, scientists, scholars, and community leaders. All lunches by NADA.

B.J. (84) and Herb (86) Scogg – Community Leaders, Educators
Friday, January 8 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. $30
( RSVP required by January 4. Space is limited.)
Both B.J. and Herb hail from Ohio. B.J. taught elementary, pre-school, and Sunday school for many years. She was named Michigan Council Cooperative Preschools, Preschool Teacher of the Year in 1995. Herb, a Navy veteran, was a member of the Bowling Green Swim Team for four years. He was the first swim coach at West Virginia University. In 1956 he and B.J. made the move to Midland as Herb was hired to develop the instruction and competitive swimming program for the Midland Public Schools. He has served as principal of three elementary schools, later became Director of School Administration, and has served on numerous Boards. Both B.J. and Herb are active in many clubs, and service organizations.

Sally Stebleton (87) – Educator, Musician, Community Leader
Friday, January 22 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. $30
( RSVP required by January 18. Space is limited.)
Join us as we honor Sally Stebleton, a stalwart fixture in the musical lives of Midlanders. She has touched the lives and hearts of so many. She has been teaching piano for 70 years to children and adults and continues to do so today. She received her Masters of Music degree from Northwestern University School of Music in Evanston, Illinois. She came to Midland as a pianist and accompanist for the Dow Chemical Company Department of Music in 1956 after teaching 6 years at the college level. She became organist at First United Methodist Church in 1959. Sally married Leo Stebleton in 1961 and started a family. Sally became involved at Midland Center for the Arts with Music Society, with Midland Symphony and is co-founder of Keyboardfest. She served on the Boards of Community Concert Society and Music Society, is still active in local clubs and organizations.

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There will be solo performances by Axel Fisher, pianist and Grace Marra, soprano.

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Dr. John M. Ostergren (91) – Community Leader
Friday, February 5 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. $30  (RSVP required by February 1. Space is limited.)

John, a Minnesotan, is a first generation American, whose family hails from Sweden. He was a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and then he enlisted in the Air Force Reserve attaining the rank of Captain. He has been in active chiropractic practice for 66 years. For 2 years he was a “ring side” physician, caring for wrestlers like “Leaping” Larry Chene and other notables. An avid sportsman, John played softball until the age of 77. He also enjoyed golf, hunting, and fishing. He attended the 7th World Series baseball game in Chicago, (the Tigers won) which was the last time the Cubs have been in the World Series.

Art Sweetheart Luncheon Honoring Alice Ralston (80) – Musician, Educator, Community Leader
Friday, February 12 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. $30  (RSVP required by February 8. Space is limited.)

Each year, Creative 360 honors a Great Lakes Bay Region arts advocate who has made significant contributions through exceptional vision, leadership and commitment to the arts. Our Honor Roll of Sweethearts includes Dorothy Yates, Virginia (Ginny) Morrison, Barbara Prince-Sovereen, Sally Moss, Judy Rapanos, Nancy Barker, Janet I. Martineau, Ruby Iwamasa, Patty Shaheen, Dick and Donna Dolinski, Ruth and Etcyl Blair, and Eugene Yehle. This year we are delighted to announce Alice Ralston as our 2016 Art Sweetheart.

Alice is from Indiana, and received her B.S. in Music Education from Ball State University. She and her husband Robert, also a music teacher, moved to Midland in 1973, when Bob became Coordinator of Music for the Midland Public Schools.

Alice taught piano in her home for thirty years, was on the music staff of First United Methodist Church, directed the children’s choirs, and founded the hand bell program. As a member of The Hand Bell Musicians of America, she served on the Board of Area 5 (OH, IN, KY, WV, and MI) as secretary, then as chairman, including 2 years on the National Board.

Alice has been involved in the Midland Music Teachers’ Association, Midland Symphony League and the Performing Arts Society. Alice played keyboards in the Midland Symphony, percussion in the Chemical City Band, sang in the Midland Chorale, and was assistant music director and accompanist for the Music Society and Peanut Gallery. She has sung in the Chancel Choir for 42 years.

Nan (87) and Dick (89) Skochdopole – Community Leaders, Scientist, Peace Advocates
Friday, February 19 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. $30  (RSVP required by February 15. Space is limited.)

Nan is an Iowan, Dick a Nebraskan. They met at Iowa State University where Nan received her B.S. in Child Development, and Dick received a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry. Both are members of Nonviolent Peaceforce, and were involved in the U.N. Decade of Peace for Children.

Dick retired from Dow Chemical Company where he worked in polymers, plastic foam, and plastic engineering. He was a member of American Chemical Society for 63 years, Sigma XI as president, and the Society of Plastics Engineers. Dick has been involved with Big Brothers, Youth Alcohol and Drug prevention programs, Boy Scouts, and Aldersgate United Methodist Church in various positions.

Nan’s devotion to community organizations is well known. She has been a leader for the Girl Scouts and a Board member for Midland Public Schools. She has been active in American Association of University Women, Habitat for Humanity, League of Women Voters, Aldersgate U.M.C., a Sunday School Teacher, and much more.

Betty (80) & S. Preston Jones (80) – Community Leaders, Philanthropists, Educators, Artist
Friday, February 26 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. $30  (RSVP required by February 22. Space is limited.)

Dr. Betty Jones is known as an innovative leader in education. A teacher, author, social worker and mentor to young people, she is a role model for young women. She is one of Midland’s African American pioneers who made a difference in the community. Betty retired from Delta College as Vice President of Instruction and Learning Services. She is a member of Midland’s Black Coalition, a charter member of the Mu Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. She led in creating a partnership with Delta’s Sister College, Rift Valley Institute of Technology in Kenya, which named their first real library the Dr. Betty B. Jones Library and Media Center.

Dow retiree, S. Preston Jones is a Master Photographer. Preston, a Florida native, attended Hampton University, graduating with degrees in Chemistry and Teacher Education, served on the U.S. Patent Office in Washington, D.C. before coming to Midland. He has served on the Dow Art Council, initiated and teaches photography classes at Midland Center for the Arts, served on its Board of Managers, and taught photography at Delta College. His photographic series, Faces of Kenya, hangs at the Lord Egerton Castle Museum in Njoro, Kenya. The S. Preston Jones Endowment for Photographic Art has been established at the Midland Area Community Foundation.

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Mary Neely (88) – Community Leader, Visionary, Philanthropist, Volunteer Extraordinaire
Friday, April 8 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. $30  (RSVP required by April 14. Space is limited.)
Mary and her husband Brock moved to Midland in 1957 when Brock began his career as a research scientist with the Dow Chemical Company. As their three children grew up, she began sharing her time with the pediatric program at MidMichigan Medical Center and served on the Development Committee. She has served on the Boards of MidMichigan Medical Center, the Health Systems, Midland Center for the Arts, Midland Symphony Orchestra, Chemical Bank, and United Way. A year after the inception of the Midland Area Community Foundation, she joined the Board, serving for 15 years. At present, Mary is a member of the Elsa U. Pardee Foundation, the Allen Foundation and the Delta College Foundation Boards. Another activity near and dear to her heart has been serving since the mid 70’s on the Pardee Cancer Treatment Fund Committee of Midland/Gladwin Counties - a fund that aids cancer patients who need financial assistance.

Yes We Can… Learn From Their Legacy
Anneke Burke Kooistra – A Story of Hope
Sunday, January 31 - 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. $5
Anneke was almost 2 years old in 1940, when the Germans invaded the Netherlands and began their five year occupation of her native land. At great risk to themselves and their three young daughters, Anneke's parents, Wopke and Heil Kooistra, hid eight Jews in their home in Utrecht. Their act of courage changed our world.

The black and white photo was take a few days after VE Day of Anneke's family members and all the Jewish people they hid. Anneke's father was not part of the photo because he was on a mission for the Dutch resistance that day. Join us for this extraordinary presentation. You will hear about Alice, the teen daughter, who with her parents was saved. She is the only one still living. Alice and Anneke have met frequently in the Netherlands and in Israel. A documentary was made about Alice and is shown in schools in Israel.
From her own heart, Anneke discovered that: “With love in your heart, there is no room for hate.”

Yes We Can… Tuesday Tributes
(Please let us know you are coming.)
Join us to hear from a wide array of fascinating octogenarians about their lives, their creative process, and their adventures. There will be lively conversation, tea, treats, and time for Q&A.
Richard Heiny, Ph.D. (86) – A Lifetime Addiction to Coin Collecting
Tuesday, February 2 - 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. $5
Richard's chemical engineering degree led him to Midland for a long and distinguished career at Dow Chemical. When he retired in 1986, he and five other Dow retirees formed Omni Tech International, Ltd. At the age of 11, Dick along with a good friend started collecting Lincoln cents. They would go through the cash register of his friend's mother who ran a gas station looking for cents to put in their albums. They actually found a number of cents with dates that are now considered to be fairly rare. Dick has continued collecting throughout his life.

Ann McNamara – Medical Care in Vietnam
Tuesday, February 9 - 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. $5
Retired U.S. Army Major Ann McNamara is a MidMichigan Medical Center Nurse Anesthetist retiree. After high school, Ann studied nursing at Saginaw General Hospital. She enlisted in the army, and went on to officer training at Fort Sam Houston, from there she was assigned to Walter Reed Hospital and became an anesthetist. She served one year in Vietnam at the 21st Evac Hospital in Ling Binh at the height of the war. On arrival, she went right into surgery for a 48 hour stint, working to counteract the damage of the Tet Offensive. It was a harrowing year. Join us as she recounts her year of making friends, losing friends, carnage, hope and despair in the Vietnam jungle.

Nancy Barker & Paula Ulmer – Growing Up and Growing Into Midland
Tuesday, February 23 - 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. $5
Midland native Paula Ulmer met newcomer Nancy Barker 50 years ago. They’ve been keen observers and part of what both call “the golden years” of Midland. A talented performer, Paula’s roots go deep in Midland history. For small town Nancy, Midland was the big city that became her home and launching pad of an unexpected career… or two. Come enjoy their tales of Midland in the 60’s and beyond and their recollections of the people and places that have made us the community we are today.
Dr. Eugene Moore (82) – We All Have a Dream or Two, and After 80, It’s Now or Never
Tuesday, March 1 - 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. $5
Born in Saginaw, Eugene was raised on a small farm near Bridgeport. He graduated from Saginaw High, Bay City Junior College (now Delta), earned dual degrees from Michigan Tech in chemistry and chemical engineering, at Case Western, his Ph.D. He retired from Dow Chemical Company in 1993 after 33 years. He retired from Stanford Research Institute in 2005. Eugene has been published in more than 20 technical and non-technical publications and has received his 49th and 50th patent this year. He has served as a Marine, as president of the Jaycees, and was an American Legion Honor Guard member. He is a long time member of Kiwassee Kiwanis, and has assisted with many Habitat for Humanity projects in California. He received a National American Chemical Society award for his work at Case Western, won the Monsanto Million Dollar Challenge in 1996. Eugene has run in several marathons, including Boston, and climbed Mt. Whitney.

Riverside Writers – Writing & Telling Your Story; Everyone’s Life has a Story to Tell
Tuesday, March 8 - 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. $5
Creative 360 has facilitated this writing group for 20 years in conjunction with Riverside Place Senior Living Community. Join Anne McGeehan-Woodard, our current facilitator, as she introduces the talented writers who share their stories with us.

S. Preston Jones (80) – Yes We Can! Exhibition Artist
Tuesday, March 15 - 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. $5
Five year old Preston declared to his mother and aunt, that he was going to be a photographer after being mesmerized by photographs at a studio. He bought his first camera at age 14 for 50 cents. During his study at Hampton University, he was mentored by Rueben Burrell. Preston has studied with some of the top photographers in the U.S. He teaches photography at Midland Center for the Arts and is a frequent speaker, consultant and judge in the Great Lakes Bay Region and in the State.

Barry Brown (80) – Yes We Can! Exhibition Artist
Tuesday, April 5 - 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. $5
Saginaw native and businessman Barry Brown attended Central Michigan University. He worked most of his life in a full service ad agency learning all aspects of photography; from studio work to the intricacies of the dark room, eventually becoming a partner in the firm. When he sold his interest in the company, he began taking photography at Delta College. His hauntingly beautiful art can be seen in many exhibitions around the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Tea and Cake with Rhea Currie (99)
Wednesday, April 6 - 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. $5
Rhea was born in the village of Peck, Michigan. She met “Chet” Currie while attending Alma College and married in 1941. They moved to Midland so Chet could work at Dow Chemical. Rhea taught school until their children William and Robert were born. Robert is married to Anne Carson, poet, professor, and so much more; winner of awards such as the Guggenheim, MacArthur, and Lannan. When her family was young, Rhea began volunteering and has been deeply involved in the community ever since. She is an avid bridge player and is a member of Memorial Presbyterian Church. She has been a volunteer at MidMichigan Medical Center for years and still works at the front reception desk.

Robert Lauka (81) – Yes We Can! Exhibition Artist
Tuesday, April 12 - 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. $5
Robert has been painting professionally for 60 years. His artwork is described as storytelling, which is apt for a man who took lessons from Norman Rockwell at age 14. He worked in Detroit ad agencies and studios before relocating to Saginaw. He is a member of Midland Artist Guild, Saginaw Artist Watercolor Association, and Saginaw Artist Guild. Join us as he shares his fascinating life and his creative process.

Moses (Nick) Millard (85) – Yes We Can! Exhibition Artist
Tuesday, April 19 - 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. $5
Nick, a South Carolinian, has lived in Michigan with his wife Phyllis for 15 years. Before that, they lived in California for 25 years where Nick took college art classes. He has sketched faces all his life and most of his art focuses on them. His vibrant works have captured the attention of jurists and art patrons alike.
Remembering Mother Tea
Tuesday, May 3 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. $8  (RSVP required by April 27. Space is limited.)
Join Linda Z. Smith and Karen Gruber for this special memorable tea where we will be remembering and honoring our mothers. Bring your mother if possible, otherwise, bring photos and mementos. Enjoy poetry, songs, and remembrances, with assorted teas served from Karen’s fantastic collection of teapots.

Sunday Performances – YES We Can!
Brothers Jim (87) and Lowell (80) Tolly
February 7 - 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. $8
Brothers Jim and Lowell hail from a musical family in Midland County. Their mother had them performing in public at an early age.
Jim began piano lessons at age 7 and continued through his time at King’s College in Delaware. He was drafted into the army during the Korean conflict. During his time in France, he played for chapel services and for musical groups at the All-Soldier Singing Contest in Heidelberg, Germany. After returning to civilian life, he had solo performances; he played in his church every week, taught piano, and was an accompanist to a choir. Now he sings in two choirs and continues playing for his church. To keep his hands from getting too stiff, he plays Bach 2 and 3 part Inventions every day!
Lowell participated in music programs all through school and started singing at weddings at age 16. After graduating, he was employed by Dow Chemical Company, joining the Male Chorus and even performing in several operettas in the mid-50s. In recent years he soloed with Community Orchestra and the Chemical City Band. He enjoys singing with the Men of Music and greatly appreciates living in the Midland community, where so many fine music programs are so strongly supported.

Men of Music
April 10 - 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. $8
Men of Music have been singing since 1936. They were originally known as the Dow Male Chorus. They have more than 50 members with many singing into their 70’s, 80’s, and 90’s. It is always a treat to hear this fabulous men’s chorus! Grace Marra, Director and Theresa Wasinski, Accompanist.

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Creative 360 is a community-based, nonprofit arts organization co-founded in 1994 by Linda Z. Smith and Cynthia Keefe to provide a supportive environment to enhance the development of physical, mental and spiritual wellness in our community through the arts and humanities.

Our mission is to create an environment for people of all ages to experience the creative process through ongoing classes, events, art exhibitions, concerts and outreach programs.

Please visit our website or call for more information on our creative classes and events.

www.becreative360.org creed@becreative360.org
22 events
January - May 2016

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Stage, Studios & Gallery

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Great Lakes Bay
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