Celebrating the Creative Legacy of Artists, Scientists, Scholars, and Community Leaders 80 and Older

Yes we can!

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Creative 360
Yes We Can…
Celebrate Greatness!
Fifth Year Anniversary!

Five years ago, Creative 360 developed an innovative program designed to recognize and honor the contributions of people who are 80 and over in a way that respects their knowledge and taps into their legacy of creativity. This amazing segment of our population has a wealth of experience and knowledge to share. The Yes We Can! program gives people of all ages ongoing opportunities to engage with, and learn from, this dynamic group of senior presenters.

Since the program began in the winter of 2014, we have celebrated nearly 300 Great Lakes Bay artists, scholars, scientists and community leaders. We are delighted and inspired by the enthusiastic community support for this program, and excited about our anniversary year line up of events.

Join us in sharing the wisdom and experiences of people over 80 as they encourage and motivate everyone to be more active, and to realize that we all can be contributing community members at any age!

Yes We Can! Art Exhibition

Opening Reception: Friday, February 16 – 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Everyone is Welcome!

Join us in celebrating the art of these Great Lakes Bay artists: Eileen Chritz (93), Marcia Dilling (81), Luther Hale (84), Mary Horning (83), William Horning (85), Carole Howard (85), S. Preston Jones (81), Harold Kluck (88), Robert Lauka (83), Gale Leduc (81), Lois Mead (93), Dale Meier (95), Barbara Meyer (82), Moses Millard (87), Paul Pankratz (85), Carl Price (87), Ralph Rye (83), John Saam (88), Phyl Schneider (83), Annabelle Seymour (93), Grace Shriner (89), Pat Smith (83), Alice Strack (86), Julia Steinmetz (80), Carol Struthers (89), Marion Tincknell (89), Leslie Tincknell (88), Patricia Yockey (83), Jan Young, Barbara Zimmerman (86) and more!

The vibrant, strong, interesting works of these senior artists will be displayed through March 18. Don’t miss it!
Yes We Can… Draw Inspiration from Their Insight!

Yes We Can… Tuesday Tributes

Join host Carol Speltz as we 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. Please let us know you are coming.

Betty King (87) • Theater Stories
Tuesday, January 30 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.  $5

Betty has fascinating stories from a lifetime of performing. She graduated from high school in Pennsylvania, and studied drama at Ithaca College in New York. When she moved to Midland with her husband Wesley, she promptly got involved with Theatre Guild and was part of the committee that started the children’s theater program now known as Peanut Gallery – a name she proposed. She has performed in many roles first performing in an old church downtown before The Center for the Arts was built. She has been involved with Happy Trails Drama Troupe and Golden Guild Radio Shows. Join us for an engaging time with this fascinating thespian!

Alice Strack (86) • Play with a Creative Bent
Tuesday, February 13 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.  $5

Alice believes art is a vital part of a meaningful, productive, and fun life. With her playful creations, she aims to make you smile. She likes to create eclectic art using a variety of materials in unusual ways. Alice was raised with her twin near Chicago. She went to school in Wisconsin and came to Michigan to teach. When her children arrived, her itch to create took different forms like sewing, finishing, making costumes, and skiing. Her golden years present some unique challenges that guide her creative itch in more limited modes, but is something she still explores. Come be inspired by Alice’s joyful creative life and art.
Marcia Dilling (81) • Photographer & Chemist  
Tuesday, May 8 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. $5  
Marcia’s interest in taking photos began in 1948 when she bought a Brownie camera at 12 years old. She wanted to preserve memories of family and friends, and then her interest expanded to the beauty of the natural world. When she retired as a chemist from Dow Chemical in 1995, she completely turned her attention to photography. She continues to learn more thanks to people like Preston Jones. Join us as we learn about Marcia’s creative explorations from age 12 to the present.

Gale Thompson (85) • Yes We Can, Have What We Wish!  
Tuesday, April 10 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. $5  
Gale is a gypsy by nature and also by heritage through her maternal grandparents. She has three grown children, several grandchildren and many great grandchildren. Gale received her M.A. from the University of Michigan in Cultural Anthropology. A life-long student, Gale has learned from many sources, including learning the customs, healing, spirituality, myths, rituals and rites of passage from elders of a variety of traditions in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. She also received training in clinical hypnosis and several healing traditions including therapeutic massage and Reiki.

Virginia Florey & Leona Seamster • Midland’s History  
Tuesday, April 17 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. $5  
Virginia and Leona are native Midlanders whose great-grandfathers came here in 1869 from Chemung County, New York. Their fathers worked together at Dow Chemical and were best friends. They didn’t really connect until their 45th high school reunion, even though they were in Junior High together. Together, they published two books: Midland – The Way We Were, and Midland – Her Continuing Story. Join these best friends as they share their fascinating research on the history of Midland beginning when it was known as The Forks.
Yes We Can…Honor Our Community Leaders!

Luncheon Soirees

Join us in honoring these artists, scientists, scholars, and community leaders. All lunches catered by NADA. Reservations required.

Bill (85) & Mary Horning (83) • Artists, Educators, Athletes, Volunteers

Friday, January 26 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. $30 (RSVP required by January 22. Space is limited.)

Mary grew up in Midland; Bill in Saginaw and they met while attending Central Michigan University. They married following Bill’s military service, and raised four children together - each born in a different city before Bill retired from teaching in the Bloomfield Hills school system. Bill earned his Master’s Degree at Parsons School of Design and Bank Street College of Education in New York City. Mary attended workshops for basketry at Detroit Institute of Arts, Collage for Creative Studies and Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts in Kentucky. When Mary encouraged Bill to join her at the Rust Blades Ice Skating Club, it didn’t take him long to win two national gold medals in Men’s Adult Free Style Skating!

The Horning’s have enjoyed returning to Midland to meet new friends, study art and exhibit their work across the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Stuart Bender (90) • Scientist, Marine, Athlete, Community Leader, Volunteer

Friday, February 9 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. $30 (RSVP required by February 5. Space is limited.)

Born and raised on a farm in Missouri, Stu served in the Merchant Marines taking supplies to Patton’s army, and then in the army where he spent most of his time with MacArthur in Japan. After earning his Chemical Engineering degree from Purdue, he spent 34 years at Dow Chemical managing various plants. Since retiring, Stu has won 17 gold and 4 silver medals in tennis at the Michigan Senior Olympics. He was also awarded a silver and a bronze medal in the National Games.

An avid traveler, Stu has taken 35 road scholar courses around the world. He has served on the boards of the Midland and Bay County United Way, and the Midland Senior Citizen Board. He is presently a member of numerous clubs and the First United Methodist Church.

Stu enjoyed a 60-year marriage to Ruth Ann. They had three children, four grandchildren and one great granddaughter.
Art Sweetheart Luncheon Honoring Paula Ulmer (80) • Educator, Administrator, Community Leader, Performer, Producer, Volunteer

Friday, February 14 – 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. This year’s honoree is Paula (Hooker) Ulmer who was born, educated, married, and raised her family in Midland. She attended Michigan State University, Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing, Northwood University and received her master’s degree from Southern Methodist University.

Paula began her career at Northwood University in the 60s, and also wrote several articles and reviews for area newspapers. She was an advertising copywriter; a radio and TV producer with her own show; and has performed in theatrical productions, choral concerts and so much more. Paula teaches at Northwood University. She is active in many clubs and organizations and serves on multiple boards in Midland.

Previous Arts Sweethearts include Dorothy Yates, Ginny Morrison, Barbara Prince-Sovere’en, Sally Moss, Judy Rapanos, Nancy Barker, Janet I. Martineau, Ruby Iwamasa, Patty Shaheen, Dick & Donna Dolinski, Ruth & Etcyl Blair, Eugene Yehle, Alice Ralston, and Gerry Hath.

Harry Grether (80) • Author, Educator, Administrator, Community Leader, Volunteer

Friday, March 2 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. $30 (RSVP required by February 26. Space is limited.)

After a successful career as a teacher and administrator, Harry Grether spends much of his time writing and at speaking engagements. His experience in personnel, human relations, and in the field of disabilities, gives him much to share. He wrote the book Lessons from an Imperfect World shortly after his daughter Denise lost a five-year battle with cancer. During his grief, he continuously asked the question, “Why?” to which he received a straight forward answer from a pastor, “We live in an imperfect world.”

From that point, Harry found a purpose for his pain. His stories and positive messages serve to counteract the negativity that often surrounds us. He believes that we all face daily challenges and sometimes larger struggles, and that, without question, we can move beyond them to live a meaningful and fulfilling life.
**Patricia Yockey (83) • Artist, Vocalist, Poet, Volunteer**

**Friday, March 9 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. $30 (RSVP required by March 5. Space is limited.)**

Patricia has made a lifelong commitment to the arts with her painting, singing and poetry. She has exhibited across the region, sang with the Germania Chorus, the Bay Chorale, the SVSU choir and church choirs. An accomplished poet, Patricia participates in numerous poetry events with River Junction Poets. She currently serves as superintendent of art and photography at the Saginaw County Fair where she has been involved for over 46 years.

Many arts organizations benefit from Patricia’s membership including: Saginaw Artists’ Guild, Midland Artists’ Guild, the Watercolor Society of Midland and Saginaw Area Watermedia Artists. She served on the Saginaw Art Museum board and was a docent there for more than 20 years. In 2017, she was awarded the Saginaw All Area Arts Award.

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**Herta (90) & Siegfried Jaschinsky (89) • Community Leaders, Advocates, Visionaries, Volunteers**

**Friday, March 16 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. $30 (RSVP required by March 12. Space is limited.)**

Herta and Siegfried came to America from Germany in 1952 under the Displaced Persons Act. They chose to live in Michigan because they had studied the Great Lakes in school. Their first job was to manage a farm where Chippewa Nature Center is now located. They learned English by comparing German and English Bibles, and with help from people at their church.

Siegfried served as head custodian at Woodcrest Elementary School, and later Midland High School, while Herta taught Sunday school at Auburn Baptist Church for 50 years. The couple delivered Meals on Wheels for more than 20 years; they knit mittens and hats for Youth Haven Ranch in Jackson; and Herta makes scarves for Kings Daughters, teaches knitting and stitching, and loves to play the accordion.

They have 3 daughters, 7 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren.
**Bill & Nancy Barker** • Community & Business Leaders, Philanthropists, Volunteers  
**Friday, April 13 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.** $30 *RSVP required by April 9. Space is limited.*

Bill and Nancy Barker have had a hand in building much of what makes Midland dynamic today. Bill helped found MEDC; Nancy the Midland Center for the Arts, as they raised their merged family of nine. 

Bill had a long career at Dow Chemical after joining as a young lawyer in the 50s, and has many great stories about this era of innovation. In retirement, Bill joined the Reicker, Van Dam, Barker & Black law firm. 

Nancy is a volunteer in many of Midland’s organization. Founder of the *Careers for Women* program at Northwood University in the 70s, she was also the first woman officer of the university. She was president of the National Council of Women of the USA, a member of ArtServe’s state board, and is currently on the board of MI Women in Higher Education.

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**Leslie (88) & Marion (89) Tincknell** • Artists, Educators, Community Leaders, Volunteers  
**Friday, March 22 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.** $30 *RSVP required by March 19. Space is limited.*

Les holds a Bachelor’s degree in Architecture; Marion in French and English Literature. Each has spent their lives devoted to their respective crafts, and have received numerous recognitions and awards.

Les held a career as design director and president for an architectural firm. In 1995, he was awarded the Gold Medal by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Michigan for his contributions and service to the profession, and they also made him a Fellow of the College of Fellows. Marion is a gifted poet. Her work has been published in nine anthologies, many magazines, and more. 

They raised four children together and live in Saginaw in a home they designed in 1964 where they enjoy their 13 grandchildren.
Jan Young • Educator, Author, Innovator, Artist, Volunteer

Friday, April 20 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. • $30 (RSVP required by April 16. Space is limited.)

Jan is a retired educator who believes combining creative activities with learning creates lasting memories followed by the desire to excel. Her innovative classroom projects included a bunk house for reading; a teaching robot; a 15 ft. submarine; a space ship; a log cabin, and an 8 ft. airplane fuselage! A Britton Humanities Award facilitated video production projects with gifted students in the county. The students received multiple awards at Michigan and International student film festivals.

In retirement, Jan continues to explore ways to be creative: producing plays; doing art activities; volunteering at an elementary school in Florida; becoming actively involved in acrylic and watercolor painting; exhibiting her work, and organizing artist groups in Florida and Michigan.

John (90) & Grace (90) Shriner • Community Leaders, Philanthropists, Volunteers

Friday, May 4 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. • $30 (RSVP required by April 30. Space is limited.)

John and Grace came to Midland in 1957 when John set up his OB/GYN practice where he delivered approximately 10,000 babies by the time he retired in 1994. An aviation enthusiast, John finished building his RV6 experimental aircraft after retirement – a project that began in their basement and finished at Jack Barstow Airport. John supports Young Eagles and Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 1093. He received a special award from The Federal Aviation Association for 50 years of safe flying in 2014.

Grace worked at Northwood University and then Dow Chemical after their children were grown. The Shriners have 3 daughters, 7 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren. They are long-time members of Eagle Ridge Church of God, and consider Midland home, even though they winter in Florida. Grace has exhibited at Creative 360 and Midland Center for the Arts.
Carl (86) & Patricia Price (80) • Community Leaders, Philanthropists, Volunteers

Friday, May 11 – 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. $30 (RSVP required by May 7. Space is limited.)

Carl and Pat met in 1958 and were married a year later. They have spent a lifetime of service in a variety of capacities. After serving in the Marine Corp during the Korean War, Carl graduated from Marietta College in Ohio, and then later graduated from Wesley Seminary in Washington, DC. Pat received her education degree from Western Maryland University.

The couple served at St. Marks Methodist Church on the east side of Detroit during the 1968 riots, and came to Midland in 1973 when Carl was appointed senior pastor at First United Methodist Church. They have done mission work in many parts of the world, and led study trips to Israel and Greece, and a church hiking and camping trip group.

Carl has authored four books, and holds a Doctor of Divinity degree from Adrian College and the John Wesley Alumni Award from Wesley Seminary.
Creative 360 is a not-for-profit community arts and wellness organization founded in 1994. Its mission is to create environments that allow people of all ages and abilities to experience the creative process, and to enhance physical, mental and spiritual wellness through the arts and humanities. The organization’s core values of inclusiveness, creativity, respect and community drive the culture at Creative 360. Activities at Creative 360 are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, Midland Area Community Foundation and the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation.

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

www.becreative360.org  creed@becreative360.org

Creative 360
1517 Bayliss St., Midland, MI  48640
(989) 837-1885
16 events
January - May 2018

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Creative 360
1517 Bayliss St., Midland, MI 48640

more than 53 Great Lakes Bay scientists, scholars, community leaders, and artists