Yes we can!
Celebrating the Creative Legacy of Artists, Scientists, Scholars, and Community Leaders 80 and Older
Creative 360
2019
Yes We Can… Celebrate Greatness!

Join us for our sixth year showcasing the wisdom and experiences of people over 80. Creative 360 launched this innovative program in the winter of 2014 as a way to engage with, and learn from, this dynamic group of seniors who have a wealth of experience and knowledge to share. In the past six years, we have celebrated more than 300 Great Lakes Bay artists, scholars, scientists and community leaders as they encourage and motivate us all to be more active, contributing community members at every age!

We are inspired by the enthusiastic community support for this program, and think you will be excited about this year’s lineup of events, which include an art exhibition, Tuesday Tributes, Luncheon Soirees, and new this year, Yes We Can! Evenings.

Yes We Can! Art Exhibition

The vibrant, strong, interesting art of these Great Lakes Bay artists will be displayed through February 17. Don’t miss it! Free.

Jim Anderson (89), Roz Berlin (80), Agnes Brewer, Marcia Dilling (82), Luther Hale (85), Henry Etta Hartwick (91), Louise Herringshaw (81), Mary Horning (84), William Horning (86), Robert Iwamasa (82), S. Preston Jones (82), Gail Leduc (82), Carl Price (88), Ralph K. Rye (84), John Saam (89), Annabelle Seymour (94), Shirley Sirrine (88), Pat Smith (84), Mary Starr (86), Carol Struthers (90), Russell Thayer (85), Judy Wear (80), Patricia Yockey (84), and Barbara Zimmerman (87).
Yes We Can... Draw Inspiration from Their Insight!

Yes We Can... Tuesday Tributes

Hear from an array of fascinating octogenarians who will share stories about their lives, their creative process, and their adventures. Enjoy lively conversation, tea, treats, and time for Q&A. Most tributes are led by Carol Speltz. Please let us know you are coming.

Veronica Kirin • Stories of Elders
Tuesday, February 5 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. – $5

Author and cultural anthropologist Veronica Kirin traveled across the U.S. to interview the last living members of the “greatest generation,” each born before 1945. Her book, Stories of Elders is the culmination of their uniquely personal stories and perspectives. Some familiar names appear in her book including Rhea Currie, Margaret Darger, Ida Mae Harris, Dorothy Hornsby, Yoko Mossner, Virginia Sears, H.J. Smith and Grace Stinton. Many participate as part of a guest panel.

Gray Gorton (95) • Pearl Harbor, Kamikazes & Me
Tuesday, February 12 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. – $5

The day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Gray Gorton set off for the U.S. Navy offices in Houston. Five years later, he found himself amid a battle for his life in the Pacific Ocean with Japanese kamikaze pilots. One plane splashed down so close to his ship, that it covered the crew with water and shrapnel. Thankful that the pilot had poor aim, Gorton will share more about that story, and more. He was born in New Orleans, raised in Cuba, and has lived in Midland for the last 51 years.

Louise Herringshaw (82) • Special Family Bonds
Tuesday, February 26 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. – $5

Louise Herringshaw will share the heart-warming story of the special bond she shares with Louise Chen. This mother/daughter relationship gives them both something that they would miss out on without each other as Louise C’s parents are in Taiwan and Louise H’s daughter is in California. The pair felt it was a natural fit for Louise H. to become Louise C’s “American Mom.” Louise H. and her husband Don also get to be grandparents to Louise C’s children. Their relationship is a testament to what family truly means.
Carole Kuhn Busick (94) • Life on the Prairie
Tuesday, March 5 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. – $5

Carole Busick’s parents left Michigan for the vast prairie of North Dakota before Carol was born. One of seven children, she grew up on their homestead farm 22 miles from the nearest town until she and her sisters were sent to Michigan to attend high school. Her book, Life on the Prairie, published in late 2004 (now sold out), is filled with stories of bravery, perseverance, tenacity and good humor about living on the prairie, family photos and her exquisite watercolor paintings.

Ralph Rye (94) • Designer and Builder
Tuesday, March 12 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. – $5

Ralph Rye designs and builds creative art furniture. He spent most of his career in Grand Rapids where he also taught at the Kendall College of Art and Design. Ralph was licensed to build for the finest furniture companies in America, and his own custom furniture was in high demand by corporations and residential clients. He has been published in national art and design publications, and exhibited in galleries across Michigan and Chicago. His Rye Chair (exhibited) continues to be in demand and commands prices in the thousands.

Barbara Muessig (84) • Entrepreneur
Tuesday, April 2 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. - $5

Barbara Muessig opened the doors to her real estate office, Barbara Meussig & Co., in 1980, and has successfully weathered the ups and downs of the real estate industry for nearly 40 years. Her “second career” came after working in the corporate world for nearly 20 years. Barbara’s story is an inspiration for anyone who desires a career change and is willing to do the work to make it a reality.

Dr. Joyce Henricks (83) • Artist, Author, Educator, Volunteer
Tuesday, April 9 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. – $5

Dr. Joyce Henricks is Professor Emerita of Philosophy at Central Michigan University where she taught for 42 years. While there, she founded the Women and Gender Studies Program, and continues to serve as a speaker on feminist theory and philosophy. She is also active on the boards of Shelterhouse in Midland and the Isabella County Restoration House. She has authored three mysteries – Dying to Fit In, Aged to Perfection and Nobody’s Children. She also enjoys painting in watercolor and acrylics.
Mitzi Clark (82) • Actor, Dancer, Writer
Tuesday, April 16 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. - $5
Mitzi Clark’s interest in theater began early with dance lessons and “putting on shows” for family and friends. Today, she participates in Golden Guild and Happy Trails senior performances and attends a creative writing class. Writing scripts drew her to the performing groups she still enjoys and the wonderful people they have brought to her life. Fascination with the arts runs deep in Mitzi’s family with third generation folks now majoring in music, theater, and writing.

Carl (87) & Patricia Price (81) • Spending Time in our National Parks
Tuesday, April 23 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.– $5
Carl and Pat Price have led hiking trips to our National Parks since 1988 after some adults requested a trip like the church youth had just returned from. Since then, they have led about 35 groups to 16 different national and provincial parks. They will take us on a trip of sorts as they share what we might see when we get off the bus or out of the car and spend some time in a park.

Virginia Florey & Leona Seamster • Midland: Her Continuing Story
Tuesday, April 30 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. – $5
Midlanders Virginia Florey & Leona Seamster shared their book Midland - The Way We Were last year, and return this year to present Midland - Her Continuing Story. Enjoy their fascinating research and slides on the history of Midland and its neighboring towns-Averill, Sanford, Coleman, Hope and Edenville. These best friends have great-grandfathers who came to Midland County in 1869 from Chemung County, New York, and fathers who worked together at Dow Chemical and were best friends. It wasn’t until their 45th high school reunion that Virginia and Leona became friends.
Yes We Can! Evenings…

**Dr. Basil Clark (90) • Medieval and English Early Modern Love Poetry**

Wednesday, February 13 – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – $5

Just in time for Valentine’s Day, Dr. Basil Clark will offer readings and discussion of a variety of poems including Southern French troubadour poetry of fin’ amor, Chaucer’s *The Parliament of Fowls*, and sonnets by Sir Philip Sidney, William Shakespeare, and John Donne. *Dr. Clark is emeritus professor at SVSU. He taught composition and literature, with a special interest in early British writers. He enjoys the study of languages, and is reviewing Latin in retirement.*

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**The New Reformation Band • In Concert**

Friday, February 15 – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – $15 Prepaid, $18 at the Door

From their first performance at a Saginaw church more than 35 years ago, the New Reformation Band has played its “joyful sound” in thousands of performances worldwide. Featuring the founder David Oppermann and “superstar” sidemen, these friendly fellows provide a fun-loving, knee-slapping, toe-tapping entertainment experience! “America’s most entertaining classic jazz band since 1970.” BYOB.

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**Quita V. Shier (81) • Warriors in Mr. Lincoln’s Army**

Wednesday, March 6 – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – $5

At ten years old, Quita V. Shier promised her grandfather she would do something for the American Indians. She kept that promise by publishing her book, *Warriors in Mr. Lincoln’s Army*, a compilation of little-known stories of indigenous people who served on both sides of the Civil War. Military service records, medical files, biographical and family data, and personal interviews with descendants yielded the facts she needed to complete profiles about who these fighting men were, who loved them, and what happened to them.
Naughty, Bawdy and Wise • Chaucer’s Fabliau Performance with Commentary
Wednesday, March 13 – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – $5

“Indecorous, gladly; pornographic, never.” Geoffrey Chaucer, known as the father of English literature, is widely considered the greatest English poet of the Middle Ages … but wait until you hear a reading of the best bits featuring your favorite local actors. With expert commentary by Dr. Basil Clark, Professor Emeritus of English at SVSU.

Yes We Can… Honor Our Community Leaders!
Luncheon Soirees

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

Roz Berlin (80) • Fiber Artist, Educator
Friday, February 8 – 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – $30
(RSVP required by February 4. Space is limited.)

A native of Saginaw, Roz Berlin is one of Michigan’s foremost fiber artists. She is best known for her woven forest that began with a single tree she created for her son’s bedroom. From that tree grew a forest of more than 400 trees that range in height from two to 15 feet. “The forest is a joyous celebration of the magnificence of trees and their power to nurture a space for personal growth,” she said. “Without trees, we do not breathe.”

Roz holds degrees in art education from Michigan State University, and in counseling education from Central Michigan University. She studied fibers and fiber art across the Americas and in the U.K., and taught art and weaving in both private and public organizations. Roz has received countless awards, including the “All Area Arts Award” in 2011. She has exhibited in galleries, museums and universities.
Celebrating Kathy Kaunitz Jones • Artist, Educator, Friend
Friday, February 15 – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – $30
(RSVP required by February 11. Space is limited.)

On November 22, 2018, we said goodbye to our dear friend Kathy Kaunitz Jones. She was an artist, a “maker of paintings” and a gifted teacher who taught students of every age, from toddlers to retirees. She was Creative 360’s very first art instructor!

“My work is about color, emotion and energy,” she explained. “My goal is to create a painting that exudes positive energy.” We will celebrate that positive energy at a luncheon in her honor. Join us to celebrate her wonderful, creative life and the gifts she has left us.

Phyllis J. McNeill (83), and Roy L. McNeill (89) • Educators, Community Leaders
Friday, March 1 – 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – $30 (RSVP required by February 25. Space is limited.)

Roy and Phyllis McNeill were born and raised in Alpena, Michigan. Both earned Associates Degrees from Alpena Community College before Roy was drafted into the Korean War, and later went back to earn Bachelor’s Degrees and a Master’s Degree for Roy. Both had careers in the Midland Public School system for many years - 35 for Roy and 21 for Phyllis. Roy was on staff at Dow High School when it opened in 1968! Years later, the Student Union established a scholarship and called it the Roy L. McNeill Student Union Leadership Award for his 35 years of leadership and outstanding service to Midland Public Schools. The couple also served the community through the Midland Lions and Lioness Clubs. Roy received the Melvin Jones Award from the Lions for his contributions. Phyllis served as secretary and treasurer for her PEO organization and was involved with raising funds for a college and providing scholarship aid.

Carol Struthers (90) • Artist, Educator
Friday, March 8 – 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – $30 (RSVP required by March 4. Space is limited.)

Award winning artist Carol Struthers has been creating art for more than 80 years. She grew up spending hours in Saturday studies at the Cleveland Art Museum after her talent was discovered at an early age. Carol received her B.A. in Decorative Art (now Design) from the University of California at Berkeley, and studied watercolor painting for several years with artist Frank Staples. She has exhibited woodprints and pastels across central Michigan, and has works in private collections in the U.S., Europe and Japan.
Bruce Rayce • Community Leader, Volunteer
Friday, March 15 – 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – $30 (RSVP required by March 11. Space is limited.)

Bruce Rayce is an energetic volunteer. He is a Santa each year during the “Santa Calling” program, drives for Senior Services, and serves on a variety of committees for First United Methodist Church. He is also Lt. Governor of Kiwanis Division 10, Michigan District, and is hugely instrumental in Midland’s reputation as the “World’s Greatest Tennis Town.” Each year, during the Dow Tennis Classic, he houses and coordinates transportation for each out-of-town player. In this capacity, Bruce learns each player’s name and the country they’re from. His welcoming demeanor is a big reason so many players consider Midland to be their favorite tennis tournament.

Russell Thayer (85) • Artist, Educator
Friday, March 22 – 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – $30 (RSVP required by March 18. Space is limited.)

Russell Thayer is an artist who creates sculpture in cast bronze, brass, aluminum and steel. Each piece, whether personal or a public collaboration, showcases his love of architecture, sculpture, dance, poetry and history. His long career as an artist and educator is distinguished by numerous works in public and private collections. An educator for 48 years, Russell served as Professor of Art History, Sculpture and Drawing at Delta College, followed by 15 years as a professor of art at the University of Michigan. He received his M.F.A from the Instituto Allende, San Miguel d’Allende, Mexico, an M.A. in sculpture and B.S. in Design from the University of Michigan, and a C.C. in Industrial Design from the Royal College of Art in London.

Jean R. Beach (89) • Artist, Writer
Friday, April 5 – 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – $30 (RSVP required by April 1. Space is limited.)

Jean Beach is an artist and a writer with a keen interest in Saginaw. She has written several books, including A Century on Canvas, three Saginaw Hall of Fame volumes, and Undefeated with Dr. Don Steel, plus histories of 1st Congregational Church, Pit and Balcony and the Saginaw historical cookbook, Savoring Saginaw with Patricia Shek. A long-time member of the board of SVSU’s Humanities Lecture series, she delivered 7 slide lectures herself, ranging from Child and Family Services to Saginaw’s 100-year fight for pure water. Jean is also a recognized artist with exhibits throughout Michigan at museums and the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame in Lansing and the Scarab Club in Detroit. She was active, both on and off-stage at Pit and Balcony and served on its board. In 2010 she received the All-Area Arts Award.
Art Sweetheart Luncheon Honoring Junia Doan • Community Leader, Visionary, Philanthropist
Friday, May 10 – 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – $30 (RSVP required by May 6. 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 we choose Junia Doan for her passion for life and active compassion for people.

Since coming to Midland from New York, Junia has continually been in the forefront of helping others. She was instrumental in raising significant funding for both the University Of Michigan School Of Medicine and the United Way of Midland County, and has served on the boards of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy; The Population Reference Bureau, Washington D.C.; The Detroit Institute of Arts and the Michigan Council for the Humanities.

In 2002, Junia launched a TV show called Uncommon Sense with Junia to inspire, inform, entertain, educate and give courage to those who ask the big and small questions of life. Her current show, The Spark, offers a storytelling platform that aims to shape her audience’s philosophy of life by sharing stories of living with energy, gratitude, passion and excitement.

Junia’s hope is that we all, together, become a more positive force to the people we meet.

Junia joins our honor roll of Sweethearts that includes Dorothy Yates, Ginny Morrison, Barbara Prince-Sovereene, Sally Moss, Judy Rapanos, Nancy Barker, Janet I. Martineau, Ruby Iwamasa, Patty Shaheen, Dick & Donna Dolinski, Ruth & Etcyl Blair, Eugene Yehle, Alice Ralston, Gerry Hath and Paula Ulmer.
Creative 360 is a not-for-profit community arts and wellness organization founded in 1994.

**Creative 360’s Mission:**
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.

**Creative 360’s Core Values:**
- **Inclusiveness** – No matter your age, gender, race, beliefs, skills or life circumstances, you are welcome at Creative 360 and are free to be yourself.
- **Creativity** – We believe that imagination and free expression are essential to any person’s life. We see creativity not as a finished product, but a journey of discovery, so we provide a non-judgmental atmosphere where all work is treasured.
- **Respect** – We respect not only people, but also ideas. We are open to new and non-traditional programming. We believe in the power of saying “yes”.
- **Community** – We believe that unity and compassion are components of a strong society. We work to bring people together.
23 events
January - May

2019

Yes we can!
Celebrating the Creative Legacy of Artists, Scientists, Scholars, and Community Leaders 80 and Older

Creative 360
Stage, Studios & Gallery

1517 Bayliss St., Midland, MI 48640

more than 60
Great Lakes Bay
scientists, scholars, community leaders, and artists