

# ENTERPIECES

CARROLLWOOD CULTURAL CENTER • 2016 • Vol. 9 No. 2



## ■ Workplace Wars!

Get ready for a good time! MAS Theatre brings *9 to 5 The Musical* to the Center in July.

Still hilarious and relevant after 35 years, this tale of three women in corporate life and their sexist pig of a boss was released as a movie in 1980. It is ranked among the 100 funniest films ever made. The Broadway version, with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton, premiered in 2009.

The original movie starred Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton in her first film appearance. It was written a year after the term “glass ceiling” was coined; sexism in the workplace was not just common, it was taken for granted. There was no family medical leave, flexible hours, dress code other than “business,” sexual harassment law (enforcement hadn’t started) or assumption that women would not always get the coffee. *9 to 5* plays it all for laughs...remarkable at a time when it was enough to make a “girl” cry.

In the movie, Tomlin plays Violet, an office supervisor at Consolidated Companies who has trained and seen countless less-qualified males promoted over her. Fonda plays Judy, a new secretary at Consolidated; she has had to find a job because her husband ran off with his secretary.

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CARROLLWOOD  
CULTURAL CENTER

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## ■ Centerpieces

Official Newsletter of the Carrollwood Cultural Center  
**Vol. 9, No. 2**

*Centerpieces* reports quarterly on activities, people and issues associated with the Carrollwood Cultural Center. Letters to the editor and reader submissions are welcome. Please email us at [centerpieces@carrollwoodcenter.org](mailto:centerpieces@carrollwoodcenter.org) or mail to *Centerpieces*, Carrollwood Cultural Center, 4537 Lowell Road, Tampa, FL 33618. Include your name, address, phone number and the date. *Centerpieces* may edit your submission or withhold publication.

*Centerpieces* is produced by volunteers of the Carrollwood Cultural Center. New contributors are welcome.

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## ■ Center Mission

The mission of the Carrollwood Cultural Center is to create culture through community and create community through culture.



### ■ Coming Together

A few weeks ago, our summer camp students hosted their first "Show & Share" for friends and family. It was a time for them to highlight what they did during the week. Everyone came together and gave the audience an amazing show.



Summer Camp is a lot of fun. Here are Events Coordinator Aaron Washington (left) and Executive Director Paul Berg on Dress Up Thursday during Medieval Times week. The illustration behind them was done by board member Diane Leeper. View our 2016 Camp Scrapbook online at [CarrollwoodCenter.org](http://CarrollwoodCenter.org) for more photos.

Two projects in particular perfectly illustrated how the arts can, quite literally, bring people together. Not necessarily because of the skill involved, but because the audience (and participants) got to see the "process" AND the "final product" at the same time.

First, dance instructor Ashley Caraway led campers in a performance of "Under the Sea." It was a colorful, wonderfully choreographed performance with scarves, props and movement. At the end of the performance, Ms. Ashley let everyone in on a secret. The ensemble, made of two groups of campers, had never rehearsed the performance together. The performance we all witnessed was their first and only group performance. And it was seamless.

The final presentation was an art project led by instructor Todd Dunkle. At the beginning of the week, each camper was given a unique picture to paint on a tile. To everyone involved, the assigned pictures seemed to be a series of abstract pieces. The students were encouraged to infuse their own individuality into their masterpiece. At the Show & Share, the students held up their individual tiles and placed them on a larger board. After all of the pieces were in place, the campers stepped back to reveal a large mural of an underwater scene. (The original painting, titled "Coral Reef," was painted by Australian painter, Una Miller.)

Since that first "Show & Share," the camp staff and students have produced a new show each week, taking us back to medieval times, around the world, to other planets, and up, up and away. I encourage you to visit our 2016 Camp Scrapbook posted on our website, [CarrollwoodCenter.org](http://CarrollwoodCenter.org), so you can see the amazing work done throughout the summer.

Art can bring us together. It brought these kids together.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and thank you for supporting the Center and the arts.

### A Letter from the Editor

#### ■ Art in the Gallery

Each of us, including artists, has a unique way of perceiving the world. In a sense, we don't know what others experience; we're all isolated, inside our heads. The difference between an artist and most of us is that artists channel their inner lives into visual form.

Artists make works that show us what interests them and how they perceive it. Art originates in another's consciousness, communicating in a way that bypasses speech. It is profoundly "other," in the sense that it's not you, and "inner," in the sense that it is wholly formed by how the artist filters perception. And yet when we view a work of art, what we experience—what gives us joy at a deep level—is a sense of connection.

Art lets you discover the world in new ways. Art enlarges us. It is one of the ways we tell the stories that help us understand what it is to be alive.

The artists on display in the Center's Gallery offer you a stellar range of visions and insights. The Gallery has four distinct viewing areas, each of which showcases the work of a different artist. The exhibits change every month or two. Some of the artists exhibiting this summer are:

- Abigail Chase Miller
- Ameena Khan
- Pat Mitchell
- Peter Stilton

To give you a sense of these exceptional artists' work, we've included brief introductions to each of them in this issue on page 6. I hope you enjoy reading about these talented people and exploring the inspiration for their work.

Evelyn Bless  
Editor

Paul Berg  
Executive Director

# ■ Workplace Wars!

(Continued from page 1.)

Parton is Doralee, the buxom secretary of Consolidated's sleazy CEO, Franklin M. Hart Jr., played by Dabney Coleman.

(Warning: Spoiler alert! If you don't want to know the basic plot, stop reading now and buy your tickets!)

Hart is a scumbag: a sexist, exploitative, crooked boss. After a number of outrages, the three women storm off and have fantasies of revenge during an evening fueled by alcohol and a joint supplied by Violet's teenage son. The plot lurches on through rat poison, head injury, smuggling a body out of (and back into) the hospital and Hart's kidnapping. While Hart is imprisoned in the bedroom of his mansion, the three women run the company—bringing in equal pay, flexible hours, medical rehab programs, daycare and job sharing. Morale and productivity soar.

"It's exciting...we are doing things on our stage that we've never attempted to do before."

- Paul Berg

Executive Director/Show Producer

Just as Hart escapes and corners the women, the Chairman of the Board arrives to congratulate him on the company's productivity improvement. The Chairman approves of everything except equal pay. In fact he's so impressed, he sends Hart to set up their company's new operations in Brazil.

In the epilogue, we learn that Violet is promoted to Hart's job; Judy marries a Xerox representative; Doralee quits and becomes a Country and Western singer; and Hart is abducted by Amazons in the Brazilian jungle and is never heard from again.

Evelyn Bless



## Cast List

Music & Lyrics by: **DOLLY PARTON**  
Book by: **PATRICIA RESNICK**  
Based on the 20th Century Fox Picture

Presented by: **MAS Theatre**  
Directed by: **Aaron Washington**  
Assistant Director: **Lauren Rodriguez**  
Musical Director: **Mary Jo Hahn**  
Producer: **Paul Berg**

Violet: <b>Susan Baxter Gibson</b>	Bob Enright: <b>Christopher Grant</b>
Doralee: <b>Riley McDonald</b>	Tinsworthy: <b>James (Jay) Gibson</b>
Judy: <b>Erin Ruska</b>	Detective: <b>Mackley Fogarty</b>
Franklin Hart: <b>Marcus Blake</b>	Doctor: <b>Addison Warshowsky</b>
Roz-Keith: <b>Jessica LaPollo</b>	Candy Striper: <b>Heather Haskell</b>
Joe: <b>Craig Ruska</b>	New Employee: <b>Chelsea Daubar</b>
Dwayne: <b>Matthew Lewis</b>	
Josh: <b>Chase Reeder</b>	WITH: <b>Darby Thompson</b>
Missy (Judy understudy): <b>Megan Cires</b>	<b>Nicholas Garcia</b>
Dick: <b>Alberto Medina</b>	<b>Jessie Willis</b>
Margaret (Violet understudy): <b>Jessica Watzman</b>	<b>Gage Morgan</b>
	<b>Jonathan White</b>

9 to 5 The Musical is being produced in association with Music Theatre International (MTI)

  
**CARROLLWOOD  
CULTURAL CENTER**

"9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL"  
July 22-31, 2016

## The Story & Legacy of

# ■ C. Robert Passantino

The art in the galleries is brighter now. The stage lights are more colorful. The Center has made numerous improvements over the last twelve months, made possible by a generous donation from Mr. Philip Passantino representing the Estate of C. Robert Passantino.

Philip Passantino, son of the late C. Robert Passantino, came to the Center about a year ago inquiring about making a donation. His father had left a trust for him and his brothers to distribute to worthy charities. His friend, Cathlin Deborah Kohler, had suggested the Center to him; she had attended events here and was familiar with the good things the Center is doing for the community.

The donation was made in memory of C. Robert Passantino and his wife Myrtle Ilsley Passantino.

The Center is thankful to Philip Passantino, Ms. Kohler, and the entire Passantino family for the generous gift that was made possible by the hard work and ingenuity of C. Robert Passantino. The Carrollwood Cultural Center is now part of the legacy of these two remarkable people.

## ■ The Story of Mr. & Mrs. Passantino

The following is Mr. and Mrs. Passantino's story, as told by his son, Philip:

My father ("Bob") and my mother ("Myrtle") grew up in NYC, but met under unusual circumstances.

My mother grew up in Queens, NY, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Hunter College in NYC, then attended Radcliffe College in Cambridge, MA on scholarship, receiving her Master's Degree. She also earned a top-secret security clearance, so that she could work with the joint Harvard/MIT team on the US development of radar. She later returned to NYC with some of these same engineers, who went to work for CBS Laboratories in NYC, where she worked with them on the development of color television, LP records and other significant inventions.

My father grew up in Manhattan, the first-generation son of immigrants from Sicily, and attended City College in NYC, majoring in chemistry. He hoped to one day be a chemist. He also worked running a keyboard-based Linotype machine in his older brother's printing company in NYC.

When his brother became deathly ill with meningitis, he left school to help run the business. Then WWII broke out; he was drafted and never got the chance to finish college. The Army asked if "he had any special skills" and he said "I can type..." This was a highly unusual masculine skill in 1941 and he qualified to serve in the Army's Intelligence service, operating our most top secret WWII encryption machine. He



C. Robert & Myrtle Passantino

was shipped out to the South Pacific, where he ended up as one of the encoders for General Douglas MacArthur and travelled with the group for all four years of the war through Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand and the Philippines.

When the war ended, my father returned to NYC. He and my mother both ended up at a singles weekend in Connecticut, where they met. Apparently my father decided on the spot that he would marry my mom... and true to form, he accomplished that within eight months of that initial meeting!

My mom stepped away from her CBS career and immediately started a family, with the first of her five sons born in 1948 and the last in 1957 (less than nine years!). For her part, my mother stayed home and dutifully raised her five sons, but by the time the younger ones were entering high school, she decided to go back to school to earn a second Master's Degree in Social Work. She found this quite rewarding, even though she was working in some of the toughest facilities in NYC. But I guess raising five sons prepared her for just about anything!

After the war, my father returned to work at my uncle's printing company, then others in various operations and sales roles, but these never provided the income needed to fully support such a large family, among other obligations. In 1962, when his company announced it was moving to South Jersey, my father decided, at age 42 with seven mouths to feed, that he was going to change careers. He went into a training program to become a stockbroker.

*(Continued on page 10.)*

## ■ Page Six: The Artists

"Bicycle Family" by Abigail Chase Miller



"Equine" by Abigail Chase Miller



"Phoebe" by Abigail Chase Miller



Whether you're in the Center for a show, class or visit, there's no better way to spend time than perusing the Gallery areas. Here are some of the artists whose art has made the scene at the Center this summer. For more information about the Gallery and future exhibits, visit [CarrollwoodCenter.org](http://CarrollwoodCenter.org).

### Abigail Chase Miller

Like Eloise, the precocious little girl who lived in the Plaza Hotel in New York City, Abigail Chase Miller had a "charmed childhood." She grew up down the street from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. As a young girl, she would pay her 25 cents admission and spend endless hours staring at the Met's masterpieces. She went to the museum with her sisters, mother or by herself (in those days, all children were "free range"). When she got older, Ms. Miller visited the Guggenheim and Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) weekly. She has always been fascinated by art and decoration.

"I was exposed to what I'd call 'good taste,' artfully created environments, at any early age. So I was always captivated." She attended the National Academy of Design and Parsons School of Design, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in art education from the Massachusetts College of Art. Drawn to primary colors and organic forms, she was inspired by Jasper Johns, Stuart Davis, Henri Matisse and Andy Warhol. Her favorite place in Paris is the Pompidou Center—as much for its colorful, unusual architecture as its art. Over the years, Ms. Miller has developed a distinctive style; whether bees or trees, bicycles or dogs, she layers her acrylic paints to create works that vibrate with color and energy.

"I paint things that bring me joy, feelings of recreation and happiness," she says. "I'll feel the energy of something and get lost in it." She has gone through a number of phases where she is fascinated by a particular theme (trees, fish, abstract organic shapes). By choice and because she has a "sunny" disposition, Ms. Miller likes to bring out the positive. She infuses industrial objects such as motorcycles or a hot dog cart with warmth and a feeling of the unseen community that forms around them.

Her goal is to create an "exciting, happy, colorful and effortless viewing experience" for people. She points to a painting she did recently of a pit bull that she encountered on a street in Delray Beach. "I loved looking at him; he was so self-possessed and at ease, he looked like Cary Grant." She now paints commissioned portraits of dogs. "I try to incorporate objects that represent the people themselves," she says, "so the work becomes symbolic of the family as a whole."

As an artist who carries within her the memory of masterpieces she's studied, Ms. Miller often evokes artistic influences by line, color or composition in her work. The references deepen our appreciation by making us aware of visual tradition. In her dog portraits, the handsome canines that pose surrounded by valued objects recall European and American portrait painting. "When I

paint these," she says with a smile, "I think of John Singer Sargent."

Ms. Miller's works can be viewed in the Center's main Theatre through August.

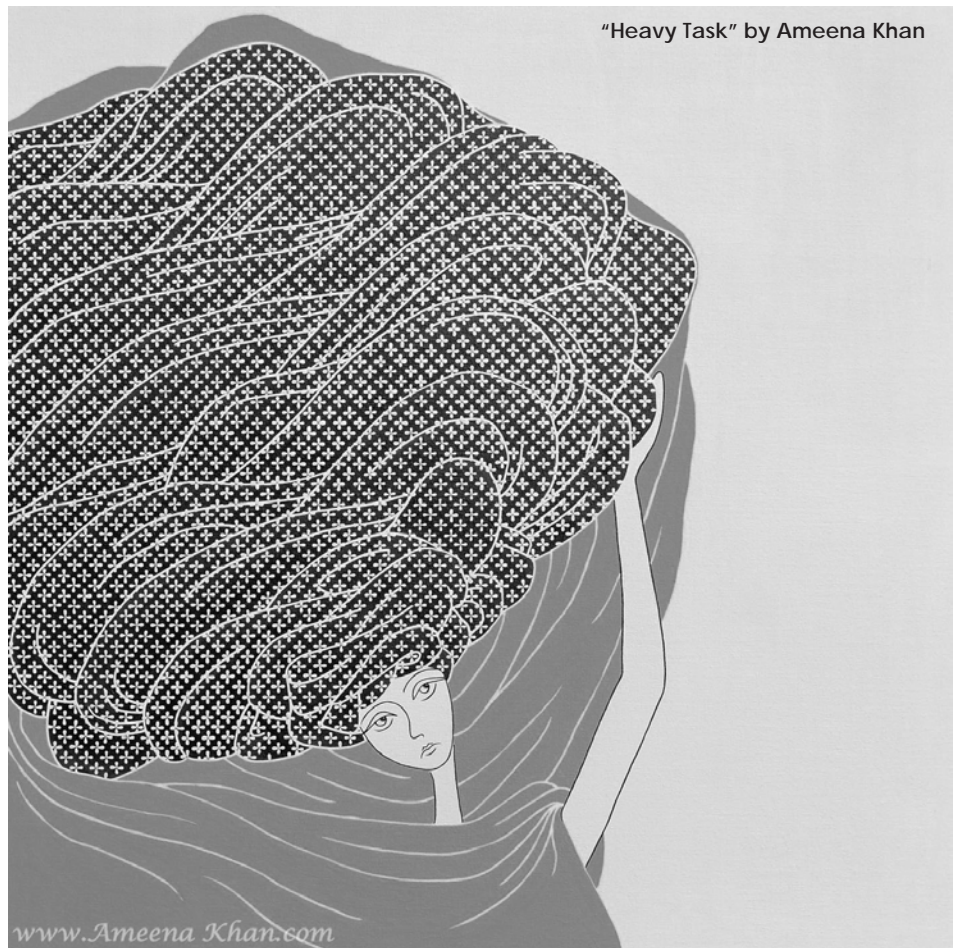
## Ameena Khan

"My artwork is a conversation between the viewer and myself," says Ameena Khan, who is dedicated to using art as a way to build connections between people. Her exhibit at the Center, "Loud Print," explores the feelings and thoughts of American Muslim women. The title, she explains, refers to the intricate patterns of textiles worn by Muslim women as well as to the use of art as a means to communicate between people.

This is art that speaks to us, sometimes literally with another's words. Within the exhibit is a series of small works called "Just a Peek, Please?" They originated in stories that Muslim women around the U.S. shared with Ms. Khan about their feelings and experiences. She asked the women to tell her something personal, unknown to others. Those who wore *hijab* also sent her a scarf. The resulting paintings, combining quotes with fragments of scarf, illuminate the women's inner selves. The works are "a conversation between the participant, the viewer and myself," Ms. Khan says.

Muslim women are usually presented as victims or typecast, explains Ms. Khan, who is Muslim. Her exhibit encourages viewers "to cross cultural, religious, age and gender barriers so that they can connect with the experiences of a complete stranger. In fact, because [some of] the artwork cannot be viewed without lifting the veils that cover them, it requires the viewer to become part of the artwork. ... I love that aspect."

The use of a scarf to cover the hair is a very personal experience and the reason will vary significantly from person to person. Raised in Gainesville by a Canadian mother and Indian father, Ms. Khan started wearing a headscarf in college. She was reacting against the cultural emphasis on women as physical objects, which can be particularly strong in college. "There is a lot of pressure on women to reveal themselves physically throughout their adult lives, and I was frustrated with it. I wanted to have more control over how I represented myself. Many women who do this are claiming their body for themselves; they would rather present themselves for their ideas and not what they look like."



The ideas of sharing across boundaries and not being afraid of somebody who is different—that can be taught in art.

- Ameena Khan

In Ms. Khan's case, what she found was that she'd traded one category (sexual object) for another: "the other." People asked her where she was from. They made assumptions about her based on negative stereotypes. "When I was wearing it, I was being judged for one thing. My experiences highlighted to me the importance of sharing ideas and communicating across boundaries."

Ms. Khan earned a doctorate degree in engineering and worked in the field for several years. A few years ago, she switched careers to become an elementary school art educator. She now teaches part-time and devotes the rest of her time to art projects. "Engineering emphasizes problem solving. In art I'm trying to address social challenges."

(Continued on page 10.)

"Everyone has a talent,  
what is yours?"

- Michele Stone



## ■ Michele Stone: Unstoppable!

Michele Stone is an artist of many talents. Recently, as I watched her bubbling over with excitement while addressing the Millennium Sertoma Club, I was very surprised to hear her response when one of the members asked about her favorite medium.

"Welding," she said. "I love working with metal!" Without missing a beat, she continued her talk about creativity. Michele is unstoppable in her passion for spreading the joys and benefits of artistic expression to others.

Creativity is in her genes. From age 4, Michele was raised in Watkins Glen, New York, by a very creative mother, who, taught her how to sew, bake, knit, cook, quilt, paint pottery, make crafts, sell trinkets and prepare for fashion shows.

She attended Tampa College and Hillsborough Community College, and took art classes from a local artist. "My creativity was heightened to the point where I would dream so vividly, that I would wake up in the middle of the night and have to draw out my dreams. It was at this point that I realized art was not just a hobby for me, but that I was indeed an artist," she says.

Michele first started teaching when living in Westerville, Ohio, and early on saw the transformative power of art. With the help of some of her new friends, Michele turned an unpublished story called "Cooking for Ogres" into a play. "I didn't know much about directing a play," she says, "so I picked up some books at the local library, solicited advice from my friends and made props from cardboard, duct tape and markers." Her creativity made such an impression on a youngster from an art therapy program called "Make Your Mark" that he promised to graduate high school; he kept the promise three years later.

"My personal philosophy is that every person on the planet has some sort of gift or talent. However, in a world filled with competition and fast-paced life, the majority of the population searches for or has settled for the best possible way to make ends meet. That said, the slogan I put on my business cards [is] 'Everyone has a talent, what is yours?'"

Michele has never stopped teaching. She taught kids in daycare, then became ARTeen Assistant Director for the Columbus (Ohio) Boys and Girls Clubs. After moving back to Tampa, she worked with the outreach programs of the Children's Board of Hillsborough County. She taught the art component of the Summer Day Camp at the Bob Sierra YMCA, and then became responsible for programming all of the art curriculum.

Since 2010, she's also taught children at Grace Family Church, children and adults at Wilderness Lake Preserve and seniors at assisted living facilities. She likes to use quotes from famous artists to help inspire children. Two of her favorites are "Creativity takes courage" (Henri Matisse) and "I do not see, I find" (Pablo Picasso).

Throughout her career, Michele has continued to produce her own art: paintings, sculpture, jewelry, painted glass, murals and more.

Michele joined the Center's faculty as an art instructor in 2014. She teaches both children and adult classes, ranging from painting to artistic journaling.

This year's summer camp will feature a different theme each week, so Michele will have the opportunity to incorporate recycled art, painting, mixed media and drawing. She'll include "Specials," which may have the campers painting murals on picnic tables, creating designs



to paint on garbage receptacles, or embellishing the Center's buildings or grounds—creating “a more artistic appearance to an already amazing facility.”

She also hopes to offer “Big Time Art,” in which teens will learn how to collaborate in designing and executing pieces such as murals and installation art. The class will strengthen kids' communication and teamwork skills, “as well as provide a safe and fun environment where they can leave a legacy and make their mark.”

As an artist who loves teaching all ages, Michele sees the Center as an opportunity to reach individuals on a larger scale.

“I am sincerely blessed to be able to instruct at the Center,” she says. “The Executive Director Paul, Education Director Beth and the rest of the staff are phenomenal to work with and truly understand [the concept that] artistic expression stimulates the brain and provides a much more expansive environment and community for all.”

*Judy Schiavo*

“My personal philosophy is that **every person on the planet has some sort of gift...**”

- Michele Stone



Page 8: Michele Stone; Pieces completed by Michele's summer camp students

Page 9: (top) Pieces completed by students in Michele's acrylics class for adults; (bottom) Tapestries made from recycled materials and created by summer camp students

## ■Page Six: The Artists

(Continued from page 7.)

Art transcends boundaries of culture, language and time, she observes. Ms. Khan teaches art, creativity and problem solving to children at a Muslim school in the Tampa area. "It's been an interesting journey. I have decided to focus on creativity and community: they are skills we are losing, and we need to teach them to our children."

"The ideas of sharing across boundaries and not being afraid of somebody who is different—that can be taught in art. Children learn not to be afraid of trying something new, that you can leave the path open; you don't have to stick with the plan. I want to grow empathy, creativity and connection in students. My goal in everything is to improve communication and connection."

You can view Ameena Khan's work in the Center's lobby areas through August.

### Pat Mitchell

Pat (Odell P.) Mitchell is an artist, teacher, coach, illustrator and designer. He was Graphics Editor for the *Fort Myers News-Press* and Gannett News Service before joining *The Tampa Tribune* in 1987. As Senior Editor for Content for the *Tribune* until 2008, he had teams of designers, artists and copy editors reporting to him.

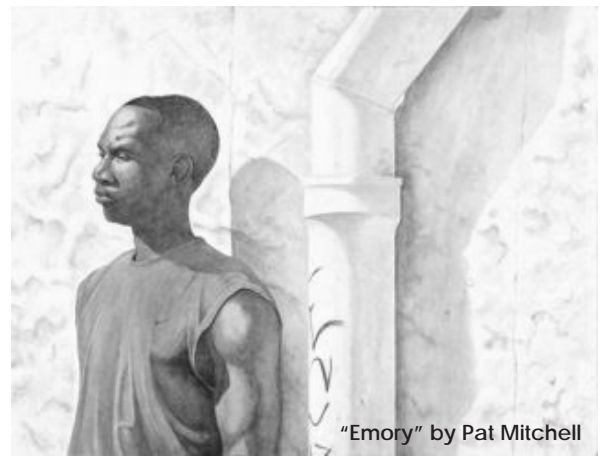
Mitchell now devotes much of his time to watercolor portraits. These are often paintings of strangers. "I will see someone who has an aura about them, something that I find interesting, whether it be around the eyes or something else," he says. If they are willing to have their portrait painted, he tries to discover and capture the uniqueness that intrigued him. It is always something physical that first attracts, he says, but the surface is an indicator of what's below; his paintings are quiet, careful explorations of character.

"I truly believe that a community's appreciation of the arts enhances the quality of life," he says. "Art helps us understand that cultural diversity means...we can appreciate and celebrate our differences—and our contributions. A cultured community is not limited to or defined solely by any one standard of measurement."

His watercolors and newspaper cartoons can be viewed in the Center's corridor gallery through July.

### Peter Stilton

Peter Stilton's large canvases have been on display in the Center's foyer atrium for several months. If you haven't looked at them before, pay attention now because they will change at the end of summer. Stilton is an internationally known artist who has taught and exhibited throughout the U.S. and abroad. These canvases reflect Stilton's playful,



"Emory" by Pat Mitchell

eclectic and spiritual approach to art. Deeply learned in art history, he incorporates and transforms iconic images like the horses of St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice and the multidimensional facades of European cathedrals.

The Stiltons have recently acquired a second home in Maine, where Stilton spent summers as a child. He finds himself newly inspired by the Maine community and his proximity to the sea, fog, tides and coastal rocks. He's spent hours watching the waves and atmospheric effects in an isolated bay near his home. While his Florida beach canvases are often populated by singing alligators, cars and musical instruments, the Maine canvases reflect a world more isolated and mysterious. The elements merge into one another, as they do in life; you are drawn into the peaceful, silent folds of water, shore and air.

*Evelyn Bless*

## ■C. Robert Passantino

(Continued from page 5.)

He made even less money during that "apprenticeship year" and it was a scary time, but true to his nature, it turned out to be a very successful decision. He embarked on a second career that lasted 40-years, retiring at age 83 when he was still working four days per week at his NYC desk. My father's decision to do this seemed like a very risky idea at the time, but apparently was based on his uncanny ability to pick high-growth stocks (getting in on the ground floor with a propeller manufacturing company during WWII, then companies like IBM, Home Depot, Dell Computers and many more). My father's stock-picking acumen served him quite well, and before he passed, he set up a variety of charitable trusts, which my brothers and I have had the privilege to distribute to worthy causes for the past 12 years.

All of us at the Center are deeply grateful to the Passantino family for their generous and thoughtful gift. Thank you!

*Todd Dunkle*

# ■ Pirate Flag

On August 27, the Kenny Chesney tribute band Pirate Flag will take the Center's stage at 8 pm. for a concert that is sure to please the staggering number of Tampanians who consider themselves part of the "No Shoes Nation"—a group of dedicated Kenny Chesney fans who are known for their southern/beachy vibe and fun-loving ways.

Founded in 2013, Pirate Flag consists of six accomplished, Tampa-based musicians who all have one common goal: "We want to make [our show] as close to a real Kenny Chesney concert as possible," says Pirate Flag founder and drummer Steve Poulos. "We just want to do [his concerts] justice."

Country music star Kenny Chesney has recorded 20 albums, 14 of which have been certified gold or above. His songs range from heartfelt ballads like "There Goes My Life" to fun-filled ditties like the band's namesake, "Pirate Flag".

"We try to play a good mix of all [Chesney's] songs, vary the styles, so there's something for everyone," Poulos says. "We want to put on the best show we can, and we hope that everyone who comes out has a good time."

"We want to make [our show] as close to a real Kenny Chesney concert as possible...We just want to do [his concerts] justice."

- Steve Poulos

Evidently, that goal is being met. Since their debut show in 2014 opening for Soul Circus Cowboys, Pirate Flag has become a national act booking shows all across the U.S. including upcoming concerts in California, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New Jersey. "The response has been really great, even from the hardcore [Kenny Chesney] fans," says Poulos. "It's been really surprising how fast it has grown and everything that has happened. We couldn't be more grateful for all the support."

"We're really excited to play at the Carrollwood Cultural Center. It's great to travel all over the U.S., but it's always fun when we can play in this area, near home. And we know what a great venue the Center is; they're always very supportive and allow us to put on a great show."

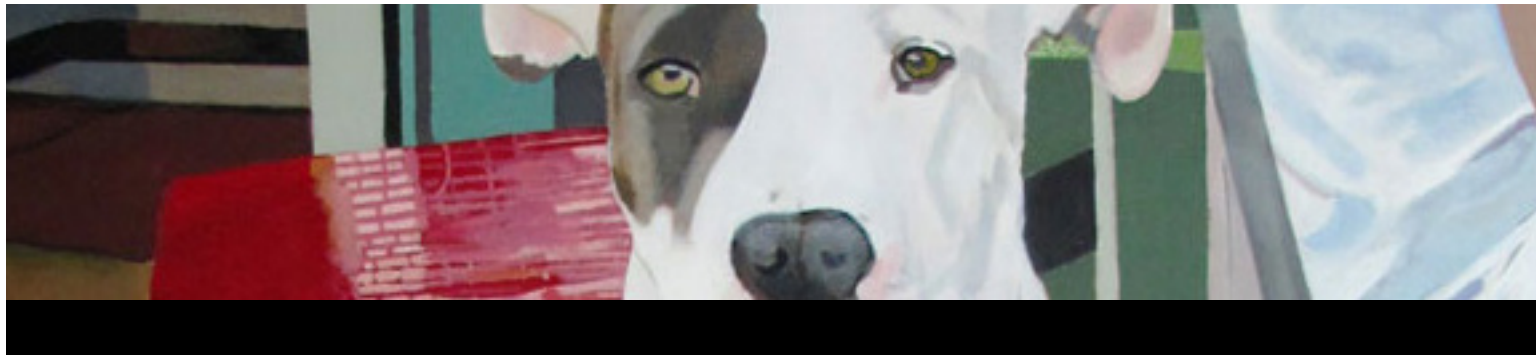
The show is sure to be fun for everyone, so don't worry if you aren't already a card-carrying member of the "No Shoes Nation"—but don't be surprised if you find you're a new member by the time the show is over. It's easy to be carried away with the fun of the concerts, so wear your most comfortable flip-flops as you're likely to spend a lot of time on your feet dancing and singing along with songs whose words you'll learn as you go.

Be warned: this infectious atmosphere has resulted in Pirate Flag sharing another trait with Chesney—consistently selling out shows. Don't wait until the last minute to buy tickets, as you may just find yourself out of luck. Tickets are on sale now at [CarrollwoodCenter.org](http://CarrollwoodCenter.org), or in person at the Center.

*Nathan Gardner*



Pirate Flag in concert



## ■ High Five!

Here are five things to look forward to in the coming weeks (sign up to receive our weekly e-newsletters or visit us at [CarrollwoodCenter.org](http://CarrollwoodCenter.org) for details):

### ■ Show & Share Fridays

Join us Fridays at 3:45 pm when Summer Campers perform in a "Show & Share" for family and friends. Showcases include visual art, dance, theatre and music performances. The last Show & Share will be August 12.

### ■ "UnCentered" Online Video Series

What goes on behind the scenes at the Carrollwood Cultural Center? Watch our video series, "UnCentered" and find out! Episodes can be found on YouTube or [CarrollwoodCenter.org](http://CarrollwoodCenter.org). (Special thanks to Keith Eisenstadt of Eisenstadt Design and Production for his help with this project.)

### ■ Teaching from the Stage

Visit [CarrollwoodCenter.org](http://CarrollwoodCenter.org) to view the upcoming 2016-17 Shows for Kids series. Shows include performances by A.C.T. for Youth and Mr. Tommy.

### ■ Carrollwood Blues & BBQ

The Carrollwood Cultural Center and the Carrollwood Village HOAs are pleased to present our 1st Annual Blues & BBQ event on September 10 from 4 to 7 pm. It's going to be a good 'ol fashioned backyard barbecuing bluesy time!

### ■ Running Mates: Or the Family Party

It's election year! No, not *that* election. MAS Theatre will produce Running Mates: Or the Family Party, a political comedy written by Beth Kander, October 14-23.

### ■ Featured Art

The art featured on the front and back banners of this issue is by local artist Abigail Chase Miller. Miller's work is the Gallery's main exhibit through August. Learn more about this artist at [abigailchasemiller.com](http://abigailchasemiller.com)



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"Pit Power Pose" by Abigail Chase Miller