

# Friends

Summer 2004

## FCFA means friends

Summer is a time when we relax, regroup and occasionally think about the fall when our schedules begin to fill again. And we hope this year your fall schedule includes some - or all - of the

performances at the Center for the Arts. Of course, when you come to a performance at the Center, you will also enjoy the camaraderie of other members of the Friends of the Center for the Arts.

The FCFA is an auxiliary organization, supporting the work of the Center, and, as stated in its bylaws, it is "...devoted to the support, discovery and exploration of the performing and visual

arts. Through close association with the College of the Visual and Performing Arts at George Mason University, the FCFA offers opportuni-

**What a challenge - and what an opportunity - we have to enrich our community.**

ties to share, expand and enrich the experience of the arts." What a challenge - and what an opportunity - we have to enrich our community.

The FCFA now has more than 350 households and continues to grow. Members enjoy special benefits, including ticket privileges, pre- and post-performance activities and free intermission coffee. We also have an opportunity to help support the Center through contributions and

fund-raising activities. Your membership in the FCFA is appreciated; your active involvement is welcomed; the rewards are many!

As you will read in this issue, there are almost as many reasons for joining the FCFA as there are members. And what rich and varied backgrounds the members have. From executives to military travelers to a professional actor, the diverse membership only strengthens the FCFA as an organization. Here are profiles of a few members. Come and meet others who, like you, are committed to enriching our community through the arts at George Mason University.

### IN THIS ISSUE

This issue will profile several people involved in the FCFA.

- Shirley and Charlie Joyce
- Brian Marcus
- Judy and Gordon Canyock
- Jeanne Eek
- Thelma Weiner

## The Joyces - valuable friends and Center supporters

**Charles and Shirley Joyce** are two really dynamic people who support the arts at George Mason with great effectiveness. Charlie is a former president of the FCFA and now president of CVPA's advisory board, and Shirley is an FCFA board

member who is valued for her ability to market the Center to community organizations, most notably to women's clubs. She also believes that word-of-mouth is an important tool to promote the Center's efforts.

Charlie, a native New

Yorker, graduated from MIT, worked for the Mitre Corp., held government appointments at the Pentagon and the White House, and then founded two startup consulting firms. Shirley, a DC native, worked **see Joyces, page 3**

# New resources for a growing program



**Brian Marcus**

As the *Arts at Mason* continues to grow, a new face has been added to the dean's staff. **Brian Marcus** is the new Associate Dean for



Development in the College

of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA). Brian will oversee the development and implementation of CVPA's fundraising programs and activities

including the Annual Fund, special capital initiatives such as the new Performing Arts Center planned for the Prince William campus, and the renovation and expansion of CVPA's academic departments on the Fairfax campus. He also will teach in CVPA's

newly established Master's in Arts Management program.

Commenting on his new job, Brian said, "The *Arts at Mason* is experiencing tremen-

dous growth, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in CVPA and across the University as well as our volunteers to translate that growth into significant new resources to serve the Mason community and the region."

Brian received degrees from Brandeis and Harvard Universities and has 30 years of experience in higher education administration and fundraising. He most recently completed eight years as Development and Campaign Director at The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington.

## Meet the Meet & Greeters

You have probably seen **Judy and Gordon Canyock** at the information table at the Center where they have often been tapped for last-minute duty.

Gordon and Judy are originally from New York.

They met as undergraduates at Cornell and have been

married for 41 years.

Gordon, a retired Army colonel, had two tours of duty in the former USSR. He served as an Army attaché at the U.S. Embassy from 1981 to 1983, while Judy taught Russian at the International School. Both the Canyocks have a strong interest in Russian culture. They enjoyed the Bolshoi Theatre while in Moscow as well as the folk dancing and music of the Russian people. They particularly admired the Moiseyev Dance Company, which is coming to the Center on Feb. 4. Many of the paintings and decorative items in their home were purchased from dissident artists during their stay in Moscow.

The Canyocks are members

of the Fairfax City Council on the Arts, and Judy has been a long-term escort for the International Children's Festival held at Wolf Trap each year. She is active in the Children of Chernobyl program that brings children to America each summer from Chernobyl to stay with American families. She also works in the Novgrad Alliance, a project that assists Novgrad doctors who are interested in setting up their own private practices.

Gordon and Judy enjoy the Center and say that they feel fortunate to live nearby and participate in a great variety of high quality programs at a reasonable price. Judy said, "As a consumer of the arts, one could not ask for anything more."

**Judy and Gordon Canyock**



# A Mason alum shows her support

**Jeanne Eek** comes from a family immersed in the arts. As an Army dependent, she grew up moving around the country experiencing music, dance and theatre. Jeanne is a certified dance instructor in ballet, jazz and tap and taught dance



**Jeanne Eek**

in high school and college.

Jeanne received two Master's degrees from Mason and now enjoys attending perfor-

mances at the Center with various friends and family members. Her parents also enjoy season opera tickets at the Center. After attending the FCFA opera brunch last spring, she joined the FCFA because it was a way she could enjoy and support the arts in her community.

## “Climb every mountain...”

On many occasions, **Thelma Weiner** has provided musical advice to “climb every mountain...” as the respected Mother Superior in *The Sound of Music*, one of 13 musicals in which she has had a lead role. She has acted in the legitimate theater for many years and is a card-carrying member of the Screen Actors Guild, verifying her acting talents.

Originally from Spring Valley, NY, she studied voice at The Juilliard School and was even a

winner on *Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts*.

After her family moved to Washington, DC, Thelma joined Central Casting to keep from being bored and found herself in demand for commercials. Ask her for some stories!

Thelma has been a member of the FCFA board for eight years, drawing from her theater experience to offer guidance and insight into the arts. “It’s our purpose, through the Center, to introduce all artistic possibilities today.

I’m glad we can encourage young people, especially our Mason students, to realize and develop their own talents and potential.”

“Climb every mountain...” is good advice for us all.



**Thelma Weiner**



### Joyces, from page 1

with a conference management company until retirement. She now focuses on community interests and family which includes two married children and two grandchildren.

The two complement each other in their artistic interests. Charlie is a traditionalist in his music and dance choices, while Shirley enjoys the multi-cultural dance groups and holiday concerts and likes to bring her grandchildren to Theater of the First Amend-



**Charlie and Shirley Joyce**

ment performances.

Charlie states that during his time with the FCFA board, he genuinely enjoyed working with volunteers because their involvement was “a true labor of love.” Both Shirley and Charlie are examples of the dedication of community leaders who totally support the efforts of the FCFA. We are proud to consider both of them among our greatest assets.

Center for the Arts  
George Mason University  
4400 University Dr., MS 4C1  
Fairfax, VA 22030

# Friends OF THE Center FOR THE Arts

George Mason University

## 2003-2004 FCFA Officers

- ♦ Tom Ezell,  
president
- ♦ Ida Portland,  
vice president for  
programs
- ♦ Jane Tombes,  
vice president for  
membership
- ♦ Jerry Salter, vice  
president for  
communications
- ♦ Eileen Duggan,  
secretary/  
treasurer
- ♦ Susanne  
Zumbro, meet  
and greet  
committee

## FCFA newsletter committee

- John Nash
- Jane Tombes
- Connie Diamant
- Bob Armstrong

## FYI and more

### First reception

The first reception of the season, which is exclusively for FCFA members, is an elegant champagne event following the performance of *Academy of St. Martin in the Fields*, Saturday, Oct. 9. Watch for your invitation in the mail.

### Current e-mails?

Occasionally, the FCFA sends out e-mail announcements about last minute concerts, discussions or master classes. If you want to receive these announcements, make sure we have your e-mail address! If you aren't on the list, send an e-mail to [fcfa@gmu.edu](mailto:fcfa@gmu.edu) to be added.

### Membership

Our new membership cycle kicked off in April, and things are going well!

- ♦ We are 67% of the way toward our 2004-2005 goal.

- ♦ 25% of last year's members have upgraded their gifts and are *Friends* recognized at a higher level.

- ♦ We welcome 134 new members so far this year.

- ♦ And we'd like to remind last year's members who have not yet renewed that they still can! This coming season is going to be one of the best yet, and we hope you are able to make it special by renewing your FCFA membership. The membership form is available on the web site at [www.gmu.edu/cfa/fcfa.html](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa/fcfa.html).

### Schedule of performances

As mentioned before, there is a terrific line-up of performances this season at the Center for the Arts. The Center offers several subscription packages that make attending so easy. You can see the planned schedule on the web site at

[www.gmu.edu/cfa](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa). You also can send an e-mail to [fcfa@gmu.edu](mailto:fcfa@gmu.edu) or call 703-993-4188 and a schedule will be mailed to you.

For more information,  
please call 703-993-4188  
or visit  
[www.gmu.edu/cfa](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa)