

# The Mayflower Log

*A Publication of the Mayflower Residents Association*



FALL 2014 - Volume 14 - No. 3

## Welcome New Residents



JENNIE and LUTHER  
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## THE EDWARDS ART GALLERY AND WORKSHOP



Take time to visit the transformation that has occurred recently in the Edwards building. You'll be delighted.

The rather poorly lighted hallways and lounge once had walls partially covered by the kind of mass-produced, reproductive art commonly found in some motel rooms, restaurants and nursing homes. Now, you are greeted with freshly painted, brightly lighted common spaces with walls decorated by wonderful original pieces of contemporary art produced by residents, residents' family members and friends of the Mayflower.

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The change is electrifying. On a walk through Edwards, I found myself slowing my stride and stopping in front of groups of paintings to study them carefully or just enjoy them. Edwards is now a residents' apartment building that is also an inviting art gallery. Complementing the Gallery is a complete artists' workshop located in the building's lower level.

The two residents responsible for the creation of the Edwards Art Gallery and Workshop are Merle Zirkle and Netia Worley; both are artists and members of the Art Committee. They have two major goals for the Gallery and the Workshop.

The first is to display loaned and donated original artwork (paintings, photographs and drawings) produced by Mayflower residents, staff members, family members of residents or staff, and local or out-of-town artists. The second goal is to help build the Mayflower's collection of original art by encouraging residents to explore their own artistic creativity as they experiment in the Workshop, which offers a spacious, well-lighted area and plenty of low-cost supplies and materials. Both goals are aimed at erasing any "nursing home art" and increasing vibrant displays of original artwork produced by our community.

Merle and Netia report that the Mayflower has close to 300 pieces of hanging art. The Art Committee has

assessed the entire collection and, Merle says, 75 to 80 percent of the holdings are of good quality and condition. Edwards is the only residence building on campus to have original art exclusively. At present, 33 artworks displayed there are on loan, including 17 pieces by Sara Peak Convery, daughter of resident Jan Peak; work by Merle and Netia, and pieces by Paula

Osgood, a former Grinnell resident. There is room for more art to be installed in the Gallery, but Merle and Netia are committed to restricting donated or loaned art for the Gallery to original, contemporary pieces.



#### The Art

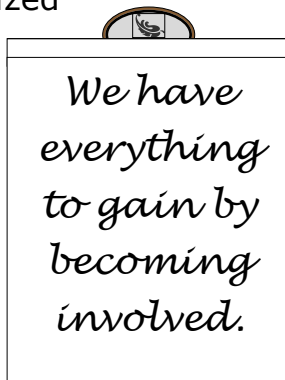
Committee has assessed the art hanging in common areas in each building on campus. The goal of these assessments is to remove inferior pieces and replace them with high quality paintings. So far, Merle reports, the committee has completed assessment and replacement of 90% of the art in Pearson and Montgomery and 99.9% of the art on Buckley's first floor. Beebe and the Health Care Center are finished and, as Altemeier has no common hallways and paintings in its lounge are fine, the committee is now focused on Buckley's second and third floors.

Merle and Netia want very much to encourage residents to begin using the Edwards Workshop to produce new original art for the Gallery upstairs and elsewhere.

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They are aware that many of us are quite intimidated by even thinking about producing original artwork. In grade school, many of us were taught to copy objects exactly. When we failed to draw true enough copies, we were criticized by our art teachers. These "failures" stifled our interest. Since those days, however, art has moved away from reflecting things that already exist to a much broader and deeper view of what is imagined and to interpretations of what is seen.

Merle suggests there are several ways to break through those childhood inhibitions, and she offered the following: "If you're right-handed, try painting at first with your left hand. Or two or three residents can create a painting together by taking turns adding brush strokes." As with any skill, the more you practice, the more capable you become in letting your imagination guide you and the



better your technique will be.

Fortunately, Merle and Netia are happy to offer their professionally trained eyes and teaching expertise to give suggestions and encouragement. In fact, both hope to offer classes to help prospective artists get started. Netia reports that the Workshop is "available for producing all kinds of art – beadwork, greeting cards, visiting grandchildren's projects, etc."

The Workshop is open at all times. So, despite my significant inhibitions, I plan to visit Edwards Gallery several more times to strengthen my resolve and gain inspiration. Then I'll go to the Workshop and have some fun exploring my heretofore thwarted creativity. I hope you'll join me on this adventure. We have everything to gain by becoming involved.

*Alice Breemer*

## WELCOME JENNY AND LUTHER ERICKSON - HTN

Though new to the Mayflower, Jenny and Luther Erickson are long-term and well-known residents of the greater Grinnell community. They came here in 1962 when Luther assumed a position in the chemistry department at Grinnell College after having taught for three years at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Luther served as a professor of chemistry at the college for 41 years, retiring as a Professor Emeritus in 2003. He still maintains an office in the Noyce Hall of Science and stays in contact with colleagues, as well as with an extensive

network of Grinnell College chemistry graduates. Many of these former students, Luther adds, with much deserved pride, have gone on to be leaders in their fields--many in medical practice or teaching and conducting research at prestigious colleges and universities across the country.

Luther and Jenny met at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where Luther earned his PhD in physical chemistry after completing his undergraduate work at St. Olaf College. Jenny was an undergraduate at her parents' alma mater. They were married in Jenny's hometown of Danville,

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Illinois.

Their first child, Louise, was born in Madison; five years later their son, Hans, was born in Grinnell. Louise and Hans both graduated from Grinnell High School before going on to college, Louise to Cornell College and Hans to Lawrence College. They are both married and each has two children. Hans and his family live in Palo Alto, CA; Louise and her family live in West Des Moines. Louise's children recently graduated from Grinnell College (Cy'11 and Eric'14); both are now living and working in Madison, Wisconsin, where this all began.

The Erickson's purchased their first Grinnell home, located at 1415 Summer Street, in 1963 and lived there for 25 years until they moved to 3 College Park Road where they lived for the next 25 years until they moved to their North Harwich Terrace address, 716 Broad Street.

Forty years ago they purchased a 27-acre tract of land west of Grinnell that continues to be a major focus of their time and interest. They have planted thousands of trees over the years: conifers, deciduous hardwoods, and an apple orchard. Ten acres are now devoted to a tall-grass prairie and a pond, built in 1973, is stocked with fish. You may notice Luther leaving Mayflower in his Jeep that you can recognize by the Green Bay Packer logo on the door and the license plate that says "Appleseed". (Luther grew up on a farm near Green Bay, Wisconsin, and hence the lifetime dedication to the Packers.)

After the children were older, Jenny began her career at the Forum at Grinnell College where she directed a student staff and helped to manage the many events occurring on campus. Ultimately she became the Director of the Forum and the Harris Center for several years before retiring in 1997. She has also served in leadership positions for many local community organizations and causes.

Among others, Jenny has been on the Grinnell Regional Medical Center Foundation Board, the Greater Poweshiek County Foundation Board, and is currently a Mayflower Trustee. She is enthusiastic about her roles in these organizations and her opportunity to give back to a community that her family has been part of for so many years. Jenny is also an experienced quilter and is a member of the Jewel Box Quilters. Several stunning examples of her quilting expertise are on display in their home.

Luther and Jenny plan to spend most of each year in their new Mayflower residence. They enjoy spending 2-3 weeks each winter on Sanibel Island, Florida, but there are too many things going on at the college and in the community for them to be gone long. They enjoy playing golf and Luther has already volunteered to assist with photography for the Log. Along with Jenny's service on the Mayflower Board, they are already making significant contributions to the Mayflower, and they are looking forward to welcoming many of their old friends as neighbors in the new Water Tower Square as they move there in a few months.

*Jeananne Schild*

**WELCOME ROSALIE HARTZELL - P 205**

Rosalie is the fortunate person who got to move into the Watertower Square model apartment in Pearson. Visiting her there, it appears to be a perfect fit. The apartment is neat and well decorated; Rosalie is a work of art too! She is happy there and says that coming to the Mayflower Community is the best decision she has ever made.

Rosalie was the second child of Gerritt and Mary Heitink. She was born in her parents' family home. As she was growing up, her mother was ill with a stomach disorder for many years, and Rosalie and her older brother had a "maid" in the home who helped raise the children. Her father was a farmer in an area southeast of Grinnell called the "Bethel Area," named for a church which many families attended in the area, the Bethel Church. He worked on the farm for several years and then went to work in a factory located in Kellogg. They continued to live on the farm but rented out their land.

After her schooling in the area where her family farm was located, Rosalie married Raymond Hartzell. They had three daughters: Kay, Vicki, and Kim. Kay lives in Ames with her husband who works for a company that makes the large corn poppers that you see in stores, banks, and at sports events. Rosalie laughs as she says that all the young people in their family own a large corn popper---the "damaged ones" that the company had to find homes for when they were not able to be sold. Vicki lives here in town and is employed by the Charnetski law office. Her youngest daughter, Kim works as a purchasing agent for Thombert, Inc.

Among the three daughters, Rosalie has six grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Rosalie had several different jobs outside the home as she raised her daughters. The

job she liked the most and stayed in the longest, was as a bookkeeper for the furniture store in Grinnell (in the building where Uhlmann's Furniture Store is now located). She liked working there because she could leave when her work was done and be home when her daughters returned from school.

Rosalie's husband, Ray, died in 1991, too young. He worked at Maytag in Newton as an area supervisor, retiring when he was 65.

After Ray's death, Rosalie, who had lived her whole life in the Grinnell area, decided to travel. This was a dream that she and Ray had planned for after his retirement. Unfortunately, he was not able to see the dream come true. But Rosalie bravely booked many trips through travel agencies and visited almost every state in the country by motor bus.

For the most recent years you could find Rosalie playing bridge with one of several bridge groups, or reading fiction books, or looking at a variety of magazines. I noted that she has a good eye for decorating, something she probably picked up at the furniture store.

Rosalie is a member of St. John's Lutheran church and continues to attend their morning circle. Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, who all live within a few hours but most live in Grinnell, are very much a part of her life and she enjoys attending their activities.

Rosalie hasn't gotten familiar with the entire Mayflower campus yet, but with her love of travel, I expect her to remedy that soon. Living so long in Grinnell, she surely knows many of the Mayflower Community already. We are happy you decided to come here, Rosalie!

*Karen Phillips*

**WELCOME BETTY and SANDY MOFFETT - HTN**

When asked why they recently made the decision to move to the Mayflower, Sandy and Betty Moffett said that, since arriving in Grinnell in 1971, they have always felt the presence of the Mayflower in their own lives, as well as in the greater community. They have many friends here; more will be coming with the completion of Watertower Square.

Their connection to the Mayflower began when they encouraged their parents to move here. Betty's father, Wade Ferguson, and Sandy's parents, Alex and Virginia Moffett, relocated from North Carolina to the Mayflower at about the same time. Betty noted that, unlike many retirement communities that emphasize their self-contained status, what they prize most about the Mayflower is that it is so much a part of the Grinnell and college communities.

When their friends, Beryl and Mary Lou Clotfelter, decided to move to the main campus from their North Harwich Terrace home, Sandy and Betty felt that it was the right time for them to relocate from their farm near Grinnell to the place where they knew they wanted eventually to be.

Sandy and Betty both grew up in a North Carolina town called LaGrange (population 2,000) with many churches and only one liquor store. While no one was ever seen patronizing the liquor store, the owners seemed to do well financially. Betty's parents were high school teachers; following graduation, she went to Raleigh, NC to attend St. Mary's Episcopal Girl's School, a junior college. From there she enrolled at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill where she and Sandy met.

Sandy was born in China where his father was a medical missionary. When events in China necessitated a move back to the United States, his family settled in Brenner Elk, a North Carolina mountain town with a population of about 50. The family later moved to Taylorsville, which was only somewhat larger. Sandy attended the University of North Carolina for two years following high school, then spent three years in the Army. He subsequently returned to UNC and completed his BA and MA degrees.

After their marriage, Sandy and Betty moved to Elon, NC, where Sandy taught theater at Elon College and Betty taught high school English. Betty describes this as the toughest and most challenging job she has ever had. They both worked in professional theater during this time. A friend of Sandy's told him about a job opening in the theater department at Grinnell College in Iowa. Another friend warned Betty that, should they decide to move there, they would be giving up "all things Southern." So they made the decision to accept the job with the idea that they would stay for only a short time until they could get back to North Carolina.

Contrary to their expectations, they so much liked both the land and the people of Grinnell; having grown up in small towns, they felt very comfortable here. With their three dogs, Sandy and Betty first rented a house in town; while the dogs were well behaved, they could do some barking on occasion. When they shared their dream of finding a place to buy in the country with their next door neighbor, the neighbor

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quickly agreed to help them find something.

Less than a year after coming to Iowa, they purchased a small farm near Grinnell and, over time, have been able to acquire adjacent land, most all of which is in a conservation easement and restored prairie. There they raised their son, Ruben, who is married and lives in Waunakee, Wisconsin with three children, ages 15, 12, and 10. Sandy and Betty spend time with them whenever possible and delight in interacting with their grandson and two granddaughters.

Betty was on the staff of the Writing Lab at Grinnell College for many years and, at the time of her retirement, was its director. She enjoyed being able to work with individual students, or small groups of students who were eager to learn. Now retired, Betty writes short stories and has had some luck in getting them published. She compares this latter task to fishing. It takes persistence and patience and lots of bait. She is also a Hospice volunteer, participates in Tai Chi, and has joined the Library Committee at the Mayflower.

Sandy describes himself as a failure at retirement. He served on the Poweshiek County Board of Supervisors from 2000-2004 and then again in 2012 to fill a vacant position. He was surprised to be

elected and then surprised again by how much he enjoyed the job. It was an opportunity to get to know and make friends with many people of diverse backgrounds and interests. He learned about how government functions locally and gained a greater perspective on the issues.

Sandy remains concerned and committed to environmental causes. He has also produced two plays at the College since retirement and continues to teach classes. Currently he is directing the play "Anna Christie," which will open on October 9. Sandy also likes to hunt and fish. The Moffetts share their home with a Labrador named Hyde who is also Sandy's hunting companion.

Through the years, Sandy and Betty have shared an interest in music. They describe growing up in families where making music together was their entertainment. At some point in time, which they don't exactly remember, they and a few other faculty members began gathering to sing and play instruments. This eventually became the "Too Many Strings Band" which has played in many venues in the area including the Mayflower.

We look forward to many more performances---as well as great conversations--- now that the Moffetts are residents of the Mayflower.

*Jeananne Schild*

### Correction

In our "Blessed Quilts" story, which appeared in the Summer 2014 issue of the *Log*, an editing error is to blame for the omission of an important part of the story. As you will recall, the ten women who comprise the quilting group at the Ripley United Church of Christ in Traer, Iowa, had been challenged to make 40 quilts in 40 days for a charity fund raising effort. The missing part is that these 10 women far surpassed their goal and made 90 quilts in 40 days! We thought you would want to know of this astonishing feat and the *Log* staff regrets the error.

## WELCOME WILMA VOSBURG - A 105

For Wilma Vosburg, moving to the Mayflower Community is like coming home. The Mayflower facilities building on Park Street was formerly the Vosburg Building Center of the family-owned lumber business where Wilma worked for years along side her late husband, Keith, and their son, Bill. But hers is not just an historical connection. Her daughter-in-law, Pam, is a familiar face to Mayflower residents visiting the business office in Pearson Hall.

Wilma was born to a farm family in Washington County, Iowa, one half of a set of twins, a boy and a girl. Her parents were Granville and Sadie (Davis) Love. She has an older brother, currently living in Reno, Nevada. Her mother's sister farmed the next property over in the Long Creek Welsh Settlement, which was, not surprisingly, 90% Welsh. When the twins were little more than a year old, their mother died from pneumonia. Wilma and the two boys were then cared for under the watchful eyes of her aunt and a live-in housekeeper named "Nan." Eventually their father remarried but, Wilma notes, it really does "take a village" to raise a child, remembering the five families living nearby who made sure the children were happy, loved, cared for, and got where they needed to go. She also remembers that her father never missed any of the children's games after school.

Wilma played six-on-six girls' basketball at Wyman Consolidated School, then went on to earn a provisional teaching certificate at Iowa State Teachers College, now the University of Northern Iowa. Her first teaching position was at Gilman, Iowa, where she met a lumberman named

Keith Vosburg. They married in 1950 and had three children. Bill lives here in Grinnell and owns his own home-renovation business. Wilma's two daughters are Lynn and Nancy. Lynn has retired to Murrells Inlet, South Carolina to live near her daughter and grandchildren. Nancy is the Chair of the Spanish Department at Stetson University in Deland, Florida.

Wilma has had a number of experiences that have helped shape and define her as the person she is today. One is that, in 1946, she was selected as a delegate to the very first Girls' State gathering at Grand View College. This was an important moment in her life which she remembers with pride.

Another amazing accomplishment was that she was, for 43 years, the executive secretary of the Poweshiek County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Her business skills were also invaluable to her husband's business, and she was a partner at the Vosburg Building Center. She also remembers a brief period in 1951 when Keith and his brother created The Ice Cream Cottage in Gilman, selling soft ice cream and driving to homes selling hard ice cream from a delivery truck. That lasted until 1955 when Keith felt the call to return to his roots in lumber. He moved his family to Grinnell where he worked with Homer Richardson in his lumber business. When Homer retired, Keith bought the business and started the Vosburg Building Center in Grinnell.

These days Wilma enjoys doing crossword puzzles, reading fiction, and being active in P.E.O. She is also an avid

*(Continued VOSBURG on page 9)*



## Once Upon a Time . . .

An energetic activities organizer and a veteran story teller walked into . . .and, that's the way the Mayflower Story Circle got started during the summer, 2013.

If you want to get the whole story, and lots more, come to the next meeting of the Story Circle---to be preceded by one of our

Mayflower home-made pizza evenings---on Saturday, December 27 in the Buckley Dining Room. A great way to add to your holiday cheer.

The Story Circle was the brain child of activities coordinator Anne Sunday and long-time storyteller Warren Reinecke.



**Becoming better listeners**

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*(Continued VOSBURG from page 8)*

bridge player and belongs to so many different bridge groups that she says she honestly could not fit in any more hands of bridge anywhere. She still keeps in touch with several of the widows of Keith's Army buddies, who were a large active group of friends that held reunions of their unit for many years following their service. She

and Keith traveled to many interesting places keeping up with this wonderful group of Army friends. Wilma has six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Aren't they lucky to have Wilma!

There's no doubt that Wilma is comfortable and feels very "welcomed" at the Mayflower!

*Karen Phillips*

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It helps residents share their memories and interesting experiences and learn more about the craft of storytelling. It's also a lot of fun for those in attendance who learn to be better listeners while being inspired (or provoked) to tell their own tales.

The Montgomery Lounge, usually the location of the Story Circle, has been equipped with a podium, microphone and amplification system which makes it easy for storytellers to be heard by all. Over the last year, the Story Circle has attracted a loyal group of participants such that 25 to 30 people are usually in attendance.

Anne and Warren developed some guidelines for topic-centered storytelling that work quite well. Each session focuses on a broad general topic; a recent session dealt with "buyer beware" stories and the December session will feature "holiday stories." Residents who have never shared a story at a previous session are privileged to go first. Participants are invited to receive each story in silence without making comments or asking questions. Discussion is then encouraged at the end of the hour-long session, by approaching individual storytellers.

Stories may be written (the creator may even ask someone else to read her story) or extemporized. If you have a second story to tell, you will have to wait until everyone has had the opportunity to share. After all those who have come with a prepared story on the theme have told it, any participant who has been inspired to share can come to the podium and tell their tale on the topic.

Warren, who once taught a course on

storytelling at the Iowa Valley Community College, has provided a brief guide, "Suggestions for Telling a Personal Ten-Minute Tale," which participants have found helpful in putting their stories together. When Warren and Nancy are wintering in Tucson, AZ they participate in a group called "Tellers of Tales." Using this experience, Warren reports, "we introduced personal stories in neighborhood social gatherings and we are still doing it. We suggested to Anne that we try it [at the Mayflower] on a campus-wide basis."

Come to listen and stay to tell!

*Harley Henry*



**Warren Reinecke**



**John Marwin**



**Barbara Rosfjord**

**Sharing their stories**

## THE STEWARDSHIP OF VOLUNTEERISM

**M**ayflower residents have a long history of stewardship. This issue of the *Log* reminds us of the many ways in which we nurture our community.

To my way of thinking, our "community" is both an institution which is not solely ours, and a group of people to which we belong.

Sustaining the institution not only makes our present situation better, just as importantly it helps the Mayflower prosper so that it will be there for future residents. In this sense, we are "stewards" in the original meaning of someone who takes good care of someone else's assets.

At the same time, it is hard to pass a day at the Mayflower and not feel the presence of the community we all experience and fully share with newcomers. I guess a majority of us assume that community also includes all of the Mayflower staff as well as everyone whose home address is the Mayflower.

At its October meeting, the MRA elected **ten** officers including new President Jeananne Schild and President-elect John Noer. It also elected **58** members to the **nine committees** represented on the MRA Executive Council.

Additionally, the following residents serve the community by assuming responsibility for a wide range of essential services.

**Van Drivers:** Lyle Kuehl, Shane Estes, John Noer, Steve Lovig, Greg Buntz.

**Campus Mail/Poster Distribution and Display:** Dorothy Christinson.

**Film Selection:** Jim Ahrens, Rey Evans, Tom Evans, Betty Anne Francis, Ann Stillman, Warren Reinecke.

**Film Projectionists/Popcorn Makers:** Jim and Sue Ahrens, Shane and Robin Estes, Jack and Walda Gustafson, John and Dorothy Noer, Gordon and Karen Packard.

**Art selection group:** Merle Zirkle, Warren Reinecke, Netia Worley.

**Buckley Dining Room Hosts:** Marilyn Schuler, Dorothy Christinson, Eva Story, Joan Baker, Barbara Fisher.

**Listening Group:** Art Heimann, Gladys Booth, Don Pederson, Nancy Smith, Deena Wellborn. (Staff members: Jackie Braack, Erin Gersdorf, Scott Gruhn.)

**New Resident Mentors (2014):** Sue and Jim Ahrens, Stan and Gail Greenwald, Deena Wellborn, Russ Leggett, Joan Baker, Eva Story, Nancy and Warren Reinecke, Sara and Gerry Adams, Barbara Fisher, Carolyn Runyan, Carol Nielsen.

**Neighborhood Hospitality Council (hall hosts):** Elaine Noe, Betty Anne Francis, Betty Weeks, Pat Groth, Bev Anderson, Dorothy Noer, Alice Breemer, Selva Lehman, Jeanette Tisdale, Gretchen Isenberg, Merle Zirkle, Nancy Hendrickson, Jan Lovig, Sue Ahrens, Gail Greenwald, Dot Anderson, Wilma Graden.

**Library Committee (includes "Informer" book reviewers):** Joan Baker, Alicemary Borthwick, Phyllis Christiansen, Robin Estes, Tom Evans, Carol Nielsen, Betty Anne Francis, Judy Kuehl, Betty Moffett.

**Weekly Grocery Deliverers (2014):** Judy and Lyle Kuehl, Virgil Groth, Stan Greenwald, Jack Gustafson, Bob Williams, Tom Marshall, Art Strawser, Bob Brierly, Dot and Bob Anderson, Dorothy Christinson, Warren Reinecke, David Turner, Gordon Borthwick, Don Pederson, Rey and Tom Evans.

**Theraband Instructors (2014):** Sue Ahrens, Gail Greenwald, Judy Kuehl, Marilyn Schuler.

*A recent quick estimate of the hours resident volunteers contribute (not including*

*(Continued STEWARDSHIP on page 12)*

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hours contributed to the Health Center and Beebe) came to more than 5,000 per year.

Lastly, this issue colorfully reveals **the transformation of the common areas in Edwards Hall** brought about by donations from residents, the talents of the artists who created and put on display

original works of art, and the skillful and long labors of the Art Committee.

Let's never take such generosity for granted, or fail to thank all who do so much for all of us. At the same time, let's give ourselves a collective pat on the back for a job well done.

*Harley Henry*

**EDWARDS ART GALLERY FEATURES PAINTINGS BY  
SARA PEAK CONVERY**



Robert G. Mann, Executive Director  
616 Broad St., Grinnell, Iowa 50112  
(641) 236-6151  
<http://www.mayflowercommunity.org>

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