

Historic Penn Center

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showing Civil Rights leaders marching through a sea of oppressive headlines from the *Georgia Gazette* in 1797. During our discussions about life and love and the loss of both, he found a document. 'Do you realize this agreement dates back to 1865?' he asked me. I had never before seen the document. 'We date back to 1665 in these parts,' I responded; my mother's family, the Upchurches, who were large slaveholders, were the first to settle with in Raleigh, NC, with a Queen's Grant. Then he went on to read the words from the fragile piece of family history that told how a slave woman and her 6 year-old daughter had been 'presented' as a gift to my family in on Christmas day, 1865. We both stopped, shuddered, hugged and then went back to the work at hand. The reason I mention this story is that it illustrates why I am compelled, both artistically and genetically, to fuse art and our shared history in a compelling fashion. As I often say, art has the power to transform society and compel history to more accurately and compassionately reveal the nuances that reflect reality and hopefully inform and compel the myth that will always exist about who and what we are."

Morris studied art in his college days at Tulane University in New Orleans. He earned his BA degree in English and spent many years working in the media, as a staff reporter at the *Atlanta-Journal Constitution*, an editor at *Atlanta Magazine*, feature editor at *Creative Loafing* in Atlanta, and a speech writer for former Georgia Governor Roy Barnes. In 2006 Morris started painting again and his show of "Twenty" watercolors at The Book Lady received much acclaim in Savannah

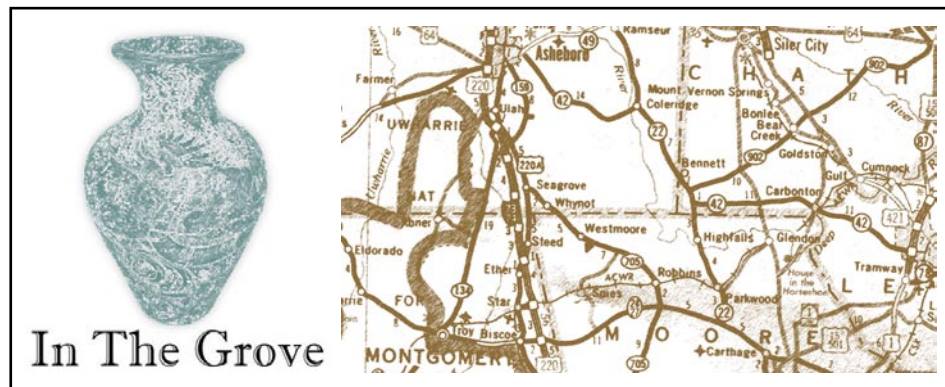


A Slaver with Daughter, by Robert C. Morris where he is also locally known as the Director of External Affairs for the Georgia Ports Authority.

This collection, *Slavery By Another Name: Paintings and Assemblages*, travels as a whole and none of the pieces are currently for sale; Morris' goal is to keep the collection together for maximum impact. The show first opened in 2010 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, DC. It has traveled to the Telfair Museum in Savannah, GA, in 2012, where it was the most well attended show in the history of that Museum with well over ten thousand people coming in to experience it. It has since been to Atlanta, GA, where it was held at Mason Murer Fine Art in conjunction with the National Black Arts Festival, and it will come to Penn from the Auburn Avenue Research Library in Atlanta, GA.

Daily admission to Heritage Days is \$7 for adults and \$5 for youth.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 843/838-2432 or visit (www.penncenter.com).



In The Grove

by Rhonda McCanless

Anyone familiar with Seagrove, NC, knows that November is the biggest month of the year for Seagrove potters. They've spent months preparing for the weekend before Thanksgiving when nearly every potter in the area packs up their work and carries it to the Celebration of Seagrove Potters, the Seagrove Pottery Festival, and in some cases, both.



One of the collaborative works to be auctioned by Jugtown Pottery and JLK Jewelry

The big weekend starts with the Celebration Gala Preview Party, Nov. 16, at the historic Luck's Cannery, located at 798 NC Highway 705. Tickets for the Gala are \$40 and include a pass for all three days of the Celebration. The evening begins at 6pm and will include a fully catered reception by Something Different Restaurant (www.eatsomethingdifferent.com), the chance to bid on special collaborative pots, live music, the opportunity to meet

and chat with all the participating potters, see all the booths and of course, shop before the marketplace opens Saturday morning. Gala tickets can be purchased online at the Celebration website (www.celebrationofseagrovepotters.com).

The Celebration continues November 17, from 9am to 6pm, with a silent auction from 9am to 3pm, and November 18, from 10am to 4pm. Admission is \$5, and children 12 and under get in free. There will be children's hands-on activities. Potters will perform demonstrations, and hold historical and educational talks throughout the weekend.

The Seagrove Pottery Festival will be held from 9am to 5pm, Nov. 17 & 18 at Seagrove Elementary School, located at 528 Old Plank Road. A Raku firing will be done on site. There will also be demonstrations of throwing pots and designing pieces. A live auction will be held Sunday at 4pm. Admission is \$5, and children 12 and under get in free.



Work from Piney Woods Pottery

This year's featured potters at the Festival are Johnnie and Georgia Maness from Piney Woods Pottery in Star, NC.

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They specialize in sculpted anthropomorphic pottery in whimsical figures. They also create hand-painted traditional and functional wares. For more information about Piney Woods, visit (www.pineywoods pottery.net). For more information about the Festival, contact Martha Graves at 336/873-7887 or e-mail to (ncpottery122@embarqmail.com).

The North Carolina Pottery Center (NCPC) will feature a new exhibition, *Ceramic Art of NC University and College Faculty*, on view from Nov. 10 through Jan. 19, 2013. Faculty from Appalachian State University, Barton College, East Carolina University, Elon College, Fayetteville State University, Greensboro College, Guilford College, High Point University, Meredith College, UNC Chapel Hill, UNC Charlotte, UNC Greensboro, UNC Wilmington, Warren Wilson College, Western Carolina University and Wingate University will participate in the exhibition.

An opening reception will be held Nov. 10, from noon until 2pm at the NCPC. An illustrated catalog documenting the work will accompany the show and be available for purchase. For more information, visit (www.ncpotterycenter.org).

Also on Nov. 10, 5th generation Seagrove potter Chad Brown will fire the groundhog kiln on the NCPC lawn. The firing process takes about 15 hours and uses two cords of wood. The public is welcome to come out and view the firing.

Westmoore Pottery will host "Stepping Back in Time: Hearth Cookery" on Nov. 3. Karen Becker from Frontier Culture Museum is the featured historical cook and will demonstrate German style cooking. The program will demonstrate cooking that would have been done by settlers of Germanic background in the 18th century. Becker will prepare gumbis, which she describes as "the ancestor of crock pot cookery." Visit (www.westmoorepottery.com) to find out more.

Thomas Pottery will hold a Holiday Open House on Dec. 1, featuring a large selection of snow scene dinnerware, serving pieces and decorative ware, as well as woodland angels, candle holders, holiday trays and tree ornaments. The shop will be decorated for the season. Studio tours and refreshments will be offered. For more information, visit (www.thomaspottery.com).

Michèle Hastings and Jeff Brown Pottery will host a Holiday Open House on Dec. 8 & 9. New pots will be available



Works by Michèle Hastings & Jeff Brown for Christmas gift giving. Patron Supporters of Seagrove Potters will receive a special discount. Festive refreshments will be served. Visit (www.gypspotters.net) for more information. To find out more about the Patron Supporters program, visit (www.discoverseagrove.com/membership.asp).



Works from STARworks Glass

STARworks Glass in Star, NC, will hold a Holiday Ornament Sale & Open House on Dec. 1, from 10am to 1pm. Hundreds of handmade ornaments and gifts will be available. The public is invited to come watch glassblowing demonstrations and enjoy holiday refreshments. For more information about STARworks, visit (www.starworksnc.org).

As mentioned in last month's column, Cady Clay Works 2012 Wood-fired Kiln Opening is Nov. 3, from 9am to 5pm. The opening will feature over 600 new pots from the shop's most recent wood firing. Kiln tours will be available. For more information, call 910/464-5661.

Rhonda McCanless is editor and publisher of *In the Grove*, a monthly newsletter about Seagrove, NC, that focuses on pottery news. Click the link to see the latest issue. Rhonda works full-time for Central Park NC in Star and can sometimes be found at her husband's pottery shop, Eck McCanless Pottery, located at 6077 Old US Highway 220 in Seagrove, NC. She can be reached at 336/879-6950 or e-mail to (professional_page@rtmc.net).

Artists League of the Sandhills in Aberdeen, NC, Offers Group Show

Artists League of the Sandhills in Aberdeen, NC, will present the *18th Annual Art Exhibit & Sale* at the Exchange Street Gallery in Aberdeen, NC, on view from Nov. 9 through Dec. 27, 2012. A reception will be held on Nov. 9, from 6-8pm. Meet the artists as they paint in their studios Nov. 10, from 10am-4pm and Nov. 11, from 10am-3pm.

With approximately 500 original works of art created by local professional and amateur artists, this is an ideal occasion to obtain the perfect artwork for your home or as a gift for the approaching holiday season. Oils, watercolors, acrylics, pastels, colored pencils, inks and mixed media in a variety of styles, sizes, and prices are available for the discerning customer.

Each year the President of the Artists League has a painting featured on the exhibition post card and in promotional materials. This year Linda Bruening's oil painting, "Ribbons of Light", is the featured work. She moved to the Sandhills in 2006 and has been a Board Member of the Artists League for five years. A former high school art teacher, the League offered Bruening the opportunity to renew her love of art and to concentrate on oil painting.

Bruening's studio at the League reflects her choice of landscape, waterscape, and still life as subject matter; reflects her interest in unusual angles, levels and perspectives; and captures the various light, shadow, reflection and color that give her paintings such a unique quality. She finds ordinary scenes and objects that pique her



Work by Linda Bruening

interest and studies their integral design, form, color or lighting conditions. She feels that, "A painting should be a visual presentation of something that the artist wants the viewer to interact with. Paintings are about experiences - mine as a painter and yours as a viewer."

Harry Neely, winner of the People's Choice Award 2011, donated an original oil painting for the raffle being held on Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012. The painting, "The Garden Trove" (\$900 value), is a 14" x 18" framed oil on linen.

Neely enjoys blending the classical craftsmanship and technique of the masters with the paints, media and materials of today. He calls his style "contemporary classical." His paintings have been recognized and awarded by museum curators, artists, and internationally renowned critics. Tickets may be purchased from ALS members, the League office or at the Exchange Street Gallery. A book of six tickets is available for

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