



THE GUILD  
OF THE  
JACKSONVILLE  
SYMPHONY

*Guild Notes*



Anita Geiger, President

Bonnie Clutterbuck, Editor

March 2009

## Showhouse - Advance Information

Dear Guild Members,

The Jacksonville Symphony Guild is honored to present its 34<sup>th</sup> Designer Showhouse at Ortega Landing & Marina, one of the First Coast's most distinctive condominium developments located on the beautiful Ortega River at the mouth of the St Johns River.

MLG Communities, a national award-winning builder/developer, has created a prestigious enclave blending luxurious residences with serene landscapes, majestic river views, and a tranquil respite along the historic Ortega River. Twenty-one of the area's most respected designers, including design students from the Art Institute of Jacksonville, have provided the finishing touches to the interior spaces of the two show homes, incorporating many environmentally friendly products. In addition to touring the show homes, patrons are offered the chance to view, at dockside, several stately custom yachts built by the Huckins Yacht Corporation, an internationally known and revered custom yacht building business based in Jacksonville since 1928.

The Guild sincerely thanks MLG Communities, sponsors, benefactors and contributors, designers, and the 1,300 volunteers whose support and generosity enable The Guild to organize and host this annual fund-raiser. Proceeds benefit the Jacksonville Symphony Guild in its support of the Jacksonville Symphony Association, as well as The Guild's music education programs.

Welcome to a quiet and inspirational interlude along the Ortega Landing & Marina and most of all, welcome to the 2009 Designer Showhouse at Ortega Landing & Marina!

Anita Geiger, President

## **“A Fabulous Day in Historic Avondale”**

**Preview Luncheon  
\$60.00 per person  
Featuring Tony Sirianni  
Concert Pianist & Design Guru**

**Thursday, May 14**

Be the first to celebrate the opening of the 2009 34th Symphony Guild Designer Showhouse at Ortega Landing & Marina by joining The Guild on a fabulous day in Historic Avondale.

Begin the day at 10:30 a.m. with a bit of the bubbly at Avondale Gift Boutique. Then browse the many unique shops along St Johns Avenue before enjoying a delectable courtyard luncheon at Sterlings of Avondale, where the distinctive table arrangements have been provided by Anita's Garden Shop & Design.

While enjoying a casual lunch, be prepared to be enlightened, entertained and inspired by Tony Sirianni! From Carnegie Hall in New York City to Antique Row in Palm Beach, concert pianist and design guru, Tony has made his mark in the world of art, music and design. Now one of the preeminent resources for A-list designers and clients around the globe, Tony will bring his inimitable style and vision to the Showhouse Preview Luncheon.

As lunch ends, experience a special program with you in mind. In addition, the Avondale Merchant Association has graciously donated door prizes and gift bags. In the early afternoon, only a few minutes away, tour the Designer Showhouse at Ortega Landing & Marina, AND shop 'til you drop in the Showhouse retail “*Boatique*”.

Complete your day by dropping into Gardners of Ortega. Here you will toast the culmination of an exciting kick-off to the 2009 Showhouse and take with you a floral treat as the finale to a fabulous day in Historic Avondale!

Early reservations required as space is limited. To make reservations, call (904) 280-2373.

## **“Harbour Lights”**

**Evening Preview Party at Ortega Landing & Marina  
\$100.00 per person  
Friday, May 15**

Celebrate the opening of the 2009 Symphony Guild Designer Showhouse at the “Harbour Lights” preview party.

This special evening centers around the understated ambience of Ortega Landing's marina and pool with sensational views of the beautiful Ortega River. Dine on a fabulous menu created by Chef Arden of Arden's Kafe & Katering with a distinct tropical flair while listening to a light jazz trio. Many of this year's talented designers will be on hand to offer their unique perspectives of the show homes. And, Huckins Yacht Corporation will have some of their custom stately yachts moored at the marina for viewing.

Please join The Guild for a festive evening of tropical cuisine and soothing jazz enhanced by the tranquil setting of Ortega Landing.

Advance reservations required. To make reservations or for further information, contact The Guild at (904) 358-1479.

## **Designer Night**

**Thursdays, May 21, May 28 & June 4**

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Don't miss the opportunity to meet this year's participating designers each Thursday evening throughout the Showhouse. It's a wonderful opportunity to ask questions and hear the designers explain in detail how they created their inspirational spaces.

After casually strolling through the show homes in the soft evening's glow, conclude the evening with a complimentary glass of wine by the river, provided by PRP Wines. In addition, new Guild members will be serving complimentary appetizers from “*Sounds Delicious*”, The Guild's cookbook released in 2008.

## **Art and History Tour**

**Saturday, May 23**

Join us for a day of informal fun. Your adventure begins with a tour of the 2009 Symphony Guild Designer Showhouse at Ortega Landing & Marina before heading to the Museum of Southern History, a short distance away on Herschel Street. Museum guides will highlight the area's colorful history, and the important role that the Ortega and St Johns Rivers have played. Afterwards, walk or drive the few blocks to The Framing Establishment and The Corse Gallery & Atelier to meet local artists and view collections of local and national art.

A "passport" for this delightful day provides an opportunity to win a watercolor by Carole Mehrrens. Light refreshments will be served at the museum as well as in both galleries between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Visit all four venues and you will be eligible for a wonderful drawing!

Enjoy this day filled with art and history – all for the price of a Showhouse general admission ticket!

For additional information go online at [www.waters-edge.com/showhouse](http://www.waters-edge.com/showhouse) or call The Guild at (904) 358-1479.

## **Designers' Sale**

**Monday, June 8**

9 a.m. to 12:00 noon

See something you can't live without at the Showhouse? Many of the unique items displayed through the show homes will be offered for sale to the public the day after the closing of the Showhouse, some at reduced prices. All sales final. Cash and carry. Cash or Checks only. Unless prior arrangements are made with the designer, deliveries will not be available and must be removed from the Showhouse by June 11. Due to insurance restrictions, no children under 11 will be permitted, including babies in arms.

## **St Johns River Cruise**

**Wednesday, May 27**

The Guild has planned a very special day focusing on the luxurious 2009 Designer Showhouse at Ortega Landing & Marina and the St Johns River. Enjoy a leisurely morning tour through the two elegantly appointed show homes, each with majestic river views. Stroll along the Ortega Landing dock to view the stately custom yachts moored at the marina.

At noon, an epicurean box lunch will be provided poolside, while relaxing and enjoying the breathtaking view of the Ortega River.

Join The Guild for an informative two-hour river cruise along the St Johns River with our guest host Neil Armingeon, The Riverkeeper, for the entire excursion. Learn about the river, so vital to our area and what is being done to protect it for future generations. After departing the water taxi, don't forget to shop 'til you drop in the Showhouse retail "*Boatique*".

St. Johns Riverkeeper is a private non-profit organization that serves as a full-time advocate and "watchdog" for the St. Johns River and the public to whom it belongs.

Advance reservations required; space is limited. Contact The Guild office at (904) 358-1479. \$65.00 per person includes admission to show homes, lunch and river taxi cruise.

## **Peoples' Choice Award**

Have you ever visited the Symphony Showhouse and wished you had the opportunity to choose your favorite designer and/or design space? This is your chance. For the third year in a row, the Peoples' Choice Award will be presented to the designer who receives the most votes.

While touring the Showhouse this year, please pay close attention to your favorite spaces. Ballots will be distributed upon entering, listing each space and its designer. At the end of your tour, visit the Showhouse retail "*Boatique*" to cast your ballot. An award will be presented to the winning designer following the Showhouse closing.

## **Guest Speaker Series\*\***

\*\*Please call The Guild office at (904) 358 – 1479 for the latest information on speaker events and times (subject to change).

This year's Showhouse Guest Speaker Series offers a wide variety of topics; the speakers are highly acclaimed in their respective fields and are eager to share their professional insights. The Guild gratefully thanks these talented individuals for sharing their time and distinguished talents in support of the Symphony Showhouse.

The lectures are being held at Ortega Landing; admission to one lecture of your choice is included with a tour of the condos and marina. You may attend an additional lecture by purchasing a \$5.00 ticket at the retail "Boatique" located in the Showhouse.

### **Artistry with Cakes Tuesday, May 19 at 10:15 a.m.**

Sheila Norton – Sheila's Cakes & Specialty Treats

Turn ordinary cakes into extraordinary special cakes of inspiration and love. Sheila will share cake decorating hints and essential techniques that will create unforgettable party moments. And bring your sweet tooth. Sheila will provide samples!

Sheila Norton, founder and owner of Sheila's Cakes & Specialty Treats, has provided cakes, cookies and other desserts for over eight years to Jacksonville and surrounding communities. She is a member of several professional bakers' associations and most recently was named the KNOT's "2008 Pick of the Year for Wedding Cakes in Northeast Florida".

### **Gardening with Florida Native Plants Wednesday, May 20 at 10:15 a.m.**

James Loper – Reflections of Nature Landscaping and Garden Center

Create a unique habitat with Florida native plants – plants that grow naturally in Northeast Florida and have been tested over time by Mother Nature. James Loper will share his enthusiasm and extensive knowledge of gardening with native plants – from butterfly gardening to designing roof and wall gardens. Bring your pads, pencils, and questions to help you get started planting.

James Loper is a recognized horticulturist of Florida native plants and has designed eco-friendly landscapes throughout northeast Florida. He is a member of Florida Native Plant Society, Association of Florida Native Nurseries, Florida Green Building Collation, and US Green Building Council. He has a Landscape Technology Degree from Lake City Community College and attended the University of Florida for Landscape Architecture.

### **The St. Johns River: Jacksonville's Greatest Natural Resource Thursday, May 21 at 10:15 a.m.**

Neil Armingeon – St. Johns Riverkeeper

The St. Johns River is one of this Planet's most unique water bodies, and not just because it flows north! The St Johns is home to over 180 fish species and countless plants and animals. Come learn about the St. Johns and hear why Jacksonville is so blessed to have this magnificent body of water as the centerpiece of our community.

Neil Armingeon is our St. Johns Riverkeeper, and one of Florida's most recognized environmental leaders. He has lead efforts to protect the St. Johns from polluters and central Florida's desire to remove millions of gallons of water from the River to meet their insatiable thirst. Neil is a graduate of Duke University's School of the Environment, and he has received numerous awards for his dedication to the St. Johns River.

### **Seasonal Cooking with a Flair Thursday, May 28 at 10:15 a.m.**

Eric and Donna Fritsche  
Pastiche Restaurant and Catering

Spring is a wonderful time to bring the garden into the kitchen. Eric and Donna Fritsche from Avondale's Pastiche Restaurant will share their thoughts on cooking with the seasons featuring wonderful locally grown seasonal produce from Twinn Bridges Farms in Macclenny. They will provide scrumptious samples, take-home recipes, and local sources for the freshest ingredients.

Pastiche Restaurant and Catering, now in its seventh year, offers an unique, seasonally adjusted cuisine, blending modern American dining with traditional French and Mediterranean cooking. For more information please check the web at [www.mypastiche.com](http://www.mypastiche.com).

**Rug Art for Distinctive Interiors  
Friday, May 29 at 10:15 a.m.**

Ray Gamertsfelder – Rug Art

Decorate with distinctive rugs! Ray Gamertsfelder, highly acclaimed for his inspired artistic flair, designs unique rugs to reflect individual tastes and decorating styles – from Florida modern to traditional. Creating rugs that fit challenging areas, with select colors and varied textures, is his forte! Ray will have photos and samples as he shows the various stages of rug construction and the many possibilities of rug design – limited only by the imagination.

Originally from the South Florida area, Ray Gamertsfelder works with designers and discriminating clients throughout the First Coast to create unique rugs that enhance and complement interior spaces.

**History along the Rivers  
Tuesday, June 2 at 10:15 a.m.**

Van Seagraves – The Museum of Southern History

Join Van as he looks back through the fascinating history of the Ortega / Avondale / Riverside area and the importance of the St. Johns and Ortega Rivers. Learn about some of the prominent families that helped make this area the treasured jewel that it is today.

After a successful military career Van Seagraves and his family moved to Avondale which has allowed him to pursue his passion for American history, especially the mid-nineteenth century. He has been curator of the Museum of Southern History for five years and enjoys giving private tours as well as group lectures on a variety of historical topics.

**Floral Design -- Focus, Filler and Form –  
Wednesday, June 3 at 10:15 a.m.**

David Snyder – Curly Willow

Now is the time to accessorize your home with colorful late spring and early summer arrangements. David Snyder, highly acclaimed for his imaginative flair, will share design hints and insights as he shows us how to create simple yet elegant floral accents.

David Snyder's work is well known throughout Northeast Florida as unique and varied from intimate weddings, custom floral arrangements and made-to-order gift baskets. During his extensive career in floral design Mr. Snyder has provided arrangements for a wide range of clients including most recently President George W. Bush.

**Staying Your Best After 40  
Thursday, June 4 at 10:15 a.m.**

Wesley C. Mills, M.D. – First Coast Primary Care

Looking and feeling your best is easier when you eat properly, exercise regularly, and follow preventive healthcare routines. Dr. Mills will share recent medical and nutritional study findings that you can easily incorporate with your daily routine for more energetic, healthier lifestyle.

Dr. Mills scope of practice encompasses the treatment and evaluation of all primary care issues and those of a sports medicine and musculoskeletal nature. He is a member of several national professional organizations; additionally Dr. Mills is the team physician for the Jacksonville Barracudas semi-pro hockey team and the Englewood H.S. football team, for the Jacksonville Barracudas semi-pro hockey team and the Englewood H.S. football team.

**Putting Your Best Face Forward: Achieving and  
Maintaining a Refreshed Look  
Friday, June 5 at 10:15 a.m.**

Jeffrey H. Wachholz, M.D.  
The Wachholz Clinic, P.A.

Look your best with a refreshed and radiant face. Learn the inside tips on enhancing one's beauty. Great treatments and techniques will be revealed and gimmicks will be exposed! Learn what *really* works and what really doesn't - for both you and your pocket book.

Dr. Wachholz, Board Certified Facial Plastic Surgeon and President Elect of the Florida Society of Facial Plastic Surgery, has maintained his *chic* clinic in historic Riverside for nearly a decade. His absolute focus is cosmetic and aesthetic treatment of the face and neck. He is a frequent guest lecturer on both non-invasive and cutting edge techniques for facial enhancement.

## Showhouse Volunteers Needed

You will be receiving your docent recruitment letter soon. Please read it and pick out the dates you would like to volunteer. You will notice there are several extra days/events to volunteer: preview luncheon, preview party, Thirsty Thursdays and the art walk. Perhaps one of these would better fit your schedule than the regular shifts. We are once again having the black and white dress code. There were several comments by visitors that we looked so professional.

We cannot guarantee a sitting position this year. If you cannot stand for the 3 hour shift, with a break of course, please do not volunteer. If you would like to volunteer but feel you need a sitting job Marge Nussmeyer can use you. She is in charge of ticket sellers at the door. Give her a call and volunteer with her group. So you see, there is always something you can do at the Showhouse.

And, if you cannot volunteer this year, we hope you will be visiting the Showhouse. It is going to be beautiful.

## Showhouse Tickets

For your convenience, all Guild members will be mailed 4 tickets at \$12.00 each - a 40% discount from those purchased at the door! One for you and the rest to share with family or friends.

Additionally, discount tickets are available for groups of ten or more for \$12. When purchasing as a group, you not only receive a tremendous discount, but group ticket holders do not have to attend the same time or on the same day! Group tickets must, however, must be purchased prior to May 11. Please note, group tickets will not be available for sale at the door. Please contact Eleanor Hughes for additional group sales information.

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