

epiphany

A Publication of HSPVA Friends

Spring 2010



HSPVA **Friends**

Supporting excellence in the arts and education in the Greater Houston Area

C O M M E N T A R Y

It's Time!

by Mary Martha Lappe

excellence in the arts has established Houston as an international artistic center. Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts has supported that reputation for almost four decades. It's time that we once more turn the spotlight on HSPVA's critical facility needs by committing the resources necessary to ensure its future excellence.

Since its inception in an old converted synagogue in 1971, HSPVA has been a shining star in the crown of the Houston Independent School District. Its track record of achievements in the arts and academics made it a model for subsequent magnet and charter schools nation-wide. After moving to another site in 1982, HSPVA has persevered in spite of a facility that is now woefully out-dated. Classrooms are severely over-crowded. Performance venues for all the arts are completely inadequate. Programs in creative writing, musical theatre, along with technology advances in the arts, have been virtually ignored due to the lack of space, staffing, and equipment.

With new arts schools being built in recent years in Dallas, Detroit, Denver, and Los Angeles, Houston's proponents of excellence in public education and the arts are left wondering when those whose mandate it is to provide school facilities will finally address this issue. Without a facility that is commensurate to the needs of its students and its programs, the school's future is in jeopardy. It's time to recognize that excellence in education is not synonymous to elitism. Just as low performing schools deserve attention by those in charge, recognizing Houston's highly respected art school's well-documented need for a new facility also deserves support! It's time!

The Piano Project

When HSPVA officials discovered late in October 2009 that the company that had generously provided pianos for the Music Department would no longer be able to do so and that, in fact, most would be reclaimed at the end of December, a state of emergency arose. After all, how can a department that relies on pianos in all vocal and instrumental rehearsal and practice rooms function without them? Music Department Chair Pat Bonner confesses that when she got the news, "I went into total shock. We have to deal on a daily basis with the lack of practice

and performance space for our students, but much of our program would be completely handicapped without pianos."

Not to worry. When word of the crisis got out, a variety of forces converged to save the day. After the Music Department instructors determined that they would need 12 pianos, former HSPVA graduates Agelia Perez Marquez (Dance) and Nancy Rose (Visual Art) alerted other alumni who generously contributed to the cause, while HSPVA Friends contacted private donors who also stepped up to the plate. The Music Department

used funds that the HSPVA school store, headed by Terri Brown, donates to every art and academic department annually. Finally, after a story on the piano crisis was aired on the local ABC affiliate KTRK, a number of private citizens offered to donate pianos from their homes.

Therefore, a couple of weeks after the spring semester began, there was once again a full complement of pianos for use by those instrumental and vocal students that so depend on them. Ms. Bonner expressed the department's gratitude. She says



HSPVA Piano Studies Head Rodolfo Morales with piano student, Alexandra Weaver.

"We were overwhelmed by the generosity of the community, the HSPVA Friends, the alumni, and the school store. They truly saved the day for us."

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(Names included are those received by HSPVA Friends by March 1 printing deadline)

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Shoshanna Kahne is a 12th grade Visual Arts Major at HSPVA

Cover Artist

Landscape, backdrop, setting, and place define life in ways beyond people, things, even ideas do. Environments enjoy a tangled mess of intricate influence over our day-to-day, season-to-season, generation-to-generation. Geography, architecture, atmosphere, and history all change a place from person-to-person. I am one person, both the culmination of many places and the definer of future spaces.

Warning Bells

Dark turbulent waters,
deep misty air,
sea spray upon my face,
the chill in the air.

Can you hear it,
the music in the wind?
So empty, so clear,
The tune whispers something...

A Warning!

Evil's theme song,
the mournful melody.
Tragedy, harmony, little faeries dancing.
The sea knows,
it hisses warnings,
Evil unrestrained -
its great might at dusk.

Dark turbulent waters,
deep misty air,
sea spray upon my face,
the chill in my heart.

-Marisa Doherty, 9th grade, Visual Arts



HSPVA Receives the Ann Holmes Dance Library

the HSPVA Dance Department has received the extensive dance library of Ann Holmes, the long time Fine Arts Critic/Editor of the Houston Chronicle and nurturer of the Houston cultural scene. Ms Holmes died last year. DJ Hobdy, trustee of the estate of Ms Holmes, notified HSPVA Friends of the donation last fall.

Ann Holmes was born April 25, 1922 to Fred Holmes, a newsman with Scripps Howard newspapers, and Joy C. Holmes, a self-taught artist. She attended schools in El Paso and Birmingham, Alabama, and went to Whitworth College in Brookhaven, Miss. on an acting scholarship. She joined the staff of the Houston Chronicle in 1942, at the age of twenty, as copy messenger where she served as military editor, social services writer and court reporter before joining the arts staff. She became arts editor and chief critic in 1948. After retiring, she authored several books and worked part time as critic at large until 1999.

Ms. Holmes covered the Alley Theatre, the Houston Ballet and the Houston Grand Opera from their inception to their rise to national prominence. She was considered a fair and honest critic, but she was an avid fan as well.



During her career Ann Holmes covered the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and the openings of New York's Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

She had a strong interest in architecture and watched with pride the construction of Houston's major arts facilities

such as Jones Hall, The Alley Theatre and the Wortham Theatre Center. Her columns were crucial in first declaring the need for those venues, then influencing plans for their design and function.

LuAnne Carter, the coordinator of the HSPVA Dance Department, says the school is proud and gratified to receive the dance collection of the late, great arts critic, and that students are already benefiting from their use of the books.

Dancer Named a Finalist in Prestigious National Competition

HSPVA Dance Department senior Robbie Moore has been named a finalist in the 2009 YoungArts Competition. YoungArts is considered a core program of the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts, which has as its mission nurturing and supporting young artists as they pursue their dreams. Being chosen after a year-long nationwide competition means that Robbie is one of only 8 dancers and only 150 finalists in all art areas to be named finalists in a competition that begins with the registration of 6,000 – 7,000 students each year. Of this year's finalists, 20 will be named Presidential Scholars in the Arts and will be honored at a reception in Washington, D.C.

Robbie's success in the prestigious NFAA/YoungArts competition is not surprising when one considers the intensity of his involvement in dance. A scholarship recipient with the Children's Foundation for the Arts since 2004 and a Texas Commission on the Arts Young Masters'



LuAnne Carter, Chair of the HSPVA Dance Department and Robbie Moore.

Award recipient since 2008, he has been a member of HSPVA's Concert Dancers since his sophomore year at the school. His summer studies include the Juilliard Summer Intensive and the EDGE Performing Arts Center. As a result of his involvement in the YoungArts competition, Robbie has been invited to be one of the featured performers at the National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts/YoungArts Baryshnikov Center Performance in New York the week of April 19.

LuAnne Carter, Chair of the HSPVA Dance Department, notes that "Robbie is a passionate dancer with amazing self-discipline, drive, and commitment to his art form. He has been featured by several guest and faculty choreographers during his tenure at HSPVA. We are so very proud of Robbie and his accomplishments."



"Portrait"
by Mandie
Brasington,
12th grade,
Visual Arts



**"Beauty and
the Beast"**
by Portlyn
Tagavi,
12th grade,
Visual Arts

Today Monica Chau is a nationally acclaimed photographer. She was a 1977 dance graduate and began studying photography in an HSPVA dance photography class. From HSPVA she furthered her education at the University of Houston and holds an M.F.A. in photography from California Institute of the Arts. She was a Helena Rubinstein Fellow in the Whitney Museum of American Art's Independent Study Program and a Fellow in the American Photography Institute's National Graduate Seminar. She has taught at many distinguished institutions such as the University of California Irvine, American Film Institute, University of Houston, and New York University / Tisch School of the Arts. Currently, she is a Web Designer for the University of Southern Maine, a Principal at digjam studio and a faculty member at the International Center for Photography, New York. She lives with her husband on the coast of Maine and has had several exhibitions at the Portland Museum of Art. "The total art experience at HSPVA was instrumental in nurturing the artist voice within me."



Monica Chau

World Class Photographer



"The total art experience at HSPVA was instrumental in nurturing the artist voice within me."

Alumni in the News

Bianna Golodriga, HSPVA Theatre graduate from 1996 and the daughter of Russian immigrants, is now an acclaimed business and economic news anchor with ABC often appearing on Good Morning America. From HSPVA, Bianna studied at the University of Texas at Austin where she majored in Russian/East European and Eurasian Studies with a minor in economics. After working as a financial advisor for a short time and missing the experience of performing in front of an audience, she began doing financial news for CNBC



Bianna Golodriga

television in 2001 as a producer from the New York Stock Exchange. After 9/11 she interviewed many top business leaders, traveled extensively covering international financial meetings, and in 2004 she was named one of the top journalists under the age of 30.

Chris Lane, HSPVA Theatre graduate from 2000, is now Acquisition Manager for MGM Technical Services. After a one-year search, he recently found an original copy of the American classic film, *West Side Story*. The film had been lost for almost 40 years. He restored the original 4-track and also a 6-track of its music and effects tape so that it could be dubbed into French and German. MGM will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the great film in 2011.

Skyler Nowinski, HSPVA 2005 Theatre graduate, recently earned his BFA from the **University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theatre Actor Training Program**. He was recently featured in a professional



Skyler Nowinski, second from left

production of "Mojo" presented by Walking Shadow Theatre of Minneapolis and shortly thereafter in the play "Music Lovers" produced by Workhaus Collective. He recently completed a tour of the Midwest starring in "Theory of Mind," by Ken LaZebnik (Prairie Home Companion) for Mixed Blood Theatre. He continues to write and record music as well as producing.



"Houston Rose"
by Catarina Williams,
12th grade,
Visual Arts



"Untitled"
by Jody Lu
12th grade,
Visual Arts

On February 4, three hundred fifty Houstonians celebrated Arts Day in Houston at the 4th Annual Encore for Excellence Luncheon at River Oaks Country Club. This event is sponsored by HSPVA Friends, and it benefits programs and student needs at Houston's widely respected High School for the Performing And Visual Arts. The luncheon honored prominent community leaders, Robert and Janice McNair, for their long-time contributions to the arts and education. Joanie Haley, Executive Director of the Robert and Janice McNair Foundation, accepted an award for the foundation and introduced representatives from Houston arts organizations. Also honored was the 2010 Distinguished Alumna, Camille Zamora, the internationally renowned soprano known for both her artistry and her humanitarian work. Ms. Zamora shared the stage with the HSPVA Chorale in a performance of a medley of George Gershwin's, Porgy and Bess.

Speaking for Central Houston and the Houston corporate community was El Paso Corporation's CEO and President, Doug Foshee, who reminded the audience that it is the time to build a much-needed new facility for Houston's remarkable arts school. He suggested that the Downtown Houston arts corridor would be a logical site for the project, and encouraged those responsible for the facility needs of the school to take action. HSPVA's principal, Dr. R. Scott Allen, was at the podium to express his appreciation to HSPVA Friends for the organization's impressive thirty-year track record of support of HSPVA and to introduce representatives from the Houston Independent School District.

The program for the luncheon included performances by the HSPVA Jazz Quintet, the HSPVA String Quartet, and the HSPVA Chorale, along with dance students who circulated through the crowd selling raffle tickets for donated prizes. According to HSPVA Friends Executive Director, Mary Martha Lappe, the successful event raised over \$100,000 in support for student needs at HSPVA and had over 20 Houston arts groups and organizations in attendance.

encore for excellence!



1

Luncheon Celebrates Arts Day in Houston



2



3



4



5



6

1. Soprano Camille Zamora **2.** HSPVA Chorale sings Porgy and Bess **3.** Vocal Music student, Cecily Gordon **4.** Camille Zamora sings with the HSPVA Chorale **5.** John Cryer III with Laurie and Jeff Bricker **6.** Bob Singleton flanked by Margaret Loucher and Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora **7.** Blair Adams, Laurie Pollicoff, Judy Sederholm, and Amani Escandon **8.** Jeff Early, Mary Martha Lappe, Jerry Simon, and Mark Flag **9.** HSPVA Concert Dancers with Shannon Bohny **10.** Karen George, Janette Cosley, and Warren Sneed



11. Bob Yekovitch, Becky and Ralph O'Connor, and Elizabeth Gillis **12.** LuAnne Carter, Bob and Cheryl Boblitt, and Janie Carothers **13.** Lois Alba and Camille Zamora **14.** Richard Everett with Barbara and Jonathan Day **15.** Norman and Sally Reynolds with Betty Sheppard **16.** HSPVA Principal, Dr. Scott Allen, with Emcee Linda Lorelle **17.** David Calkins, Steve McNamara, and David Elder **18.** HISD Trustees Harvin Moore, Paula Harris, Greg Meyers, and Manuel Rodriguez **19.** Cindy Garbs, Neal Wiley, and Joanie Haley

encore for excellence!



1. Doug Foshee, Jerry Simon, and Bob Eury **2.** Bobby Fran, Dr. Bob Morgan, Michelle Matalon, and Richard Lyders **3.** Lois, Camille and Steven Zamora
4. Cheryl Boblitt and Janet Battarbee **5.** Caroline Neuhaus with Joan and Craig Murrin **6.** Bo and Jean Brackendorff with Erin Lunceford and HISD Trustee, Mark Lunceford **7.** Kathryn Priest, Agelia Perez Marquez, and Stephen Roddy **8.** Frank Hood and CeCe Fowler **9.** Pat Bonner with Camille Zamora **10.** Lou Gregory with wife, Linda Lorelle and Janie and Richard Alderman **11.** Front row: Renee Lewis, Donna Carter, Carol Echols back row: Laura Crane and Cathy Foreman
12. Tamara and David Thompson with Sandie and Greg Meyers **13.** Linda Walter with Vic and Bobbi Samuels **14.** Howard Speight with Patrice and Pete McKinney

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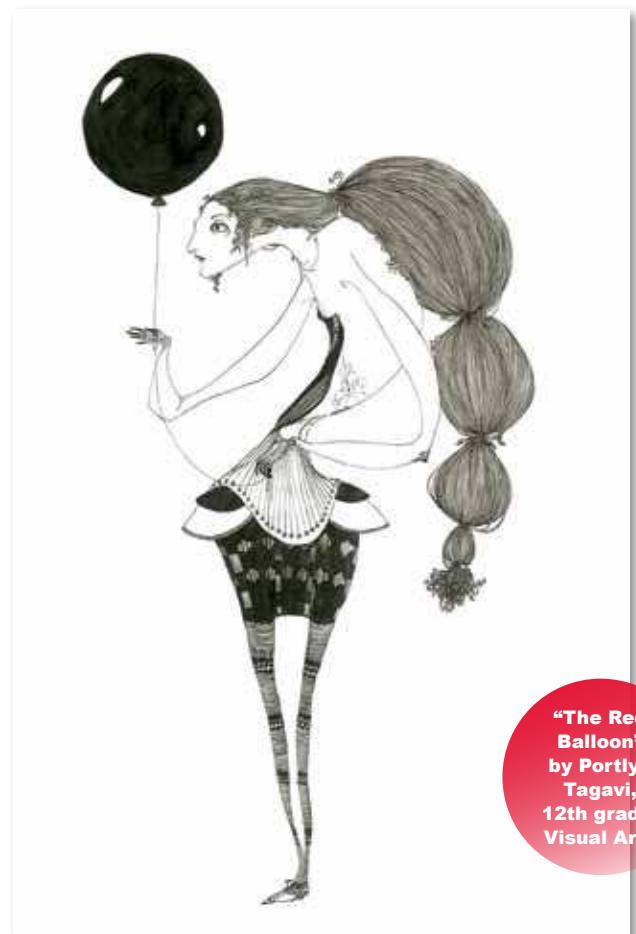
Former HSPVA Principal Sponsors Jazz 101



Former HSPVA Principal Norma Lowder, Dr. Bob Morgan, HSPVA instrumental music alumna Sara Ludwig Marks, Warren Sneed and Dr. Joshua Breier. Photo courtesy of Marshall Hatch.

In March, former HSPVA Principal Norma Lowder, sponsored an evening seminar on jazz for residents of University Place Retirement Community. Mrs. Lowder was principal at HSPVA from 1977 until 1988. She invited three of Houston's best jazz experts for a seminar/performance designed to provide an understanding of jazz history and improvisation. The jazz trio included Dr. Bob

Morgan, former Director of Jazz at HSPVA; Warren Sneed, Current Director of Jazz and an HSPVA alumnus; and Dr. Joshua Breier, Neuropsychologist and Professor at University of Texas Health Science Center. Dr. Breier is a free lance jazz guitarist and former HSPVA music faculty member. About a hundred residents of University Place Retirement Community attended the seminar.



"The Red Balloon" by Portlyn Tagavi, 12th grade, Visual Arts

HSPVA Friends Fund for the Future 2009-2010

HSPVA FRIENDS supports a wide array of needs at **HSPVA**. Over the past ten years, **HSPVA FRIENDS** and the **HSPVA** Office of Development have generated almost 6 million dollars to assist the school with a variety of projects including:

- Electronic marquee for front of school
- Theatre sound and lighting equipment
- Computers, art equipment, and vision tester for clinic
- Support for school radio station equipment
- Alumni Art Exhibits and alumni relations
- Support for tours to Toronto, Boston, New York, and China
- Art publications, newsletters, and event mail-outs
- Summer arts workshops for underclassmen
- Annual college scholarships
- Master classes by professional artists
- Support for musical theatre productions
- The Office of Development to raise and coordinate private support
- Support for school and faculty participation in national programs
- Faculty seminar on art facility design and construction

Our sincere thanks to the following individuals, corporations, and foundations that have provided support for the unique needs of Houston's internationally renowned High School For The Performing And Visual Arts from August 1, 2009 to our publication deadline, March 1, 2010.

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 Julia D. Burke, Class of 1985,
 Instrumental Music
 Rickey and Julie Campbell Family,
 Class of 1980
 For the Doug Hattox Scholarship
 Mike and Barbara Caswell
 Gaile Chiles
 Charles and Cathy B. Cole
 Kathleen and Dan Cook
 Laura Crane
 In honor of Kirby Crane
 Stephen G. Crawford
 Laura F. Daily, Class of 1975,
 Theatre Tech
 Sara W. Daniels
 In honor of Scott Daniels
 Andrea and James Davidson
 In honor of Alyssa Davidson,
 Class of 2010
 Faith Johnson Davis
 Robert Davis
 Lea R. Deas, Class of 1986
 Nancy and Jack Dinerstein
 Kayla D. Ebers, Class of 1981,
 Vocal Music
 In memory of Daniel Ebers
 James Fantz, Class of 1985,
 Instrumental Music
 David P. Farra
 Janet and Jack Fox
 In honor of Jeff Fox, Class of
 2000, and Julia Fox, Class
 of 2003, Vocal Music
 Gregory O. Freeman,
 Class of 1981, Media Arts
 Christian Gibson
 In memory of Doug Hattox
 Joyce K. Gilbert
 In honor of Allen Gilbert,
 Class of 1977
 William H. Gilbert

Continued on page 14

HSPVA Friends Fund for the Future *Continued*

Janet W. Harasim, Class of 2001,
Instrumental Music
In memory of Don and
Nancy Worth
Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Hecht
In honor of Sara Daniels
Bernice Hick
In honor of Paul Cutts
Kristina Holt, Class of 1989,
Media Arts
In honor of the Class of 1989
Vincent E. James,
Class of 1985, Dance
Suzanne Jennings
In memory of D'unte Brown.
Class of 2002, Theatre
Peter W. Johnston
Charles E. Jones II
Betsy and Stan Kaufman
Aileen M. Krebs, Class of 1998,
Instrumental Music
Michael Krebs
In honor of Aileen Krebs,
Class of 1998
Susan Levy
Mike and Eva Loeb
Kristin Lucas

Lucille Maes,
Class of 1975, Visual Arts
Donna and Lou Markos
Gerlinde Matocha-Meuth
Mardi Mayerhoff
Kathryn E. McGowan,
Class of 2001, Vocal Music
Colleen A. McMillian,
Class of 1999, Vocal Music
Margie Medlin
In honor of Bobby and Hilda Frank
Dawnell J. Menefee,
Class of 1999, Visual Arts
Irving Mermel
Robert Molloy
Bill and Betty Morgan
In memory of Danny Frank
Bruce Nichols and Virginia Hodge
Paul and Sue Ofield
Dr. Susan Osterberg
Julie and Chip Oudin
In honor of Jessica Oudin,
Class of 2002
Natalie Pfeifer, Class of 2001
Jaime Pool-Soria,
Class of 1995, Vocal Music
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Radoff

Sharon R. Rauch,
Class of 1976, Theatre
David R. Renner
In honor of Patrick Renner,
Class of 2000, Visual Arts
Brad and Mary Robbins
Morgan M. Rosse,
Class of 2002, Theatre
Annabella and Vahe Sahakin
In honor of Hilda and Bobby Frank
Beverly and Michael Schaffer
Susan R. Schwaitzberg
In honor of Scott, Class of
2002, and Andrew, Class of 2004,
Judy Sederholm
David Sheard
In honor of the Visual Arts faculty
and Rhoda Ferris
Maxine Silberstein
Julian Silverblatt
Jim and Jamie Simmon
Helen Simmons
In honor of Norma Lowder
Eva Archer Smith
Carolyn and Donald Springer
In memory of Manny Murgola

Karen E. Stokes,
Class of 1979, Dance
Sylvia Strong
In honor of the Piano Department
Elizabeth Urquhart
Andrea Vodehnal
Chris and Carolyn Wade,
Class of 1991, Vocal Music
In memory of Fran Tall and
Betty Wade
Linda A. Wald, Class of 1978,
Instrumental Music
Liz Ward,
Class of 1977, Visual Arts
In honor of David Sheard
Paige M. Welborn,
Class of 2003, Dance
Pamela Whitson
Dolores Wilkenfeld
Marcella and Ray Wilson
Shelley and Vic Wisner
In honor of Jonathan Wisner
Claudia Wolfowicz
Linda Woods-Wilson
In honor of Alauna W. Wilson
Melinda and Brian Wright
In memory of Rachel Speight

Over a Million Dollars in Scholarships for HSPVA

In 1979 a Houston philanthropic organization called Musicfest began holding a yearly gala to raise scholarship money for outstanding students in each of HSPVA's art areas. That started a long lasting and vigorous relationship benefiting the gifted seniors of Houston's respected arts school. To date, over one million dollars in scholarships have been awarded to deserving students.

In 1997, Musicfest morphed into what is now today HSPVA Friends, a nonprofit organization whose mission has expanded well beyond the initial once-yearly support of scholarships for graduating seniors. In recent years HSPVA Friends has raised almost \$6 million to support a wide variety of programs and projects that serve all HSPVA students from the Greater Houston area. However, a broad range and growing list of scholarships and memorial funds still remain at the core of its support. Donations toward specific endowed scholarships, memorial funds, and art disciplines are most welcome and may be sent to HSPVA Friends.

Among the scholarships given this year are:

Jack Bowen Visual Arts Scholarships (two at \$2000 each)
Dawley College Scholarship (\$4000)
Dawley Summer Arts Scholarships in Music, Dance, Theatre,
and Visual Arts (five at \$1000 each)
DiSuvero Sculpture Scholarship (\$1000)
Danny Frank Music Fund (on-going support of guest artists
and master classes)
Andrea Guenther Piano Studies Scholarship (\$2000)
Mozart Hammond Scholarships in Piano and Voice (\$1000)
Mary Martha Lappe Dance Scholarship (\$1000)
Amanda May Musical Theatre Scholarship (\$1000)
Jason Moran Jazz Scholarships (\$1000 and \$500)
Bob Ostrum Jazz Scholarship (\$1000)
Sermoonjoy Theatre Scholarships (two at \$2000 -
renewable for four years)
Bob Singleton Theatre Education Scholarship
(\$1000 for graduate students)
Rachel Speight Vocal Music Scholarship (\$2000)

HSPVA Friends

HSPVA Friends is a private, non-profit organization comprised of prominent Houstonians whose aim is to encourage, inspire, support, and celebrate excellence in the arts and in education. The organization has supported a myriad of projects which address the needs of young artists, not only for the 650 students at Houston's famous HSPVA, but also for elementary school, middle school and high school students from up to ten counties in the Gulf Coast Area. In recent years, HSPVA FRIENDS has raised almost six million dollars in private funds for art supplies and equipment, musical instruments, college art scholarships, master classes and lectures by professional guest artists, art exhibits, ballet shoes, summer arts workshops, private music lessons, and art publications.

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Magazine

An art-literary-news publication produced by HSPVA Friends to showcase the artistic achievements of artists from the Greater Houston Area

Editorial Staff: Rosie Chow, Betty Alice Key, Mary Jane Orsburn, Kathryn Priest, and Bob Singleton

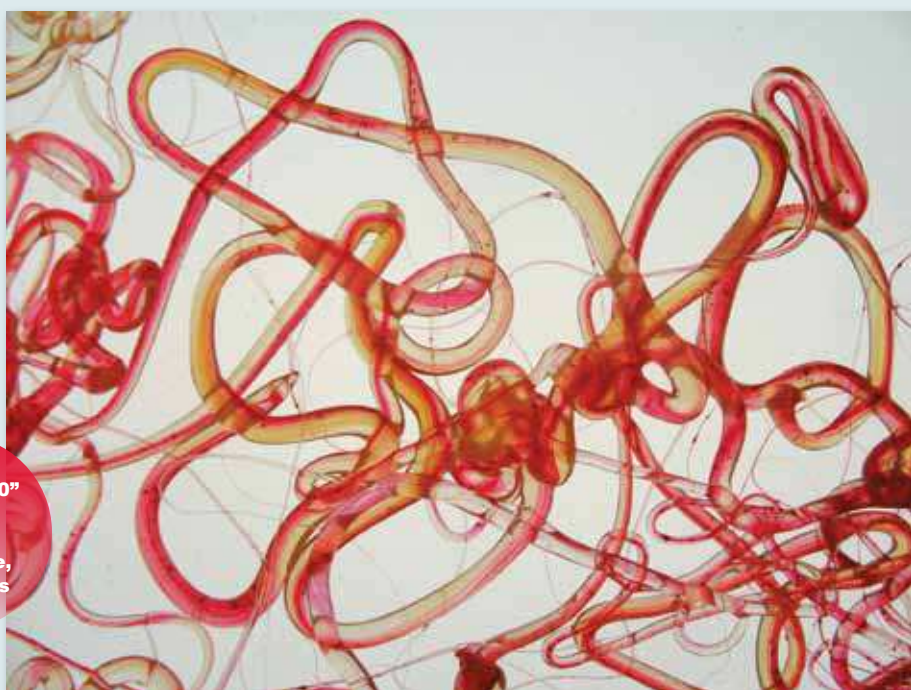
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