**2019 ROWITA Recipients**

**Dr. Dorothy Barrett** majored in voice at Westminster Choir College, earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Rutgers University and received a Doctorate in Education from Columbia University. Dr. Barrett believes that music and the arts provide options and new possibilities for people of all ages. To that end, she volunteers with the St. Augustine Orchestra, the EMMA Concert Association and the string instrument programs at The Webster School, Sebastian Middle School and St. Augustine High School Center for the Arts.

**Margaret Jimeson** graduated from the Arts Institute of Baltimore with a Master’s Degree in Early Art Education. Her lifelong passion for the arts and pottery led her to be the founding member of Clay Network, a Northeast Florida non-profit that provides educational opportunities, contributes to charitable causes in the community and supports the Clay Network’s membership by providing sales opportunities, group support and mentoring.

**Linda McAnarney** is a Florida-certified Art Teacher with a Bachelor’s Degree in Fine Arts and Master’s Degree in Art Education from Ohio State University. She is the visual art teacher at Julington Creek Elementary School. She constantly seeks ways to develop new relationships between the St. Johns County School District and its community resources. Ms. McAnarney has cultivated collaborations with the Flagler College Art Department, the Mayo Clinic, Compassionate St. Augustine and local artists.

**Regina Gayle Phillips** received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from University of Florida Ms. Phillips originally came to the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center as a volunteer. Within a short time, the Museum’s Board of Directors recognized her as having the skills to promote and expand the museum. Under her leadership as the museum’s Director, the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center has become a vibrant and historical place to attend concerts, historical presentations and cultural discussions.

**Dr. Susanne Schuenke** studied art history during her undergraduate years and received a Master’s Degree in Art History and a Doctoral Degree in Art History from the University of Cologne. Through her work as a writer/illustrator, curator of exhibitions for local organizations and lecturer/teacher at Flagler College and The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, Dr. Schuenke has imparted her belief that art enriches every human’s life.

**Jo Sinclair** graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art with a Bachelor’s Degree in Fine Arts and earned a Master’s in Art Education from Case Western Reserve University. She has shared her passion for creative encounters throughout her diverse career as a professional artist and as an art educator of youth and adults at Flagler College, Ketterlinus Elementary School, The Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach, Butterfield Garage Gallery and other local organizations.

**2018 ROWITA Recipients**

**Linda M. Brandt** has spent her life in the arts, mostly as a self-trained artist. She has taught art classes at the St. Johns County Council on Aging, is a board member of the St. Augustine School of the Performing Arts, is a co-founder of Artbreakers, as well as a member of the Ancient City Poets. Her work has been displayed in prestigious venues from Paris to London and New York to Laguna Beach. Her paintings are held in private collections around the world including the portrait of the President Ronald Regain along with portraits of past Ohio Governor, George Voinovich, and several senators. In 2004, Linda underwent brain surgery for a rare and usually deadly tumor. After three years of rehabilitation, she returned to painting. Since then, Linda has donated her time, talent, and artwork to countless fundraisers for numerous local organizations. Linda’s recovery and subsequent return to the art world serves as an encouraging and inspiring story.

**Deborah Dickey** is a playwright and theatre director who received a Master of Fine Arts in Acting and Directing from the University of Florida. She is a board member of A Classic Theatre where she serves as a producer and director. She has a special interest in Florida themes and her most recent play, Sweet Emmaline: The Musical Journey of Debbie McDade, tells the story of a local artist who achieved fame as a jazz singer.  Another play, Cross Roads: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Norton S. Baskin in Unguarded Moments tells the story of two prominent St. Augustine residents. It premiered in 2012 under her direction during the Romanza Festivale. Deborah has served as co-producer for over 20 local productions for A Classic Theatre. She also works as a dramaturg and director of new play development. Deborah’s talent for bringing local stories to the stage entertains audiences while also educating them on the rich artistic history found in   St. Johns County.

**Carolyn Juliet Fisher** received a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Bethune Cookman University and a Master’s Degree in Education from the University of North Florida. She was a talented school teacher in the St. Johns County School District for thirty-five years, receiving Osceola Elementary School’s Teacher of the year award in 1998. Her other true passion is singing and she began ministering through song at a very early age. Carolyn has lent her singing talents to many organizations in St. Johns County and can be found singing at churches, weddings, funerals, festivals, schools, birthdays, and other celebrations. Carolyn love of singing finds her spending countless volunteer hours making a difference in her community, church, and family where she generously shares talents. She is often on the program to honor many events in the St. Augustine community, including the 30th Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Breakfast, the 2014th Civil Rights celebration at St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, and during the 2016 memorial service for the civil rights leader Dr. Robert B. Hayling. She sang for ACCORD, (Anniversary to Commemorate the Civil Rights Demonstrations, Inc.) events from 2004 through 2014. By all accounts, Carolyn’s singing has enriched the lives of many in St. Johns County.

**Laurie Allen Klein** is a book illustrator and artist whose work has impacted tourism, environmental causes, and education in St. Johns County. Her creations can be found in the hallways and cafeterias of St. Johns County schools (R. B Hunt, Ketterlinus, Crookshank, and Julington Creek Elementary), in our tourist attractions, (St. Augustine Alligator and Zoological Farm, St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum, St. Augustine Aquarium, and the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve), and on the shelves of libraries (through her illustrations of children’s books, adult and  young adult novels, and field guides). Laurie’s artwork has transformed many a drab hallway or cafeteria where her adventurous murals depict ecosystems in exotic places that can’t help but spur the imagination of all who see them. Her art reaches visitors and residents alike, promoting the environmental richness and unique setting of our county.

**2016 ROWITA Recipients**

**Elyse Brady** has been involved in both visual and performing arts since childhood, first schooled in drawing, then going on to the theatre scene in Minneapolis and spending almost a decade as a professional singer performing in the US, Canada and Aruba. Holding three art degrees, Brady has for the past seven years been the Administrator for the St. Augustine Art Association where art, culture and history is showcased as part of our heritage. Never sitting still, she oversees new exhibitions, lectures, musical performances and Art Camp for children to name but a few activities to which she dedicates her energies.

**Manila Clough** studied at FSU, Georgetown and Tulane before her studies were interrupted by a move to Europe where she became a full-time artist. With a BA in Studio Art and English, an MA is Medieval English Lit and a fellowship as an ABD Doctoral Candidate, she has been a professor and gallery owner before making her mosaic works her full-time passion for the past six years. Her work can be found in schools, offices, libraries, hospitals, municipal buildings and private homes. Her generosity, especially when it comes to children and art in public places, is widely known and appreciated.

**Caren Goldman** has worn many hats as author, award winning journalist, freelance writer for national magazines and metropolitan newspapers and a respected voice on spiritual thinking. Serving as executive director and co-founder of Compassionate St Augustine, the Obelisk Art 450 project was a 24/7 effort for 18 months from a grass roots beginning and assembling a team of community leaders ultimately leading to both international and national recognition. Compassion through the Eyes of Children is an ongoing program enriching and educating the younger generations.

**Jan Tomlinson Master’s** career is as rich as the many mediums with which she has worked from linoleum block printed fabric, antique beads, jewelry to large-scale mosaics including the historic map at our Visitor’s Information Center, 3-tiered piece with 160 species of indigenous birds at the Bird Island Park Amphitheatre and coordinated a student mosaic project for the fountain at Flagler College’s new administration building.  Chosen to represent the City of St Augustine, she traveled to Aviles, Spain to create an obelisk for Compassion 450. Founder of the 1st Children’s Art Camp in the 80s, she is a partner at both Amiro galleries on Aviles Street and teaches master classes around the country.

**JoAnn Nance** apprenticed at the Hyde Park Playhouse as a child where she worked with notable actors inspiring her to study voice and musical theatre at Florida School of the Arts and then earning a Bachelor’s degree in Theatre at Flagler College during that department’s infancy.  She had a radio career in the 80s and 90s both locally and in New England. Her work as a teacher has encouraged many students to pursue the arts and her drama department has won countless awards. Outside of school she remains active in the theatre community, both performing and directing and singing at St Anastasia Catholic Church.

**Rosamond Parrish** is known throughout St. Johns County and beyond as an accomplished artist, passionate art teacher, generous volunteer for many nonprofit organizations, and dedicated community activist. In addition to serving with EMMA, St. Augustine Art Association, St. Augustine Historical Society, St. Augustine Archaeological Association, and Rotary to list a few, she has designed playbills, brochures, hosted classes and most recently, written and illustrated her book, “Lincolnville – A Sketchbook Journal of St Augustine’s Historic Neighborhood.” An ambassador of Lincolnville and a champion of the arts, her contributions to the arts community are on-going.

**Shirley Williams-Collins’** name is perhaps not as familiar as some because she is always the face behind the camera. Thanks to her photography and poetry, she continues to preserve a St. Augustine history that might otherwise be lost forever. As a teacher she helped students find their own means of artistic expression. A native of St Augustine, her parents were avid photographers and she follows in the footsteps of Richard Twine and John Jackson. While photographing a building slated for demolition, she found records of the Civil Rights Movement, a previously long-lost archive of this important period.

**2015 ROWITA Recipients**

**Twila Fleming Hudson** was born and raised in Saint Augustine.  She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Education and a Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Education. Since her return to Saint Augustine, she has used her creative storytelling abilities to teach children to develop their creative talent. She also inspires and educates people through her portrayals of legendary historical figures.

**Kerry Fradley** was born into a musical family so it’s no surprise she went on to earn a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Piano and Vocal Performance and a Master of Arts Degree in Choral Performance. Ms. Fradley shares her passion for music in many ways but is most proud of founding the Saint Augustine Youth Chorus.

**Mary Rhopa la Cierra** holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Home Economics and a Masters of Fine Arts Degree in Costume Design. She has shared her lifetime interest in fabric and thread through her work for Cross and Sword, Saint Augustine Art Association, Saint Johns County 4-H, and other organizations.

**Felicia Rhoden** studied classical ballet at the New York City Ballet under the direction of George Balanchine and modern dance at The Martha Graham School of Modern Dance. She appeared all over the country in ballet performances and has been a choreographer and director for over 60 years. Each year, she teaches and inspires more than 300 dancers as the Director of both the Dance Ministry and Liturgical Dance at Christ Episcopal Church.

**2014 ROWITA Recipients**

**Kathleen Vande** has been a music educator for over 30 years. Among the many organizations she has been involved are the Saint Augustine Community Chorus, the Saint Augustine Singers, Flagler College Singers, First Coast Opera and Director of Music at St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church.

**Carolee Bertisch** is an accomplished author of poetry and dedicated advocate for poetry and the arts.  Carolee is actively involved with the Florida Heritage Book Festival, Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Library and the Dr. Gerson Yessin Music Series at the Ponte Vedra Branch Library.

**Sally Ann Freeman** has served as a fine arts and cultural consultant for three decades. Her art galleries in Jacksonville and Saint Augustine helped promote regional woman artists and sculptors. She is a past board member of the Saint Johns Cultural Council, the Jacksonville Art Museum, and the Dow Museum of Historic Houses.

**Phyllis Gibbs** has been Chairperson of the Theater Department at Flagler College since 1999.  Under her leadership and guidance, the theatre department has thrived and grown both in size and scope. She has been a mentor to countless students many of whom are now making significant contributions of their own to the cultural life of Saint Johns County.

**Carol Gladstone** is a dynamic volunteer for many arts organizations in Saint Johns County including the Friends of the Saint Augustine Amphitheatre, the Saint Johns Cultural Council, and the Limelight Theatre.  She is also co-chairing of the upcoming “The Gathering of Friends Children’s Arts Festival”, an interactive festival that will allow children to explore different art forms at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre.

**Wendy Mandel McDaniel** is a mixed media artist and avid arts supporter whose work can be seen at Amiro Art & Found, the Visitor’s Information Center of St. Augustine, Bird Island Park, and Flagler College, She has also been a tireless champion for art in public places and keeping the arts in our schools, as well as a contributor to numerous artistic, recreational and cultural community projects. Doris Wiles, introduced her old friend, Margo Pope, a writer and supporter of the arts. Throughout her newspaper career, one that included many years with the Saint Augustine Record, Margo has written articles supporting countless community events and arts organizations. She is also an active member of the Textile Arts Guild, the Florida Heritage Book Festival, and the Woman’s Exchange of St. Augustine.

**Faith** **Tiberio** is a co-founder of the Faith and Joseph Tiberio Charitable Foundation, an organization that supports art, education, cultural, and humanitarian endeavors. She has also been a generous supporter of the Saint Augustine Art Association, a passion inherited from her mother, and shares with her sister, Kay Burtin.  Her generous spirit is also reflected in the role she and the foundation played creating galleries, boardroom library, and lobby of the Lightner Museum.

**2013 ROWITA Recipients**

**Wendy Tatter** was introduced to the art of batik while attending Instituto Allende in Mexico. She developed a style all her own and began exhibiting her work in local studios and restaurants. She opened W. B. Tatter Studio Gallery on San Marco Avenue (now on Anastasia Blvd.) Wendy organized the San Marco merchants to participate in Uptown Saturday Night, an evening featuring art, antiques, boutiques, and music. San Marco Avenue beautification efforts, the Uptown Saturday Night logo, and other improvements to the San Marco Avenue area can all be attributed to Wendy's energy, ideas, and support. Wendy also encourages creativity through her workshops at elementary schools and civil associations throughout Florida. She generously contributes her artwork to local organizations and libraries around the country. Over the years she has won awards and accolades for her work not only in St. Augustine, but all over the United States.

**Diane Bradley** is an artist and lifelong educator with a passion for including youth in the arts. She became involved with the St. Augustine Art Association as a docent, show chairperson and then teacher of an after-school art program. She soon realized that she wanted to be more involved in the organization and sought ways to help it reach its full potential as a Community Arts Center. Diane established a partnership with the St. Johns County schools and for the past eight years, they have jointly presented the Annual All County High School and Middle School Art Shows.  Her partnership with the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind led to the creation of their popular Annual Tactile Show for the blind and visually impaired, now in its 12th year. She continues to work to ensure sound fiscal practices for the organization including the management of their biggest fundraiser, the annual Spring and Fall Art & Craft Festivals and the new Nature and Wildlife Exhibition.

**Mary Siess** is an artist who enjoys watercolors and pen-and-ink drawings as well as jewelry design. She donates many of her creations to fundraisers of the organizations she belongs to or supports. Since 1999, she has volunteered at the St. Augustine Art Association in a variety of positions, including docent, computer expert, and has been involved with monthly art exhibits and fundraising festivals. Mary has been one of the pillars of the EMMA Concert Association where she has acted as historian, organizer of the EMMA Music Master Series, member of the Program Committee, Tickets and Subscription Committee, President of the EMMA  Guild, and Vice-President of the EMMA Board of Directors. Her computer skills helped launch the EMMA website and online ticket sales. Mary has also volunteered her time with Altrusa's work with the Llambias House and Old St. Augustine Village. Her work with the St. Augustine Textile Guild included helping with the Fall Textile Arts Festival and serving as a docent in the Spanish Village.

**Debbie McDade** wasborn in Lincolnville in 1928 as Emmaline Maultsby, Debbie McDade attended Excelsior School and sang in the choir at Trinity Methodist Church. She went to New York as a teenager to seek her fame and fortune as a singer and at the suggestion of Louis Armstrong, she adopted the stage name, Debby Moore. In the course of her international career, she sang with Earl "Fatha" Hines, toured Asia representing the United States, made movies in Japan, and wrote songs.  Some her songs were recorded by Woody Herman and Louis Prima; others she sang herself on her 1959 record “My Kind of Blues.” When she returned to St. Augustine in the 1970s there were no opportunities for a black jazz performer and she found work as a waitress and later at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. Now retired, she is known as Debbie McDade. Debbie is listed in the Encyclopedia of Jazz. She has been active in many community efforts, serving as a board member of Excelsior Museum and Cultural Center, and the Foot Soldiers Memorial Project.

**Patti Rang** has been involved for over 30 years in the creation and organization of events to celebrate the colonial life of St. Augustine in both the Spanish and British periods. Patti has been a leader and contributing member of the East Florida Rangers and the 60th Regiment of Foot in both local and regional events, participating in numerous battle re-enactments. Patti was a "camp follower," travelling with her family who, at the time, were part of the fife and drum corps. She wrote a cookbook drawing on this experience in 1977, featuring the campfire recipes that she used to feed the group when in the field.

Patti helped established one of St. Augustine's most famous holiday traditions, The British Grande Illumination, an event that has been held annually since its inception in 1975. She was a leader of the Colonial Christmas Caroling in the Historic District for many years and in the mid-1990s, helped produce Voices of the Past to further entertain the large crowds the caroling attracted. Patti has also been involved with the St. Augustine Textile Arts Guild, a non-profit group founded in 1995 whose purpose is to teach and preserve textile techniques of the past centuries for future generations. Patti's work in all of these areas has been instrumental in educating and entertaining the public through her efforts to bring our city's colonial past to life.