Have you checked out our fabulous website, americancraftexpo.org, to understand why ACE is consistently listed among the top ten fine craft shows in the country? The images gliding along your screen are a sample of the art that will be displayed for sale at the show. Mark your calendars! The Benefit Preview Party is Thursday, August 25, and the exhibition and sale run August 26 through 28. This year ACE will feature 151 juried artists and a smashing emerging artist gallery of 10 new craftsmen.

The 2011 ACE funds will support Dr. Gustavo Rodriguez's pioneering research into ovarian cancer prevention. The many volunteers working on this show are deeply committed to this important cause as well as to the artisans who live their lives in a way to provide beauty and one-of-a-kind craft pieces to be enjoyed and displayed in homes throughout the country.

This year will feature “Booth Talks.” On Friday, August 26 at 11 a.m., Michael Schunke, a glass artist, will talk to us about “The Perfectly Imperfect.” Later that day at 2 p.m., Jennifer Heller-Zurick, basket weaver, will talk about “Barking Up the Right Tree.” On Saturday, August 27 at 11 a.m., ceramicist Cliff Lee will explain his technique in “My Work.” Finally, Darlys Ewoldt, a metal artist, will talk about “Metamorphosis in Metal” at 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 28.

Not to be missed will be the fashion show on Saturday, August 27 at 2 p.m. Wearables from ACE—clothing, jewelry, handbags and other accessories—will be modeled on our runway. All of the creative, fine quality items are, of course, available at the show for sale!

This year’s raffle prize has been donated by our presenting sponsor Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet. The Artisan Fire Pizza Oven is valued at $6,500 and is a work of art in itself. Delivering great pizzas and an interactive cooking experience with an open front and exposed flame, it is designed for high performance.

The Thursday evening Benefit Preview Party will present a fun and fabulous spread catered by Foodstuffs along with champagne and an open bar. Tickets to the Collectors’ Hour, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., are $175; the Preview Party, starting at 6:30 p.m., is $125. Both include admission to the show for the weekend. A three-day unlimited pass to the exhibition is $15 at the door and $12 in advance through August 22. All tickets may be purchased online at americancraftexpo.org or by calling (847) 570-5095. We look forward to seeing you there!
Annual Spring Meeting

The annual spring meeting was held on May 11, 2011 at Michigan Shores Country Club in Wilmette. The Auxiliary celebrated its 75th year with a slideshow of pictures from the last 75 years. This year, the lunch featured a LEA (Local Emerging Artists) Boutique which included artists from the area featuring their work; the boutique was headlined by nationally renowned jeweler and ACE exhibitor Valerie Hector. Our speaker, Colleen Takagishi, Oncology Nutritionist and Public Health Educator at NorthShore Kellogg Cancer Center, spoke on “Eating for Wellness.” The business portion of the meeting followed, highlighting the plans for Gala and ACE.

Gala Highlights

The night began like a cruise to the Greek Islands and a visit to the Acropolis. Surrounded by columns and statues, nearly 700 guests enjoyed cocktails and amazing hors d’oeuvres in the Lakeview Terrace at Chicago’s own Navy Pier. Moving to the Grand Ballroom, the lake sparked on three sides as the cruise set sail for the Greek Islands. Entertainment was provided by Thodos Dance Chicago and the guests rocked to the music of the Stu Hirsh Orchestra. Guests bid on fabulous items in the live and silent auctions. The fireworks show under the stars completed the perfect night.

Proceeds from the Gala will go to the DodoNa Project. Many of us have watched a loved one slip away due to the tragedy of Alzheimer’s disease or experienced an untimely death of a friend or family member because of stroke or brain tumors. The statistics show that one in six people will be affected by a brain disorder. Dr. Demetrius Maraganore, a visionary neurologist, submitted a proposal to the Auxiliary over a year ago for a project to develop methods interpreting subtle variations in DNA, the “tree of life,” to predict outcomes and determine the correct actions for NorthShore patients. Our successful Gala evening raised more than $350,000. We continue to accept Angel Campaign donations to support this worthy cause. Please visit northshore.org/auxiliary or call Kaitlin at The Auxiliary Office (847) 570-5095 to make your donation.

Membership News

The Auxiliary Board members have been working very hard this year producing incredible events such as The Gala in June and The American Craft Exposition (ACE) in August. But that doesn’t mean that the Board misses out on relaxing and just having fun! In February we had a cocktail party at the Happ Inn in Northfield. In addition to socializing, we were treated to a brief presentation by Debbie Nieto, cookbook co-author and restauranteur, who with her husband Carlos (Carlos, Cafe Central and The Happ Inn). The next Auxiliary opportunity for relaxation was our Annual Spring Meeting. We tried something new this year and had a brunch instead of a breakfast. Auxiliary members, Board members and guests enjoyed a great afternoon at the Michigan Shores Club. The day started with a boutique featuring local artists and ACE exhibitor Valerie Hector, then lunch and a presentation by NorthShore oncology nutritionist Colleen Takagishi.

Watch for announcements regarding our Annual Fall Meeting on Wednesday, October 12 for a great afternoon with a surprise speaker. We also have something very special in the planning stages for this year. A Winnetka resident and nationally known celebrity and author will be featured. As always we so appreciate your continued support and value your partnership with us as we endeavor to provide entertaining, educational and informative opportunities for our membership, and fulfill the fund raising commitments to our worthy recipients.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!
2011 Gala
Clockwise from top left:
Auxiliary board member Brenda Kuo and David Kuo

2011 Gala Chair Sue Levin, Auxiliary President
Madonna Tideman, Executive Director, NorthShore
Foundation Murray Ancell, Evanston Hospital
President, J.P. Gallagher, and 2012 Gala Co-Chairs
Gayle Stellas and Julie Karagianis

Spectacular Fireworks at Navy Pier

Dr. Michael Ujiki, Auxiliary Board members
Renee Ujiki, Jill Muldoon and Joe Muldoon

Evanston Hospital Vice President Sean O’Grady
and Buggy O’Grady

Auxiliary member Susan White and Chris Gentry
**Auxiliary Spring Luncheon**

*Clockwise from top left:*
- Auxiliary President Madonna Tideman
- Auxiliary Board members Wendy Yamada, Leslie North, Brenda Kuo and Claudine Gerbel
- Karen Ribbon and Auxiliary President-Elect Leslie Sevcik

**Gala Kick-Off**

*Clockwise from top left:*
- 2011 Gala Chair Sue Levin and Stu Levin
- Gala Kick-Off Chairs Teddi Galanis, Debbie Hulick and Annmarie Trapp
- Gala Chair Sue Levin, Dr. Demetrius Maraganore and Auxiliary President Madonna Tideman