

746 Panmure Road
Haverford, PA 19041
610.525.0272
www.mainlineart.org



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CONTACT: Rachel Ammon, Communications Director

610.525.0272, ext. 25 rammon@mainlineart.org

Images and additional info available upon request

Main Line Art Center Announces New Board Members for Anniversary Year

HAVERFORD, PA (October 12, 2011) —Main Line Art Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Sonya Dore, Francine Stewart, Mara Schiffman, Nancy Tabas and Richard Umbrecht to the 2011/2012 Board of Directors. Additionally, the Art Center announces Board Member Heidi Vass Tirjan has been appointed Vice President. Main Line Art Center is celebrating its 75th Anniversary, and each Board Member is committed to helping advance its mission to inspire and engage artistic creativity for all ages and abilities and celebrate and strengthen the essential role of visual art in community life.

Sonya Dore, Senior Director at Comcast Cable, has experience in leadership, management, engineering and law. She is a graduate of Widener University School of Law, Villanova University, and Carnegie Mellon University. Dore is an avid supporter of the Arden Theatre and the Inglis Foundation, and volunteers her time with the Support Center for Child Advocacy. She has been attending classes at Main Line Art Center with her daughter since 2008 and her son has recently embarked on his art journey as well. Dore is a graduate of the Business on Board program sponsored by the Arts and Business Council of Greater Philadelphia and is enthusiastic about working with the Main Line Art Center to further its mission and vision.

Currently the Manager of the Child Care Initiative, **Francine Stewart** has worked at The Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF) since April 2005. In her previous position at NFF, Stewart coordinated the Building for the Future and Systems Replacement Plan programs nationally. Additionally, she was responsible for the national Advisory Services pipeline and reporting. Before the NFF, Stewart spent four years as Corporate Liaison at Child Care Resource Developers in Philadelphia. With a BA in education from West Chester University and an MBA from Rosemont College, Stewart also spent several years working for Knowledge Learning Corporation in various capacities. Stewart lives in Ardmore and also serves on Main Line Art Center's facility committee.

Mara Schiffman is now retired from practice after over 20 years in General Practice Pediatrics in the metropolitan Philadelphia area. After retiring five years ago, Schiffman has spent her time volunteering and producing mosaic art. Volunteer opportunities have included various activities for the Shipley School, the Jewish Federation of Philadelphia, the Timothy School, and Main Line Art Center. For the past year, she has also served as a member of Main Line Art Center's Development Committee. Recently, Schiffman joined the Women's Committee of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and is on the committee for the annual Fall Craft Show. She has studied mosaic art at the Art Center since 1998. Schiffman is also a member of the Society of American Mosaic Artists and a member of the newly formed Mosaic Society of Philadelphia.

For the last few years, **Nancy Tabas** has been a full-time working artist with an international client base and several solo shows. She is an active member of Artsisters, The Sketch Club of Philadelphia and its Professional Member Group, Artist Equity, and a founding member of the ART to You Gallery. In her over 20 years' association with Main Line Art Center, Tabas has taken a multitude of classes, served on many committees, and planned fundraisers. Outside of the art world, Tabas is the Vice Chair and co-Public Relations Chair of the Women's Committee of The Penn Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. She also serves on the Board of the Children's Crisis Treatment

Center of Philadelphia and on The Board of Temple Adath Israel. From 1999 until 2002, Tabas was Democratic Committee person and served as the Minority Inspector at her Lower Merion poll as well.

Richard Umbrecht joins the Board of Directors as Treasurer. Umbrecht is co-founder and partner of New Province Partners, LLC, an asset-based investment, advisory, and asset management firm headquartered in Greenwich, CT. He has over 27 years experience in asset-based finance, as both an advisor and a lawyer. For several years, Umbrecht and his wife Anne have been active supporters of education and the arts. He currently serves on the finance committee of Main Line Art Center and on the Georgetown Parent Leadership Council and is and is a member of the Board of Directors and Finance Committee of the Mann Center for the Performing Arts.

Heidi Vass Tirjan has been appointed Vice President of the Board of Directors, and has served on the Board since 2009. Tirjan is Retail Recruiter for Lower Merion Township's Economic Development Department, where she is responsible for the continued economic growth and development of key Main Line retail business corridors. Prior to that, she has held numerous positions in the apparel/textile industry in the Philadelphia area and New York City. An active volunteer, Tirjan also serves on the Board of Directors for Riverbend Environmental Education Center, and has held numerous board positions at The Junior League of Philadelphia, including Board President in 2008. Tirjan earned a BS in Textile Design from Philadelphia University (Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science).

For 75 years, Main Line Art Center has enriched the lives of artists of all ages, levels and abilities through high quality visual arts classes led by professional Teaching Artists, community outreach programs serving diverse audiences, cutting-edge exhibition and events, and artistic development opportunities. The Art Center continues to support the mission originally set forth by its founders. Last year alone nearly 15,000 individuals, ages two to senior citizens, participated in our programs and chose the Art Center as their home for creativity and growth, just as generations of community members have before them.

Main Line Art Center is located at 746 Panmure Road in Haverford, behind the Wilkie Lexus dealership just off of Lancaster Avenue. The Art Center is easily accessible from public transportation and offers abundant free parking. For more information, please visit www.mainlineart.org or call 610.525.0272.

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