

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2010

Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame Banquet April 22

Invitations are being mailed in March for the bi-annual awards banquet of the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame. The event, scheduled for Thursday evening, April 22, 2010, at the Villa Olivia Country Club, 1401 West Lake Street (Route 20 just west of Route 59), in Bartlett, Illinois, will celebrate the lives and accomplishments of 7 new inductees. The banquet also marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization's founding.

The black-tie-optional affair begins with cocktails at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. As is the Arts Hall of Fame's tradition, dessert is always complimented by top-notch live entertainment. The Board of Directors will host a private reception for the Class of 2010 immediately prior to the social hour to give the honorees an opportunity to meet each other as well as previous inductees.

According to Murna Hansemann of Elgin, Vice President of Events and coordinator of the gala, "The banquet is nearly always standing-room-only, and I expect our reservations list will fill quickly." The deadline for responses is April 17. Tickets are \$75 per person.

Following dinner, each inductee is introduced and presented with an inscribed medallion and a certificate noting their achievement. A personalized Arts Hall of Fame plaque is then added to a permanent exhibit of the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame, housed at the Paramount Theatre in downtown Aurora.

Honorees composing the Class of 2010 to be honored on April 22 include:

- **J. Allison ("Al") Binford, Jr.** of Aurora and **Floyd Brown** of Elgin in the category of Literary/Media Arts. Both were pioneering producers, directors, and hosts with Chicago-based broadcasting outlets and national audiences.
- **Huntley Brown** of Aurora, representing the category of Performing Arts, is a concert pianist recognized worldwide for his musical ministry.
- **Edward C. Cook** of Batavia, painter of miniatures; architect **Wallace E. Cunningham** of San Diego, with roots in Batavia and Aurora; and landscape architect **Susan Kay Weiler** of Aurora; are all internationally renowned and represent the category of Visual Arts.
- The late **Herbert and Martha Schingoethe** are the first selected from the category of Art Patron/Benefactor for their endowment of a university art museum, gallery, and curriculum.

The Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame was first established in March of 2000 as the Aurora Fine Arts Recognition Committee. In the past ten years, the names of more than 100 artists have been submitted for consideration. With the Class of 2010, a total of 34 artists have been inducted to date.

To be considered, candidates must be associated with the Fox Valley through birth, education,

residence, or service. They must also have completed at least 20 years in their professional field and received national or international recognition.

The Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame is a registered not-for-profit organization, and all donations help fund current and future projects. Contributions received by April 12, 2010, will be acknowledged in the banquet's souvenir program booklet.

Additional information about the Arts Hall of Fame and profiles of all past inductees may be found on its website, [www.foxvalleyarts.org](http://www.foxvalleyarts.org).

Area residents and arts fans interested in attending the banquet, may call 630-605-4000 to request an invitation, or send an email to [info@foxvalleyarts.org](mailto:info@foxvalleyarts.org).

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