Hello and for all of you who missed my long acceptance speech at the annual meeting as your new president, it was truly inspiring. I am sure the people who snored in the front row were just sleep deprived from the night before.

We all need to give a big round of applause to all of the people who worked so hard on the annual conference, including the host committee, the program committee, the speakers, the vendors and the many volunteers who spent countless hours making our meeting a great success.

The following people and institutions were responsible for bringing you the 2002 Annual Meeting. Making up the host committee were: Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau, Athens Welcome Center, Georgia Museum of Art, Georgia Museum of Natural History, Morton Theatre, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, U.S. Navy Supply Corps Museum and the Ware-Lyndon House Arts Center. Assisting me on the program committee were: Kathy Dixson, William Eiland, Jacque Kavanaugh, Sylvia Naguib, JoAnn Ray, Don Rooney and Bruce Smith. Thanks to the Athens community for their hospitable welcome. Last but not least, a special thank you to museMedia for serving as a 2002 Conference Sponsor.

Congratulations to our 2002 Annual Conference Scholarship recipients. Five scholarships were awarded to students eager to attend the conference to meet and talk with fellow museum professionals. Recipients were Laura Anderson, State University of West Georgia; Rebecca Born, Georgia Tech; Diane Erdeljac, State University of West Georgia; Trey Gaines, West Georgia and Jill Miller, Brenau University.

The Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries is alive and growing and I think we should congratulate ourselves for the initiatives we have all taken as a museum community.

- We have encouraged our fellow professionals and museums to become new members and to pick up lapsed memberships.
- We attended the annual meeting in full force, with the attendance in Athens topping up to 149 attendees, with 11 attending one day, and 25 guests for our special events.
- In 2001 we held very successful workshops in costume conservation and artifacts handling! The Board has made a commitment to growing our workshop programs in the coming year.
- We have joined together to work on the Georgia Traveler program to encourage children and families across the state to visit museums.

All in all we are doing a good job, but we need to keep up the momentum. Museums today are all facing growing financial problems, schools with less money and incentives to take field trips, and the need to involve our communities in the missions of our museums. It is only through growing cooperation, joint programming and support that we will all survive. So the bottom line is PARTICIPATE.

- Voice your opinion, pick up the phone and call your local Board member
- Join a committee, we have several just waiting for you
- Recruit your local museum professionals
- Give a session at the Annual Meeting – we all have expertise and if I can stand up there and talk away – so can you
- Ask for or give a MUSE consultancy
- Mentor an intern
- Help with the workshops, either as a host or a speaker or as a participant
- Come up with a cool exhibition idea that you can produce with other Georgia Museums or a workshop that would benefit several museums and their audiences

Most of all don’t just sit there and think you are alone and that no one else has similar problems—they do. If you have an idea or just want someone to listen about your museum’s challenges give us a call, we are always happy to hear from you (and I promise not to stand on my soapbox).
Director’s Message

Jo Ann Ray

The 2002 GAMG Annual Conference went off without a hitch and with lots of praise and many thanks to so many people. Athens was the perfect place for Jean Westmacott to end her administration’s outstanding term and to turn over the leadership to Cindy Bowden. There were so many high points during those three days that it is hard to list them all, but certainly the facilities and events were second to none. The sessions received much praise from attendees. Thanks to the program and site committee whose careful planning tended to even the smallest detail.

Conference attendance was a record and our organization actually put a few dollars in the bank for future events and workshops. Through a terrific auction we raised more than $1,200 for MUSE. Hooray for us!

Thanks to our exhibitors who attended the conference: Color Reflections, Malone Design Fabrication, Magnum Company, Southern Business Systems Inc., The Donning Company Publishers and the Hollinger Corporation. We sincerely appreciate their involvement and support. A special thank you also goes to museMedia for sponsoring the coffee break.

The Georgia Traveler is getting off to a fantastic start this year and interest in the program is way up. State support, through Governor Barnes, is certainly the foundation for the program. The switch in school leadership in the Social Studies departments is already having a positive impact. The number of participating schools should increase, assuming the ones who participated last year will continue in the program. This year’s successful students will receive a very attractive gold badge/pin and certificate to commemorate their visits to six participating facilities. We will also be sending Georgia Traveler information to state visitor centers and libraries.

Every participating museum, gallery or park should make sure that each visiting child or group of children is introduced to the Georgia Traveler program and given a Travel Log. Participating organizations will receive up to 50 new brochures which will be mailed by mid-March. If you need more, please let me know. I’ve already had a request from one organization for 1,000 – that’s great!

I visited over 80 museum in 2001 and if I missed you, Sam and I will be there this year. We will call in advance to notify you of our visit.

GAMG was asked to serve on the Governor’s 40-member Historical Tourism Commission. The first public meeting was held on February 19 at the Atlanta History Center. Three more meetings will be held during 2002, and all GAMG members are urged to attend. The next meeting will be in Savannah at the Georgia Historical Society, April 12 at 10 AM. The commission will meet in Macon on August 16 at the Georgia Museum Hall of Fame (time to be announced). In November the meeting will be in Columbus (time and place to be announced.)

One of the directives of the commission is to conduct a comprehensive inventory of what is being done in the industry to promote history and historical tourism. Please let the Historical Tourism Commission know your concerns and suggestions. If you wish to forward them to me, I will be glad to pass them along.

Travels Through GAMG Land

David Dundee

My travel target this time was the Lockerly Arboretum in Milledgeville. As luck would have it there was a huge traffic tie up on Interstate 20, so we took a side route that led us through Eatonton. While we were cruising through town, I saw a sign for the Uncle Remus Museum. I couldn’t resist the chance to visit another museum, so we stopped in. Eatonton is the hometown of Joel Chandler Harris. The museum is in an old slave cabin, which consists of two rooms. There you can find an interesting assortment of Joel Chandler Harris memorabilia, wooden sculpture of various characters and stories of Uncle Remus, books from around the world of the stories of Uncle Remus, and a smattering of farm equipment from early Georgia farms.

We asked the nice lady on duty that day for directions to “Turnwold.” This was the plantation where Joel Chandler Harris talked to former slaves and got the stories that became the basis for the Uncle Remus tales. Turnwold is a private residence and is not open to the public. There is a historical marker about the place by the side of the road, and you can see some old slave cabins as well as the main house.

After a few side trips, we finally arrived in Milledgeville (one of the five cities that have been state capitals of Georgia, can you name all five?). The Lockerly Arboretum is next to Lockerly Hall, an 1839 plantation mansion which is only open for tours on Mondays, but the gardens are open for free, Monday through Saturday. It takes about an hour and a half to walk around the property. You can see various native azaleas and trees, flower gardens and a spice garden. There is a small climax hardwood forest area with a trail and an overlook as well as a very neat exhibit of soil coring from around the state. The soil exhibit allows you to easily compare different soil types, from the mountains to the coast. A small indoor exhibit of all the native trees of Georgia includes about 50 different trees, some I had never heard of. The display for each tree includes a four-foot section of trunk, so one could see the bark, and polished tree rings inside. It was a bit past closing time, so we were chased out by the staff and another adventure in GAMG land came to an end.
SEMC News

Joanna Tinius, SEMC Representative

The mid-year Council meeting took place in Richmond, Va., (Host city for the SEMC conference in October) on February 22 and 23. I will have full details to report for the next newsletter, but don’t fail to mark your calendars now for October 16-19. The theme this year will be “Charting the Future.” There will be an emphasis on issues addressing community, governance, ethics and finance as well as the traditional issues of collections care and interpretation.

We were very pleased to have Esther Hockett with us once again for the annual meeting in Athens. There was a sad note, however, in that she has announced her resignation as Executive Director of SEMC effective March 29, 2002. She cited personal considerations as her primary reason, and will be moving to St. Louis to be closer to family. She will be available as a consultant, and we hope she’ll be back in more active participation soon. We’ll miss her, but know she’ll stay in touch with her many friends and colleagues. And of course, we wish her well.

Don’t forget the next Inside SEMC deadline is April 5 for the June, July, August issue. All your news is wanted – as well as your exhibition schedules. Please tell about building plans, grants, awards, new members of your staff, and anything else that shares more about your institution and the people who work there. Please e-mail them at anytime to me: Joanna Tinius, jttinius@alltel.net, or call me (706) 878-1642 or 878-3300 or Fax to (706) 878-1395. Snail mail to me at SNCA History Museum P.O. Box 460, Sautee-Nacoochee, GA 30571.

Thank you all!

2002 Officers and Board elected at annual meeting in Athens

The membership of the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries elected the following new officers and board members for the 2002-2004 term at the Annual Meeting and Conference.

GAMG Officers are: President – Cindy Bowden, Director, Robert C. Williams American Museum of Papermaking, Atlanta; Vice President – David Dundee, Planetarium Director of Fernbank Science Center, Atlanta; Secretary – Pearl Solomon, Director of Education, Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, Macon and Treasurer – Alex Klingelhofer, Director of Collections, Museum of Arts and Sciences, Macon (serving a 2nd term).

GAMG Board Members are: Joe Kitchens, Executive Director, Funk Heritage Center, Waleska (serving a 2nd term); Laura Thomson McCarty, Associate Director, Georgia Humanities Council, Atlanta; Don Rooney, Curator of Urban and Regional History, Atlanta History Center and Bruce Smith, Executive Director, Port Columbus Civil War Naval Center.

GAMG Officers and Board Members posing for a picture after the awards luncheon are: (from left) Alex Klingelhofer; Scott Loehr; Richard Waterhouse; Karen Kelly; Cindy Bowden; Jacque Kavanaugh; Don Rooney; Joanna Tinius; David Dundee and Joe Kitchens. Not pictured are Don Smith, Pearl Solomon, Laura Thomson McCarty and Jean Westmacott.

Annie Mae Strong Endowment Fund honors memory of longtime GAMG member

Jean Westmacott, Past President

Annie Mae Strong Farabee, a staunch GAMG member and inveterate conference participant, died in early December of 2001. She was born in Fort Myers, Florida in 1928. She and her husband, Maurice, met and married in 1947. Maurice served in World War II before joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation. They lived in Miami, Florida for most of their married lives where she worked as a social science teacher.

The couple had three children who they used to take camping at Lake Winfield Scott in the mountains of north Georgia. The quiet beauty of the area entranced them over the years. They became lifetime members of the Union County Historical Society in 1976, a year before they retired and settled in Blairsville. Maurice and Ann both served on the Historical Society’s Board of Directors, often alternating in the position of President.

Ann’s passion and drive was responsible for establishing a museum in Blairsville’s old courthouse, thereby saving the historic structure. The Historical Society, under the Farabee’s leadership, succeeded in raising over $700,000 to accomplish their goals for the building. Maurice worked as the project manager for the courthouse restoration. The final phase was completed with the dedication of the clock and tower in 2000. The old courthouse is now a museum and a cultural center with the main courtroom still being used for a limited number of trials.

The next goal for the couple was to give the organization more stability by establishing a position for a full time director. In November of 2001, shortly before Ann’s death, that goal was also accomplished with the hiring of Steven Oakley as the first director. I deeply admire the commitment both Ann and Maurice demonstrated in their involvement with the Union County Historical Society – their efforts have created a legacy and a lasting difference in the quality of life in the Blairsville community.

The Farabee’s have been members of GAMG since the mid 1980s. They attended every GAMG Annual Meeting since that time. They both felt that GAMG provides a critical resource for the state’s small museums in particular. In recognition of Ann’s steadfast support and dedication over the years, the GAMG Board of Directors and membership agreed to name the newly established GAMG endowment fund in her honor – the Annie Mae Strong Farabee Endowment Fund. Maurice Farabee was very pleased by the decision, as he believes very strongly, as did Ann, in GAMG’s mission to serve the state of Georgia’s cultural community.

I encourage all our member organizations to make a contribution to the endowment fund in memory of Ann and celebrating her strong commitment to our organization. For information on how to make an endowment contribution, please contact Jo Ann Ray, GAMG Administrative Director.
2001 GAMG Annual Awards

Definitely the highlight of each year’s annual conference is the announcement of Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries Annual Awards that publicly recognize outstanding work and contributions by organizations and individuals over the past year.

The Georgia Museum of Art received the Museum Exhibition of the Year Award (for exhibition budget over $100,000) for Scottish Treasures: Masterpieces from the National Gallery of Scotland. Edward S. Hallman, a trustee for the W. Newton Morris Charitable Foundation which provided major funding for the exhibit, accepted the award which recognized the museum’s contributions "to the cultural fabric of Georgia by presenting a hallmark survey of European paintings. And for stimulating public interest in these works via varied educational programming and innovative funding strategies."

The World of Paper: A Global History of the Art and Industry of Papermaking also won Museum Exhibition of the Year for its implementation of creative ideas associated with the exhibition budget under $100,000. The exhibit was a productive partnership between the museum, Georgia Pacific Corporation and the Arts Program at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport where the exhibition is displayed. The museum was recognized for an exhibit that expanded the "knowledge of the art form and establishing dynamic community partnerships that effectively increased the museum audience."

Georgia Pacific Corporation’s support of the World of Paper exhibition garnered it the Museum Support Business of the Year Award for its continued commitment to art and cultural events in Georgia.

The Special Project of the Year Award went to Historic Augusta, Inc. for The Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson. This restoration project was recognized for excellence in planning, design and implementation and for "providing scholarship and insight into the 19th century home of the first Southerner elected to the presidency following the Civil War."

Education Program of the Year honors went to Colquitt County Arts Center for its Exploring the Arts program. The program was accomplished in partnership with the National Museum of Women in the Arts. The Colquitt was singled out "for providing outstanding educational enrichment for students of Southwest Georgia and the development of sustainable partnerships committed to arts education, accessibility and appreciation of works by women artists."

Mary Alice Jordan of Sandersville was named Volunteer of the Year for her work at the Brown House Museum. In addition to her "indomitable spirit" the award noted her "successful promotion, planning and implementation of creative ideas associated with the exhibition Yesterdays Tomorrows – Past Visions of an American Future, and enlisting the aid of similarly energetic volunteers."

Also honored as Volunteer of the Year was Linda C. Chesnut of Athens for her "tireless advocacy of the Henry D. Green Center for the Study of the Decorative Arts, refining the program’s mission and goals and giving generously of her time talent and treasure to further promote scholarship of this art form in Georgia."

Travis Hutchins was recognized as Museum Professional of the Year for his work at the State Capitol Museum. The award highlighted his "dedication to his profession demonstrated by consultations, mentoring and commitment to his institution as well as excelling in technical skills and artistic talent."

Jacqueline S. Friedlander of Moultrie was named Museum Patron of the Year for her "unyielding advocacy of the Colquitt County Arts Center" and for "spearheading funding for the Exploring the Arts program."

Lifetime Achievement Award honors went to Frank Schnell for "more than thirty years of faithful service as archeologist and historian to the Columbus Museum. " Schnell was also recognized for being a "vocal champion of local culture, history and quality of life."

Congratulations to all!

The World of Paper exhibition organized by the Robert C. Williams American Museum of Papermaking, and on display at Hartsfield International Airport, received Museum Exhibition of the Year honors at the GAMG 2002 conference. Pictured here are (from left) Glynn Moseley, Unique Displays; Laura Lieberman, museum development director; Curley Dossman, Georgia Pacific Foundation; Cindy Bouieden, museum director; Karl Warden, volunteer, Juan Chevere, construction; David Vogt, Hartsfield International Airport and Rob Jones, carpenter.

GAMG Award winners announced at the 2002 annual conference were (from left) Linda Chesnut, Athens, Volunteer of the Year; Jacqueline Friedlander, Moultrie, Museum Patron of the Year; Erick Montgomery and Shana Overstreet, Historic Augusta Inc, Special Project of the Year; Jane Simpson, Colquitt County Arts Center, Education Program of the Year; Travis Towns, State Capitol Museum, Museum Professional of the Year; Mary Alice Jordan, Sandersville, Volunteer of the Year; Frank Schnell, Columbus Museum, Lifetime Achievement Award; Edward S. Hallman on behalf of the Georgia Museum of Art, Museum Exhibition of the Year and Curley Dossman, Georgia Pacific Foundation, Museum Support Business of the Year.
Conference attendees were feted with receptions at several locations during their stay in Athens. In the left photo, guests gather at the Georgia Museum of Art for a reception following the Art and Soul concert. In the right photo, conference participants enjoy refreshments at the State Botanical Gardens.

Conference participants at the annual auction to benefit the GAMG MUSE program. This year’s auction raised over $1,200.

The Directors Forum panel discussion drew a large crowd on the first full day of conference workshops. In the left photo, Greg Paxon, director of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, greets a conference participant after the workshop while GAMG Director Jo Ann Ray looks on. In the right photo, Ed Spriggs, director of Hammond House Galleries in Atlanta, meets attendees after the discussion.

Georgia Museum of Art director Bill Eiland (second from left) explains a quilting project collaboration between the museum and the Athens–Clarke County public schools to several GAMG members.
Mark your calendars...

Atlanta History Center
130 West Paces Ferry Road, NW, Atlanta. 404.814.4000 or www.atlantahistorycenter.com for information.
Furniture of the American South: 1680 – 1830, The Colonial Williamsburg Collection, through August 11. Includes more than 50 pieces of Colonial Williamsburg's finest examples of early furniture from the South's three principal regions: the Chesapeake, the Low Country and the Backcountry. Captured by the Camera, through May 31. Georgia's history shown through photographs. From the man who weighed 650 pounds and the woman who named Atlanta to the family who photographed a city, this exhibit offers a unique perspective on the people and places of Georgia's past.

Arts for All Gallery
VSA Arts of Georgia, Healey Building rotunda, 57 Forsyth St., NW, Atlanta. www.VSAartsGA.org for more information.

Augusta Museum of History
560 Reynolds St., Augusta. 706.722.8454 or www.augustamuseum.org for more information.

Brenau University Galleries
One Centennial Cir., Gainesville. 770.534.6263 for more information.

Chattahoochee Valley Art Museum
112 Lafayette Pkwy, LaGrange. 706.882.3267 or www.cvam-online.org for more information.
LaGrange National XXII Biennial, through April 20. Creative Youth Art League Seventh Annual Exhibition, April 28 - May 11. Work by area high school art students from West Georgia and East Alabama. Family of Lines, new work by Carrollton artist Robert Roller opens May 18 along with new work by emerging artist Melissa Crawford. Opening reception for both exhibits is Saturday, May 25, 7:00 p.m.

Chieftowns Museum
Touch the Earth Day, May 4. Craftsmen will demonstrate traditional crafts such as beadwork, basket weaving and candlemaking on museum grounds. In conjunction with Rome’s citywide Mayfest.

The Columbus Museum
1251 Wynnton Rd., Columbus. 706.649.0713 or www.columbusmuseum.com for more information.
Magnificent, Marvelous Martele: American Art Nouveau Silver from the Robert and Jolie Shelton Collection, through April 28. Organized by the New Orleans Museum of Art, this exhibit features virtually every important form in the Martele line of silver produced by Gorham Manufacturing Company. Robert Birmelin: Recent Paintings, through May 19, features 25 major paintings from the last 15 years by one of the finest painters of urban America. Wish You Were Here, Postcards from Columbus, through Oct.

Fernbank Museum of Natural History
767 Clifton Rd., NE, Atlanta. 404.929.6300 or www.fernbank.edu/museum for more information.
Classical Landscape Photography and the Digital Darkroom, through Sept. 2. Jean Miele presents 28 large-scale black and white Lightjet prints in a solo exhibit celebrating our environment. Syria: Land of Civilizations, through Sept. 2, 2002. Exhibition features more than 350 original artifacts including jewelry, sculptures, grave markers and architectural elements. The film Kilimanjaro: To the Roof of Africa, from Everest director and producer David Breashears, shows daily in the IMAX® Theatre through Sept. 20. Join a band of trekkers as they journey through rugged terrain and extreme conditions to reach Africa’s highest point.

Fernbank Science Center
156 Heaton Park Dr., NE, Atlanta. 404.378.4311 for more information.
Spring Migration Bird Walks, through May 18 (except April 13) Saturday mornings at 8:00 in the Fernbank Forest. Planetarium shows: Ancient Islamic Astronomy, through May 24; Other Moons, through May 19. Children’s planetarium show Flying Carpets and Shooting Stars, May 29 – Aug. 18.

Georgia Museum of Art
University of Georgia, Athens. 706.542.0451 or www.uga.edu/gamuseum for more information.

Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art
506 Telfair St., Augusta. 706.722.5495 or www.ghia.org for more information.
Agnes Markwalter Youth Art Competition, through April 19. Artwork based on the theme "Picture This" by public and private students from Aiken, Burke, Columbia, McDuffie and Richmond counties. A Delicate Bouquet: French Floral Studies, through May 31. A collection of delicately detailed drawings by an anonymous follower of the early 19th Century French flower painter Antoine Berjon. On loan from the permanent collection of the Georgia Museum of Art. Senior Exhibition: Davidson Fine Art Magnet School, May 1 - 31. Works in a variety of media by senior visual art students from Richmond County’s award-winning fine arts magnet school.

Georgia Music Hall of Fame
200 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Macon. 478.750.8555 or www.musicmaker.org for more information.
Blues Came to Georgia, through June 2. In conjunction with release of similarly titled CD, an exhibit featuring rare photos, instruments, costumes and folk art created by Music Maker artists. Blues Came to Georgia is a partnership venture with the Music Maker Relief Foundation Inc.
Georgia Sports Hall of Fame
301 Cherry St., Macon. 478.752.1585 or www.gshf.org for more information.
Eleventh Annual Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, May 6 at the White Water Country Club in Fayetteville. Phil Niekro will serve as honorary chairman of the event.

High Museum of Art
1280 Peachtree St., NE Atlanta. 404.733.4444 for more information.
After the Scream: The Late Paintings of Edvard Munch, through May 5. Features the largest group of paintings ever loaned from the Munch-Museet in Oslo, Norway to an American institution. The exhibit is comprised of 62 works, including many important self-portraits and landscapes, which Munch painted in Norway after establishing his career in France and Germany.
Beauford Delaney: The Color Yellow, through May 5. One of the first solo exhibits of the internationally acclaimed artist’s work since his death in 1979. At the Folk Art and Photography Galleries, downtown: Contemporary Folk Art: Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum, through April 13. Exhibit showcasing inventive works created by top self-taught artists from across the nation during the past 40 years. Diverse Works: Photographs from the High’s Collection, April 13 – Aug. 31. Exhibition of eight contemporary photographers features new acquisitions or rarely exhibited works from the High’s collection.

Michael C. Carlos Museum
571 South Kilgo St., at Emory University. 404.72.4282 or www.carlos.emory.edu for more information.
New Egyptian Galleries permanent exhibition. Significant collection of ancient Egyptian funerary art, the last remaining major collection assembled in the 19th century.

Morris Museum of Art
Augusta. 706.724.7501 for more information.
Robin Hill’s Birds, through April 14. Highly detailed watercolors of the birds of North America. Reconstructions, April 25 – Sept. 29. Examines the influences of modernism, the response of Southern artists to abstract expressionism and late narrative works.

Museum of Arts and Sciences
4182 Forsyth Road, Macon. 478.477.3232 or www.masmacon.com for more information.

Tubman African American Museum
Macon. 478.743.8544 for more information.
Howardina Pindell: An Intimate Retrospective, through April 27. Features large and small scale mixed media works from nationally recognized artist, writer, teacher and activist.

Robert C. Williams American Museum of Papermaking
500 Tenth St., NW, Atlanta. 404.894.6663 or www.ipst.edu/amp/ for more information.
Alchemy: Recent Pulp Paintings by Jennifer Crane, through May 31. Connecticut-based artist’s brilliantly colored, rhythmic abstractions are created with spontaneous and intuitive gestures, using pigmented liquid cotton, linen and other natural fiber-based pulps to build richly layered improvisational compositions.
Youth Art Connection awarded 2001 Global Tolerance Award

GAMG member organization Youth Art Connection (YAC), a program of Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta, received the 2001 Global Tolerance Award in the Arts. The award was presented to YAC in December 2001 at a gala ceremony held at the United Nations building in New York. The award, given annually since 1998 by Friends of the United Nations, honors those who have been leaders in promoting tolerance and human rights through the arts.

In a world where intolerance and racism are prevalent, Friends of the United Nations was impressed by YAC’s innovative use of the arts and artists to help shape new attitudes. YAC programs provide youth with the means to understand other cultures and races. Children are able to develop their own impressions of other cultures through different mediums.

“Youth Art Connection is honored to be recognized for its diversity-related programs,” stated Rebecca Des Marais, director of Youth Art Connection. “We look forward to continuing to help youth identify and express the beauty of global acceptance.”

From dramatic productions to forums to art exhibits, Youth Art Connection shines when it comes to tolerance-related programming. In December 2000, YAC took charge in writing a Personal Pledge Against Racism that was adopted by the United Nations and launched as part of an international youth art competition to promote the 2001 World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa. In support of the conference, YAC hosted two events to “Stomp Out Racism.” Hundreds of children placed their feet in buckets of colored paint and stepped onto a huge canvas banner, stomping out the words “racism, hatred, bigotry, prejudice and intolerance.” The banners were then carried to the Durban conference to be part of the art exhibit.

“It is Youth Art Connection’s effective use of media and the arts to nourish the values of tolerance and its skillful efforts to promote respect for diversity that are most commendable and deserving of this year’s honor,” said Noel Brown, president, Friends of the United Nations. “We attach the highest value to the work of Youth Art Connection and are delighted to have the opportunity to acknowledge its efforts.”

Friends of the United Nations is a non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting the principles and values of the United Nations Charter and building supportive constituencies for the work of the Organization.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta operates 20 year-round Clubs in 10 metro counties in addition to Camp Kiwanis and Youth Art Connection, a gallery and workspace for young artists. A trained and professional staff serves more than 26,000 youth annually by offering specialized programming and a safe haven for at-risk and underprivileged children and teens.