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### *"Festival of Greens Awards Announced"*

**FREDERICK.** Over 70 artist-decorated and themed wreaths adorned the Cultural Arts Center for the inaugural Frederick Festival of Greens, an eight-day celebration of the arts and the holidays, scheduled for November 21-29.

Seventy-three wreaths and trees were decorated by artists, businesses, community residents, and local organizations. The wreaths and trees ranged from the fancy to the funky. All of the wreaths and trees were then purchased by individuals through the on-going silent auction in time for them to place them on display in their homes or businesses. Several individuals also bid on them for holiday gifts. Many of them also included gift certificates and other items that accompany the wreath for the buyer to utilize. All proceeds from the auction will benefit the arts in Frederick County. Approximately \$6200 was raised from this year's event after expenses.

The eight-day festival also showcased several performing arts groups in the Frederick area, including the Choral Arts Society, FTP Towne Singers, Emmitsburg Community Chorus, Clustered Spires Chapter of the Sweet Adelines, Act Too! Children's Theater Company, Tuba Christmas, Maryland Ensemble Theatre, and the Kevin Edmonds Trio. In addition, CinemArts showed five holiday movies throughout the event.

Local children also had the chance to visit with Santa and play "reindeer games." City of Frederick Alderman Kip Koontz was on hand to read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and incoming FAC board president Rick Miller gave an interpretative reading of "A Christmas Carol." Several hands-on activities and demonstrations were also part of the festival, including holiday crafts by artist Bev Reidinger, PMC clay charms by Dawn Fernald-Spruill, wreath-making by home décor artist Kate Hamilton, and holiday flower arrangements by Adrienne Summers.

All the performances, movies, and other activities are free and open to the public. "Given the current state of the economy, this event provided a great outlet for families without any costs involved," said Frederick Arts Council executive director Shuan Butcher. "As personal disposable income has become tighter for many families, the added value arts activities such as this one can provide is entertainment and quality time without affecting the family budget," he said.

Throughout the festival, individuals were able to vote on their favorite wreath and tree for a People's Choice Award. The Lego Wreath, by Leslie Ruby, won the Audience Favorite Award. Honorable mention went to a wreath decorated by Pat Frucella entitled "Fine Feathers." A panel of judges also selected several for special recognition. The most artistic wreath was "Beautiful Bounty" by Kate Hamilton; most unique award went to "Community Acupuncture" by Jessica Feltz Wolfson; most humor

award went to “It’s OK to Be a Couch Potato” by Susan Chapman; the best green wreath was entitled “A Green Wreath” by Judy Lewis; the best school wreath was one by St. John Regional Catholic School entitled “Peace on Earth”; and the best corporate submission was “Season’s Harmony” by Woodsboro Bank. The judges also recognized “Is It Too Late to Be Good?” as the best tree, submitted by Kate Hamilton and gave Bev Reidinger’s “Going Peanuts for Christmas” wreath an honorable mention. Two sponsors gave out special recognition as the Gaver Holdings Award went to the “Cowboy Christmas” wreath by Cowboy Stuff Lipstick & Spurs and the Realtors Award went to “The Nutcracker Snow Scene Wreath” by Maryland Regional Ballet and Dean Roth.

Throughout the Festival, the Frederick Arts Council also accepted donations of canned goods and other non-perishable food items that were donated to Frederick Community Action Agency. People also donated warm weather items such as gloves, scarves, and hats for the Mitten Tree. These items will also be donated to help those in need in the Frederick area.

The Festival of Greens was made possible because of the generous support provided by GTI Holdings, PNC Bank, Morgan Keller Specialty Group, and the Frederick County Association of Realtors. In addition, an NEA/Challenge America grant from the Maryland State Arts Council funded many of the performances and other art activities. In-kind support was provided by Barnes & Noble and the FSK Kaffe.

The Festival of Greens plans to be an annual event at the Cultural Arts Center of Frederick County, located in downtown Frederick at 15 W. Patrick Street. The 2009 event is scheduled for November 20-29th. Those interested in participating should contact Frederick Arts Council Executive Director Shuan Butcher at 301-662-4190.