

# Lancaster County Council of the Arts

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The Springs House is an impressive two-story, frame residence in downtown Lancaster that was converted to municipal use as a city hall in 1957. An original section of the building was constructed around 1820-30. The house was greatly enlarged in the mid-1850s and it took its present appearance in a ca. 1906-07 remodeling. The original owner and builder are not known. The owner during the 1850s renovations was Samuel Buckner Massey. The ca. 1906-07 remodeling, which the building's integrity derives from, occurred under the ownership of Colonel Leroy Springs, who secured James M. McMichael, an architect from Charlotte, North Carolina, to plan the changes and additions. The façade features a two-tiered pedimented portico defined by fluted columns with Doric-influenced capitals. The pediment contains a semi-elliptical window with tracery. There is a two-story, flat roof porch addition at the rear. The main interior feature is an entrance stair in a two-story foyer. Leroy Springs played a major role in the industrial development of Lancaster and the surrounding area. The Leroy Springs House represents a significant part of Lancaster's past, and in this single building, the development of the town is reflected. The house contains structural evidence of a plain house of the early nineteenth century as well as the early twentieth century attempt of a suc-



Works by Dianne Mshaffee

cessful industrialist to express his wealth and power through his residence. Many people believe that the town of Lancaster owes its character and economic status largely to Leroy Springs and his vision for the southern textile industry. Listed in the National Register March 20, 1986.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 803/285-7451 or visit ([www.lccarts.net](http://www.lccarts.net)).

## Arts Council of York County in Rock Hill, SC, Offers Works by Vernon Grant

The Arts Council of York County in Rock Hill, SC, is presenting *Vernon Grant's Winter Frolic: Santas, Snow and Scenes of Winter*, on view in the Dalton Gallery at the Center for the Arts, through Dec. 29, 2013. A reception will be held on Dec. 5, 2013, beginning at 5:30pm.

Renowned illustrator and creator of Kellogg's® Snap! ® Crackle! ® Pop! ®, Vernon Grant built his reputation on his signature gnomes, jolly Santas and his whimsical approach to illustration. Along with Grant's favorite subject, Santa Claus, this year's ChristmasVille exhibit will feature skiers, snowmen and winter scenes that graced the covers of some of America's most popular magazines of the times.

Born in Nebraska in 1902, Grant was the son of a blacksmith with a pioneering spirit. Everything the Grants needed they made themselves. Young Vernon made some of his toys from clay from the riverbanks. These sculpted figures he modeled were forerunners of the colorful, winsome gnomes that would later launch his career



Work by Vernon Grant

as an illustrator.

Grant personally enjoyed drawing Santa Claus more than any other subject. Through hundreds of whimsical and memorable magazine covers, advertisements and card illustrations from the 1920s through the 1970s, Grant created a national treasure of holiday seasonal art.

Over forty of Grant's images will be on display in the Dalton Gallery at the Center for the Arts.

Exhibiting concurrently to Vernon Grant's *Winter Frolic* is the *York County High School Art Show*, with awards sponsored by the Yorkville Artists' Guild.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Council at 803/328-2787 or visit ([www.yorkcountyarts.org](http://www.yorkcountyarts.org)).

## Mint Museum Randolph in Charlotte, NC, Features Works by Sonia Handelman Meyer

Mint Museum Randolph in Charlotte, NC, is presenting *Bearing Witness: The New York Photo League and Sonia Handelman Meyer*, featuring works by this 93-year-old Charlotte photographer, on view through June 29, 2014.

The New York Photo League was established in 1936, and centered on the exploration of the power of photography to effect social change and capture the lives of ordinary people as they had never before been depicted. And now, the work of this era – focusing in particular on the remarkable photography of Sonia Handelman Meyer of Charlotte – is on view in a special exhibition at Mint Museum Randolph.

*Bearing Witness: The New York Photo League and Sonia Handelman Meyer*, comprises approximately 100 photographs from Photo League members.

"Although Sonia's work and the work of others at the Photo League were created in response to the struggles of this very specific time period, these photographers



*Tax Booth at Jehovah's Witness Rally, Yankee Stadium, circa 1946-50*, by Sonia Handelman Meyer (American, 1920-), gelatin silver print, 10 x 10 inches. Courtesy of Sonia Handelman Meyer and Hodges Taylor Art Consultancy

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to our lives today," said Amber Smith, who curated the exhibition for the Mint and is writing a catalogue to accompany the exhibition which will be published this spring.

The idea for the exhibition began last year when the Mint received a gift of three vintage 1947 prints by Meyer. The Mint's collection includes nearly 100 other photographs by Photo League members, so building an exhibition around this trove, with a particular spotlight on Meyer's work, strategically leveraged a core strength of the museum. Hodges Taylor Art Consultancy devoted a solo show to Meyer's work in 2007, but this is the first major museum exhibition to focus on Meyer.

Born in Lakewood, NJ, in 1920, Meyer spent most of her life in New York City. She was introduced to the Photo League in 1943 and remained a member until its closure in 1951. The photographs presented in this exhibition underscore Meyer's concern with social justice and her humanist approach to documenting her subjects, including her work with the Sydenham Hospital, the first integrated hospital in the country; the Hebrew Immigration Aid Society; her extensive documentation of life in Harlem and Spanish Harlem; and her moving, dignified portraits of children.

"I was discovering New York City and its people in a way that was new, and wonderful, with my camera. I began to see what the [Great] Depression meant in the lives of people in the city. I began to appreciate and love the people and places I was photographing. I realized that un-



*Bus Stop, circa 1946-50*, by Sonia Handelman Meyer (American, 1920-), gelatin silver print, 10 x 10 inches. Courtesy of Sonia Handelman Meyer and Hodges Taylor Art Consultancy

derstanding them might also bring about changes for the better," said Meyer. "I'm very grateful for this opportunity to show Photo League work along with my own photographs to Charlotte."

Other photographers from the Photo League featured in the exhibition include Berenice Abbott, Margaret Bourke-White, Vivian Cherry, Morris Engel, Lewis Hine, Sid Grossman, Rosalie Gwathmey, N. Jay Jaffee, Arthur Leipzig, Rebecca Lepkoff, Barbara Morgan, Arnold Newman, Ruth Orkin, Walter Rosenblum, W. Eugene Smith, Lou Stoumen, Todd Webb, and Ida Wyman, among others.

The Photo League came under FBI suspicion during the McCarthy era and was accused of being a Communist front.

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