

# IAAA Award



## "Joint Effort"

Donna Dorn  
Nadine Piertrantoni

coached by Donna Dorn  
assisted by Wally Wengel

The key to our composition is inspiration. We always begin with the nuts and bolts of aquatic art - figures, swimming and floating. We continue in this manner until inspiration "strikes".

During the years we finally realized that the most unusual things will inspire us. As we worked together, we began to touch joints. This became our theme. The costume was easy to find but the title was elusive. While waiting in an office, Nadine picked up a magazine and thumbed through to find an article called "Joint Effort". We had been working on that type of theme but couldn't come up with the right title. She called immediately and "Joint Effort" was born. We also liked the double meaning

behind the title. We spend an inordinate amount of time critiquing videos taken by Wally. In the end, we always ask Wally to use his naked eye to judge a movement and the completed composition. After all, he has spent the last 23 years viewing Aquatic Art at its best. Thanks to Wally, we're able to swim and coach.





# HISTORY CHANNEL

by Bert Hubbard

## Preservation

That electronic magician Donna Dorn has plunged into converting the 202 aging VHS tapes in the IAAA Archives into a new long-lasting format. This will save our aquatic performance history. With new software she has already converted and compressed 111 tapes to digital video cassettes, each which can accommodate four and one-half hours and cost \$25 per cassette. Donna hopes to complete this critical task this summer. From these new cassettes she can make either DVD or VHS copies as needed. Congratulations to Donna for starting on this vital preservation breakthrough. \*\*\* It was a transcendent moment when I discovered the long sought-after photo of the 1973 "Schizophrenia" with Becky Jo Manley and Mary Ann Beaudoin in one of the photo albums Donna Dorn had successfully rescued from the estate of Ward Vanderpool. With film footage of the 1971 "The Temptation of Thomas Beckett" already in our tape archives, the search, for the final one missing Top Comp, out of the 276 awarded over the years, has been narrowed down to the 1971 "Genesis of Man" by St. Petersburg Jr. College. Maybe someone out there can help bring this long search to a successful conclusion. \*\*\* While visiting Chicago in March I had a chat with Idella Chino, who worked with Bee Cee Hayes from 1958-1965 at the old Wright Jr. College. She recalled how hot it was in that little pool for the spectators as they waited for Bee Cee to get herself dressed and ready to start the show. As a member of the phys ed faculty Idella helped with the shows in various ways and found Bee Cee very natural and easy to work with. She recalled how Bee Cee loved violets on all kinds of items. Maybe it was the violets that helped induce the romantic aura the Wright Jr. swim program seemed to exude in those days, which led to the altar for quite a few couples. Two that are still on the IAAA scene are Cathy and Jamie Goodwin and Barbara and Garrett Hopkins. Idella is still in touch with Sandy and Paul Schechter, and of course remembers the impassioned 1959 composition "Romeo and Juliet" with Carol Silberschlag and James Herklotz who swam as the star-crossed lovers but had a happier ending when they married in real life. A high point of their duet was a lift and throw inspired by ice skating competition, which Bee Cee enjoyed watching on TV for ideas for swim numbers. \*\*\*

Johanna Beisteiner of Austria has made a major contribution to the performance field in her just-released doctoral dissertation "Art Music in Figure Skating, Synchronized Swimming and Rhythmic Gymnastics from 1990 to the Present". Included in this 449-page opus is a brief background of early synchro and aquatic art in which there are photos of such IAAA performers as: Beulah Gundling, Cathy and Jamie Goodwin with Tom Orlando, Ric Gauuan, Bert Hubbard, Joan Hinderstein, Richard Proctor, plus Donn Squire. Johanna was interested in the involvement of male swimmers and featured the work of Bill May, especially in the "Swan Lake" of the Limmat-Nixen of Zurich. A valuable part of this work is Johanna's listing of music by composers and the programs performed to this music, especially by figure skaters. "Carmen" was very popular. Many thanks to Johanna for completing this enormous undertaking and providing a copy of her dissertation for archival purposes. \*\*\* Some very appreciated items were donated for our Assorted Albums. Cathy Goodwin shared programs of the Marlin Swim Club's (Maine Township HS) March show "A Note-Able Difference". This over 40-year old club inspires loyalty as exemplified by Lisa Merlin, Class of 1982, who helped with the show. We hope the Maine HS Administration will be as supportive and allow the club to continue. \*\*\*\* Sue Goettel thoughtfully presented a pamphlet from the memorial service for Nadine Boots, who died May 31, 2005. Nadine was an original member of the Aquarelles and swam with the team for over 40 years. Always active, Nadine loved scuba diving and water skiing as well as swimming. She certainly lived up to her favorite



motto: "The longer you sit the harder it is to get up!" \*\*\* Jane Bell sent in several photos of the headstones where Beulah Gundling is buried next to her beloved husband Henry Gundling on the estate of Henry Gundling, Jr. in Northern California. \*\*\* Some photos from this Festival that will go in those Assorted Albums are of : Wally Wengel, Anita Frazee, Karen Barth, Alice Sweeney Seay, Mary Morrison, Beth Stephan, Sue Goettel and our own hard working Board of Directors. Any pictures or memorabilia of IAAA events are gladly accepted. \*\*\* Ron Wigo, CEO and President of ISHOF, while facing serious budget restraints, still hopefully states "it is our intention to find resources of like-minded institutions, educational institutions or gifts that will enable us to meet our need of preservation...which is the Henning Library's most pressing need." Anyone who can help with this worthy cause please contact Ron at ISHOF.

## Tidings

Sincere condolences are extended to Chris Carver, whose husband Ron Carver died of staph pneumonia on April 16. He was her emotional anchor and was a loyal supporter of both Chris and the Santa Clara Aquamaids. Ron coached the 10-and-under swimmers for years. Donations in his memory may be made to "The Ron Carver Aquamaid Training Fund", PO Box 2066, Santa Clara, CA 95051. \*\*\* The usually sturdy Leah Magruder has been faced this year with lingering bronchitis and oral sores only to be topped off with a sudden collapse of both of her knees. Arthroscopic surgery on April 13 cleaned out this damage, and after using a wheel chair and crutches she is now back on her feet and swimming again. Best wishes for a healthy rest of 2006 Leah! \*\*\* Another operation to note. Joy Cushman, a major synchro pioneer and 1964 U.S. Synchronized Swimming Hall of Fame Honoree, fell and broke her hip in late January. She required a hip replacement, something her friend Dawn Bean has experienced personally, since she has had three such replacements. The first one broke long ago. Dawn credits swimming for her speedy recoveries and has urged Joy to get back in the water ASAP. \*\*\* I am finding Dawn's Synchronized Swimming: An American History an indispensable source book. It is a great reference for all things synchro. Check it out at <[www.mcfarlandpub.com](http://www.mcfarlandpub.com)>. \*\*\* Now you see her, now you don't! Pat Haueter is on the move again. It was the Dalmatian Coast and Greece in April, then it will be a Folk Art Festival in Kentucky in June before she serves as a docent at the Santa Fe Opera this summer. Between all this she enjoyed the tape of Festival comps I had sent her. \*\*\* Bob Kerper has been named to the 2005 Top Ten Master Swimmers in the United States in his 80-84 age group. He specializes in the backstroke and keeps working his way up the ladder. \*\*\* Pauline McCullagh, eagle-eyed as ever, sent in a spelling correction for her 1962 "Triptych" before 'riding madly off in all directions' including a nature trip on Vancouver Island. In 1960 Pauline won the Gale Trophy, Canada's top synchro award and she still loves swimming. \*\*\* Ric Gauuan, out in Stockton, CA keeps in touch with aquatic art via IAAA's website administered by Shirley Runge. He also enjoyed the tape of this year's Festival. \*\*\* Mauro & Agnes Pittaro sent in their reactions to the compositions. They thought all the numbers were good but "resonated" to the color and patterns of "Fluid Triangularity". Mauro hopes to complete his computer indexing of a medical thesaurus this summer. \*\*\* Jessie Lie Farber found wearing fins can pull one's leg muscles, and she hasn't been able to swim for a while. I had the same problem when I had to wear fins in some compositions. \*\*\* It was good to see Audrey Holmberg looking so well when I stopped off in Muskegon to share with her a look at the Festival tape. Having just celebrated her 90th birthday she still steams ahead with her always interesting column in Senior Perspectives. In the last issue she told about how she met her handsome husband Henry at an IOOF dance in 1930. Her theme song soon became "Love Walked Right In", which she still can play smoothly on the piano. \*\*\* Paul Carvalho fell in love with Tuscany, which he toured after completing Margaret Visser's Geometry of Love in Rome. He even found a perfect piazza as the setting for a children's musical he is writing. \*\*\* Alicia Crew is really involved at Florida State University in the building of a new gigantic intramural sports complex of over 45 acres.



\*\*\* Fran Sweeney may have retired but she is still fully committed to the summer swim lessons she teaches in her backyard pool. \*\*\* Mark your calendar for the fall water show at Wright College. It will be October 14, 2006 and Cathy Goodwin and the Sea Stars are so happy to be back in their fully repaired pool. They hope to welcome IAAA for the 2007 Festival \*\*\*

## Ben Franklin - Aquatic Pioneer

During the recent celebration of Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday I was reminded of the love he had for the water. As a young boy he invented some paddles and sandal-like flippers which he used to propel himself across Boston harbor. He studied one of the first books on the subject, M. Thevenot's 1696 The Art of Swimming, which popularized the breaststroke. He would have enjoyed aquatic art because in the stroke variations he perfected for both on the surface and underwater he was aiming for the graceful and easy. Wouldn't his famous floating across the pond, while being pulled by a kite, be a hit at an IAAA Festival? He was so accomplished with a variety of strokes that friends offered to fund a swim school for Franklin to run. Ben Franklin, among all his accomplishments, certainly ranks as a very early aquatic pioneer.

## A Few Festival Moments

What a treat to see Anita Frazee again, and she kindly taped my "Snooze Alarm" for me. Anita flew from the Seattle area to be with three ladies she had coached in Summerfield, Florida. Sharon L. Wittemann, Lenore Casey and Sue Latham, of the Dolphinettes, made the long trip to share their snappy "All That Jazz" and were a delightful addition to the event. Let's hope they'll bring another work next year. \*\*\* Several features in compositions that caught my eye were: Beth Stephan's clever use of the fan in "Asian Artistry", the Aquarelles inventive ways to "Dare to Be Square", the dynamic electricity generated in "Elements of the Storm" by the Wright College Sea Stars and the colorful costuming and intricacy of "Fluid Triangularity" by the Suburban Synchronized Swim Club. Two works that moved wonderfully for me were: "Joint Effort" with Donna Dorn and Nadine Pietrantoni and "Chi" in which Rose Foit conveyed such an inner force to the music from "House of Flying Daggers" that I can't get the image out of my mind. \*\*\* With the use of Fran Sweeney and Mary Jane Huff as critics the same five non-swimming persons rated all the compositions. With only one "IAAA" being awarded, the first time this has happened since 1958, the standard did seem higher than in recent years. It remains to be seen what this portends. \*\*\* Our group was fortunate to have Ron Stephan volunteer to handle all those CDs as our music man and to serve as MC with a less than perfect sound system, and of course in his usual jovial manner. \*\*\* Wally Wengel continued his over 20 years of masterful taping of each and every composition, as well as photographing all "IAAAs". This remains the basis of the preservation of aquatic art! Have you seen the clever new IAAA business card the multi-talented Wally designed? \*\*\* It was unfortunate that Pam Lam got a touch of the intestinal flu and had to miss the bountiful banquet at Mancini's that she had arranged. Both Pam and her daughter Bridget are back in top form and are bounding along at top speed. \*\*\* Good to see Nadine Pietrantoni follow up so quickly on the suggestion made at the annual meeting to extend our electronic networking. She has already encouraged one and all to let her know of any e-mail address changes and of any new names to add to her list. \*\*\* In following Nadine's reminder I am posting my new e-mail address <berthubb@comcast.net>. Viva electronics! Let's all keep in touch! \*\*\*

<berthubb@comcast.net>

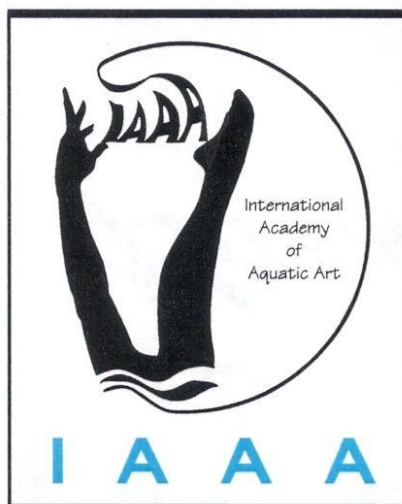


# Aquatic Artist

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website:

<[www.aquatic-art.org](http://www.aquatic-art.org)>

It is the goal and philosophy of the International Academy of Aquatic Art to be a forum for truly artistic expression. Participation in IAAA events will allow swimmers to take the sport of synchronized swimming one step further to that of art. To allow for true artistic development, there must be no restrictions or limitations on what must or must not be included in a composition, and compositions must be rated against a standard of excellence, and not against each other. In this way, all participants in an event could all receive top honors, if all are deserving, or all may need improvement at some level. A composition is never rated "first" because it was circumstantially better than others in a particular event on a given day. The standards of excellence in artistic expression are immutable and maintained throughout the evaluations of all aquatic compositions.

The objectives of the organization, as stated in its articles of incorporation are:

- To recognize and explore the potential of the aquatic medium for truly artistic self-expression and interpretation.
- To establish an academic environment conducive to the full development of aquatic art forms.
- To interest the people of the world in participating in the development of aquatic art.

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**52**  
**Festivals**

**1955 • 2006**

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Submissions are welcomed from members and other interested persons, but these must be signed and include address and telephone numbers. Letters addressed to the editor are considered to be submitted for publication unless the writer states otherwise. The editor reserves the sole right to edit submissions or reject those which do not complement the goals of this organization. Send submissions to Donna Dorn, Aquatic Artist Newsletter, 1010 Sherwood Drive, Prospect Heights, Illinois 60070.

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