

TO: Editors, Feature Writers and Event Listings
SUBJECT: Art Related Special Events
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PRESS RELEASE

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The Brush Art Gallery and Studios Presents “An Evening for Marie Sweeney”

Event Information:
April 27th, 2018
UMass Inn & Conference Center
50 Warren Street, Lowell, MA 01852

6:00 Cocktail Hour

7:00 Dinner

7:30 Program Begins

Reservations \$125 per person

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Lowell, MA—The Board of Directors of The Brush Art Gallery and Studios would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join us for “**An Evening for Marie Sweeney**” on **April 27th** 2018 at the UMass Inn and Conference Center in Lowell.

This will be an opportunity for Marie's friends to join together and acknowledge her many achievements.

As part of the presentation, a panel of cultural leaders will join Marie in a discussion of their experiences. The panel includes Lewis Karabatsos, Lowell Historical Society; Marty Meehan, University of Massachusetts; Janet Leggat, former Executive Director, Lowell Festival Foundation; and Karen Frederick, Community Teamwork, Inc.

Entertainment will be performed by Ralph Funaro, well-known singer and piano player; and Fermata Nowhere, a women's a capella group from University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Since it is part of our mission to use art to focus attention on important social and environmental issues, it makes sense that the Brush honors someone who has done so much for our community.

Quote from Michael Lally, President, Board of Directors, Brush Art Gallery and Studios, "Marie Sweeney's contributions to the cultural life of Lowell have benefitted so many people. She has worked tirelessly in such a diverse group of organizations in Lowell's cultural community that she was a natural choice for us to honor."

Marie Sweeney of Tewksbury is a long-time activist in community, civic, political and cultural affairs as well as an advocate for education, human services and volunteerism in the Greater Lowell Area. She has been a leader in many organizations and currently serves on the Boards of Community Teamwork, Inc. (CTI), the Lowell Historical Society and the Common Ground Development Corporation and formerly on the board of Human Services Corporation, the Lowell Heritage Partnership and the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Lowell. Mrs. Sweeney, a former Lowell High English teacher and Congressional Aide, is also a member of the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee from the Second Essex Middlesex State Senatorial District, and longtime Chair of GLAD, Greater Lowell Area Democrats. An alum of Lowell State College, she is a longtime member of the UMass Lowell College of Education Advisory Board. Recently she was recognized by the Lowell Irish Cultural Committee with the Anam Cara Award for her contributions to the preservation of local Irish culture and heritage, was an honoree in the Salute to Woman of Greater Lowell and was recognized as a Massachusetts Unsung Hero.

Quote from Janet Leggat, "Anyone who is lucky enough to be on a committee with Marie would be touched by her energy and passion for the organizations that she is involved with. You become a better participant by just watching and learning. She is great mentor and an even better friend."

"Honoring Marie Sweeney is long overdue," said Lew Karabatsos, Treasurer, Lowell Historical Society. "Her understated leadership and support have been instrumental in the success of a variety of political, cultural and civic organizations in the greater Lowell area."

Early sponsors of this event include: Richard K & Nancy L Donahue Char. Fdn., Market Basket, Dr. Bill Sweeney, Enterprise Bank, Paul Marion & Rosemary Noon, Lowell Sun Charities, Don

Bedard & David Vaillancourt, Margaret M. Lally & Michael H. Lally, Jack Moynihan & Carolyn Walsh, UMass Lowell.

The silent auction and raffles will include art and photography by: Cynthia Hughes, Nancy Wormwood, David Jones, Mike delaVega, Penny Cox, Chrissy Hungate, and Nancy Lessard.

The invitation features a Celtic design from the late Deirdre Grunwald, a former studio artist at the Brush Art Gallery and Studios. <http://thebrush.org/picts/MarieSweeneyInvite.jpg>

The Brush Art Gallery and Studios is located in the Lowell National Historical Park across the courtyard from the Visitor Center. This dynamic and captivating place was originally founded by the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission, U.S. Department of the Interior in 1982. The Brush presents museum quality exhibitions, educational programs, and has collaborated with many other nonprofit groups. Artists occupy studio spaces to interact with and educate the public on a weekly basis. Studio artists produce paintings, illustration, photography, jewelry, sculpture, ceramics, quilts, and handwoven items. Associate artists display work in the common area. The Brush Art Gallery and Studios is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. **The Brush is supported by Lowell National Historical Park and Eastern National, a partner of the National Park Service.**

Image: **Marie Sweeney by Kevin Harkins**

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