

AROUND TOWN

Mud, Sand & Straw — For the first time in 10 years, Touchstone Gallery is presenting a juried exhibit of ceramics, glass, fiber and wood. On view Wednesday through Sept. 2 at Touchstone, 406 Seventh St. NW; 202-347-2787; touchstonegallery.com

Triple Threat — Pottery by Marcia Scheeter, Nancy McIntosh and Megan Evans is on exhibit, and for sale, through Aug. 30 as part of ARTFX's Five Year Anniversary Party. Reception 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday. ARTFX, 45 West St., Annapolis; 410-990-4540; artgallery.org



Section of Margaret Adams Parker's woodcut "Jerusalem" series, 2001.

ARTSCAPE

Think ink: Print potluck in Rockville

By Robin Tierney
Special to The Examiner

Nestled in the middle of Rockville, Glenview Mansion's rich arts programming — including July's splendid North Bethesda Camera Club and fiber collage exhibits — has inspired expeditions from even the suburbaphobic.

The gracious gallery's August show, "Transformations," upholds the tradition, featuring a 20th anniversary celebration of new works by 25 members of Dupont Circle-based Washington Printmakers Gallery. The nonprofit creative co-op has gained respect regionally and nationally for advancing the art and the appreciation of original, hand-pulled prints.

Some previews of this satisfying summer potluck of prints: In her "Study of Forms" series, Ellen Winkler transforms an image of dried seed pods in drypoint and monotype, deftly capturing the crisp lightness of her subject. The Kensington artist's painting roots are evident in her tranquil works.

Margaret Adams Parker, who transitioned from painter to printmaker in her eight years with WPG, unveils a "Jerusalem" series of sunlight and twilight views. One frame, notes the Alexandria artist, "will display how the printing of successive blocks results in the final print."

Carolyn Pomponio, a founder of WPG, has two refreshing works in the exhibition. From her studio in Rockville, the print specialist explains how she created the reductive monotype "Anjou": "I worked from a plexi plate, removing the water-based translucent inks selectively, printing one color, then re-inking, removing ink and printing again." The process requires 12 or 15 passes through the press. "Bartlett" — its transformed mate — is a "ghost print," meaning it was printed from residual inks left on the plate.

While at Glenview, you can also examine EunJu Lee's new display of striking jewelry and metal work. Want summer tunes with these views? Come for the opening reception Sunday and groove to original, positivity-charged roots reggae from Baltimore-based Unity Reggae Band. This summer celebration is hot — in a good way.

MUSEUMS » NEW EXHIBIT

Smoking as funny business

By Robin Tierney
Special to The Examiner

In mid-July, a contingent of attendees from the World Conference on Tobacco or Health walked up Georgia Avenue to view cartoons and reminisce about old times — back when tobacco smoke was inescapable, even in airplane cabins.

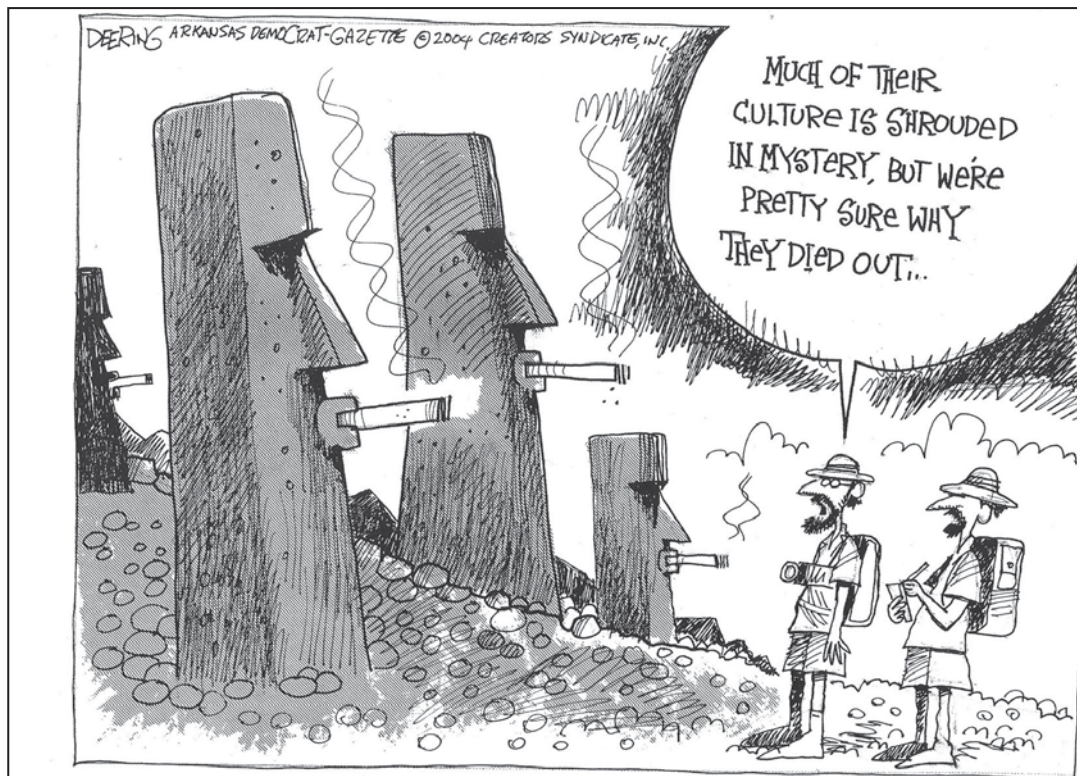
The group included flight attendants who led the effort to ban smoking on commercial airlines in 1988, the cartoons were part of the National Museum of Health and Medicine's current exhibition "Cartoonists Take Up Smoking," and leader of the pack was Dr. Alan Blum, director of the University of Alabama-based Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society.

Blum curated this entertaining, smoke-clearing and nostalgia-inducing exhibit of more than 50 original cartoons from some of America's finest editorial artists at the National Museum of Health and Medicine at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. This socio-cultural archive also includes newspaper headlines, smoking ads, medical journal and medical convention cigarette promotions and preserved lungs giving visual testament to the effects of smoking.

Editorial cartoons helped educate the public about the health risks of smoking — so long associated with glamour and hipness in America. "Above all," noted Blum, "editorial cartoonists have shown that the most addictive thing about tobacco is money."

The exhibit opens a window on history. Suggestions dating to 1939 of a relationship between cigarettes and cancer were largely ignored as smoking became common even among doctors. Change was in the air when, in January 1964, the U.S. surgeon general released a report concluding that smoking caused lung cancer and other diseases.

Cartoonists have found material for clever and caustic panels in smoking research, package labeling, cigarette ads and ad restrictions (Remember the TV jingles?), clean indoor air legislation, smoking bans and litigation. Viewers glimpse the hesitation of med-



CARTOONISTS TAKE UP SMOKING

On view through Feb. 28

» **Venue:** National Museum of Health and Medicine at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave. and Elder Street NW

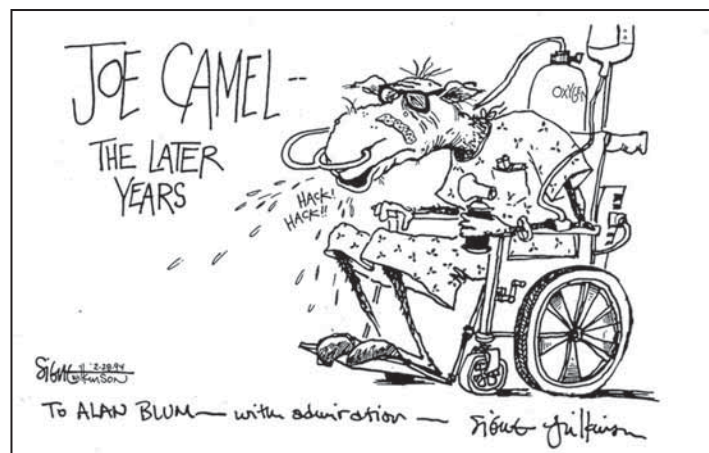
» **Tickets:** Free

» **Info:** 202-782-2200; nmhm.washingtondc.museum

ical professionals, politicians and media to challenge Big Tobacco's commercial interests. Some sample text: "OH YEAH. THIS TOBACCO PLANT LOOKS READY. HURRY UP AND PULL IT, CURE IT, AND SELL IT, SO I CAN TAX IT, CONDEMN IT AND SUE IT!"

Anti-smoking zealotry and ambitious tort attorneys don't escape the drawn line of fire either. "THIS IS THE SMOKE POLICE... DROP YOUR CIGARETTES AND PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR" reads one classic.

Even those not fired up by the smoking debate will gain insight



into the art of the editorial cartoon with this cross-country collection. Washington favorites such as Herblock are represented. Referencing local smoking prohibitions, a Tom Toles 'toon addresses the business-dampening impact — on a D.C. funeral home. Young folks also get a say in the "Draw Your Own Conclusions" corner featuring visitors' own takes on smoking.

In the middle of the Walter Reed campus, the museum offers a cool,

quiet escape with a variety of fascinating exhibits. Trace human growth from embryo to age 5 with actual specimens, a two-ton MRI magnet, battlefield surgery from the Civil War (ouch) to modern times. "Human Body, Human Being" artfully portrays the amazing machinery of life. Contemporary sculptor Carolyn Henne's "Suspended Self-Portrait" reveals in 89 sheets of vinyl the mysteries of the body — and how fascinating we really are.

TRANSFORMATIONS

On view Sunday to Aug. 29

» **Venue:** Glenview Mansion Art Gallery, Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive

» **Reception:** 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday

» **Artist Talk:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday

» **Guided Tour:** 10 a.m. Friday

» **Tix:** Free

» **Info:** 240-314-8682; rockvillemd.gov/arts/exhibits.htm