

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 30, 2009**

**19th ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO THE ARTS LUNCHEON TO HONOR THREE FOR
OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE ARTS**

On Friday, May 8th the Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission will hold its 19th annual Tribute to the Arts Luncheon. This luncheon celebrates the positive impact of the arts in Bethlehem, and also honors an individual artist, arts organization, and business that have contributed significantly to the city. This year's luncheon honors: Dr. Larry Lipkis; Valley Contra Dance Society; and Minuteman Press.



Dr. Larry Lipkis (Individual Arts Awardee) Larry Lipkis is the Bertha Mae Starner '27 and Jay F. Starner Professor of Music and Composer in Residence at Moravian College. He is on the Board of Directors of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem and serves as a Music Director for the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. Dr. Lipkis has written over eighty works for chamber ensembles, choir, and orchestra. His basoon concerto, *Pierrot*, was premiered by the Houston Symphony in 2002. He performs and records with the Baltimore Consort, a world-renowned early music ensemble specializing in popular music from the time of Shakespeare. The

group has made 14 recordings on the Dorian label and tours extensively nationally and internationally. In March of 2009, they will release their newest CD, *Adio España*, a collection of songs and dances from Renaissance Spain. The Consort does numerous outreach programs in schools and hospitals. Dr. Lipkis frequently does benefit performances with his family members at the Ice House and Trinity Soup Kitchen in Bethlehem.



Valley Contra Dance Society The Valley Contra Dance Society (VCDS) is a grass roots organization dedicated to the preservation, teaching, advancement, and enjoyment of traditional American dance and music. For over thirteen years, this volunteer-run organization has held two dances a month and occasional special events in Bethlehem. VCDS provides a venue for locals and visitors to participate in Contra Dancing, a traditional American folk dance which dates from the 18th century. . VCDS brings a variety of musicians to

Bethlehem for all to enjoy. These artists not only preserve traditional music and choreography, but many of them also advance the tradition by composing and publishing new dances and music. In July 2007, VCDS co-sponsored, with the Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission, a Sculpture Garden concert by the widely acclaimed Great Bear Trio. The large audience enjoyed the music and joined members to take part in a demonstration dance. VCDS will co-sponsor another Sculpture Garden concert this June. VCDS is a 501(c)(3) organization that has received support in the form of grants from the Rider Pool Foundation, Lehigh Valley Arts Council and Philadelphia Folksong Society. VCDS is an affiliate of the nationwide Country Dance and Song Society. By making music and dance available to all comers at a low cost and by supporting artists who preserve and advance the tradition, VCDS promotes the arts in Bethlehem.



Minuteman Press Minuteman Press Lehigh Valley was started 20 years ago by David Pike and his parents Dorothy and Richard Woodyatt. From their original 800 sq ft facility in the Sun Inn Courtyard in Downtown Bethlehem they have grown into a leading printing and promotional productions company serving the entire Lehigh Valley.

The company currently operates three Minuteman Press locations; Bethlehem at 123 East Broad Street, Allentown at 1729 Tilghman Street and Easton in the Village at Stones Crossing. Together with their 20 experienced staff members

they serve businesses and community groups with valued products and services.

From its start the company has always been a good community partner with a focus on contributing to and supporting the arts in our neighborhoods as well as a number of non-profit agencies. “Our philosophy has always been to give back to our community to our fullest ability and we strongly believe that our associations with these community groups has been a major contributing factor to our success and we take great pride in our contributions.” said David Pike

In addition to the honoring the awardees, Mayor Callahan will proclaim May 8th “Linny Fowler Day” in honor of her service on the Commission. WDIY is a media sponsor for this event. Tickets to the Tribute to the Arts Luncheon are \$30. Tickets may be reserved by calling Barbara Diamond at 610-691-8269.

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CONTACT INFO: Barbara Diamond 610 691-8269