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## Mary “Matzie” Stipanovich to be inducted into Amish Acres Arts & Crafts Festival Hall of Fame

NAPPANEE, IN- July 7, 2017 - Mary “Matzie” Stipanovich, Chesterton, Indiana is being posthumously inducted into the Amish Acres Arts and Crafts Festival Hall of Fame during the 2017 Festival. She becomes the 45th inductee since the hall was created in 1996. Mary exhibited in the first festival over 50 years ago in downtown Nappanee and moved with the festival to Amish Acres in 1971.

Mary became a close friend and patron to fellow exhibitor Emma Shrock, an Old Order Mennonite woman who was born handicapped and spent her life in a wheel chair. With Mary's friendship, support and encouragement Emma became a prolific folk artist, producing her first painting at age 40 and painting a new work every day to make a living. Today she is known as the "Grandma Moses" of Elkhart County and her works are avidly collected and hang in permanent museum galleries.



Mary was a member of the Duneland Historical Society, Midwest Museum of American Art, the Association of Artist and Craftsmen of Porter County, Royal Neighbors of America, and National Women’s History Museum Charter Member in Alexandria, VA. She was also a board member of the Chesterton Art Center and the Gary Artist’s League. Mary visited Amish Acres each year with her daughters DeBorah and Michele. DeBorah inherited Mary's artistic talent and produces acrylic paintings and decorative items that are shown in Amish Acres shops and throughout the area.