Buckley; Dave Young; Matt Hoopes; Tim Myers, Troy, OH; Clay Rice, Stow, OH; Barry Shuman, San Diego, CA; Linda Benson, Chicago, IL; Linda Votaw, Beloit, OH; Pauline (Smith) Roberts, Canton, OH; Carol Milligan, Alliance, OH; Debra (Hilton) Stover, Cambridge, OH; Bruce Lieder, Florence, AL; Nick Whilicre, Stow, OH; Ken Shoop, Arlington Heights, IL; Mark Watters, New York, NY; Cheryl (Stone) Beall, Laguna Beach, CA; Elizabeth (Migliarini) Smith, Canyon Country, CA; Louise (Moore) Highman, Cuyahoga Falls, OH; Dave Bennett, Salida, CA; Rosemary (Gibson) Ballard, Mooresville, NC; Ann (Flood) Horton, Fort Washington, OH; Dona (Ricksam) Blondet, Charlotte, NC; Cheryl (Blubaugh) Prentiss, Spring, TX; Laura Loudon, Dublin, OH; Becky (Kynett) Wyss, Murraysville, PA; Don Kubas, Youngstown, OH; Marie Cowie, Oracle, AZ; Jeff Beck, Cleveland, OH; Becky (Little) Folsom, Navarre, OH; Denise (Sielan) Dean, Middleburg Hts, OH; Dave Sweet, McKinney, TX; Alice (Zatko) Treiber, Strongsville, OH; Molly (Merrill) Conley, Grand Haven, MI; Mary Ann (Baker) Ziegler, Lima, OH; Doug Gordon, Dayton, OH; Dawn Olsen, Day Waterproof, OH; Debra Madison, Bowling Green, OH; David Quinn, Dahlonega, GA; Kim (Leipper) Ackerman, West Chester, OH; Wendy (Storey) Saltzman, Wilmingtong, NC; Tembra (Wood) Walker, Lebanon, OH; Marcie (Dankle) Morrison, Pataskala, OH; Susan (Riley) Fender, Lisbon, OH; Kathleen (Piersol) Rittler, Huntingdon Valley, PA; Rich Karls, Aurora, CO; Mechelle Perrott, La Mesa, CA in memory of Julie Purrington;
Salem High School graduate Jim Burchfield, Class of 1985, has a special personal reason to support a Salem project to create a museum dedicated to a famous artist. That artist was Jim’s great uncle Charles Burchfield and the museum is the artist’s boyhood home at 867 E. Fourth St. in Salem. It was also the boyhood home of Jim’s grandfather, Fred Burchfield, the younger brother of Charles. Charles graduated from Salem High in 1911 and Fred in 1914.

In 1956 Time magazine described Charles as “the best U.S. watercolorist,” and since then, although he died in 1967, his fame has continued to grow nationwide. This year, a major retrospective exhibition of his painting was viewed by thousands at the Columbus Art Museum, the Burchfield-Penney Art Center in Buffalo and currently at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C. where it will remain through Jan. 25, 1998.

The exhibit prompted articles this year in national magazines, including the March editions of American Heritage, the Magazine Antiques, the May issue of Smithsonian and the Washington Post in September.

The Smithsonian article mentioned the effort in Salem of the Burchfield Homestead Society to restore the boyhood home. The society was formed in 1993 when members of the Burchfield Foundation, including Art Burchfield, son of the artist, offered to save the deteriorating house by buying it with Foundation funds, if a local effort were made to create a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation to undertake the restoration. Salem attorney Frederic Naragon, Class of 1963, completed the legal paper work and the Burchfield Homestead Society was formed. Naragon is now society secretary. Funds donated by the Salem Community Foundation and the Pearce Foundation and by members of the society have resulted in exterior work on the house being completed. Students from the Columbiana County Career Center, the vocational high school in Lisbon, are currently restoring the interior.

Retired newspaperman Dick Wootten, president of the society noted, “What is going to make the museum special is the fact that many of Burchfield’s most famous paintings were views out the windows of the house. Since the neighborhood has changed very little in the past 80 years the view Burchfield saw is the same view out the window that you see. A visitor can compare the art work with the actual view.”

Wootten says that if foundation support and society membership continues, the boyhood home could open next summer.

Jim Burchfield, the only Burchfield family member who still lives in Salem, is a member of the society board.

Other Salem High graduates who joined the society include: Janice Jeffries, Bosu, of Salem, ’55; Zelda Bush of Salem, ’30; Donna Ward Chappell of Salem, ’47; Patricia Price Crone of Rancho Mirage, Calif., ’64; Charles Davidson of Iowa City, Iowa, ’36; Cheryl Kay Davis of Lisbon, ’79; William Edgerton of Lisbon, ’54; Evelyn Camp Edgerton of Lisbon, ’57; Lois Firestone of Hanoverton, ’50; Charles Gibbs of Salem, ’43; Bruce Gordon of Salem, ’52; Susan Cope Guehli of Salem, ’65; Ernest J. Groenisen of Salem, ’72; Dean Hansell of Los Angeles, ’70; Pauline DeSalle Hanson of Indio, Calif., ’60; J. Patrick Harrington of Rivedale, Maryland, ’57; Lori Lossick Havelock of Salem, ’80; Charles Ikees of Lisbon, ’88; David Isiacs of Salem, ’62; Janice Groves Lesher of Salem, ’54; Anthony G. Martellini of Salem, ’47; Doris Stanyard McLemore of Poland, Ohio, ’52; Matthew Melitschka of Salem, ’71; Gregory Paxson of Salem, ’72; Jodi Gorby Paxson of Salem, ’81; Barbara Erath Plummer of Salem, ’56; Anne Hanstein Rapp of Kalamazoo, Mich., ’55; Earl A. Schory of Salem, ’68; Dr. H. Gene Shafer of Salem, ’46; Bill Shasleen of Salem, ’63; Madeline Patton Shivers of Salem, ’77; David Stevenson of Salem, ’75; Patricia Eirod Stevenson of Salem, ’74; Linda Miller Sutter of Salem, ’72; Robin Andre Wildman of Salem, ’73; and Marian Davidson Zeigler of Salem, ’43.

Others interested in helping the project may join the society by mailing their names and addresses to the Burchfield Homestead Society, PO Box 317, Salem 44460. Regular annual membership is $10, contributing membership is $50 and patron membership $100. Membership fees and offer donations are tax deductible.