



American visual artists, Jill Galarneau (left), Jacqueline Eleisner (centre) and Peter Clause training Okavango Artists Association members on abstract art expressions at Nhabe Museum in Maun. The artists were made aware that they could use items such as soil and paper to achieve desirable textures. Photo Kedirebofe Pelontle

# Embassy recognises best fiction writers

By Esther Mmolai

**MAUN** –The American Embassy in collaboration with Poetavango have awarded six short fiction writers who performed exceptionally well in the creative writing competition.

The winners walked away with cash prizes while some were awarded books and gifts. Amongst the winners, three were school pupils who participated in the inter-school creative writing competition, and three were out of school youth who battled it out in the Poetavango award for short fiction.

In the inter-school creative writing category, Mpolokang

Bontsibokae scooped position one followed by Florence Seabe while Lame Lubinda got position three respectively. In the Poetavango award for short fiction, Wadza Lopang emerged the champion and walked away with P3 000, Jimmy Keletso got position two and was awarded P2 000 while Sharon Tshipa came third and pocketed P1 000 respectively.

Giving a keynote address during the award ceremony, an official from the American Embassy, deputy public affairs officer, Elena Andreotti said they do a lot to promote culture, art and educational programmes through grants.

She revealed that the embassy

offers cultural/arts programmes designed to enhance mutual understanding among the people of Botswana and the United States of America. She said for the past three years, they had been supporting the Maun International Arts Festival which provides a platform to value the work of visual artists in Botswana and the United States of America and expands networking opportunities between Botswana and American artists.

Andreotti also noted that they intend to bring an English language professor who would work with school children, teachers and education officials to enhance teaching and learning of the subject. **BOPA**