

Manchester Art Association Annual Report May 17, 2017

MAA will hold its Annual Meeting on May 17, 2017, presided over by President Christine Larson. The following officers and Board members are slated for election for fiscal year 2017/2018: **Chris Larson, President; Carolyn Emerson, Vice President; Bonnie Lindland, Secretary; Emilie Beckwith, Treasurer;** and, **Mary Bollash, Jim Oliphant, Doris Phillips, Jerry Madara, and Diane McDonald as Board Members-at-large**. These positions will be assumed immediately after the election. Details of this meeting and the complete slate will be recorded in the minutes and posted online on MAA's website.

Over the past year, MAA's Board worked with our membership to support our mission: "bringing artists and art-loving people together, encouraging artistic growth in the area, and fostering interest in all forms of artistic expression." With steady membership dues and great workshop participation, we have maintained our healthy financial status.

In September, we sponsored an outreach program at The Arbors to help them celebrate the opening of an art studio. Board members **Doris Phillips** and **Bonnie Lindland** coordinated this art fair. Demonstrating artists were **Judy Burnham, Helena Deary, Carolyn Emerson, Carolyn Gimbrone, Jerry Madara, Betty Rousseau, and Eric Vogel**.

In December, instead of our normal monthly meeting, we had a holiday "share what inspires you" get-together.

Thanks to our fundraising workshops, in addition to funding operating expenses, we were able to:

- Sponsor four scholarships to art students
- Make a generous donation to Manchester's Sculpture Project
- Purchase gift cards for student winners of Manchester PTA's Reflections contest

In January, MAA was asked to judge the visual arts entries for the PTA Reflections program. **Chris Larson** and **Carolyn Gimbrone** selected the winners in four grade categories. MAA donated gift cards for the top winner of each category.

Membership has remained steady at about 100 members. Monthly meetings were well attended and participation in MAA exhibits and activities has been high. Due to the hard work and dedication of its board and members, MAA is a vibrant and supportive artist community.

The Board thanks all MAA's members for their support and participation this year. MAA also had the support of many others within the community for which we are grateful. A brief description of the year's accomplishments and activities follows.

Exhibitions:

MAA had many member art exhibits during the year. **Carolyn Gimbrone** and **Chris Larson** coordinated the exhibits. **Susan Aitner** and **Jim Oliphant** handled publicity. Our thanks to all of

our show co-chairs, to members who helped organize, hang the shows, and provide refreshments, and to all our members who participated. Pictures and descriptions of these shows are on MAA's website's past events page.

On July 10th, 2016 MAA held its third "**Sundays at Four**" exhibit at the East Side Neighborhood Resource Center.

In September, members exhibited their work in our **12th Annual Members' Art Exhibit** at the South Windsor Public Library. Ellen Dougan, artist, teacher, and owner of E.M. Dougan Art and Framing, judged the show. Winners are listed on MAA's website.

We continued to show members' artwork in the gallery at Manchester Memorial Hospital. **Emilie Beckwith** coordinated the change-outs every 3 - 4 months, assisted by **Jim Oliphant, Nijole Currie, Judy Burnham** and **Eric Vogel**.

MAA continued to show members' work in the gallery at **Manchester Town Hall** with each show remaining on exhibit for three months. These shows have been very well received by the community. Single-medium shows showcased members who primarily work in a particular medium. The shows during the past year were:

- June - Sept: **Watercolor**
- Sept - Dec: **Photography**
- Dec - March: **The Etc. Exhibit** - all mediums not included in single-medium show
- April - June: **All Members, All Mediums**

The All Members, All Mediums show had a theme suggested by members. The theme was **Interestingly Aged**, and was interpreted by members in many ways. Artists explained why they chose their subject for the show, and the explanations were posted next to the artwork.

During the past year, MAA members participated in local and statewide juried art exhibits. Some had solo and group exhibits. Thursdays in the Garden events at Woodland Gardens featured a number of our artists. Imagine Main Street events also included MAA artists. Our congratulations to all.

Fundraisers:

Special thanks to **Carolyn Emerson**, who organized and ran our **workshops** with guest artists. These workshops provide most of our income. This income allows us to support the organization, award scholarships, and make generous donations to the community for artistic projects.

Under Carolyn's organization, MAA sponsored six workshops:

- September 2016: **Paul Batch oils** – 9 participants, 2 days
- October 2016: **Bob Spooner watercolor** – 12 participants, 1 day

- November 2016: **Cheryl Cianci Zentangle** – 14 participants, 1 day
 - January 2017: **Bob Spooner watercolor** – 15 participants, 2 days
 - February 2017: **Sharon Gresk quilling** – 7 participants, 1 day
 - April 2017: **Eric Vogel pastel** – 13 participants, 2 days
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Monthly Meetings/Demonstrations:

This year's guest artist demonstrations at MAA's monthly meetings were inspiring and well received. **Helena Deary** and **Ann Martell** co-chaired this committee.

Our guest artists this year were:

- September 2016: **Paul Batch** – oil portraits
- October 2016: **Bivenne Staiger** – watercolor
- November 2016: **Elizabeth Rhoades** – pastel and composition
- January 2017: **Peter Glass** – photography
- February 2017: **Matt Ryan** – cartooning
- March 2017: **Kelly Taylor** – mixed media
- April 2017: **Sandra Wakeen** – critique of members' art
- May 2017: **Joan Shapiro** – abstract art

At our monthly meetings, we continued our “Art-of-the-Month” competitions under the leadership of **Victoria Dubiel** and **Jim Oliphant**.

Carol Fins, MAA's hospitality chair, made sure we had delicious refreshments at all our meetings.

Membership

Doris Phillips kept track of our membership, welcomed new members and made sure everyone had their nametags at the meetings. We currently have 100 members, with more than a third of our members attending our monthly meetings.

Communications:

Judy Burnham has done a great job taking minutes for both MAA's board and member meetings.

Susan Aitner has done an amazing job maintaining our website, which has become a great source of information for our members. Among other items, the website features:

- A Member Calendar to help members plan for exhibits and meetings
- Minutes from membership meetings
- Announcements of coming events and exhibition opportunities in the area
- A member news page featuring member exhibits and achievements
- Registration links for upcoming exhibits
- Information regarding our guest artists and their demonstrations

Jim Oliphant submitted press releases about our meetings, exhibits and special events.

Anne Vogel, MAA's chairperson for Cheer, sent cards on behalf of MAA to members who were hospitalized or sick.

Chris Larson has continued to maintain our online registration process for MAA shows and use MailChimp to send emails as needed to keep members up-to-date.

Scholarships:

Due to our successful fundraisers, we continued to award scholarships this year. A \$1500 scholarship for a high school student going to college pursuing a career in the fine arts, and three \$1000 scholarships to Manchester Community College art students to be awarded at the college's May awards assembly. **Sue Hollister** continued to facilitate the selection process for our High School recipient.

Nominations:

This year **Eric Vogel**, **Jim Oliphant** and **Helena Deary** were elected to serve as MAA's Nominations Committee. We want to thank them for their dedicated work in finding members to serve MAA in the coming year.

Open Studio:

Our open studio every Wednesday and Friday at the Community Y continues to be an opportunity for artists to work together, support each other's artwork and get to know members. **Carolyn Emerson** and **Emilie Beckwith** were the organizers and support team for this opportunity. Non-members are welcome. One non-member even hosts a lovely tea at the open studio once a year.

Inventory:

Jan DePratti is working on a detailed inventory of items stored at the Community Y.

Plans for the coming year:

The Board will continue working to determine what is most important to our members so we will be able to concentrate our efforts in areas that are most beneficial and will have the best participation. The Board still needs to document job descriptions for all positions, as well as draft a conflict of interest policy.

We will also continue to archive our old scrapbooks into electronic records.

We plan to publish an updated MAA brochure featuring a newly designed format. Jerry Madara is working on this. We also plan to redesign our website.

We will continue to do events with The Arbors as outreach and to express our appreciation for the use of their facilities for our meetings.

In November 2017, we will have our second “Small Art Auction” at the Unitarian Meeting house in Manchester. Proceeds will go toward our scholarship fund.

Field trips to art museums and an evaluation of fundraising options will continue to be under consideration. MAA will continue to offer open studios, classes, and workshops at the Community Y, in addition to the artist demonstrations at our monthly meetings. Scholarships to promising young artists will also be continued.

The Board is dedicated to working together to nurture the creative spirit of our members, to share our members’ art with those around us, to work with other art organizations, such as Young@Art, Imagine Main Street, and MCC on Main to enhance the arts in Manchester.

Respectfully submitted by MAA Board, 2016-2017.

Note from the President:

I thank all the **board members** and **committee chairs and co-chairs** who worked so hard this year. And thank you to all the MAA members who contributed their time and energy to our organization. **You are the heart of MAA.** Your dedication and enthusiasm makes MAA a successful and enjoyable organization to be part of.

- Chris