

## Manchester Art Association Annual Report May 16, 2018

MAA's outgoing officers and board members for fiscal year 2017/2018 are: **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**.

**MAA will hold its Annual Meeting on May 16, 2018.** The following officers and Board members are slated for election for fiscal year 2018/2019: **Carolyn Emerson, President; Normand Charlette, Vice President; Bonnie Lindland, Secretary; Judy Burnham, Treasurer;** and, **Mary Bollash, Austin Pouliot, Jeff Blazejovsky, Sue Masse, Jerry Madara, and Diane McDonald** as **Board Members-at-large**. These positions will be assumed immediately after the election. Minutes of this meeting and the complete slate will be posted online on MAA's member page on the website.

Many thanks to MAA's Board, who, over the past year 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, a successful art auction and great workshop participation, we maintained our healthy financial status through the year.

Some highlights of the year in addition to our monthly meeting activities:

- Four scholarships to art students
- A generous donation to Manchester's Musical Garden Project
- A grant from Cruisin' on Main that helps us introduce art to aspiring artists in the community
- Normand Charlette's Be Inspired Project
- New exhibit opportunities at Symmetry
- Participation in a Van Gogh exhibit
- Bus trip to New York City to Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Salmagundi Club
- Invitation to exhibit at the Dehn Gallery in Manchester for the summer
- Completion of job descriptions for all positions
- Small Art Auction at the Unitarian Meetinghouse in Manchester to help fund our scholarships
- A new, colorful MAA brochure
- Creation of MAA Facebook page

Membership has remained steady at over 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 remains 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.

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### Exhibitions:

MAA had many member art exhibits during the year. **Carolyn Gimbrone** and **Judy Burnham** coordinated the exhibits. **Susan Aitner** and **Jim Oliphant** handled publicity. **Chris Larson** handled online registration. Many thanks to all 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.

In October, members exhibited work in our **13th Annual Members' Art Exhibit** at the South Windsor Public Library. Elizabeth Rhoades, award winning artist and teacher, judged the show. Winners are listed on MAA's website's **past events** page. The exhibit featured a wonderful reception organized by **Judy Burnham** and committee.

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, and Jeff Blazejovsky**.

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 exhibits showcased members who primarily work in a particular medium. The shows during the past year were:

- June - Sept: **Pastel**
- Sept - Dec: **Oil and acrylic**
- Dec - March: **Watercolor**
- April - June: **All Members, All Mediums**

The All Members, All Mediums show featured a reception, with participating artists bringing wonderful finger foods to share.

Our online gallery showcases artwork from MAA members. Guidelines for participating in the gallery can be found at the top of the website's **gallery** page.

During the past year, MAA members participated in local and statewide juried art exhibits. Some had solo and group exhibits. Our congratulations to all. See the website's **member news** page for details.

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## Fundraisers:

### Workshops

Special thanks to **Carolyn Emerson** and **Emilie Beckwith**, 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.

Throughout the year, MAA sponsored six workshops:

- October 2017: **Marla Greenfield watercolor** – 13 participants, 2 days
- November 2017: **Elizabeth Rhoades pastel** – 9 participants, 3 days
- January 2018: **Jerry Madara acrylics** – 7 participants, 2 days
- March 2018: **Carolyn Emerson watercolor** – 16 participants, 2 days
- April 2017: **Katherine Tolve tissue paper collage** – 6 participants, 1 day
- April 2018: **Carmel Canal drawing** – 13 participants, 4 Fridays

## Auction

Special thanks to **Eric Vogel** and his committee, who organized and ran a very successful art auction in November. The auction was held November 11, 2017 at the Unitarian Meetinghouse. Wine, cheese and other goodies were provided to the attendees. There were 30 donating artists from MAA and 49 pieces of art, of which 37 were sold.

A beautiful watercolor donated by **Carolyn Emerson** was raffled. After all expenses, we realized a profit of \$2,535.42 for the scholarship fund.

Information and images from fundraisers can be found on MAA's website's **past events** page.

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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** chaired this committee.

Our guest artists this year were:

- September 2017: **Karen Israel** – Pan pastels
- October 2017: **Deborah Velasquez** – Black and white design
- November 2017: **Jane Zisk** – Nature-inspired abstracts using acrylics
- January 2018: **Mary Horrigan** – Watercolor
- February 2018: **Paul Hetzel** – Black and white photography, Ansel Adams
- March 2018: **Jack Broderick** – Landscapes (**cancelled** due to weather, rescheduled for Sept 2018)
- April 2018: **Nancy Cooke Bunnell** – Critique of members' art
- May 2018: **Kristin Dockendorff** – Keeping creativity alive while facing progressive blindness

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

At our monthly meetings, we continued our "Art-of-the-Month" competitions under the leadership of **Victoria Dubiel** and **Jim Oliphant**. Winners' pictures are on MAA's website.

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

**Normand Charlette's** successful **Be Inspired** project was repeated at our April meeting this year. In this project, Normand offers a collection of his own photographs from which members are invited to select for use as subject matter and interpret in their respective mediums. Quite a few interpretations were created. When Norm displays his photos in galleries, outdoor exhibits, etc. a photo of the artwork is displayed next to his original photo along with the artist's contact information.

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## Membership

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

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## Communications:

**Bonnie Lindland**, Secretary, 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 Members' 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
- Online gallery of MAA member work

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

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

**Chris Larson** has continued to use MailChimp to send emails as needed to keep members up-to-date. Members without internet access are kept up-to-date through regular mail and phone calls.

**Jerry Madara** designed a new, colorful brochure for MAA, including a new logo – original design by Sergio Monteserin, son of member **Neill Monteserin**. The new brochure is now available.

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### 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.

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### Nominations:

This year **Nijole Currie**, assisted by **Deb Parker** and **Doris Phillips** served as MAA's Nominations Committee. We want to thank them for their dedicated work in finding members to serve MAA in the coming year.

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### Silk City Arts & Music Festival

In September, MAA participated in the first Silk City Arts & Music Festival brought to Manchester by ART FÜD. This one-day event featured music and interactive arts for children. MAA board member, **Mary Bollash**, represented MAA. She hosted an interactive activity of drawing on a banner. Adults and children made drawings that represented Manchester, or simply drew things they enjoyed.

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### 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. The studio will be available to us all summer for the first time since we've had access to the space.

#### **Open Studio Wednesdays:**

Carolyn Emerson and Bonnie Lindland applied for and received a grant from Cruisin' on Main. These funds help us offer supplies and guidance at no charge to members of the community to get them started in drawing, watercolor or acrylics.

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#### **Inventory:**

With the help of a complete inventory of our assets at the Community Y created by **Jan DePratti**, MAA organized, sold or donated items and cleaned out un-needed items in our storage rooms. Due to the planned demolition of part of the Y, we are now using a storage area adjacent to the Open Studio space.

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#### **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 draft a conflict of interest policy.

Goals for the coming year we hope to:

- Continue to archive our old scrapbooks into electronic records.
- Redesign MAA's website.
- Continue to do events with The Arbors as outreach and to express our appreciation for the use of their facilities for our meetings
- Sponsor field trips to art museums
- Continue evaluating our fundraising options
- Find ways to work with children in art projects
- Continue to offer open studios, classes, and workshops at the Community Y
- Continue offering scholarships to promising young artists

The Board is dedicated to working together to nurture the creative spirit of our members, to share our members' art with those around us, and to work with other organizations to enhance the arts in Manchester.

**Respectfully submitted by MAA Board, 2017-2018.**

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#### **Note from the President:**

I truly enjoyed my time as President of MAA. I sincerely thank all the **board members** and **committee chairs and co-chairs** who worked so hard this year and last year. You were a pleasure to work with. 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 make MAA a successful and enjoyable organization to be part of.

- Chris