

Milton Artists Guild

March 15, 2018

Art Center

10 – noon

Present: Mark Ozenich, Ray McClure, Bonnie Palmer, Lorraine Manley, Richard Lyons, Ellen Young, Don Bennett, Greg Drew, Claudette Eaton, Trine Wilson, Linda and Dean Moran, Barry Genzlinger, Donna Blatchly, Heidi Chamberlin, Linda Stech, Tina Lesperance.

Gisela Alpert welcomed everyone and the attendees proceeded with introductions.

Student Level Membership / Teen Outreach: Barbara Pafume and Linda Moran are working with Milton High school staff on programming to engage students within the Milton Artists' Guild. They have a planning meeting scheduled 3/28/18 with students to discuss ideas. A 'student level' MAG membership was discussed. Benefits to this level of membership were not obvious. The outreach would allow the teens to engage and possibly exhibit art without a membership. If any member has ideas for engagement they are encouraged to communicate with Barbara or Linda. Linda has researched the feasibility of students building a moveable Labyrinth which involves math, engineering and design. Locations and liability for such a project are being looked into.

Sales in January and February were \$2520 and \$3783. Despite Wednesday (3/14) with a heavy snowfall, there was still a sale of \$100. Unless it's truly dangerous weather, we mustn't close the gallery.

Gallery winter hours have been 11 – 7 Wednesday through Saturday and 11 - 3 on Sundays. Analysis of sales showed that sales stop by 6 pm. It's proposed that the Wednesday through Saturday hours be permanently changed to 11 – 6. The Sunday summer hours will go back to 11 – 6, but if the Sunday afternoon sales are low, then we may keep the regular Sunday hours at 11 – 3. The summer hours begin on May 6th.

First Anniversary Party update: the committee had to postpone their scheduled meeting due to the storm, but will meet next week. The members are Nicole Gaulette, Sharon Radtke, Donna Blatchly, Bonnie Palmer, Jesse Swétel, and Kathleen Grant. The celebration will be on May 5th, from 1 – 3 pm.

We are having a party to celebrate the anniversary of our Soft Opening. Save the Date, and join us on Thursday, April 5th from 5 - 7 for pizza and wine. This is open to all.

Open Studio Weekend – the MAG has become a member of the Vermont Crafts Council and will participate in the spring event on May 26 & 27. Our art center will be listed on the state map showing participating studios. Greg Drew, the current president of the VCC, said that this is the 26th year of the program, and that there are more than 200 artists. Both Chittenden and Franklin counties have a high participation rate this year. The map is currently in printing; and when available Greg will drop some at the gallery. Visitors prefer to see grouped artists in order to visit as many as possible. The educational aspect is important; they like hand on demonstrations of artists working at their craft. We envision that the art center can be a hub where visitors can pick up maps before heading out to other studio sites. We would like volunteers for sign placement, refreshments, and to demonstrate. We could have small

tables throughout the gallery for artists to set up. Gisela asked for a show of hands of who is interested, and several volunteered. The event is from 10 – 4 each day. Greg said that it's important to create buzz, getting the community on board. We would need volunteers to write articles and get photos for promotion. The VCC has arranged for NPR and radio ads, and will do press releases.

This will be our 14th year for MAG's Artfest Show & Sale. We are looking creative and unique ideas to make this a great event. 'Out of the box' ideas are welcomed. Linda Moran suggested that we have a "men's only" night where guys could buy for the women in their lives - women ahead of time could do a "wish list" as the check-out area for their men to peruse.... And instead of wine, we could offer BEER and pretzels. Linda knew of quilt shops that do this around the holidays and were very successful. Please email suggestions to the ArtFest committee.

Promise Grant update – The last day for kids' free workshops is March 25th. After paying for the workshop teachers and supplies, we have enough for the next phase of the grant project. Jon Young was selected as the muralist for the Bombardier Park Dugout project. Kim Duscheneau has sent his designs to the selectboard for approval, designs include butterflies, hands, birch trees, etc. We will need volunteers to monitor the activity at each dugout to assure quality under Jon's guidance. These volunteers will be paid a stipend for the day. The project is geared for children ages 8 – 12 years old. Younger children will have their own painting project painting on 4' x 4' Masonite boards. The completed panels will be exhibited at the MAG Gallery and continue on in the community gallery, the library and other locations in Milton. The very young children would be using non-toxic washable paint to paint a ground 'canvas'. A member suggested that we document the project with MAG photographers. A member asked if the project was limited to Milton residents, or if children from other towns could participate. Gisela will check with the grant administrator to find out. The event will be on June 16th from 10 – 4, with June 23rd as a rain date.

The workshop committee is working to offer summer day camps, and art education for home schoolers. Rochelle Wallace has joined the committee and has a network of homeschooling parents who need art education for their curriculum. Jesse Swétel is joining the committee as the point person to organize new workshops and Julie Griffis will implement the website aspect. Tina Lesperance and Cheryl Alwine are stepping down.

Photography group – organized by Bernhard Wunder and David Lesperance, meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Bernhard has acquired a projector and screen for the gallery which is used to share members' latest projects and for teaching techniques. Thank you to Bernhard for finding this donation of a great projector and for donating the huge screen. The next meeting is on March 28th from 5:30 – 7 pm. It's open to all who have an interest in photography.

MAG Meetups, also on the fourth Wednesday of each month in a morning session from 9 – 11 am, and from 5 – 7 pm. It's hosted by Cathy LaClair and open to members to share their work, or to work on their art in good company. Thank you Cathy for organizing and leading this. It is a great way to create your art with the camaraderie of your fellow colleagues.

Fundraiser updates:

Leunig's will sponsor the Guild again this year; the date will be in August. MAG will receive 10% of the sales made on that day, 100% of the raffle ticket sales (1/\$5, 3/\$10), and half of partner card sales (\$25

of \$50). A partner card gives customer 20% off (non-discounted) food for a year (but cannot be used for bistro meal or with other coupons). Last year, we benefited \$2,477.00.

Barnes & Noble – We are on the schedule for Saturday, November 17th. More will be announced when the date is closer.

Town of Milton donation – we are awaiting a decision from the town regarding the donation to the MAG.

Trine was told that sometimes people cannot find the art center because we aren't visible from Route 7. She asked if it was possible to get one of the tall banners that could be placed by the road. Gisela said that due to regulations, VTrans routinely removes and discards signage placed near the road. It was suggested that we might use a tie banner on the fence (like the farmers' market uses) or use a sandwich sign, as those might be permissible. Greg mentioned that if signage was placed after 5 pm on a Friday, and removed early Monday, being outside the normal working hours for VTrans, signage could be used on a weekend. It was suggested that we purchase 'Edison lights' for the front window as they would be more visible than the tiny light strings that we currently use.

Monthly Senior Tea – A senior living facility will be invited to participate in a formal tea once a month, on the fourth Thursday, beginning on March 22. Their facility would provide transportation for those who wish to visit. Linens, cups with saucers, and teapots have been collected, but additional ones are needed. We will set up the chocolate fountain, and provide finger sandwiches and pastries. There will be an artist presentation at each event. This week, Cheryl Grundon will bring clay eggs for the Pinecrest guests to paint. These community outreach events are beneficial to the center, as well as provide artist exposure. Please consider a donation for the event or doing a demonstration. Next month, residents from Converse Home, in Burlington, have been invited.

On Sunday, December 2nd, we will have a 'high tea' (fancier than an afternoon tea) and could wear 'fascinators' (fancy hats). This event would be open to the community.

Show & Tell

Don Bennet brought a new abstract painting to share.

Ellen Young brought a painting representing the gallery's artists, which she has donated to the center. It was suggested that we make prints to sell at the gallery. The artists who are featured on the piece had given permission for their work's likenesses to be portrayed.

Gisela announced that we are considering offering the MAGgie's café spot to be subcontracted out for weekend coffee service; perhaps offering small pastries, quiche, etc. Any sales would be independent of the gallery.

The next monthly meeting will be on April 26, from 6 – 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Christina Lesperance and Linda Stech.