

Attending: Gisela Alpert, Cheryl Alwine, Caroline Beaulieu, Melanie Bishop, Ann Bissonnette, Helen Burdick, Janice DeCooman, Claudette Eaton, Cathy LaClair, Christina Lesperance, Richard Lyons, Ray McClure, Bonnie Palmer, Bob Smith, Linda Stech, Claudia Stoeffler, Judy Taylor, Corina Thurston, Lauren Turmel, Jim Yolda, Ellen Young, Trine Wilson

- Ray McClure addressed the group regarding the upcoming Barnes & Noble fundraiser. It was where he encountered Bob Ross (Gisela in costume) two years ago, whereupon he chose to join the guild. He also spoke about the significant dates in his life, and how these dates tied into his relationship with the guild. Gisela mentioned that Ray made a special donation to the guild, earmarked to double the high school scholarship.
- A revision was made to the October minutes per an email request of Barry Genzlinger. The revised document is in the forum section of the website.
- Recap of the Artfest – The scheduled hours were way too long, 10 – 7 on Saturday, and 11 – 7 on Sunday. This being the first in our new home, the enthusiasm to make the best use of the time clouded common sense. Sunday's hours were cut to closing at 5 pm. We had a high visitor turnout on Saturday, less on Sunday. We had live musicians and could hear them throughout the hall. Most did well in sales, but two did not. We will decide next year whether to proceed in 2018 with another ArtFest. Many exhibitors would consider participating next year, per the post-show feedback replies.
- Barnes & Noble fundraiser – Bookmarks with the voucher number were available for members to take. Last year the guild earned \$2,112.74 from the program. The voucher number can be used until the end of Wednesday the 22nd, in-store, online, and across the country. The voucher number to use is #12204004. Please share!
- Social media - Our guild Facebook page had 999 'likes' as of the meeting date. The greater the number, the more recognition we have. Please ask friends and family to 'like' us. Trine created an Instagram account for us, which benefits individuals and the entire group. She asks that members send images that can be posted, and is also asking for a couple volunteers to help administer the site.
- Holiday party – In the past, we have celebrated in different restaurants, in Burlington, and in Jeffersonville. This year it will be held in our art center. On Sunday December 3rd, a caterer will be providing the food, linens, and dishes for \$25 per person. The event will be on from 12 – 3 pm. A musician is planned for the event. Please send an email to Gisela as soon as possible so we can give the caterer a head count.
- Holiday hours – the art center will be closed early on Wednesday (11/22), and closed on Thanksgiving Day, (11/23). The center will close early (3 pm) on both Christmas and New Year's eves. New Year's Day follows on a Monday, when the center is usually closed. Beginning in January, the center will close early on Sundays at 4 pm during the winter months.
- Sunday Socials are in the planning, with live music, hot chocolate, and kids' activities.
- Frog Hollow recap – There were 22 artists displaying, and 26 pieces juried in. Five pieces were sold. Next year, we have been invited to do another exhibit at the Church Street venue. Please

send an email to Linda, lstech@comcast.net, if you are interested in participating. It's a good opportunity, especially for those who do 3-D art.

- Life Drawing – the last session in this group is on 11/20. It will be offered again in the spring, with an instructor.
- Holiday E-card – There were many submissions - thank you to all who entered! The winner will be announced at the end of the month.
- The annual letter of appeal has been sent out to the master mailing list through the post office. Bill Kaigle will be sending out an email letter of appeal, as well, in hopes of getting a better response. A member asked that the list be cross checked with the list of current respondents so those people aren't solicited twice. Gisela will check with Bill.
- Upcoming Fundraiser – we will be hosting a Valentine's Day Masquerade Ball at the Eagles Club, on Saturday, February 10. There will be a workshop offered in January to make masks (TBA).
- Cathy LaClair will host 'non-business' meetings starting in January. The meetings can have competitions, critiques, and show and tell segments, and will be held on Sundays. Details will be forthcoming.
- Art Center updates - Gisela thanked everyone who volunteers, works on the committees, and those who bring in their art. A special thank you to Claudette who inventoried the more than 3000 items in the gallery and created the SKU labels. As of the meeting time, more than 60% of the labels had been applied; all the larger pieces had been done, but marking the jewelry was still in process. Please notify Claudette when inventory move in or out of the gallery, as each item needs an accurate barcode.

It was noticed that the center was losing heat in the back of the gallery. The loading dock door will be insulated.

- Show & Tell – Cheryl showed the crocheted bell ornament and described her process of transforming it into a delicate clay piece. The fiber is first soaked in porcelain slip, dried, then fired to burn out the crochet work; only the clay remains.
- Gisela asked the members if there was any new business, questions, or concerns to discuss at this meeting; there were none.
- Early Christmas gift – Gisela and Linda announced that they had a successful meeting with Ernie Pomerleau and as a result, we have been gifted with an additional rent-free year at the art center. He has also offered help with advertising for the center and will create an ad to run in Seven Days. He was impressed with our numbers and liked the benefits to the community. This is the biggest gallery in the State of Vermont. In fact, at his meeting with the Newport community, he was asked if he could do for them what was done in for the Milton Artists' Guild in Milton. We have almost than doubled our membership numbers since the art center opened. It's a group effort thanks to all; we've had many positive changes. Members are encouraged to continue our growth by joining committees and getting involved.

Respectfully submitted by Christina Lesperance

