

Attending: Gisela Alpert, Don Bennett, Traci Billings, Donna Blatchly, Deborah Burbo, Dave Lesperance, Tina Lesperance, Richard Lyons, Lorraine Manley, Ray McClure, Sharon Radtke, Bernhard Wunder

Bank balance: \$52,293

Gisela announced a MAGnificent donation by Ray McClure. The letter from Ray will be shared with the minutes. Ray selected all of the sponsorship levels listed on the letter of appeal, and then rounded up to \$1,925.88. He also created an eight level mobile of graduated sized origami cranes to represent each of the donation levels, Bob Ross, Cindy Sherman, Frida Kahlo, Georgia O'Keefe, Leonardo DaVinci, and Vincent Van Gogh. His piece is on display on the tree in the front of the gallery.

MAG Meetups – Cathy LaClair started the monthly group for the purpose of sharing and creating art, but they were not well attended. The regular monthly meetings have strayed too far from the art piece in the last years, so an effort is being made to bring art talk back; business will be kept to the necessary minimum at meetings.

#### Important Dates:

- Photographers Anonymous - meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, the next is on **August 22**, and begins at 6 pm. All are welcome to learn and share the passion for photography.
- **August 24 – September 2nd** – Champlain Valley Fair ten day event – this year the MAG has a booth where 15 members are exhibiting. There were still openings to volunteer for a shift in the booth. The time goes towards the 25% commission rate, and a free ticket to the fair is provided.
- **September 15** – Come as You Art, 3rd Annual – the first year was hosted by Colleen Bunnell at the Bear Trap Nursery where many of our artists gave demonstrations for the visitors. Last year, our second, we piggybacked with the Milton Rec department's Touch a Truck event; the show has been held for many years and has a huge amount of visitors. The new field house has been reserved for the MAG. We are seeking artists to do demonstrations; something that kids can be involved in is recommended. This both lets us give back to the children of the community, and is an opportunity to advertise your craft. The hours of the event are from 9 to noon. Please contact Gisela to sign up.
- **September 16** – Leunig's fundraiser program for non-profits - We need two volunteers for the morning shift at the Sunday Brunch to promote the meal club tickets; the server will handle the actual sale. The MAG will also receive 10% of the proceeds from food sales (not liquor). It's also a good day to patronize the restaurant, as the guild benefits. The last year we earned \$2477.
- **September 27** – Milton Activities Fair – Jesse Swétel and Stephen Webb will represent the guild. It will allow us to promote the workshops, homeschooling program, the gallery, and the upcoming art events.
- **September 29** – The 2nd Plein Air workshop will be at Claire Payne's Georgia studio. Sign up is on the guild website workshops page.
- **October 1st** – deadline for submissions for the Holiday E-card contest. The entries will be juried by a panel of three; the winning entry will be set to music to complement, and the artist will receive a gift certificate for \$25. Ellen Young will be sending an email with entry instructions.
- **October 13th & 14th** – Fall Open Studio Weekend, sponsored by the Vermont Crafts Council. We will have live music and refreshments available. The hours are 10 – 4 on both Saturday and Sunday. We are looking for artists to do demonstrations on either, or both days, in the gallery. Please contact Gisela to sign up.
- **October 17th** – A second bus tour is coming to the gallery! The first tour brought 40 visitors to the gallery. We would like a few volunteers to help at the cash out desk; the hours will count towards the commission incentive program. Donna Blatchly will be doing a demonstration of her pebble art.

- Saturday, **October 20** – we will be holding an art supply sale. We will need volunteers on Friday to help price and sort the items; the actual sale will be on Saturday. The funds raised will go the Events Committee to pay for food supplies and music. Contact Sharon Radtke
- **November 9th and 10th** – Artfest, 14th year – We will be going back to the old format of hosting a Friday evening reception, from 6 – 8, with live music, a bar, and refreshments. All members, and the public, are encouraged to attend. It's a chance to pull out the dressy clothes from the back of the closet (black tie not necessary). On Saturday, there will music and refreshments for the visitors during the show; hours 9 to 4. The booth cost is \$50 for a 7' x 8' space. Participants must bring their own tables, etc. No commission is taken from participants; the artist sells directly to the customer. Artists who rent studio spaces would have to register for the Artfest and be present during the show to take advantage of the 0% commission. More detailed information regarding the event will be sent via email.
- **November 17th** – Barnes & Noble fundraiser – we will need volunteers to work at the gift wrap table, to greet customers, and to do demonstrations. Each shift is 2 hours, and members are encouraged to buddy up. Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of the sales to the guild when a customer uses the voucher number provided for in-house and online sales, as well as their cheesecakes. Contact Sharon Radtke

#### Other topics:

- Gallery news – both Sara and Abby are returning to college, so we've hired two new employees, Kate and Sarah. Please welcome them when visiting the gallery.
- Due to slower sales on Sunday afternoons, we will close at 3 pm. During the holiday season, we will temporarily extend the Sunday closing time to 6 pm.
- 7 Daisies survey update – the gallery didn't win, but was listed as a finalist in the 'best place to buy a gift' category and 'Best Gallery'.
- Linda Moran would like help, 2 hours/month, writing a piece for the online blog. Please contact her at [marblers2008@gmail.com](mailto:marblers2008@gmail.com) for more information.

Gisela asked the members if there was interest in doing a juried event, because some feel that earning the distinction of being juried into a competition is good for an art bio. The topic was put up for discussion.

Q: would there be a cost to participate; yes – jurors are frequently paid a stipend, and money is awarded to the winners of the competition.

Q: is it limited to the members of the guild; yes

Q: Could there be a negative effect to being turned down; yes, but it's intrinsic to the idea of the competition

There will be an event designed with a reception.

A theme would be chosen.

A 'best in show' would be chosen.

Awards will be given in different media categories.

The art could be for sale.

Sharon suggested forming a committee to develop structure for the competition. She and David both volunteered.

Donna suggested making it a spring event, with a possible show in March, and a party.

- The front window has a beautiful new display thanks to Pilar and Julie. Treasure Hunt is the theme.
- Montreal Museum of Art – we are looking for a chairperson to organize a day trip to Montreal, perhaps 1 or 2 volunteers. The cost of the trip would be based on the price of the bus rental. Please contact Gisela for additional information.

- Workshops – Gisela showed one of the colorful posters that Steven Webb designed for the workshop committee. They can be viewed on the guild website. There were also small flyers printed; members were encouraged to distribute some at neighboring towns. They are available at the cash out area.

#### Show & Tell

- Lorraine Manley gave a presentation on wiring artwork for display. She brought a demonstration canvas for illustration purposes. She made recommendations for framing pieces, choosing matting, and transport of art to events.
- Richard Lyons brought a photo of the Leaning Steeple of Church Street, and shared the importance of sharing a story with art.
- David Lesperance brought photos and talked about post processing of the images
- Sharon Radtke has applied for a grant for 'bird talk'. She would asked participants to share their bird stories, which would be recorded. They would be part of an exhibit at the bird museum, as well as other locations.
- Bernhard Wunder shared that the Photographers Anonymous group would like to put together a calendar. This will be discussed at the August meeting on the 22nd. The calendar would be sold as a fundraiser. More information about how to send submissions for the calendar will be sent via email.

The next monthly meeting will be on September 20th, from 10 – noon. We will have a special guest giving us a tutorial on Instagram and how to use this for your business.

Respectfully submitted by Christina Lesperance