

Attending: Gisela Alpert, Sherry Corbin, Greg Drew, Julie Duquette, Nicole Gadouas, Dot Grazier, Cathy Hartley, Jen Kenney, Lorraine Manley, Jennifer Miles, Ellis Mooney, Cathy LaClair, Alana Lambert, Christina Lesperance, David Lesperance, Bonnie Palmer, Christian Poupart, Raquel Sobel, Linda Stech, Claudia Stoeffler, Felix Swétel, Jessie Swétel, Judy Taylor, Ron Turek, Mark Weymouth

The meeting followed the welcome reception for the new Executive Director, Jessie Swétel.

- Exhibits update – Dot Grazier is the committee chair assisted by Nancy Pecor, Carolyn Beaulieu, Jim Yolda, and Claudia Stoeffler. She announced that we have a new area to display art, the I-89 welcome centers, both north and south. Artists who participate are limited to one piece each. More information will be announced. There are openings at the Library, Community Gallery, Matt Little's office, and BioTek 1 & 2 to display work. We can add additional venues if we have more volunteers. Displays are renewed
- MAG website – We're changing the webpage that lists the artists; instead of just a list of names, an icon with an image of the work created by that artist will be linked to their page. Their individual page will still feature multiple images of their work, video if desired, contact information, other venues where your work is shown, and links to their Facebook, Etsy, or personal websites. Please send 3 or 4 good quality images of your work, as well as a short bio to either Jessie or Gisela. Also, many customers request business cards from our artists. Please bring some to the gallery cash out counter.
- Incentive program – the commission rate is reduced from 40% to 25% for those who volunteer. It's easy to get the four monthly hours in (and they may be banked). Attendance at monthly meetings count, working on your art at the gallery count; there are many opportunities. We will even need a volunteer to give the bathroom a fresh coat of paint, perhaps a mural. Julie Griffis and Pilar Paulsen have volunteered to do the window displays; and Kathleen Connell and Doreen Slusser are organizing the big donation of art supplies.

Jessie spoke more about volunteering. Many opportunities are 1-time events, such as hosting a workshop. Others may occur weekly at the same time, so may fit better for those with a fixed work schedule. Some opportunities are more flexible with varying time commitments, such as writing a blog post. Choose what works with your schedule. What is your skill? Organizing, working with kids, working with retirees, photography? Every little bit helps grow the MAG. You can learn new skills, grow your resume, help others, network, grow connections, get inspired, and have fun!

- We will be hosting more business-oriented workshops. In April, two lawyers from Paul Frank & Collins will give a presentation on how to start your own business. We would like to host an Etsy workshop to sell work online, as well. In the past, we've had a speaker on Instagram, and on copyright law. Gisela will send out a copy of that presentation. If there are any suggestions for additional classes, please inform Cathy LaClair or Jessie Swétel.
- Photo Club – This group is open to all, even non-members. All skill levels are welcomed. Their meetings are scheduled for every fourth Sunday of the month, 3:30 – 5 PM. Meetings (and upcoming workshops) are posted on the MAG website calendar page.
- Movie Club – proposed by Ray McClure. By a show of hands, there is interest in this new project. Movies would be aired at the gallery with discussion to follow. More information will be announced. Also, we are working on getting couches and comfy chairs. To celebrate the Year of the Boar (Pig), Ray has given a generous donation of \$880 to the guild.
- MAG Ambassador – Deb Shell will reach out to new members to ease transition into the gallery, becoming active on the website, and answer questions regarding the benefits included with a membership.

- Sunday Socials – Last year, we were awarded the Promise Grant, which funded the free workshops for kids. We also offered live music, hot chocolate, and snacks. We are continuing it this year, although without the grant funding. We are seeking a new grant to continue.
- Jay Summer Festival – Christian Poupart has secured a 12' x 36' spot for the MAG to participate, free of charge. The event is on August 10th, from 8:30 – 4 pm. We will have to supply our own tents. There was a show of hands to indicate interest in participating. More information will be announced. Christian keeps a list of additional venues for sales opportunities. He asked that if any become aware of new opportunities to let him know so the list can be updated. His email is: [poupster2@hotmail.com](mailto:poupster2@hotmail.com).
- Gisela showed some signage that could be posted at off-site displays or at individual studios, 'Member of Milton Artist's Guild' and address. There will be a sign out sheet to borrow them. There will be different sizes available, depending on need. She asks that we remember to send fun images to Trine to post on Instagram, [oscarmom2458@gmail.com](mailto:oscarmom2458@gmail.com). Art awards or other cool news should be sent to Linda Moran, [marblers2008@gmail.com](mailto:marblers2008@gmail.com). For general interest, it was mentioned that Facebook can 'link' pages by using the tagging feature.

### Show & Tell

Last month, Linda introduced the monthly art challenge, to create a piece based on a word chosen at random. The purpose of the challenge is to spur creativity. The word chosen last month was 'Unity'. Linda brought in a multimedia sculpture of a family unit. It incorporated papier-mâché, gravel, and paint. The challenge word for next month is 'Bitter'.

Jessie showed a mirror framed with 'You are MAGnificent'.

Nicole Gadouas brought a collage incorporating a butterfly, natural material, and chai tea.

Bonnie Palmer brought in a felted dragon and unicorns.

Greg Drew showed a plaque with bookmatched sections of wood with an illusion of a turtle or frog, depending how it was hung.

Alana Lambert showed a mixed media canvas of an owl.

Ron Turek showed a barn board plaque, birds on a wire.

Tina showed examples of fluid acrylics.

The next monthly meeting will be on March 21st, from 10 to noon.

Respectfully submitted by Christina Lesperance