

OPENING REMARKS

The past year has been a banner year for MAA. Highlights included maximum use of our **extraordinary new space** with the pandemic restrictions ending, a foray into an **interactive arts exhibit**, the return of the **holiday dinner**, and a **fundraiser that was a smashing success** allowing us to fund **three high school scholarships**. Our hardworking officers, board members and committee chairs and members combined efforts to conduct the business of the association with creativity and seamless teamwork. Their efforts have been notable and wholly appreciated. Elected to office for the year 2022-23 were President Carolyn Emerson, Vice President Deb Parker, Secretary Judith Goldstein, and Treasurer Lia Dumais, with Board Members-at-large Louise Cooke, Janet Heller, Cyndi Krupa, Jan McCollum, and Eric Vogel. Past President Sue Massé served ex-officio.

LEADERSHIP 2023-24

Thanks to the Nominating Committee, Carolyn Gimbrone, Chris Larson and Deb Parker, for their diligence in assembling an excellent slate for the coming year. The following were elected to serve in 2023-24:

Officers		Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs/Members	
President	Deb Parker	Nominating	TBD
Vice President	Sharon Quaglia	Membership	Carolyn Gimbrone Karen Waggoner
Secretary	Judith Goldstein	Programs, Demos, Workshops	Emilie Beckwith (Chair) Karen Prewo Jeff Blazejovsky Tech: Jan McCollum, Austin Pouliot
Treasurer	Lisa Dumais	Exhibits	Janet Heller, Judy Burnham
Board Members-at-Large		Hospitality	Gail Crook (Chair), Doris Phillips, Nancy Post
Janet Heller		Art-of-the-Month	Louise Cooke, Sharon Quaglia
Judy Burnham		Cheer	Theresa Harrington
Louise Cooke		Scholarships	Bonnie Lindland
Sue Massé		Graphic Specialist	Jerry Madara
Carolyn Emerson - Ex officio		Communications	Susan Aitner (Website) Sue Massé (Publicity/Social Media/MAA Email) Athira Sanal, Bina Nair (MailChimp Newsletter) Chris Larson (MailChimp Notifications/Google forms)

MEETINGS: Our facility at the Manchester Church of Christ, so generously offered for free, served us well for all of our recurring functions – monthly Board meeting and Member meetings, frequent workshops, and weekly Open Studios. The spacious, well-lit Fellowship Hall accommodated our numbers easily, whatever the activity. Member meetings were held there in September, October November, March, April, and May. December’s meeting was a holiday dinner gathering at the Manchester Country Club, and January and February meetings were held on Zoom. In addition to avoiding weather cancellations, the Zoom meetings allowed us to invite guest artists who would otherwise be beyond traveling distance. MAA donated \$250 /quarter to the church to help defray utility costs.

MEMBERSHIP: Wearing one of her many hats, V.P. Deb Parker, MAA’s Membership Chair reported numbers in the 80’s in November. The number steadily climbed all year and by our May meeting was at 105 members, 24 of whom were new during the course of this year. Dues remained at \$35/per person, \$45/family rate.

MINUTES expertly taken at both Board and Member meetings, were written, proofed and posted by Secretary Judith Goldstein following each meeting. Her attention specifics and inclusion of remarkable detail has helped clarify discussions that were held and decisions that were made. In writing this report, I was particularly grateful for Judith’s precision. All meeting minutes are available on the website.

TREASURY

Thanks to our capable treasurer, Lisa Dumais, the books were meticulously kept throughout the year. We began the year in September 2022 with approximately \$15,000, and finished in May with close to \$18,000. We were not required to have an audit this year. As president, I reviewed and signed off on each month’s report and bank balances. Member dues, workshops and the “Impressions” fundraiser provided the major income for the year. Scholarship awards to three graduating high school students amounted to our single largest expense.

Income		Expenses	
Membership dues	\$3,185.00	Art demos	\$1,430.00
Workshops	\$9,555.00	Scholarship - high school (3)	\$6,000.00
Fundraiser	\$4,095.25	Scholarship - MCC	\$0.00
Donations	\$440.00	Workshops	\$2,435.00
Tickets	\$540.00	Exhibit judge	\$700.00
Other (Cards)	\$116.25	Insurance	\$446.00
Bus Trip	\$61.72	Website	\$160.00
Other- Holiday Party	\$3,600.00	Business supplies	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$21,593.22	Hospitality	\$92.54
		PO box service fee	\$166.00
		State filing fee	\$50.00
		Church of Christ Donation	\$750.00
		Board discretionary	\$0.00
		Online Transaction Fees	\$69.82
		Bank Charges/ Chg. Fees	\$302.95
		Other/exhibits	\$3,589.54
		Total expenses	\$16,191.85

DEMONSTRATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Emilie Beckwith (Chair), and team members Judith Goldstein and Jerry Madara (graphics) did yeomen work of putting together varied workshops and meeting demonstrations. This was the roster of meeting demonstrations:

Month	Artist	Medium
September 2022	Zbigniew Grzyb	Oil pastels
October 2022	Bivenne Staiger	Watercolor
November 2022	Iris Van Rynbachj	Children's book illustrator
January 2023	Lyn Asselta (Zoom)	Pastel
February 2023	Tao LaBossiere (Zoom)	Murals/sculpture/multi media
March 2023	Sharon Quaglia	Alcohol inks
April 2023	Scott Rhoades	Acrylic
May 2023	Shauna Shane	Critique

Art-of-the-Month winners selected by our guest artists for 2022-23 were as follows:

Month	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
September	Adriana Young	Sharon Quaglia	Dan Nichols
October	Sharon Quaglia	Jessey Ina-Lee	Micheline Champagne
November	Austin Pouliot	Emilie Beckwith	Normand Charlette
December	Jeff Reid	Sharon Quaglia	Tim Simoes
January	Suspended - Zoom		
February	Suspended - Zoom		
March	Adriana Young	Dan Nichols	Athira Sanal
April	Natasha Piendel	Jim Oliphant	Karen Waggoner
May	Victoria Dubiel	Doris Phillips	Bina Nair

Workshops

Emilie Beckwith, with help from team members Judith Goldstein, and with able graphic assistance from Jerry Madara, through her own knowledge of, and research into instructor artists, and acting on suggestions from other MAA members, put together seven excellent workshops during the year. Finding, securing, and negotiating with prospective instructors requires oversight from conception to presentation. Thanks to her attention to detail, Emilie has performed this invaluable task for MAA with aplomb, grace and commitment.

Presenter	Medium	Month	cost/income	# attendees
Laura Kinlock	pastel	September 2022	\$100/\$600	6
Bivenne Staiger	watercolor	November 2022	600/1,800	18
Polly Castor	all media	March 2023	500/1,500	15
Sandra Wakeen	all media	March 2023	600/1,500	15
Carolyn Emerson	watercolor	March 2023	0/2,200	22
Laura Kinlock	pastel	April 2023	50/450	9
Sharon Quaglia	alcohol inks	May 2023	250/900	12

EXHIBITS

MAA mounted a total of seven shows this year, curated primarily by Janet Heller and Judy Burnham, Exhibit Co-chairs. Coordination between Janet, Judy, and Chris Larson, who handled registration, may have made getting shows organized and hung seem effortless, but there was a lot of planning and work involved. Thanks to all who contributed in any way - entering artwork and getting it in, or picking it up on time, or helping to hang and label everything. The Janet/Judy/Chris team was a super-organized, smooth-running machine.

Town Hall Exhibits

Continuing with rotating exhibits, this year saw five shows at the Manchester Town Hall.

Month	Medium	# of Entries
July – October 2022	Watercolor	32
October to January 2023	Photography	31
January – March 2023	Etcetera	38
March - April 2023	Interactive Poetry and fine art	33
April – July 2023	All media/ all member Bicentennial	31

October Library Show This was our single judged show, displaying 77 entries in all mediums. An Award Reception was held with live critique provided by the Judge, Bivenne Staiger.

Winning entries:

Category	Recipient	Placement	Title
Best In Show	Jerry Madara	Best In Show	A Worm’s Eye View
Watercolor	Judith Goldstein	1 st	Sea Cave Respite
	Jeff Blazejovsky	2 nd	Indy Dashboard
	Judy Burnham	3 rd	Montauks and Mums
Oil/Acrylic	Rhea Sutter	1 st	Cozy Dog
	Micheline Champagne	2 nd	Nobsca Lighthouse
	Jessey Ina-Lee	3 rd	Art by Jazz 628
Photography	Susan Aitner	1st	Feral Love
	Gail Crook	2 nd	View from Stonington Lighthouse
	Normand Charlette	3rd	Vermont Autumn
Pastel	Carolyn Emerson	1 st	Buzzards Bay
	Pat Trapp	2 nd	Colorblind
	Eric Vogel	3 rd	Saturday Night Hustle
Other	Jan McCollum	1 st	Harry’s Place
	Sue Hollister	2 nd	White Box
	Shanon Kehmna	3 rd	Untitled Ceramic

The Poetry Exhibit 2023 was a collaboration between the Wit & Wisdom Poetry Club and MAA. In the fall, Victoria Dubiel, a member of both organizations, prepared a sheaf of 49 original poems written by 10 members of W&W, multiple copies of each, which were displayed at subsequent MAA meetings. Our members chose poems that they wished to illustrate in mediums of their choice, resulting in a joint exhibit, with the relevant poems displayed along with the artwork. At a rousing reception, the poets read their poems, festive hats were provided by one of the poets, and W&W provided bountiful bunches of blooms to bestow upon the participating artists.

“Impressions” Exhibit 2023

This show was a major part of our fundraiser this April. There were 36 entries, all impressionist style artwork in many mediums, with roughly two-thirds sold by the evening’s end.

Monet’s Table 2023

Monte’s Table, a restaurant in Tolland, invited a small number of artists to show several paintings each at their venue for the months of June and July. Entry was thrown open on a first come, first served basis. The six participating artists submitted a total of 24 entries.

OPEN STUDIO

Open Studio is the one MAA activity that continues through the summer months. It has been a popular draw throughout the year. Serving the general public as a free and friendly place to learn and/or work on art, it attracts newcomers who often end up joining MAA once they get to know a few people and realize how open, non-judgmental, and multi-leveled (in terms of ability) we are. Everyone interacts with everyone else, helping when asked, observing, learning from each other.

FUNDRAISER

The impressionist fundraiser planned prior to the Covid pandemic, was deferred until this year. Cyndi Krupa, our fundraiser chair, developed the theme of a French nightclub, came up with the title, “Impressions” and with Jerry Madara’s artistry/tech assistance, produced an eye-catching poster that was widely distributed. Sue Massé graciously took on the enormous task of organizing committees to carry out the theme, and ably led us to a smashing success. Thanks to the hefty majority of the membership who pitched in to make it fly with donations of artwork and food, ticket sales, art sales, decorations, music, set up, and take down. The evening was well received by the attendees, nearly a sellout ticket-wise, and a major moneymaker, adding over \$4,000 to our scholarship fund.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Bonnie Lindland, our Scholarship Chair, did an excellent job of getting the word out to prospective graduating high school seniors. In the end we received 5 applications for the \$2,000 scholarship, from five different schools, every one of them an accomplished individual, accepted to a credited art school. Bonnie felt that given the success of the fundraiser, we might consider awarding one \$2,000 scholarship, and two \$1,000 awards. She brought her request to the Board who agreed with her premise and voted the funds to make it happen. A committee selected three winners by perusing their portfolios, letters of recommendation, with emphasis on their own letters seeking the scholarship. The three recipients, flanked by family, came to the May meeting with some of their art to display. The \$2,000 award went to Jordan Trares - Manchester HS, and \$1,000 each to Tyrique Martin - South Windsor HS, and Sofia Brummit – Glastonbury HS. The checks were sent to the colleges of their choice. Thanks to Bonnie for a job exceptionally well done.

TECHNOLOGY

Fortunately for MAA there are a few among the ranks that are technologically savvy. These behind-the-scenes members form the engine that keeps the Association moving forward, and without whom in this day and age, there would likely be no MAA. They devote inordinate amounts of time to their positions. Susan Aitner not only keeps the website up to date, she lets us know when we should be posting items in a timely fashion. She is precision personified, and so very kind to us less tech-advanced individuals. Sue Massé oversees communications and publicity for MAA. She handles the email account, responding to notices and inquiries, and/or directing them to the proper recipient. She also manages the in-print publicity for our events with notices going to The Patch, CTEvents, The Courant, Manchester Matters, and The Journal Inquirer. She has made possible the projection of

demonstrations on a large screen at meetings and worships so everyone has a clear view. The Board voted to fund the purchase of a new camera and projector, and Sue researched and procured what we needed. Beyond that, she is our “fixer” for myriad technical problems. The life’s blood of any organization is The Newsletter. Ours was developed some years ago by Chris Larson who has faithfully written and produced it ever since. The online publication announces every event that occurs at MAA with links to all pertinent information, plus many other items of interest. Chris has the patience of the Biblical Job when it comes to test drafts sent out for comment. She has also taken responsibility for posting alerts, reminders and all registrations. These last three services she will continue to do. The Newsletter, however, is being handed over to the capable minds of Athira Sanal and Bina Nair, two new members who pitched right in from the moment they signed up this year. A huge vote of thanks to all of these consistent, persistent, absolutely essential worker bees.

HOSPITALITY: Gail Crook (Chair), Theresa Harrington and Sharon Quaglia have arrived well before the start of every meeting to ensure that hot coffee and tea is ready for the members as they assemble. With the help of a few volunteers each month, and with home cooked goodies from their own kitchens, they have provided tasty treats without fail for us all. As president, I was remiss about thanking them publicly at meetings, and want them to know that their services were very much appreciated. Their refreshments offered an opportunity for socialization among old and new members. Thank you all.

FUTURE PLANS

The Board should remain focused on living up to our mission of bringing artists and art-loving people together, encouraging artistic growth in and around Manchester, and fostering interest in all forms of artistic expression.

It is hoped that field trips, one of which was planned but did not happen this year, can be arranged next year, perhaps on a carpooling basis, as bus charters are very expensive. There are so many art related attractions in our state and just across state borders, the benefit of living in New England.

Additionally, a number of members would like to see the development of a program for children, or a special event for them. The major challenge is the availability of space at a time when children are free to engage and our facility is available to us simultaneously.

CLOSING REMARKS

Many people made 2022-23 the exceptional year that it was. Special kudos to the Board of Directors and the Committees that ran MAA with such proficiency. I have always been amazed at the independent activity of each small team, connecting with others as they deem necessary to make the organization run smoothly. Exhibits were announced, paintings dropped off, arranged and hung, without fuss. Meetings were on time, online and in person, refreshments ever ready to welcome members and guests. The demonstrations were well prepared, interesting artful, and educational. Special events such as the Holiday Dinner, the Wit and Wisdom Poetry Project, and the “Impressions” fundraiser went off without a hitch. The seeming perfection of all this activity belied the hustle and bustle of many members behind the scenes, all doing the tasks they agreed to oversee, and doing them well. I don’t know that any other organization enjoys better teamwork than MAA. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to preside over this wonderful group of “artists and art lovers” this past year. I thank every one of them for making the job fun, exciting, and a joy.

Appreciatively,
Carolyn Emerson