

**OPENING REMARKS.** This year started out on a bit of a rocky note as our President and Vice-President were unable to complete their terms. The Board decided to pitch in and go through the year with each acting as a liaison for a different committee. While it was new territory, things went very well with a huge thanks to Board members for all of their help. We ended up with **membership continuing to exceed 100**, great use of our beautiful space, excellent demos and workshops, new technology equipment, and a well-attended and fun potluck holiday party! The Workshops were very successful allowing MAA to offer two scholarships – one for \$3,000 and one for \$1,000. It was the strength of our leadership and participation across the MAA member base that made the year such a success!!

**LEADERSHIP.** Thanks to all who provided outstanding leadership, service, and commitment for the 2023-24 year. The following team is in place for 2024-25 which positions MAA well for another great year.

<b>MAA 2024-25 Leadership</b>			
<b>Officers</b>		<b>Committees</b>	
Co-President	Sue Massé	Nominating	Jim Oliphant (chair)
Co-President	Doris Phillips	Membership	Carolyn Gimbrone & Karen Waggoner (co-chairs)
Secretary	Judith Goldstein	Demos/Workshops	Louise Cooke & Emilie Beckwith (co-chairs)
Treasurer	Tim Simoes	Exhibits	Carolyn Emerson & Janet Heller (co-chair); Judy Burnham
<b>Board – Mbr at Large</b>		Hospitality	Judy Burnham (chair), Gail Crook
Janet Heller		Art-of-the-Month	Alexis Mitchell (chair); Ann Martell
Judy Burnham		Cheer	Nancy Upchurch
Louise Cooke		Scholarships	Bonnie Lindland (chair) Veronique Fournier-Wynne
Carolyn Emerson		Fundraising	Carolyn Gimbrone, Carolyn Emerson; Eric Vogel; Chris Larson
Alexis Mitchell		Communications	Susan Aitner- Website; Jerry Madara- Graphics; Chris Larson- Newsletter; Eddie Auyeng, Exhibits; Sue Massé- Publicity & social media, MAA email box

**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 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 wonderful pot luck dinner enjoyed by all who came and brought delicious food. 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 \$1,000 to the church to help defray utility costs; it was well received.

**MEMBERSHIP.** Membership was directed by co-chairs Carolyn Gimbrone and Karen Waggoner. Not only do Carolyn and Karen attend every meeting to pass out name tags and greet members, they are active behind the scenes reconciling membership spreadsheets, communicating with members, and picking up mail at MAA’s PO Box. The numbers continue to be good in that we finished the year with 107 members – which includes our two new scholarship winners (more on that later). Dues remained at \$35/per person, \$45/family rate.

**MINUTES.** Secretary Judith Goldstein takes minutes at the Board and Member meetings. Her attention to specifics and detail helped document progress and decisions at meetings. Thank you Judith! All member meeting minutes are available on the website; Board and Member meeting minutes are all on the MAA’s shared drive.

**TREASURY.** Lisa Dumais kept meticulous books throughout the year. We started with \$17.9k and finished with \$15.6k – which includes the yet to be paid \$4,000 in MAA scholarships. Membership dues were over budget by almost 50% and MAA received well over \$1k in very generous donations. Financial results were also helped by an extra watercolor workshop by Joe Burger. The Board approved the purchase of tech equipment – slide projector, camera, cabling, etc. to be able to show Demo/Workshop artists on the big screen at meetings/workshops. This was the second single biggest expense vs. last year (over scholarships). Finally, having a pot luck holiday savings cost a bit in supplies but turned out to be much less expensive than one held at the restaurant the year before.

<b>Manchester Art Association 2023-24</b>			
	<b>2023-24 Orig Budget</b>	<b>2023-24 Actual</b>	<b>2023-24 Dif From Budget</b>
	<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership Dues	\$3,000	\$4,440	\$1,440
Workshops	\$5,100	\$5,475	\$375
Fundraiser 22-23/AITP 23-24	\$450	\$451	\$1
Donations	\$500	\$1,250	\$750
Holiday Party	\$0	\$0	\$0
Misc - Scholarship Refund	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
sub total	<b>\$9,050</b>	<b>\$12,616</b>	<b>\$3,566</b>
	<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Art demos	\$1,600	\$1,400	\$200
Scholarship - (see below)	\$4,000	See Below	\$4,000
Workshops	\$2,250	\$2,600	(\$350)
Exhibit judge	\$300	\$300	\$0
Insurance	\$450	\$481	(\$31)
Website/Domain/Ascend	\$1,000	\$797	\$203
Business supplies	400	\$719	(\$319)
Hospitality	\$170	\$358	(\$188)
PO box service fee	\$166	\$176	(\$10)
State filing fee	\$50	\$50	\$0
Church of Christ Donation	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Electronic Equipment	\$2,410	\$2,410	\$0
Bank Charges/ CC Processing Fees	\$400	\$487	(\$87)
Misc	\$0	\$55	(\$55)
sub total	<b>\$14,196</b>	<b>\$10,834</b>	<b>\$3,362</b>
INCOME	\$9,050	\$12,616	\$3,566
EXPENSES	\$14,196	\$10,834	\$3,362
TOTAL	<b>(\$5,146)</b>	<b>\$1,782</b>	<b>\$6,928</b>
Opening Checkbook Balance	<b>\$17,857</b>	<b>\$17,857</b>	
Ending Checkbook Balance	<b>\$12,710</b>	<b>\$19,638</b>	
Less 2024 Scholarship to Be Paid		<b>\$(4,000)</b>	
Ending Balance w/Scholarship		<b>\$15,638</b>	

**Art-of-the-Month.** 2024-25 winners, shown below, were selected by our guest artists.

Month	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
September	Mary Bollash	Austin Pouliot	Joyce Erickson
October	Janet Heller	Rhea Sutter	Chris Larson
November	Roy Wrenn	Bonnie Lindland	Athira Sanal
December	Karen Pizzitola	Laura Kinlock	Tim Simoes
January, February	ZOOM Meetings – No Art of the Month		
February			
March	Karen Pizzitola	Mary Bollash	Adrianna Young
April	Dan Nichols	Karen Waggoner	Karen Pizzitola
May	Joyce Erickson	Roy Wrenn	Karen Pizzitola

**DEMONSTRATIONS AND WORKSHOPS.** Emilie Beckwith (Chair), and team members Judith Goldstein and Jerry Madara (graphics) did yeomen’s work in putting together varied workshops and meeting demonstrations. This committee does all of MAA’s heavy lifting for raising scholarship funds. It takes many calls, trips, emails, meetings, etc. to get the demos and workshops arranged and attended successfully. Huge thanks especially to Emily who does so much of the work. A listing of meeting demonstrations and workshops follows:

Date	Artist	Medium
September 21, 2023	Karen Israel	Pastel, Adding Figures
October 19, 2023	Joe Burger	Watercolor
November 16, 2023	Hyeonsu Kim	Trad’l Asian Painting
December 21, 2023	Holiday Party	
January 18, 2024 via ZOOM	Hazel Meredith	Creative Photography w/smartphone
February 15, 2024 via ZOOM	Katrina Casey	Art Therapy
March 21, 2024	Beth Johnson	Encaustic
April 18, 2024	Jerry Madara	Heron in acrylic
May 16, 2024	Polly Castor	Critique

**Workshops**

2023-24 Workshops							
Artist - ACTUAL	Medium	#	Fee/Attendee		Total Revenue	Artist Cost	Net Proceeds
Karen Israel	Pastel	10	\$ 100		\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 500
Joe Burger	Watercolor	15	\$ 100		\$ 1,500	\$ 350	\$ 1,150
Scott Rhoades	Acrylic	2	\$ 125		\$ 250	\$ 400	\$ (150)
		3	\$ 100		\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 300
Joe Burger	Perspective	10	\$ 100		\$ 1,000	\$ 350	\$ 650
Polly Castor	Abstract 2	8	\$ 100		\$ 800	\$ 500	\$ 300
Polly Castor	Abstract 3	9	\$ 100		\$ 900	\$ 500	\$ 400
Total					\$ 5,750	\$ 2,600	\$ 3,150

**EXHIBITS.** MAA mounted a total of 7 shows this year, curated primarily by Janet Heller, Judy Burnham, and Carolyn Emerson. Coordination between Janet, Judy, Carolyn, 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/Carolyn/Chris team are a super-organized, smooth-running machine. We are excited to have Eddie Auyeng working on exhibit registration in the upcoming year.

**Town Hall Exhibits**

Continuing with rotating exhibits, this year saw 6 shows at the Manchester Town Hall.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b># of Entries</b>
April – July 2023	All Mediums “All About Manchester Celebrating Manchester’s Bicentennial	32
July – October 2023	Pastel	37
October to December 2023	Oil & Acrylics	25
December 2023– February 2024	All Mediums Winter Exhibit	30
February - April 2024	Watercolor	41
April – June 2024	All Mediums, Spring Exhibit	34

**October Library Show** This was our one judged show, displaying 78 entries in all mediums. An Award Reception was held with live critique provided by the Judge, Susan Bosworth. Winning entries:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Placement</b>	<b>Title</b>
Best In Show	Dan Nichols	Best In Show	The Globe
Watercolor	Judith Goldstein	1 <sup>st</sup>	Utah Tree
	Jeff Blazejovsky	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1914 Dusenberg Special
	Pat Castles	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chaos
Oil/Acrylic	Mary Andrews	Honorable Mention	Teapot and Posies
	Weitao Wang	1 <sup>st</sup>	Main Street in 2020
	Sharon Ross	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sara Epoque
	Sara Reid	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Summer Geraniums
Photography	Robin Simpson	Honorable Mention	Reid State Park
	Nancy Madar	1 <sup>st</sup>	Hot Mist in Yellowstone
	Doris Phillips	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Reflections
Pastel	Susan Aitner	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Snapper
	Laura Kinlock	1 <sup>st</sup>	Sunset Approaching
	Louise Cooke	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lady Fox
Other	Eric Vogel	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Crimson Curves
	Adrianna Young	1 <sup>st</sup>	Tropical Delight
	Jerry Madara	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Amphibian
	Cyndi Krupa	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Turquoise Leaf Bowl

**OPEN STUDIO.** Open Studio is the one MAA activity that continues through the summer months. It has been a popular draw throughout the year as it is open to the general public. Open Studio 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, and learning from each other. A great time is had by all as evidenced by the regular attendees who come back week-to-week.

**SCHOLARSHIPS.** Bonnie Lindland, our Scholarship Chair, did an excellent job of getting the word out to 11 different east of the river high schools. Seven top academic students applied with backgrounds across a variety of different mediums. All had impressive portfolios and recommendation letters from their art teacher and school counselors making the overall selection process a challenge. The Committee – which also included Carolyn Emerson and Judith Goldstein – selected the following very qualified candidates who attended the May 2024 Member Meeting and provided their comments on why art motivates them.

- \$3,000 Scholarship. Lucca Cotthaus, Glastonbury High School. Matriculating to Parsons School of Design to study Fine Arts and Anthropology - BA/BFA Dual degree
- \$1,000 Scholarship. Maya Hathorn, South Windsor High School. Matriculating to Ithaca College to study Art Education

**TECHNOLOGY.** MAA is indeed lucky to have several “behind the scenes” members who lead us through the continually changing technical landscape. A great deal of time is spent on these functions which most members don’t see happening because things go so very smoothly. Thanks so much to a very organized Susan Aitner who not only keeps the website up to date, but she lets us know when we should be posting items in a timely fashion. Sue Massé oversees publicity and social media as well as handling the MAA email account, responding to notices and inquiries, and/or directing them to the proper recipient. She manages the in-print publicity for our events with notices going to The Patch, CTEvents, The Courant, Manchester Matters, and The Journal Inquirer. With Board approval, Sue guided us through the purchase of MAA’s new in meeting technology – projector, camera, wiring, etc. so that we can see things on the “big screen” in the Church of Christ meeting space. MAA’s newsletter is how we reach out to not only members, but those who are interested in keeping up with MAA’s activities. Chris Larson is the mastermind of MAA’s newsletter – writing and producing these regularly along with reminders, alerts, notifications, and registrations. There’s so much work that goes into the newsletters – including riding herd over all of our comments, changes, and edits. Chris – we thank you very, very much.

**HOSPITALITY.** Gail Crook (chair), Judy Burnham, and Nancy Post arrive before the start of every meeting to get coffee and tea ready and set out goodies for the Member meetings. In addition to this, they were instrumental in our successful holiday party making sure we had the right amount and selection of goodies, supplies, and set up. They are very much appreciated as they get everything ready and then clean up thoroughly afterwards. 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.

2025 will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of MAA. Our past presidents, Carolyn Gimbrone, Carolyn Emerson, Erik Vogel, and Chris Larson have accepted the challenge/task of running MAA’s next fundraiser. After the wonderful success of our fundraiser in 2023, we look forward to another fundraising triumph.

**CLOSING REMARKS.** This year could have been one where the MAA ship ran aground with the change in leadership so early in the year. But, true to our form, the MAA members and leadership stepped up to make it another wonderfully successful year – in meetings, demos, workshops, exhibits, communications, and so much more. We have a gift of exceptionally dedicated people who came together to make the organization not only work but shine. Thanks to all who were part of this great year!

Sincerely,  
Sue Massé  
Board Member-at-Large