

Wow! What a year! While most saw the year-long pandemic as a monumental challenge, the Manchester Art Association Board and Committees instead saw opportunities. As a group, we found new ways to keep members engaged; made significant progress on several fronts; and saw the creativity flow into hundreds of artistic works of art. Yes, what a year indeed!

MAA's outgoing officers and board members for the fiscal year 2020/2021 are Sue Massé, President; Jeff Reid, Vice President; Judy Burnham, Secretary; Eric Vogel, Treasurer; and Normand Charlette, Don Ludwig, Austin Pouliot, Jan McCollum, as Board Members at large with Carolyn Emerson, last year's president, serving as an ex-officio board member to advise and consult.

With an outstanding effort, the Nominating Committee produced a wonderful slate of officer and committee members for our upcoming year. The following officers and board members were elected for the 2021/2022 year and inducted during the end of year meeting May 19, 2021. The ballot was done online via the internet as we were unable to host in person meetings this year. The new slate of officers is: Jeff Reid, President; Judy Burnham, Vice President; Eric Vogel, Treasurer; Lisa Dumais, Secretary; and Board Members at large follows below. A complete list of officers and committee chairs is posted online on MAA's website (<https://www.manchesterart.org/governance>) under "About – Governance."

Board Members at Large

- Janet Heller (Exhibits - Chair)
- Cyndi Krupa (Fundraising – Chair)
- Don Ludwig (Exhibits)
- Sue Masse (Publicity, Social Media (including MAA E-mail), Nominating - Chair)
- Jan McCollum (Exhibits)
- Deb Parker (Membership - Chair)
- Austin Pouliot (Demos/Workshops)

So many thanks to those who helped out as we accomplished a great deal despite not being able to meet in person.

- Engaging members electronically – meetings, emails, exhibits, workshops and more;
- A record 5 exhibits were held – virtually no less
- Work continued to find Open Studio and Member meeting space with success on the Member Meeting front as the Manchester Historical Society has agreed to let us host our monthly meetings at their beautiful site
- Launched a coordinated Social Media presence across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Permission to use member art on social media has now been included as an option when signing up for future MAA exhibits.
- Awarded an increased \$2,000 high school scholarship to a well-deserving South Windsor High School glass and ceramic artist, Alexander Jonsson. He is so very gifted and has been accepted to several of the top art colleges in the country; he's a great choice. Thanks go out to Susan Hollister who organizes the process very well. Carolyn Emerson and Sue Massé helped out with the decision making.
- Came into the 21st century with a new online payment system

- Awarded 3 prizes in our first ever online contest “Do You Know the Masters?” and launched a “Artist Jeopardy” quiz in emails
- Fundraiser. Sadly, we had to postpone our “Evening with the Impressionists” fund raising event and hope to reschedule it in the future. Ticket holders were offered refunds but most opted to make the ticket price a donation to MAA.
- All of the documents typically passed from president to president each year (paper and electronically), were added to MAA’s google shared drive.

Membership & Treasurer’s Report

As of the May Board meeting, MAA had \$14,043.60 on hand. With the payment of scholarships (\$2k), this will be reduced to ~\$12k by May’s end. Thanks go to Eric Vogel who handled all of MAA’s financial worries throughout the year. MAA dues have not been raised in over 10 years. As such, the Board voted to increase the \$30 single and \$40 family membership dues to \$35 and \$45, respectively. The rationale for the increase in membership dues included the following:

- The Impressionist fundraiser had to be postponed,
- There were no funds raised via the limited online workshops MAA hosted (typically MAA’s scholarship funding source), and
- Costs in the upcoming year are expected to rise (rent, WIX fees and such)

A temporary new MAA flyer (created by Sue Massé) will be released on 6/1/21 reflecting these changes and the “new” MAA in light of modifications necessary due to the pandemic. This will need to be updated as we return to in person meetings.

We were amazed at the retention of 75% of membership levels when compared to last year – especially given the challenging environment. In fact, of the 87 members (as of mid-April), 13 were new to MAA this year. This speaks to the reputation and drive of MAA’s members, Board and committee teams. Many thanks to Deb Parker who did the job as Membership Chairperson admirably. Since there was no in person meetings, this made her job especially challenging. Deb – a job well done.

We clarified the dues payment timeframe as there has been some confusion in the past as to which year dues apply to if paid in the summer months (after monthly meetings stop). This was added to MAA’s website: *“MAA’s year runs from September 1 - August 31. Dues are typically paid in September at the beginning of the year. For convenience, though, dues paid in June, July and August will be applied to the upcoming year.”*

Meetings

Meetings were held via Zoom for the entire 2020-21 year. Board meetings spanned the entire year including June, July and August 2020 (normally we don’t meet in the summer months). While we missed the fellowship of sharing art and creativity together in person, we found positives in the Zoom meeting environment. Our ability to get artists from a distance and see clearly what they were doing (brought right to our living rooms) were big pluses. We were unable to accommodate those members who don’t have online access, but the Zoom meetings were a good stopgap in the pandemic environment. Also, we could not find a way to easily and successfully host the “Art of the Month” which is a feature of our live meetings. Those will resume when in person meetings resume and display spaces (e.g., libraries, banks, etc.) are available to show the work.

Meetings, cont.,

The Workshop and Demo Committee team Joyce Armentano, Carolyn Gimbrone and Emilie Beckwith did an outstanding job coordinating access to artists for both the demos and workshops. They all went above and beyond the call of duty! With Zoom practice ahead of time (courtesy of Sue Massé), the monthly meetings were a great success. We did not record the demos so as not to run afoul of any demo artist's copyright privileges.

This year's demo artists included:

- September – Alan James – Watercolor film
- October – Agnes Wnuk – Urban Sketching, live demo
- November – Sandra Wakeen – live Painting Critique
- December – cancelled due to bad weather (was going to livestream at the artist's home)
- January - Jane Penfield – Pastel, live demo
- February – Polly Castor – Abstract slide show
- March – Amy Brnger – Dynamic Painting, live demo
- April – Jan McCollum – dioramas, livestream from artist's home
- May – Peter Millett – Lives of Cheney artists, slide show

Engaging Members Electronically

In addition to the 9 monthly member meetings (from September, 2020 to May, 2021), the Board held meetings for 12 consecutive months beginning in June, 2020. While this is not typical, everyone stepped up to the plate to address MAA's needs in light of the pandemic. It was yeoman's (or yeo person's) work. Beyond this, though, we were able to keep members engaged electronically in several capacities.

None of the following electronic achievements would be possible without Chris Larson. She is the backbone of the electronic MAA world – managing, editing, creating, and so much more. Kudos to her for all of the amazing effort that went into hosting MAA electronically. Also, Susan Aitner is our wonderful MAA website master. She not only edits content, but she's always proactive in making sure we keep things up to date. Thank you, Susan, for your efforts.

- Website. The newly designed MAA website (done last year) was a big hit with members. We received good feedback and are happy that everyone is finding it so user friendly.
- MAA E-news. Something Chris sends out on a regular basis but extremely important this year given our need to communicate electronically. Chris gathers the info, sends out a draft and gets these emails "in the hands" of members routinely.
- A Time for Art. Without meetings or open studio, MAA moved to creating "A Time for Art" emails. Members enjoyed this tremendously – seeing what folks were working on, providing comments to others, and submitting their own creations. Chris Larson was the chief on this front and, when we started, released these emails for 100 consecutive days! After the first 100 days, the decision was made to release the emails based on the amount of art being sent in. It turned out to approximately once a week after that. Chris – an amazing job, thanks!

Engaging Members Electronically, cont.

- WIX Online Payments. The trend of moving online continued with Chris getting system up and running. Welcome to the 21st century MAA!
- Studio Tours. Adding to the “A Time for Art” emails, many members allowed us an “online peak” at there at-home studios. How nice to see where people work and create their art pieces. This was lots of fun.
- Exhibits. 5 virtual exhibits, including 2 juried exhibits, were held over the course of the year. These are addressed in the exhibit section below.
- Do You Know the Masters? This was an online contest showing very (very!) close up pictures of famous artists works. Anyone who submitted answers was eligible to enter a drawing to win one of the \$10 Jerry’s Artarama gift certificates (correct answers were not required). The winners, drawn at random, were Rhea Sutter, Roz Carter and Molly Getchell. Congratulations!
- Art Jeopardy. We have added a feature that answers an art question at the beginning of the MAA emails so the reader can ponder the question that’s revealed at the end of the email (hence, Jeopardy format). Jeff Reid created the trivia behind this quiz.
- Communications. Barbara Pinti was able to release information to our usual sources re: the virtual exhibits. Thanks to Barbara for her efforts on this front.
- Artistic Challenges. Carolyn Emerson dug up several great creative challenges that went out to the members. We were able to see the same reference material being used across multiple mediums and interpretations. What a great idea and another way to keep members engaged electronically.

Exhibits

MAA held a record 5 virtual exhibits this year to keep members painting and creating. Our hope is to return to live shows in the fall, 2021. Because of the amateur nature of the MAA members and mission, a decision was made to allow artists to use reference photos if permission is granted by the photographer. Judy Burnham and Chris Larson were the drivers behind these exhibits. And, again (as always), Chris did all of the heavy lifting behind the scenes to get these exhibits loaded onto MAA’s website.

1. Three Color was shown from 7/31 – 8/31
2. The 17 Annual Members Juried show was shown from 10/1 /20– 10/31/20. The judge for MAA (first time) was Agnes Wnuk. Results are below.

First Name	Last Name	Title of artwork	Medium	Award
Christine	Larson	Red Rocks	Oil	Best in Show
Jerry	Madara	Life’s a Beach	Acrylic	Oil&Acr, 1st
Jeff	Reid	Sophia	Oil	Oil&Acr, 2nd
Patricia	Trapp	Summer Light	Oil	Oil&Acr, 3rd
Paul	Uccello	Autumn Glow	Oil	Oil&Acr, HM
Laura	Kinlock	Shadow and Light on the Grand Trunk Trail	Pastel on paper	Other, 1st
Adrianna	Young	Landscape	Collage	Other, 2nd

Exhibits, cont.

2. The 17 Annual Members Juried show results, cont.

First Name	Last Name	Title of artwork	Medium	Award
Judith E.	Goldstein	Toby Wrinkles the Wonder Dog	Prismacolor Pencils	Other, 3 rd
Eric	Vogel	Rise in the Sea	Pastel	Other, HM
Jim	Oliphant	Golden Glow	Photography	Photo, 1st
Douglas	Willey	Pond Secrets	Photography	Photo, 2nd
Ellen	Haines Chaponis	Nest	Photography	Photo, 3rd
Gordon	Brodie	Great Grandma	Digital photography	Photo, HM
Carolyn	Emerson	Under the Pier	Watercolor	Water, 1st
Pam	Roderick	Cookies?	Watercolor	Water, 2nd
Diane	McDonald	Humpback and Hitchhikers	Watercolor	Water, 3rd
Judy	Burnham	Cabbages	Watercolor	Water, HM

3. The Winter Holiday exhibit was up from 11/16/20 to 2/10/21.

4. The Love exhibit was online from 2/10/21 to 4/14/21.

5. The juried Mixed Bag started 4/15/21 and is still running as of this writing. The juror was Art Scholz. Results are below.

First Name	Last Name	Title of artwork	Medium	Award
Carolyn	Emerson	Paddling Upstream	Watercolor	Best in Show
Jerry	Madara	Pelican Procession	Acrylic	Oil & Acrylic, 1st
Lisa	Dumais	Polar opposite	Oil	Oil & Acrylic, 2nd
Bonnie	Lindland	Abstract One	Oil	Oil & Acrylic, Honorable Mention
Nancy	Madar	Vermont Scene	Stained Glass	Other, 1st
Grace	Tedford	Favorite Jacket	Markers	Other, 2nd
Helena	Deary	Spring Willow	Oil pastel	Other, Honorable Mention
Laura	Kinlock	Reflections on the Canal	Pastel	Pastel, 1st
Rhea	Sutter	Counting Her Chips!	Pastel	Pastel, 2nd
Eric	Vogel	Peace	Pastel	Pastel, Honorable Mention

Exhibits, cont.

5. The juried Mixed Bag results, cont.

First Name	Last Name	Title of artwork	Medium	Award
Susan	Aitner	Toad Prince	Photography	Photography, 1 st
Gail	Crook	Early Spring/Late Winter Snow	Photography	Photography, 2nd
Carolyn	Gimbrone	Some Bunny	Photography	Photography, Honorable Mention
Jeffrey	Blazejovsky	Cubist Self Portrait	Watercolor	Watercolor, 1st
Susan	Masse	Surfs Up	Watercolor	Watercolor, 2nd
Judith Estelle	Goldstein	Elias-More S'more	Watercolor	Watercolor, Honorable Mention

Workshops

Once again, Workshop Chair Emilie Beckwith was outstanding in securing workshop talent – especially in this unusual environment. More needed to be coordinated with the workshop artists – to be sure we were able to see, learn and create on a virtual basis. Because of the times, we elected to run the workshops at cost or a small loss – to be sure people had the ability to attend and get more involved. We felt it was more important to have members engaged than to be worried about fundraising.

Month	Artist	Medium	Attendees
January	Alan James	Watercolor	10
February 6	Jane Penfield	Pastel	10
February 20	Jane Penfield	Pastel	10
March 20	Jane Penfield	Beginner Pastel	10
June 5 (rain date 6/12)	Tom Ouellette	Plein Air Photography	As of 5/16/21, 10

Sue Massé gathered years of input from Carolyn Emerson, Emilie, Joyce Armentano and Carolyn Gimbrone to create a demo and workshop artist contact information. It lists 50 artists from over a half dozen years of demos and workshops. In some cases, comments have been provided to assist anyone considering these artists for future MAA work. This was added to MAA's shared google sheets online.

Other Items of Interest

- Board and Member Meeting Minutes. Thanks to Judy Burnham who took notes and turned around meeting minutes in lightning speed. We have added these to the MAA google shared drive to eliminate paper copies in the future.
- Nominations. Carolyn Emerson chaired this committee with help from Judy Burnham and Jim Oliphant. Their hard work has produced a wonderful slate of Officers, Board members and Committee teams. Thanks for all the hard work.
- Open Studio. Sadly, we were unable to host MAA's Open Studio at the Community Y in Manchester. Part of the year it was closed due to the pandemic. When it did reopen, the requirements to host Open Studio there (in light of covid), made it extremely difficult to return. We continue to search for Open Studio space that will be more conducive to our needs.
- MAA Shared Google Drive. All the documents typically passed from president to president each year have been added to the MAA shared google drive. If updates made throughout the year are added to this database, there will not be any need to make an annual transfer each year. Any important documents that were part of the MAA paper files were scanned and added to this drive.

Future Plans

The Board should remain focused on making sure we live 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. These items are "on the to-do list" for the future:

- Fund raiser. Take another run at hosting our Impressionist fundraiser – perhaps in 2022.
- Art of the month. Resume these when in person member meetings resume
- New Brochure. Make sure this is updated as Open Studio space becomes available and we change to in person meetings.
- Social media. This presence was launched in 2021 but the work to expand the use of these for MAA will be done in the upcoming year.
- Space. Two items remain open for next year:
 - Technology to allow easier access for viewing the demos when we do meet in person. Austin Pouliot and Sue have signed up to investigate the technology on this front.
 - Locating Open Studio space. Carolyn Emerson and Sue chased down a number of leads on this front, all with disappointing results. Sites we investigated were either too expensive or not made available to MAA. A recommendation has been made by the Board to form a temporary committee on space acquisition to include Manchester based (e.g., taxpaying!) MAA members.
- Leftover MAA note cards. See if there's a way to get these sold to benefit MAA's coffers.
- A new source for "Be Inspired" photos? We were very fortunate to have Normand Charlette provide photos for MAA's Be Inspired program in past years. Norm was unable to do this in 2020 – 2021 but, perhaps we can get another photographer to do something similar next year.

Note from the President

With all on our plate this year, I could not have been successful without the help of MAA's Board and Committee members. We forged through the many opportunities and the results were amazing. I mentioned the committees and their team members above but another salute to all of their help is necessary. Thanks for keeping MAA up and running. I cannot let the year go by, though, without personally recognizing those who step forward on a routine/regular basis:

- ✚ Carolyn Emerson for her guidance, insights and work efforts – always there and always reliable. This year would not have been a success without Carolyn; she is a true mentor and good friend.
- ✚ Chris Larson for doing all sorts of things and mostly behind the scenes of MAA's technology front. We would not have been able to do this year successfully without her. You do so much of heavy lifting that members don't typically see. Thanks doesn't seem like enough!
- ✚ Judy Burnham for always stepping to the plate when we needed someone to fill in or assist. Judy is such a key player for MAA. Thanks again for no-nonsense approach and all that you do.

Sue Massé