



HCAA Newsletter

This newsletter is supported in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council.

Please remember to renew your membership online at hcaonline.org or with a check to HCAA, PO Box 37, Hyattsville, MD 20781

Visit
HCAAonline.org

for info on

- Installation/deinstallation days/times
- Exhibit registration
- Receptions
- Artwork by Members
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From the President's Desk: Optimizing Opportunities in the New Year

by HCAA President Eileen Cave



In addition to our established venues at Franklins, Fleisher's, and the Prince George's Plaza Community Center (PGPCC), last year, HCAA members explored different exhibition opportunities and, in some cases, collaborated in smaller groups. I encourage our members to continue to seek new opportunities to sell art in 2024.

In November, I collaborated with playwright Nicole Burton to provide a lobby exhibit during the production "Wednesdays in Mississippi" at Joe's Movement Emporium, "Spirited Women," curating works from artists Delia Mychajluk, Nancy Sims, Jan Garland, and myself. I enjoyed curating the range of images that supported the theme, based on seeing HCAA works over the years.

Many members have participated in group and solo shows around the region, and HCAA members support each other by attending receptions and promoting member shows.

I plan to continue offering Healing Through the Arts workshops for the general public, at the PGPCC and at other locations in Hyattsville and College Park. Holding workshops in exhibit spaces is another way to promote our artwork for sale. I challenge you to step out of your comfort zone in 2024, and explore new venues, new collaborations, and techniques to evolve your creativity.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Desk	1
Continuing to Learn	2-3
New Year's Resolutions	3
Artist Gathering	4-5
HCAA 2023 Sales	5
HCAA 2022 Sales	5
Art Connection	6
HCAA Current Exhibits	7
HCAA Calendar	7
Sponsor Addresses & Contact Information	8



Successful community collaborations include combining drama and the visual arts.



Workshops give artists access to other artistic techniques and promote creativity among the general public.

Don't Stop: Continuing to Learn

by Pete Pichaske

Delia Mychajluk and Margaret Boles are among the many accomplished, successful artists in the Hyattsville Community Art Alliance. Yet both of them, while already well-educated in their chosen media, continue to take art classes and workshops.

Mychajluk, who earned her BFA from the Corcoran School of Art in 1986, has attended several art-related workshops during the pandemic—some in person, some on-line—and, for the past 15 or so years, has participated in an art critique group that has morphed into an artist gathering.

“I have found them inspiring,” she said of the classes, “sometimes learning some technical tips, but also, especially with the Zoom meetings, seeing and hearing from artists all over the country and sometimes outside the United States.”

Many of the Zoom meetings are free, she said, which is an added plus, and she has found out about many of them through [Eventbrite](#), an event management and ticketing website based in San Francisco.

Other possible sources of art classes, she said, include the Institute of Lifelong Learning at Montgomery College and the Brentwood Arts Exchange.

As for the artist gathering group, Mychajluk said, that “provides support, sharing of art with a group that has been together (with comings and goings) for years. With this group, there is trust that we all act in a positive way to encourage each other.”

Boles, meanwhile, said she has taken “more workshops and classes than I can count in my scant 25 years of doing art,” most at the Bowie Senior Center or Prince George’s Community College.

Her favorite workshops and those she learned the most from, Boles said, were about watercolor—her favorite medium—and were sponsored by Road Scholar. “In each one, we had in-class work and also traveled to nearby venues to sketch, draw, and paint outdoors. We had daily critiques and final shows to which the public was invited.”

The pandemic did not slow down the offering of workshops. Some of the most useful 9- to 10-week workshops she took in the past few years, Boles said, were conducted virtually by Art Works Now and held during the pandemic. “We showed our works to the group with a shared-screen process. We studied various artists’ styles and used their techniques or subject matters to do our assignments.”

The most useful aspects of workshops, whether virtual or in person, are that they give you time away from daily activities and responsibilities and allow you to totally focus on art, Boles said.

A quick search of the internet reveals similar enthusiasm about the value of art classes and workshops—no matter how experienced or accomplished the artist.

Caryl Pomales, a professional painter based in Florida, posted an online blog titled “[6 Reasons Artists Should Never Stop Taking Workshops and Classes](#).” Her list includes:

- Workshops help you improve your craft.
- Classes let you explore new techniques and mediums.
- Workshops reinvigorate your creative curiosity.
- Classes are a great way to grow your artistic network.
- A workshop can be a self-care retreat.
- Classes help you take ownership of your talent and skill.

(continued on page 3)

(Don't Stop from page 2)

In a similar online post in 2017, artist Ellen Muse-Lindeman, of the Kennedy Heights Art Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, listed her top 10 reasons for taking an art class. The list included:

- It's OK to make a mess.
- It can relieve stress.
- It exercises a new part of your brain.
- You'll look at the world in new ways.
- It can get you un-stuck.
- You will challenge yourself, strengthen your art and give you more confidence.
- It can rekindle your passion and refresh your spirit.

Besides the sources recommended by Boles and Mychajluk, a simple internet search reveals numerous possible classes and workshops, both online and in person, as well as a listing of deals and coupons for the classes available on the Groupon website.

Any time invested in finding a class, or for that matter taking one, is well worth it according to those who've done it.

"I would definitely recommend them to other artists," Boles said of the classes. "Each time I've taken a workshop, I come away renewed and full of plans and ideas, even if I don't find the time to use those ideas. I have taken notes and tried a technique that I will later go back to and try again."

"The workshops and various Zoom meetings that I have attended have widened my horizons," echoed Mychajluk.

Does this pique your interest? The following is a list of some locally available art classes; click on the name to go to the pertinent site.

[Montgomery Community College Lifelong Learning Institute](#)

[Art Works Now](#)

Brentwood Arts Exchange hosts occasional craft workshops:

<https://www.pgparcs.com/activities-events/events?locterm=1596>

[Greenbelt Community Center](#)

New Year's Resolutions for Artists

- I will draw / paint / sew / carve / assemble / whatever at least once a week
- I will make a list of themes or scenes that I want to work on
- I will organize my collection of materials
- I will give someone the materials I'm not using
- I will organize my artwork
- I will apply to at least two shows
- I will offer to teach someone a technique I use
- I will work on improving at least one technique
- I will give away at least one work
- I will buy at least one piece by a local artist
- I will visit at least three gallery shows
- I will visit at least four museums
- I will take time to look attentively at each piece of art I have displayed in my home
- I will take time to look attentively at a piece of art in a friend's home
- I will learn about an artform I'm not familiar with
- I will thank someone who taught me or encouraged me

Artist Gathering

by Delia Mychajluk



Works by Artist Gathering members Anne Simonetti (left) and Marsha Salzberg (right)



The Artist Gathering group has been ongoing for approximately a decade. Initially called the Art Critique group, it was started by an HCAA member but, early on, included artists who were not HCAA members.

Prior to COVID, the meetings were held at various artists' houses or, in my case, at my studio space in Riverdale. During COVID, Sherrill Chase was gracious enough to establish a ZOOM account, and we are currently meeting every other month on the third Saturday of the month at 5 PM. Attendance is fluid, with a core group that has been meeting rather continuously (consisting of both HCAA members and non-members), and other artists who have attended intermittently. In previous years, we have had group shows at Greenbelt Library and at a Gallery in Atlanta, Georgia. This year, we will be showing at Bowie Senior Center in June and New Deal Cafe in July.

Some of the artists in the group regularly take classes or workshops, and, in addition to HCAA membership, several artists are involved with Laurel Art Guild. I am a member of the Women's Caucus for the Arts.

In preparing to write this article, I asked members from our last meeting to provide some comments regarding their thoughts about the Artist Gathering group. Here are their comments.

Being part of "Artist Gathering" is a great opportunity for someone like me whose work is somewhat different. The critiques are helpful and never hurtful. I have grown so much as an artist because of their support.

Marsha Salzberg

...a group of artists. We are a critique group, "Artist Gathering," that meets regularly via Zoom to share our work, exchange information on art techniques, and provide to each other support and encouragement.

Sherrill Chase

I value and really enjoy the Artist Gathering group. Together, we share our observations, comments, enjoy and uncover various art techniques. I always leave the meetings energized, inspired, and ready to create more art.

Nancy Sims

Art Gathering is a very supportive group of HCAA members who meet monthly, on Zoom, to share works we have done recently or other works on which we want guidance, advice, or critique. Sometimes, we come just for the conversation with other artists whom we admire and to get inspiration. We often share ideas we have gotten from our travels, exhibits we have seen, or opportunities for exhibits and learning experiences. It is a time of good comradery for all.

Margaret Boles

(cont. on page 5)

(Art Gathering from page 4)

I think that our artists' group is a source of inspiration and motivation for me. Listening to the other members' ideas and the mediums that they use to create their art pieces give me motivation to try new methods of creativity. It is a good group of very talented artists.

Anne Simonetti

[I have] been a member for several years, and I have found it to be a very rewarding experience. Getting together is always fun, we are very supportive of each other, sharing ideas and making suggestions to improve our work. It is a privilege to be part of this journey which enhances our creativity.

Ellen Cort

I, too, am inspired by the artists who participate in the Artist Gathering meetings. I consider them to be friends on this art journey. I enjoy seeing what directions people are going in with their art. As a longtime member, I have had the opportunity to see others and my own art evolve over time. Everyone is always supportive, and we welcome new members at any time.



Works by Artist
Gathering members
(clockwise from top)
Delia Mychajluk,
Nancy Sims, Margaret
Boles, and Ellen Cort



HCAA Venue Sales for 2023

Artist sales at HCAA venues for 2023 totaled close to \$1,600. Congratulations to Roxanne Ando, Ellen Cort, Kay Fuller, Chris McGranahan, Delia Mychajluk, and Joe Rogers.

Art Connection in the Capital Region

by Diane Elliott

Since 2004, the nonprofit Art Connection in the Capital Region (ACCR) has helped artists support other nonprofit organizations.

ACCR was inspired by Art Connection, a Boston organization founded by artist Fay Chandler, who realized that she and her fellow artists often had a large inventory of previous work. She thought artists would welcome the chance to donate artwork to nonprofit agencies. Art Connection closed in 2020, but it inspired many other groups around the country.

ACCR invites artists and collectors to donate two-dimensional works to the organization (at this time, no bas relief or sculpture can be accepted). Nonprofits in Maryland, DC, and Virginia can apply to ACCR to choose works from among the donations for display in their public areas. They may select works that speak to their mission or that convey the mood they want to evoke in their visitors.

To date, ACCR has partnered with over 100 organizations and made thousands of artworks available. The ACCR website includes profiles of some of the contributing artists and comments from some participating nonprofits.

Debi Alexander, of Phillips Programs for Children and Families, says “The art adds a special dimension to everyone’s day and encourages each of us to slow down, take a moment to reflect and to actively interact with the works through our thoughts and words.” Jennifer Kwat, of The Women’s Collective, says, “It feels like we have won the art lottery!”

Founding ACCR member Cindy Rivarde says, “I feel my paintings have a positive impact on the clients and staff of the non-profits that select them. Several of my large tree paintings have been installed at homeless shelters, where I hope they give a sense of rootedness and peace.”

The organization’s secretary, Susan Kim, expresses the organization’s grounding belief: “Art is for everyone—for every human being who is striving to live with dignity and courage in our world.”

There are organizations, such as Pyramid Atlantic in Hyattsville and Maryland Art Place in Baltimore, that solicit artworks to be sold as fundraisers (Maryland Art Place splits the proceeds with the artist), but ACCR sees the art itself as a gift that nonprofits can enjoy.

If you’re interested in making a donation, you can apply online via the link on the ACCR [website](#). Artworks must be framed and ready for hanging.

“Creativity is a wild mind and a disciplined eye.”

Dorothy Parker

HCAA CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

"Cornucopia of Visions"
 October 22, 2023 - January 21, 2024
 PRINCE GEORGE'S PLAZA COMMUNITY CENTER
 6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

Hyattsville Community Arts Alliance

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT EILEEN CAVE OR VISIT: WWW.HCAAONLINE.ORG

"Imagination in Focus"
 October 7, 2023 - January 6, 2024

Fleisher's Jewelers
 5200 Baltimore Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20781

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT EILEEN CAVE, ecaveart@gmail.com OR VISIT: WWW.HCAAONLINE.ORG

"Imagination in Focus"
 October 7, 2023 - January 6, 2024

Reception: Sunday, October 29
 3:00 - 5:00 PM
 Franklins Restaurant and Brewery
 5121 Baltimore Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20781

Hyattsville Community Arts Alliance

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT EILEEN CAVE, ecaveart@gmail.com OR VISIT: WWW.HCAAONLINE.ORG

HCAA Calendar January through March 2024

January

Jan 6: 9 AM

Jan 6: 9:30 AM

Jan 21:

Jan 28: 3-5 PM

Franklins Installation "The Spirit of Creativity"

Fleisher's Installation "The Spirit of Creativity"

Prince George's Plaza Community Center Installation "Spirit of Creativity—African American Inspirations in the Arts"

Franklins Reception

February

Feb 4: 2-2:30 PM

PGPCC Reception

Hyattsville Community Arts Alliance

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outdoors.pgparcs.com/Sites/Bladensburg_Waterfront_Park.htm

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