



Artists United

Newsletter — December 2020

Next Month Meeting

Tuesday, January 5

12 noon — on your computer with Zoom

PROGRAM

Patricia Layden — demonstration
of needle felting.

JANUARY ARTWORK OF THE MONTH THEME

In the House

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Artwork of the Month

December's theme "childhood" resulted in a rich mixture of images about childhood, images about the maker's childhood, images from the maker's childhood.

As a result we have a newsletter with a lot of images — hooray!

Yer faithful editor sincerely apologizes to Debra Valpey for leaving her entry out of the prepared slide show and having to scramble to add it in real time during the meeting.

Critique

Our virtual critique drew six images from three of our members. The conversation was hopefully beneficial but we are far from the level of familiarity and trust in each others opinions that makes a peer-critique most valuable. — ronh



Debra Valpey — He's not heavy.

Since 1949 — 71 years of promoting art and encouraging artists.



A HOLIDAY END OF YEAR MESSAGE FROM DEBRA

Greetings during the time of year when our nights get longer and our appreciation of light is heightened. I am not decorating much this holiday because I realize that I really do it to delight and comfort my kids, grandkids, and friends. And they are not hanging around right now, you know, except on my Zoom screen. However, I do have lights. Lots of lights.....around windows, along the hot tub, over the mantel, and so on. I do that for me.....and that makes me think of each of us carrying light within us. As Ray Bradbury, author and screenwriter, once said "*It doesn't have to be a big fire, a small blaze, candle-light perhaps.....*" Let your own light shine, dear friends, and remember, as we embark on a holiday season that is "different", that you are not alone.

Something else revisiting my mind during these light-deficient days is the magic of the creative process, how comforting it is to make something that has never been made quite your way, or to try something new. Perhaps we can all do this in honor of the new year to come? The waning of the pandemic's hold on us (once we have the vaccine) and the lessons learned from our many months of isolation portend the creation of a new way of thinking, relating and...yes...creating. Anais Nin, diarist and writer of novels and essays and erotica, one said, "*But the artist persists because he (or she) has the will to create, and this is the magic, power which can transform and transfigure, and transpose and which will ultimately be transmitted to others.*" We abet (in the most positive way) creativity because we are of it. Please honor

that drive within you as I sure try to do. Sometimes it is hard, and it is okay to take a rest, but please do not ever give up.

Our December Zoom Potluck and extended check-in was fun. Our theme was childhood and most of us shared culinary memories, some of which are included elsewhere in the Newsletter. We then shared our Artwork of the Month and managed an enlightening critique session on members' works. I for one learned a lot!

So, friends, nurture your creative spirit, light a candle, and keep on "Arting." Until I see you again, may I wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Sweet Solstice, and a Joyous Kwanza. Please take care of yourselves and each other; you are all precious.

(virtual) hugs, *Debra*

P.S. Please, please, if you have still not paid your 2020-21 Club dues, see my message elsewhere in the Newsletter regarding a consequence of not paying before the end of this month.



Paul Ilian — Cat



Artists United FANFARE

Paul Ilian named Burien Arts Volunteer of the Year

Grace Stiller, president of the Burien Arts Association recognizes Paul as Volunteer of the Year for his services both doing and teaching. Paul says that it is pretty certain that it's him in the photograph. (looks like his eyes — ronh)



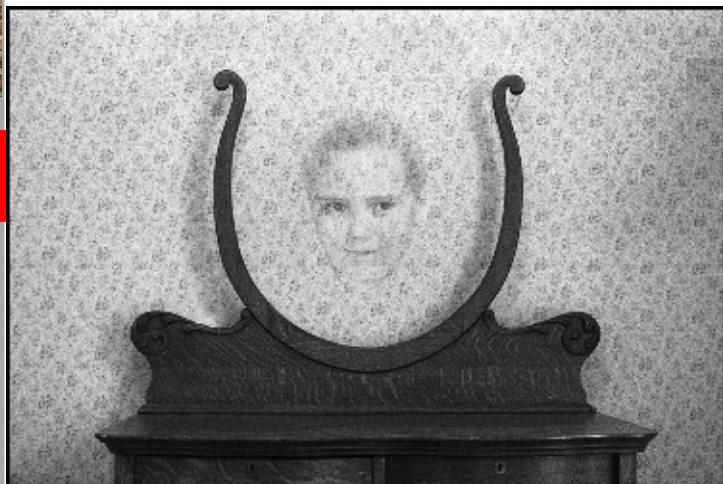
DUES ALERT CONSEQUENCE-Important!

After numerous reminders, there are still a number of you who still have not paid your club dues for 20-21, which were due September 1. The club depends on your support (only \$35 a year) to pay club expenses and continue to bring you quality programs. Benefits of dues paying club membership include participation in art shows, exhibits, workshops, monthly professional presentations, networking, and camaraderie, to name a few. Your Board has decided that if we receive your dues after **December 31** you will be placed on "Wait List Only" status for participation in any shows, exhibits, and special presentations or workshops that Artists United offers for the 2021 Calendar year. Please call Debra at 206-953-5704 or email debravalpey@gmail.com if you still have questions about how to pay your dues.

OPPORTUNITIES

Paint 'n Sip with Honey Bee Barker

Friday, December 11. 5:30 PM on Zoom
Email debravalpey@gmail.com if you would like the link sent to your email and/or if you have questions. All mediums welcome.



Ron Hammond -- I look in the mirror with the eyes of the child that was me, silver gelatin print

Editor's Opinion
(crank letter department)
How's your appetite?

(for art, that is)

Now I have a pretty serious sweet tooth for art but I'm a beginner compare to my friend Marvin.

I had a long telephone conversation with him yesterday. Barbara says that our conversations sound like they were recorded at 33 1/3 and played back at 78.

A mutual friend describes a conversation with Marvin to be "a lot like filling a Dixie cup with a fire hose." and I won't disagree with that. He is a published poet, a violinist, a photographer, an art director, a film maker (several of his short films are in the collection at NYC's Museum of Modern Art), respected teacher of writing and stage craft, speech writer for high level Boeing executives When his then high-school age daughter fell in love with a Degas print he bought it for her. He takes his two grandchildren (her daughter and son) to New York once a year (until this year) to introduce them to MOMA and the Met and the Whitney.

He and I met by happy accident about 25 years ago and we immediately realized that (in his words) "*We have nothing in common except everything.*" Me, a linear-minded retired engineer he "*one of the few remaining untamed wild men*" (same mutual friend's description.) So what is the bond between us? It is the appetite for art, lots of art, all kinds of art, art that we are making, art that we love, art that we despise.

Marvin and I meet for lunch once or twice a year (until this year) and each time the

conversation carries on as if we had met the day before. We rave about the art that excites us – rant at the pretensions of the academic art community (especially the photographers) – wave our arms about the projects we are currently working on. When we go to a museum or gallery show together we invariably draw the amused attention of the staff – two geezers having such a good time. I crave that kind of intensity and the pandemic has me on a strict and unwelcome diet.

How's your appetite?

ronh



Patrician Layden, Childhood Wonder



CLASSIFIED

(from our website)
Canvas Stretcher
Free to a good home.

Tamela DeRosso says: My daughter has unused canvas stretcher that I'd love to donate to a worthy person. 206-495-3913 or Email Tamela.derosso@highlineschools.org

16x20 mats still available

Debra still has some 16 X 20 inch white single cut mats (with backings) to give away from estate of Betty Vacca's estate. Please email Debra if you would like a few.



Danny Bobrow, Trees of Life, Colored Pencil



Rachel Baker — Homecoming



Paul Ilian — Blue Birds



Culinary Corner

At the December meeting several of us described childhood-memory goodies. Here are a few of the recipes.

Debra Valpey's Indoor Smores

(a grown up variation on peanut butter/ Marshmallow Cream on wonder bread sandwiches, a favorite from her childhood days.)

- 1 Toast some whole grain big seed type bread and butter it.
- 2 Add a hefty dose of chunky peanut butter
- 3 Top with plenty of Marshmallow Crème topping.
- 4 Add some dark chocolate chips.
- 5 Broil until the marshmallow cream is light tan color.
- 6.) ENJOY! Maybe with some egg nog?

Patricia Layden's Angel Pie

Angel pie (My fave from childhood, and it's a wonder I have any teeth!) I actually have the original recipe card in my mom's handwriting - a culinary wedding shower gift.

Meringue shell:

- 4 egg whites
- 1/4 t cream of tartar
- 1 cup sugar

Beat egg whites until frothy, add cream of tartar and beat until stiff. Be in sugar until stiff and glossy. Spread in well greased and floured cake pan with a cutter in the bottom. Bake at 275° 20 minutes, then 300° 40 minutes.

Lemon custard filling

- 4 egg yolks
 - 1/2 cup sugar
 - 3 t lemon juice
 - 2 t grated lemon rind
- Beat egg yolks until thick and lemon

colored. Add sugar and lemon juice and rind. Cook in a double boiler until thick, stirring. Put together Put shell on serving plate. Spread with 1/2 cup whipped cream. Over this spread lemon filling. Cover with another 1/2 cup whipped cream.

Pat Kelly's Russian Tea Cookies

- 1 Cup butter
 - 1/2 Cup powdered sugar
 - 1 tsp. Vanilla
- Cream above.
- Add 2 1/4 Cup flour
 - 1/4 tsp. salt
 - 1 Cup chopped walnuts
- Bake at 325 degrees until light brown. Roll in powdered sugar.

Linda Logie's Hot Fudge Pudding Cake

- 1 cup flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tbs cocoa
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 tbs shortening melted
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup cocoa
- 1 3/4 cup hot water

Temp 350 45 minutes

Measure flour, sugar 2 tbs cocoa, baking powder and salt (stir well). Blend in milk and shortening with nuts.

Pour into ungreased square pan 9x 9.

Stir together brown sugar and 1/4 cup cocoa ... sprinkle over batter.

Pour hot water over batter



Poet's Corner

What a puzzle

They are gone,
the millions of notes I played.
Not a trace remains
of the nights that I played miserably
nor of the glorious few
when the bridge to Sophisticated Lady
flowed like honey from my horn
and band and dancers faded,
leaving me speaking with reed and breath,
speaking from my heart and soul,
tongue and fingers doing my will
with no anguish of conscious thought.

God, I felt like I could fly.

They remain,
the negatives and prints I make.
They leave a trace
of the frames I should never have exposed
and of the glorious few
that rouse my heart and
the hearts of others.
When a print glows from the tray,
wet and shiny,
and I see that it is good
I know that it will remain,
that it may rouse a heart tomorrow
or in a century.
I will feel hot and proud
when it is hung and my friends can see,
but they will react not to me
but to my print --
unspeaking,
unresponding,
unfeeling --
and my thrill is less.

And I never feel that I could fly.

Would I could rush from my darkroom,
wet print in my hand,
and say
*"See what I have done!
Share with me the beauty
that my eyes
and my hands
have made!"*

What a puzzle;
play a note,
delight in its passion,
grieve that it is gone
or delight in a print
and wait, grieving,
for the touch of another heart.

ronh — 1990



Paul Ilian — The Victor



Rachel Baker — Star Skiing

End Note

A journeyman ... will get the feel of his materials and learn what quiet miracles can be done with them. A small part of this knowledge is verbally communicable; the rest is not, except to fellow craftsmen who already possess it. The technician's disregard of this inexplicable element ... on the ground that it cannot be demonstrated under laboratory conditions – accounts for the present dismal decline in all arts.

Robert Graves (writer)

Artists United Club

Our goals are to encourage artistic development and to bring art into the local community.

Meetings are at **NOON** on the first Tuesday, September - June (except when they aren't) at: Normandy Park Cove, npcove.org 1500 SW Shorebrook Dr Normandy Park, 98166

During the pandemic closures they are conducted on Zoom.

Artists United

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Burien WA 98166
artistsunitedclub.com
<https://www.facebook.com/ArtistUnitedClubSouthKingCounty/photos>

2019-2020 Artists United Officers & Chairpersons

- President: Debra Valpey
- Vice-President:..... Karen Smith
- Secretary: OPEN
- Treasurer:..... Jann Volk
- Membership: Paul Illian
- Programs: Linda Logie
- Juried Show:..... Doug Early
- Art Fair (Cove Show): Tom Fletcher,
- Newsletter:..... Ron Hammond
- Website Doug Early
- Facebook Page Tom Fletcher
- Storage: Tom Fletcher, Anita Corby
- Artwork of the Month: Patricia Layden
- Hospitality/Kitchen: Linda Logie

To contact any officer or chairperson, email artistsunitedclub@gmail.com