



Artists United

Newsletter — April 2021

May Meeting

Tuesday, May 4 12 noon — on Zoom

MAY ARTWORK OF THE MONTH THEME

Eye Candy

Send your jpeg for Artwork of the Month to the club email address artistsunitedclub@gmail.com by Sunday May 2.

PROGRAM

Our Artists United presenter for the May 4th meeting will be Amber Nicole who will construct a 3 dimensional functional art object during her presentation.

Whenever possible Amber chooses to use natural elements that can be found in any neighborhood and in her art there is often a message encouraging conservation of our modern world.

Linda Logie



Louise Hones -- Reflections

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Tom Fletcher



Patricia Layden — Little Landscape

Since 1949 — 72 years of promoting art and encouraging artists.



April Program

Artist Gretchen Evans Parker amazed us at our April 6 meeting with her exquisite hand painted gourd creations. Who knew that a simple gourd could be the "canvas" for such creative art. She showed us how to grow our own gourds, how to prepare them for "wood burning", painting, and carving. She also treated us to a showing of her hand made baskets that include shells, pearls, beads, and severed nuts. They were unbelievable! She is also an accomplished water colorist.

Debra Valpey



One of Gretchen's Gourds

<https://www.gretchenevansparker.net/>

President's Message

I wish to examine the topic of destruction and disruption — you know... challenging stuff, like a move, disturbing acts like oppression and discrimination, even a year of pandemic and isolation.

Theaster Gates states that "*There's got to be something countering acts of destruction with acts of creation.*"

Look him up. His work combines social acts, organized communal action, and, of course, great art to counter destructive forces in our lives.

Will Gompertz in his book *Think Like an Artist* shares his idea that "*Often the 'new' element in really big ideas comes in the form of a disruption.*"

Perhaps you are experiencing a form of disruption or destruction in your life and wonder how it might impact your work as an artist. It might even be a disruption that you welcome, like a new grandchild, or a (finally) long awaited trip out of town. Change can be challenging. Or, maybe you are hurting, or still feeling isolated or fearful. Perhaps you just experienced (or perceived that you experienced) a disaster in your studio or wherever you create your art; there just might be a creative surprise lurking within your so-called failure. Please be alert to the possibility of such a discovery.

I trust you are having fun with this month's Artwork of the Month theme of "eye candy." What do YOU like to admire or aspire to, or consume? Ha ha. Have some fun with this!

Our next board meeting is 4 PM, via Zoom, on Tuesday, April 20 to which all are welcome; just let me know if you would like the link.

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(Continued from page 2)

At our May 4 meeting, our nominating team (Karen Smith, Tom Fletcher, Linda Logie and I) will present a slate of officers (president, V.P., Treasurer, Secretary) for your endorsement. We are also searching for a new Communications Chair and Membership Chair. Email Karen karenlsmith@mac.com your nomination, voluntold, or self-nomination, before May 1. Contact Karen for more information about what each

position entails OR skip to the last page, where all duties are explained.

As soon as we can meet in person and begin planning our Fall Art Show and Juried Shows, I will let you know. In the meantime, I suggest you approach local businesses and offer to adorn their walls. Many are opening now, and welcome our talents.

Until we meet again, Happy Arting, stay well, and stay alert to the creative possibility hidden within destruction and disruptions. *Debra*

Plein Air Painting Resumes

Spring is here and the flowers are beginning to bloom. Paul Ilian invites you to join other Artist United members for outdoor art Tuesdays 9-12 in the Highline Botanical Garden (highlinegarden.org)

Bring your own materials; Any media is welcome. Just come in, find a spot and be an artist. Paul will offer tips as invited. .

If there are any questions just drop Paul a note at: illcon@msn.com
COVID precautions are in effect



Debbie Horne -- Amaryllis in Winter — oil



Rachel Baker — Flowerspout



OPPORTUNITIES

Highline Heritage Museum

If you would like to display your artwork at the Highline Heritage Museum in coming months, email Debra know asap. debra-valpey@gmail.com

Burien Farmers' Market

If you would like to participate in the Burien Thursday Farmer's Market beginning May, let Debra or Tom Fletcher (tommy2tomas@comcast.net) know as soon as you can (see March Newsletter for details).

Paint 'N Sip at Its New Day

I hope you will join me on **Tuesday**, April 20, at 5:30, via Zoom, for Paint 'n Sip with Honey Bee Barker; the theme for this session is "reclaimed." What does that word suggest to YOU?

Books Looking for a Good Home

Former member Victor Kimsey is moving to a smaller place and needs "good homes" for his art library. Debra send a list of books available to the clubs email address. Contact Victor directly at alicekimsey@gmail.com.



Debra Valpey — Out of My Window and Into Yours



Judy Eckhardt -- Night Sky — acrylic



Louis Hones -- Quiet Time



Poetry Corner

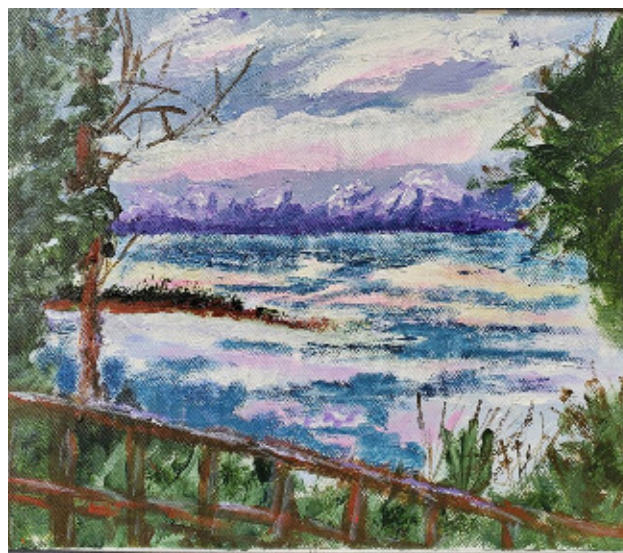
Morning Visitor

by Debra S. Valpey

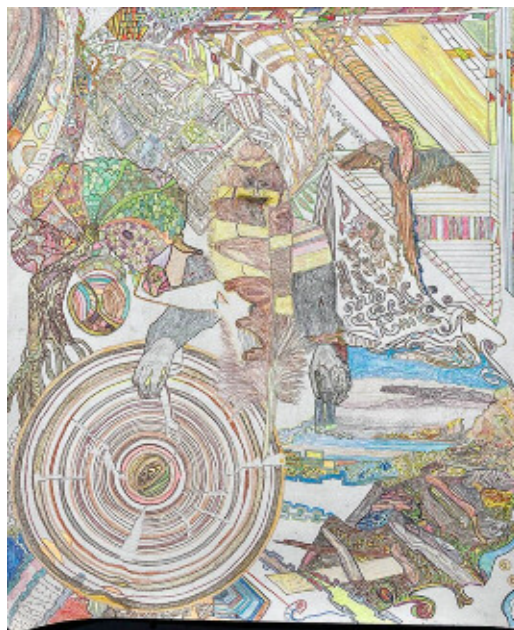
My aging cat strolled
across my computer screen
early one morn
then turned to observe
my angst
as I struggled
with blanksheetitis
and I saw that all she wrote was
m , , , , , , , , ,

She commenced to kneed
my neck
her too sharp claws
poking my skin while her purring
mixed with a single drop of
aromatic wet
slipping from her mouth
moistened my nightgown
reminding me that
I am useful
in her
life.

I am comforted
but I still have nothing
to write.



Sharon Hitt – View of Puget Sound
From My Front Deck



Danny Bobrow — After Eisenstadt



Soon to be Ex-Editor's Opinion (crank letter department)

As my term as newsletter editor winds down and the (as yet unsuccessful) search for my successor continues it seems a good idea to share some thoughts that have been rattling about in my head for a while.

When I agreed to be the newsletter editor I specified that it was for two years.

One thing I learned from my last post as a newsletter editor is to have a sunset clause in advance. I edited that newsletter for 19 years (even beating Liz Simpson's record for editing this newsletter for 8 years.)

It has been a busy two years. We began publishing a meeting reminder (The Howler) about a week before the monthly meeting while continuing the longer Newsletter about a week after the meeting. I advocated for this idea from experience — *busy people need a reminder*. We have had no problem finding enough content for two publications a month.

We also established an email list on Google Groups so that individuals can communicate with the entire group. Apart from the board few people have used this capability but at least for them it has been a convenience.

The lockdown for the pandemic intensified the need for communicating — including adding all the artwork of the month entries to the Newsletter and putting together a slide show of the artwork of the month entries for the monthly meeting.

I have also (by default) been the person to check the club's email regularly and both responding to inquiries and forwarding mail to the appropriate board person.

But I digress — back to the Newsletter. I wouldn't have volunteered in the first place if I didn't enjoy doing this kind of

task (besides I get to shoot my mouth off as a fringe benefit). And I have pretty good computer skills to make it look nice — and I enjoy that part, too.

However, keep in mind that the need to be satisfied is — **communication!** It doesn't have to be pretty. It can be an email copied from WORD or PAGES or whatever your computer provides for text. We could replace the Howler with a one-liner saying "DON'T FORGET THAT THE MONTHLY MEETING IS NEXT TUESDAY"

Our board is pondering how to allocate some things I do to other club leaders and I'm sure that will happen.

On the other hand, if you have a tickle of interest in getting your feet wet in graphic design and layout this would be a good place to try it out. It's a lot easier (and a whole lot more fun) than the old days with a typewriter, a pair of scissors and a glue stick.

I am stepping back after the June newsletter but am here to help you get started during the summer when things are quiet.

Ron (the resident crank) Hammond



Ron Hammond — New Year's Day Sunrise



Board Duties Explained

President - shall:

- ♦ preside over meetings,
- ♦ appoint chairpersons to committees not filled by the nominating committee,
- ♦ enforce the by-laws and standing rules,
- ♦ Serve as a liaison (or appoint someone) to Burien Arts.

Vice-President – shall:

- ♦ preside over meetings and fulfill the duties of president in the absence of the president,
- ♦ fulfill other duties as requested by the President or the Board.

Secretary- shall:

- ♦ record minutes of all meetings,
- ♦ attend to correspondence as required,
- ♦ preside over meetings in the temporary absence of the President and Vice-President.

Treasurer- shall

- ♦ receive all monies, and record all receipts

- and disbursements of the club,
- ♦ maintain an accurate record of members’ payments of dues and fees, event revenues, reimbursements, and donations,
- ♦ pay all bills of written invoices and receipts,
- ♦ notify the President, Membership Coordinator, and Communications Coordinator of all new or changed membership dues and fees status,
- ♦ prepare a monthly report with expenditures, monies received and balance.

Any member in good standing may nominate additional candidates - with the candidate’s acceptance - for any of the four positions. Voting will occur at that May meeting and the winners announced. Newly elected officers will take office the following September and serve from September 1 through August 31 for a term of two years. *(Karen Smith)*

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

PO Box 66902
Burien WA 98166
artistsunitedclub@gmail.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