

BELMONT ART ASSOCIATION MEETING - NOVEMBER 7, 2017

1. CHRISTINE CHANG TELLS US HER PLANS

Christine Chang and her husband, Patrick McLean, are making a "soft move" to Barcelona, Spain. They will be keeping their house in Belmont, spending 5 or 6 weeks in their apartment in Barcelona, and returning to Belmont for a week, then back to Spain, etc. Patrick is British, they have lived in Europe off and on. He works for Vista Print. I think she does too. Vista Print has offices in Barcelona and Prague, in addition to the U.S.

Christine says she would love it if the BAA could continue, that will depend on the members, and she will schedule meetings for when she is in town. She will send an email to people to announce her moving plans which may only be temporary. It depends on how things go.

They are planning to go this Friday to Spain to look for a place to live and they plan to move right before Christmas. Meanwhile, they are cleaning up their house to rent and she is subletting her studio space in Somerville. Moving to Spain is an experiment. If there is a revolution they will not stay and may return to Paris.

2. OTHER BUSINESS

- The BAA received a grant from the Belmont Cultural Council to do 4 events at the Belmont Gallery of Art this year. Christine will return the grant. She says it's fun to do events. You need P.R. to get people in. At the summer events, several ladies took the train from Cambridge to attend.

- Meet-up.com costs \$75./year to be an organizer.

- John Norton talked to the Black Bear Cafe in Belmont Books about doing a group show on their big wall. No resolution yet.

- East Boston Savings Bank is looking for ways to reach into our community.
- Savino's Restaurant in Cushing Square has 4 spaces for 4 small pictures. Artists can talk to him if they are working toward name recognition.
- Helen Morse has moved to Acton and she is sliding out of the group. She may move to the North Shore where she will be even farther away from Belmont.

3. NEARBY ART ASSOCIATIONS

- Donna Gaspar heads the Watertown Art Association. This is said to be a mostly older crowd who get together for chatting and workshops.
- The Cambridge Art Association is popular with some BSA members and others are talking about joining up there. There will be an opening January 12, on a Friday night.
- The Lexington Arts and Craft Society gives 5 demonstrations per year which are free and open to the public. They schedule 3 events in the summer to showcase the work of members.
- Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas is giving a jewelry-making workshop for Kumihimo at the Lexington Community Center in December. This will be free for New England Bead Society members including supplies and \$5. for nonmembers.
- Linda Shoemaker is head of the Arlington Art Association which had to leave their long-time location in the Gibbs School.
- The Concord Art Association, renamed, Concord Art, Concord Center

for the Visual Arts is a very active organization located in an antique house with an endowment. It is said that if you get into their yearly September "Roddy" show, you are "la creme de la creme."

4. LOCATIONS

- The Belmont Public Library is available for art events of a messier nature downstairs in the big meeting room where there is no carpeting. The library does not seem to be concerned about the consumption of a little wine, either.

- The Belmont Senior Center is less useful to us because they charge \$400. to rent their big room and they close at 4 pm. most nights; plus they are usually closed on weekends.

5. TEACHERS

- Emily Passman teaches at Concord Art and she is available to teach one-day workshops at \$100/day (per person?) For instance, she can teach "en plein air" for up to nine people.

- Damon Lehrer, who was an adjunct professor at Rhode Island School of Art and Design taught a figure drawing class for us at the BGA last summer which was well-attended. He is available to teach a landscape drawing demonstration. He made a video doing just that. Christine recommends watching the video before attending a live demo with him. Christine also suggests that if the BAA wants to set up a class with him, the Belmont Cultural Council might subsidize it. His price is \$100/hour. That would be \$200 total for a class with Damon.

Damon was Christine's landlord at her Somerville studio and he roped her into working in a reality show he produced called, "Married at First Sight - India Style." It will air on TV in February.

6. GOING FORWARD

- Christine suggests that if we hire a teacher for an event that we send out a notice to Arlington and Watertown art associations to get more attendees.
- Naomi is the point person for Constant Contact and Mail Chimp. Ask Naomi if you want an email sent out for where and when the next BAA meeting will be.
- Anne Katzeff is the one to talk to to get it on our calendar.
- There will be no events until after Christmas. January and February are the best time for events.
- BAA has a PayPal account. If BAA does not continue the website will stop taking dues.
- When we need something done, we should focus on a few people and ask them.
- Christine says, "Artists have more power as a group" and "There are great people we haven't yet met."

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