

Belmont Art Association Meeting: May 15, 2018

This meeting got off to a slow start for some of us in the Flett Room at the Belmont Public Library because of a thunderstorm. Members in attendance: Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas, Erika Hartweg, Dari Paquette, Linda Salter, Jane Wentzell.

Fifteen people have paid dues for 2018, and the mailing list on Mail Chimp is 175.

The Farmers' Market

Also attending the first part of the meeting were Vicky and Myra from the Belmont Farmers' Market organization to extend again an invitation to the BAA to have a role at the the market on Thursday, August 30th, for two hours in the Community Tent. This is an opportunity to distribute information about the BAA to the public.

In past years, Anne Katzeff did a one-time "art lite" event from 4:30-6:00 pm, and Vicky and Myra offered this again to the BAA for August 30th. We can get information from Anne concerning how she did it. Someone else needs to run it this year because Anne is moving to Florida. We will miss her.

The Farmers' Market organization offers no specifics, but it is expected that the event would be for kids, possibly making a necklace or bracelet from seeds or noodles. It should be a food related art or craft activity for kids.

BCC-Sponsored Event

Linda Salter reported on the public event she arranged on Sat. May 12 at the Belmont Public Library. This was a talk, demo, and practice class by the Chinese master landscape painter, Ma Qing Xiong, who taught a vocabulary of brush strokes. Fourteen people attended. It was amazing.

Questionnaire

Because membership and meeting attendance have dropped since Christine Chang has moved to Barcelona, we are wondering what can be done about this. To that aim, a questionnaire will be sent to all of the Mail Chimp mailing list asking for the preferences of members and potential members. This is your organization (you who are reading this). What do you want in your local art association? We are wondering whether people want an organization that is mostly social, or one that is action-oriented? And if action-oriented, are people more interested in possibilities for shows and artist education or in public visibility and service to the town? It is noted that visibility in the town can ultimately contribute to sales of art.

Christine's stated reason when she started the BAA was social at first: to create a community of artists; later her vision expanded to workshops for artists and possibilities for shows. Christine did everything to run the BAA. She arranged the meetings, planned the agendas, the locations, the speakers. She did outreach for shows and other opportunities locally. Since Christine has moved and will be visiting less frequently, it is

now necessary for the members to take the reins to direct the organization if it is going to survive.

Please respond to the survey when you receive it by email or bring your responses and suggestions to the June 5th 7 pm soirée at Dari Paquette's house at 25 Dunbarton Road.

Future Location for Meetings

There is the possibility of using the Benton Library at 75 Oakley Road for regular meetings in the fall. The Benton Library is a lovely old stone building whose original purpose was the chapel for a boys' school in Belmont. It was run by the town as a satellite library for many years, and it is now volunteer-run but still owned by the town. The *Belmont Citizen-Herald* carries information every week about the hours and activities planned for the library. We enjoyed meeting there for our April meeting, sitting at a big old oak library table that practically spans the room.

Schedule

After the June pot luck soirée at Dari's house to celebrate our departing members, Christine Chang and Anne Katzeff, the BAA takes a break for the summer and reconvenes with a September meeting. Watch your email for date and location. Planned events for the fall include three more Belmont Cultural Council-sponsored BAA events. See the April 17, 2018 BAA minutes for more details on those. Also planned is a BAA Members Show in April 2019 at the Belmont Gallery of Art, located in the Homer Building in Belmont Center.

Opportunities

Juliette Jenkins of the Belmont Women's Club has invited artists to paint *en plein air* on the lawn of the Homer House on Town Day, June 2nd, 9am-4pm. The Homer House will not be open for visitors that day, but there are many events and activities planned for Leonard St.

Galatea Fine Art in Boston's SOWA Art district is accepting entries for The New England Collective IX Annual Juried Exhibition which runs from August 1-September 1. The entry deadline is June 15, 2018. Information is available online at www.galateafineart.com

Joanna Tzouvelis, Senior Multimedia Journalist for the *Belmont Citizen-Herald* and Wicked Local Belmont, is happy to meet with and interview Belmont artists over the summer. You can call or email her to schedule an interview. Her contact information is 781a 674a 7723 and Belmont@wickedlocal.com

Recording Secretary, Jane Wentzell