

## **Belmont Art Association Meeting: October 16, 2018**

Location: Dari Paquette's home (late venue change due to last minute cancellation by Hagop's Art Studio because of Tom Coppi's medical issue)

Members in attendance: Paul Beckingham, Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas, Erika Hartweg, Kay Hudgens, Susan Kottler, Ned Levering, John Norton, Dari Paquette, Fleur Thesmar, Jane Wentzell

### **Meeting**

1. Dari announced that the BAA website needs to be edited to reflect the current administrative committee members. The website still lists Christine Chang as President, Anne Katzeff as Vice President. Since their departures, other people have taken on new roles. Dari read through the suggested new website text which reads:

**Founder:** Christine Chang, President Emeritus

**Administrative Committee:**

**Co-Chairs:** Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas and Darisse (Dari) Paquette

**Treasurer and Membership Coordinator:** Erika Hartweg

**Recording Secretary:** Jane Wentzell

**Website Maestros:** Warren Croce; Anne Katzeff, Vice President Emeritus

**Communications Committee:**

**Venue Coordinator:** Linda Salter

**Social Media Coordinator:** Dari Paquette

**Print Design:** Dari Paquette

**Program Committee:** Nicole Bernstein, Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas, Susan Kottler, John Norton, Linda Salter, Fleur Thesmar

**Exhibition Committee:** Seasonal

2. Members were in agreement with the proposed changes. Naomi stated that she is willing to Co-Chair the BAA if Dari is Senior Co-Chair since Naomi is heavily involved in multiple other organizations (a great networking opportunity!). Dari has taken over Facebook posting from Anne Katzeff and is also interested in making a coordinating BAA Instagram account in the future, after collecting artwork images from members, with the goal of posting a couple of times a week to achieve greater visibility in the Belmont community. Activities of the Program Committee need to be determined and perhaps rolled into the Exhibition Committee.
3. The last minute cancellation of the meeting venue at Hagop's emphasized the need for a membership directory to be shared only with members. Email is not always a reliable way of contacting people on short notice. Members in attendance recorded their contact information; we will continue to gather phone numbers at future meetings.
4. Belmont Cultural Council grant: BAA has produced two successful events, a woodworking workshop held at Belmont Hill School and a Chinese Brush Painting workshop at the Belmont Public Library. A third workshop was planned for September but was cancelled, and there was discussion about whether the remainder of the \$600 grant could be rolled over into 2019. There was lengthy discussion concerning whether the BAA wants to continue

working on community education programs or rather concentrate on events solely for the benefit of BAA members. Reasons for applying for the BCC grant were to create more public awareness for the BAA and the arts in general, in line with the goals of the BCC, BAA-sponsored community programs also serve as a form of indirect marketing for member artists. Some members suggested returning the balance of the grant monies not yet used, while others felt this would be unwise should the BAA ever want to apply for grants in the future. General consensus was that we should do our best to produce the other two funded programs and then decide at a later date whether we want to continue this type of work.

5. Indigo Fire and the Small Works Show: The customary December Small Works Show at the BGA was not yet definite at the time of this meeting. Ned Levering met with Rebecca Richards about this event, which they initially discussed as being solely a pottery show and sale along with a visual poetry show on the walls, contrary to what people thought was proposed when Ned broached the idea at our Sept. members' meeting. Details about this show have continued to evolve; see the BGA website for current information.
6. With the Small Works Show questionable for artwork other than pottery, Fleur Thesmar suggested starting an Open Studios event in Belmont such as those hosted by surrounding towns. John Norton participates in an open studio in Allston; Linda Salter participates in Newton; Naomi in Lexington; Anne Katzeff in Arlington before her move; etc. This topic warrants further discussion and research.
7. Gallery Twist, 1963 Mass. Ave. in Lexington, was brought up as an example of a different type of gallery for members to try. Both John Norton and Erika Hartweg have experience with approaching this gallery. Gallery owners John and Gillian Ross open their historic Victorian home to curated pop-up shows four to five times per year which typically hang for four weeks. This is another potential venue for people to get their work seen.
8. The next members' meeting is scheduled for Thursday November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Belmont Gallery of Art. Fleur Thesmar will present her work to the BAA.

Recording Secretary: Jane Wentzell, 617-489-0412  
Edited by Dari Paquette and Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas