

TEACHERS & EDUCATORS of ART MATERIALS

Great Lake Region Newsletter 2009

Volume 1

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2008 has come and gone. The economy has been on a roller coaster ride. What long-term effect this will have on the art industry is yet to be seen. We recently lost the last full line arts and craft store in our area. But yet we have persevered. No one bat an eyelash at the astronomical salaries for professional athletes. Can you envision my fondest dream? As a professional artist – we paint a few paintings for half a year – host a few autograph signings – parade around promoting shirts, shoes or underwear bearing the logos of companies such as Grumbacher, Winsor Newton or Royal Brushes – and our agent get us a contract for a million plus a year. It's a dream but oh what a dream! 2009 is looking forward, a new path, a new dream and hope.

MINUTES FROM THE FALL MEETING 2008

President Mandy Steele called the September 5, 2008 meeting to order at 7:45 pm at North Bend Lodge, WV. She welcomed 15 members and 2 guests.

Minutes were read and approved from the spring 2008.

Treasurer report was read in absence of Sulayne Brooks by President Mandy Steele. Beginning balance \$3,671.30. After expenses the current balance is \$3,601.30.

New Business: Spring meeting will be held at Georgia Dangel's with Dorothy Dent teaching. Members voted to give money toward fee to members who attended as a reward. Final dates will be posted in the newsletter.

Sunshine Report: Wayne Glenn is going very well and feels better now than 1 ½ years ago. Doni Adam's husband was in a nursing home but is doing better.

President, Mandy introduced guests, Donna Wells, President of the NY region and Judy Kusenko from PA. Judy is one of Wayne Glenn's students. Welcome to both ladies.

Promoted Kitty Gorrell's new book out by North Light Book Club. A must for your library.

Mandy would like to see all members on the website for TEAM. Check with Smokey B.

Upcoming classes: Artist United: Kitty and Mark will be teaching. Check website for more information. www.Auartists.org.

Great Lakes would like to have more workshops between our regular two meetings. Our region has several great teachers and we should be able to offer at least one in May or June somewhere in OH, PA or WV. Think about this and get back to President Mandy. Reminder that our 2009 Dues are due for 2009. Still only \$15.00.

Meeting was closed at 7:30pm. Mandy again thanked everyone for attending.

Members attending: Mary Lauck, Nancy Clark, Norma Kessler, Georgia Dangel, Carol Horst, Doreen Tedrick, Jerry Carpenter, Lou Ann Reckley, Mary Moore, Yvonne Reusser, Linda VanDyke, Mandy Steele, Carol Hoffman, Kitty Gorrell. Guest: Donna Wells, Judy Kusenko. Submitted by GLR Secretary, Carol Hoffman

MERSY DOATS AND DOASY DOATS

--- And little lambs eat ivy. Old goats remind us that 2009 dues are due. You are in for a special treat if your dues are paid by Feb. 28. You can send \$15.00 dues to Treasurer Sulayne Brook, 69 Mahlon Street, Shinnston, WV 26431. Make check payable to Great Lakes Region. Dues have been received from the following people. Mandy Steele, Sulayne Brooks, Jerry Carpenter, Georgia Dangel, Barbara Hargis, Barbara Hill, Carol Hoffman, Carol Horst, Mary Lauck, Mary Moore, Yvonne Reusser, Mary Stephenson, Doreen Tedrick, Linda VanDyke, Marlene Moose, Judith Kusenko, Paul French, Connie Frye and Doni Adams. All news releases and newsletters are sent out by email. If you received this newsletter by snail mail, it means I don't have a current email address. When you change email address, please forward this info to me. We will be updating information to Smokey and Harold on Feb. 28. Please include your address, email, phone or cell phone and whether you teach when you send your dues. If I forgot anyone, please let me know.

BONUS TREAT

For those who pay their dues by Feb 28, you will receive a \$50 credit toward a painting class at our spring meeting. So get out your checkbook and mail your \$15.00 dues to Sulayne today.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marlene Moose, 123 Adams Avenue, Woodsfield, OH 43793 (740) 472-2470 email: moosecrossing@sbcglobal.net

Judith Kusenko, 821 Cathers Run Road, Sigel, PA 15860 (814) 752-6396 email: makjak@alltel.net

Shirl LeBlanc Canada (204) 222-1548 email: palettepair@shaw.ca

2009 SPRING MEETING

GLR will hold their 2009 meeting on Friday evening April 17 ear Sardis, OH. We will be holding this in conjunction with Georgia Dangel's classes with Dorothy Dent. I am sure you are all aware that Dorothy is a wonderful teacher. Take one or all three days. If your dues are paid by Feb. 28, you can apply your \$50.00 credit to this class. The classes will be held on April 16 – 18. Contact Georgia to register.

KITTY GORRELL CLASSES – Friendly, WV



What a wonderful Valentine's Day Present. Painting Technique Class entitled "Water Colors". The painting was created from a photo taken at North Bend State Park emphasizing fall colors. To be held on February 14 at Kitty's Studio in Friendly, WV. Her new studio is absolutely beautiful and the scenery just adds to the pleasure. Class starts at 9:00am – 4:30pm. Cost is \$50.00. Contact Kitty at (304) 684-7975 to register.

Homecoming Hues Painting Retreat – North Bend State Park, WV

I love this retreat. I have attended since the first retreat and look forward to this event every year. Kitty and Chuck have created a wonderful event in a picturesque environment. Each year there is something new to look forward too. Check out the website www.KittyGorrell.com. All the information and class photos are posted. Teachers this year are Dorothy Dent, Mark Polomchak, and Carol Hoffman who have shared so much artistic learning in previous years. Having taken classes with all these wonderful teachers, it really is hard to choose which classes to take. New to the august teaching staff, is Kathy George. I have taken classes with Kathy many years ago and she offers quite a unique painting technique - Batik/Watercolor - to the lineup this year. Don't wait – register today because classes fill up very fast.

SOMETHING NEW TO STIR OUR ARTISTIC GROWTH

Something new and exciting to watch for on February 14 will be the launch of the all-new "Interactive Artist Magazine". This is an online magazine committed to providing you with creative inspiration and information, right at your fingertips 24/7. Created and presented by D & A Publishing. Many of you already know CEO/Publisher Dawn Knowles from her years of work with Martin F. Weber Company. Dawn has created a new company and its first major project is this magazine. Kitty will be working with her as Editor in Chief so you will be seeing updates on the magazine often. For a sneak preview visit www.InteractiveArtistMagazine.org today! Congratulations Kitty!

GEORGIA DANGEL CLASSES – Sardis, OH

I was invited to teach a color theory class for Georgia Dangel. I can honestly say I haven't enjoyed teaching this "loaded full of information class" to such a wonderful, funny, entertaining group of women. The 3 day seminar was held at GLR member Yvonne Reusser's studio/framing shop. Yvonne was a very gracious hostess

providing drinks, snacks and door prizes. Can't wait to go back. (Besides Georgia's husband is a very good cook).

UPCOMING CLASSES WITH GEORGIA

Feb 20 – 21 Mini Pieces of Artwork with Lynda Berman

Feb 27 – 28 Portrait Class at Diane Wrights Studio taught by Georgia - Oil

Georgia's Classes - Continue

Mar 20 – 21 Learn to paint Fabric with Mandy Steele - Oil

April 16 – 18 Dorothy Dent Seminar - Oil

June 5 – 6 Still Life to apply Color Theory Part 2 Oil glazes over acrylic with Mandy Steele

Aug 6 – 8 Mary Kingslan Gibilisco – Genesis Paint (Paint included in class fee)

Oct. 3 – 4 Mark Polomchak - Watercolor

What a great line up for classes. You can learn quite a wide array of painting techniques. I've seen the artwork by Lynda Berman created with rice papers, pressed flowers and watercolors. You will be creating 10 individual small unique pieces. Her samples were absolutely gorgeous. To register for this class contact Yvonne Reusser at (740) 472-5295. Dorothy's painting style is so easy to follow for beginners and advanced painters. Those who painted with Mark know what an easy entertaining teacher he is. Novice to advanced painters can benefit from his relaxed style. I have taken several classes with Mary Kingslan Gibilisco and her mother Ann Kingslan. Great technique and very structured method of painting florals and still life. Everyone will walk away from these classes with a much better understanding of still life set up and value scale painting.

For more information concerning any of Georgia's Classes, you will have to call or write Georgia (She Doesn't Have Email, DAN!) Phone (740) 483-1811 or write to 49675 Dangel Lane, Sardis, OH 43946.

NEWS FROM DEBBIE NEES – Basye, VA

"I am pleased to report that one of my "after school gang" kids, who is ten years old won the county fair blue ribbon for a painting done in class this past summer. Now he is preparing in class his own creation to submit to a statewide Christian school affiliation board for judging this March. The enthusiasm and creativity of the young continue to amaze me. And I was the one hesitant to teach kids."

"Fellow teachers with lots of cutbacks in schools there may be opportunities to pick up kids classes and workshops." Debbie has started her watercolor series again and her monthly workshops at the local resort.

Note from Mandy: We have three children's art classes conducted in my studio. We attracted most of these kids from the "home schooled children" and the private Christian schools in the area. Check these venues in your area, they have proven to be very popular and the parents are grateful they have somewhere to address this requirement in their curriculum. The teacher is a retired county art teacher and the kids love him. NO I don't teach the children classes.

Debbie want to share this bit of wisdom "a mentor once told me that even if class numbers were down or some classes had cancelled, I should still "keep on painting. If nothing else, my repertoire of teaching subjects would increase".

NOTE FROM DONI ADAM – Fort Wayne, IN

Her husband, Tom's health continues to deteriorate. Doni fell on September 25th, broke her arm just above the wrist – also crushed the bone. Two weeks later she had rotator cuff surgery. The surgery was not completely successful as she can only lift her left arm to her nose. December 8 Tom fell again and broke 2 bones in his right foot. Doni still is looking forward to membership in GLR. Keep them in your prayers. The wind chill in her area around the 17th was 36 below zero. (And I was complaining about 10 below in WV).

During her convalesces, Doni developed a 4-week program – Learning to Paint Portraits. The class incorporates drawing the adult faces within mathematical proportions, bone structure, painting lights and

shadows and so much more. She is working on developing a 4-week class on "How to Paint Flowers". Congratulations Doni! Sorry the circumstances were responsible for all this creativity.

ARTISTS UNITED 12TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Artist United, a non-profit national art group, will hold its Twelfth Annual Convention at Holiday Inn Hotel, Surfside Beach, SC April 22- 25, 2009. The convention, known to members as "The Great Artists Paint-In" (GAP) features classes with prominent teachers each year. This year, the teachers are Mark Polomchak of Indiana, watercolors; Kitty Gorrell of West Virginia, oils; Judy Browne of Gastonia, NC, acrylics; Gloria Lowery, Belmont, NC, oils. The five day convention also includes various activities in the evening. Artists United's Convention brings professional, intermediate and beginner artists, to expand their knowledge and expertise. For more information, photos of class paintings, fun activities planned, hotel reservations and total cost, you can visit their website www.AUartists.org or email artunited@comporium.net. You may also call Mary Stephenson at (803) 329-1928 evenings, if you are interested in becoming a member or attending the Convention. Reservations for the hotel at Holiday Inn are 1-866-311-1599. You have to make your hotel reservations separate from registering for convention.

JAMES SULKOWSKI CLASSES

Jim will be offering classes again this year in Canonsburg at the studio of Ellie Simms. The dates are May 24 – 25, June 20, Aug 1 & 2, Oct 30, 31 & Nov.1. You can contact Ellie at ((724) 514-6106 or email her for information at sbaarts@comcast.net. I have taken classes with Jim for several years now and I can't tell you how much I have learned, grown and enjoyed him as a teacher.

PROMOTE ART ORGANIZATIONS

I received several emails from organizations and TEAM members concerning the future of Chapters of the Society of Decorative Painters and TEAM. The decline of membership in all art organizations is of concern for many of the industry leaders. Those of us who have been around for a long time have noticed the younger generation is not joining art groups or chapters. New members bring vitality, refreshing new ideas and a continuity of the art form that we have enjoyed for many years. For those who email I forwarded a lengthy letter from well known artists Sherry Nelson and Brenda Harris. In their letters they requested that we take membership information for SDP and TEAM with us whenever we teach and encourage our students to join These organizations. The bottom line is that we as teachers and members are the key to recruiting new people and ensuring the growth of SDP. If you have suggestions to share with the membership about "OandR" (obtaining and retaining) new people for our membership, please let me know. One teacher has started painting birthday parties for children which include decorations, birthday cake, snacks and quick painting projects geared to a specific popular theme. This has proven very profitable for her shop. If each member of TEAM and GRL would recruit just one new member just think how our organization would grow.

TEAM WEBSITE

If you haven't visited the Teachers and Educators of Art Materials (TEAM) website, you are really missing a treat. This is a great way to find out what the other regions are offering in classes and educational seminars. Contact members in other regions. Newsletters from other regions. This is a wonderful place to update or add your own website. Smokey and Harold have done an outstanding job of dressing up this website. It is very professional and user friendly. The website address is www.artteachers.org. If you have questions about setting up your site, you can contact Smokey at beareart@gmail.com or Harold Champagne at hchampagne@bellsouth.net. They are really wonderful in answering questions and helping computer illiterate people like me.

Thanks to all that have provided information for this newsletter. If there is anyone among our members who would like to take on the task of writing these newsletters between this volume and the one that I will put together in August for our fall meeting, please let me know. The newsletters would be more informative and entertaining with input from each of you. I would appreciate the help.

Please pay your dues, take a class, find new members to share the fun and keep the paint flowing.

President, Mandy Steele

Phone (304) 333-2290 or (304) 216-8683

Email: mandysartworks@earthlink.net