

A letter to Members from Sue Peacock, VHAA President

Hello Everyone,

We have begun our summer time-off, but wanted to give you a final wrap-up. Thank you to David Crandon for organizing this and putting the information on the web to finish up the year.

The calendar for next year's general membership/demonstration meetings has been drawn up with the La Canada Community Center. We will continue to meet on the first Friday of every month with the exception that in December we will meet on December 14th because of a scheduling conflict with the community center.

We were able to recruit a team of people to run the camera during our general meetings so we can continue to see the demonstrating artist in action on the screen. Thank you to Jay Ewing, Joan Whitmore and Dilmit Singh for stepping up, and Pepe Apablaza is always there to give a hand too. Special thanks need to go to Linda Tindell who has managed the camera for several years, including buying new equipment as necessary. We will truly miss Linda as she moves to a retirement home near Oceanside.

We still need an exhibits chair, and I have to be honest, this year will be more difficult for that person because we will not be able to use the La Canada Library as a display place. We need to have someone volunteer who is willing to find one or more locations for us to have our shows. At our board meeting in June, the members came up with a number of possible sites, which they are researching during the summer. If you are willing to take on this job, we will support you in every way possible. Please let me know.

Thank you,

Sue Peacock
VHAA President 2018-2019



Our great final meeting before summer

by Suzanne Bitterman

O, What a Night!

Over the years, VHAA members have become accustomed to a quiet June General meeting: a shy high school senior showing the body of work accomplished that had persuaded the Association to award a scholarship; a low key installation of officers, a few new members offering information about their art journey and, of course, the selection of the Artist of the Year recipient. That all changed this time! With so many thanks to Gloria Clark, Anita Colvin and Joan Whitmore for their efforts to transition from high school graduate to a Glendale College art major to be offered a scholarship, their choice was amazing. Jeanette Samayoa held the members transfixed with her articulate discussion of her life in art, her inspirations, aspirations and what she hopes for the future.

Then, we have not seen Carol Ewing for several years, but just by serendipity, she managed to return from a cross-country trip just in time to accompany her husband, Jay to the meeting. I believe everyone shared their joy when he was announced as this year's winner of the Artist of the Year award.

To top off an amazing meeting, though we usually have several newcomers willing to spend a few minutes talking about their work, this year Dilmit Singh was the only one. But what she had to show-and-tell (she's a teacher, after all) was again spellbinding. She fired up everyone's desire to spend the summer exploring new paths, new colors, new techniques. So when we meet again after the summer, please plan to share what YOU have accomplished.

Building a valuable and more interesting website for VHAA

We would like to ensure that our VHAA website (verdugoarts.org) is both valuable and interesting for members and guests. To that end, we not only provide information on upcoming activities, we also provide reviews and photo galleries of recent demonstrations, workshops, and exhibitions. Angela Alvarenga and Suzanne Bitterman (verdugoarts.org/a-fantastic-2017-2018-final-meeting.html) have written excellent reviews of recent Friday night meetings, and Pepe Apablaza's photographs show demonstrators at work, often providing views just as good as the ones attendees see on our big screen. These reviews are always interesting, and often share valuable lessons that our demonstrators have offered.

In addition to information on our club activities, we have built the website to share information and photographs of member activities. This section of the website includes member portfolios (verdugoarts.org/portfolios.html) and current member activities (verdugoarts.org/member-activities.html). On the current member activities page, for example, you will find an announcement and flyer describing Joan Whitmore's participation in an exhibition, running through mid-August, at the Rosebud Café in Pasadena.

We have also created a page with links to interesting art articles gathered from a variety of sources (verdugoarts.org/fun-reads.html). Some of the articles offer instruction (e.g., "How to Paint with Negative Space" and "What to Leave In, What to Take Out"), some provide links to valuable resources (e.g., "Free art books for members who like electronic books"), and some provide links to galleries worth viewing (e.g., "Best designed street murals in the world").

With all of that said, we would like to get more of our members involved in helping to build on the site's current content. For example, we would like to add illustrations of the work of more of our members. If you want to have your own page on our website all you need to do is send us photos of 2 or 3 of your artworks, plus a very brief Artist Statement. We will create a page much like this one we made for Marie Castellano - verdugoarts.org/marie-castellano.html.

Also, we are happy to create a page for you if you are participating in an exhibition or some other activity. Simply send a few sentences about it, and even a flyer or photograph if you would like, and we can create an announcement page like the one we did for Joan Whitmore.

Finally, if you find an article or a gallery on the web and want us to share a link to it with other members, please send us the site.

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