

EASTERN SHORE ART LEAGUE



Bright Hopes, Big Plans for 2024

MORE THAN ANYTHING, Maura McNulty-Davis and Susan McGuire, incoming Art League president and vice-president, want to help build community.

They want the league to reach out more directly, make more specific invitations, offer more workshops, more creative opportunities, get more League members involved, and bring more excitement to members and to the Shore at large.

On a winter afternoon in McGuire's sunny kitchen, they riff about their plans for the league - exposing members and the larger community to more types of art and craft, to more stories of artists and crafters, to more of the decisions and ideas that motivate and compel the artists and artisans here on the Shore.

They are committed to building the membership, attracting
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Holiday Food, Festivities & Fun!

ART LEAGUE members and plus-ones turned up at the Market Street Grill Dec. 7 for lunch, sharing and fun.

A full buffet, a dessert table and a bounty of gifts for a fun exchange (and thievery) highlighted the event.

More photos next page.

Good showing at Wine Wednesday

DOZENS OF PEOPLE came to the Historic Onancock School the first Wednesday of the month to see the opening of the Winter Show, visit artisan studios and raise a glass.

People remarked about the strength of the paintings and the ceramics, and there was at least one sale.

Open rooms included Manuscript, a new shop at the end of the Art League hallway. It carries lovely stationary and all sorts of items related to writing and, especially, letter-writing.

More from Holiday Party



Top, the buffet at the Market Street Grill was a real crowd-pleaser.

Left, Dottie Troxler leads the present selection and stealing with aplomb.



The table was loaded with gifts.

Below, Liz Ford looks happy indeed.



Front page, Jane Hornsby-Hall takes stock of her gift.



Photos by Marianne Francavilla

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more artists and artisans, more patrons, more people who are new to the area. And they are committed to growing participation.

McGuire was president of the League before Covid. In December 2019, membership reached a high of 141. Now, it's at 111.

"Covid hurt," McNulty-Davis says.

One idea is to make a forceful push to open the League to the community, inviting groups to come to meetings and workshops - the Women's Club, for instance, McGuire said, and similar interest groups on the Shore.

Other ideas focus on making the meetings more exciting, McNulty-Davis says. Getting more people involved, bringing more experiences, skills and ideas to the forefront - whether they are League members or not.

Their main point is to raise excitement and inclusion. "We want people to share

their knowledge," McNulty-Davis says.

"Some people have the expectation of joining the Art League and being exposed to different types of art," she says, and believes that there can and will be more of that. She has already asked members to volunteer to share their unique skills and perspectives.

Already on the horizon is at least one art challenge, by Carole Campbell. Several people have tentatively volunteered to lead workshops, but the League needs more!

"People join sometimes because it looks good," McGuire said. "They're not there to participate, necessarily. We want to engage them."

She said she believes that you have to ask people personally to help. Walk right up and ask.

And then, she says, "they will say yes."

Up & Coming

THE EASTERN SHORE Literacy Council is looking for help for a fund-raising event. Candice Parks seeks artists to donate time to design and paint on wooden yard bees and butterflies. The Literary Council will then auction the completed items, with proceeds going to support literacy programs on the Shore.

To participate, contact Candice at 925-360-0641.

THE ART LEAGUE seeks members willing to share their techniques in any medium, any style, in 2-3 hour workshops in the Art League room. Maura McNulty-Davis plans to offer the workshops to members and the community at large, as a way not only to enrich the members, but also to attract newcomers. Please contact McNulty-Davis at ittlemcd1984@gmail.com

THE DEADLINE for submissions for the Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club Winter show is Jan. 16.

You may submit as many as three pieces; none may be smaller than 8x10. Send title, medium, price and size in an email to Carol Barylski at brylfam@gmail.com. Also please include your contact info and cell phone number.

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You may drop off the work Thursday, Jan. 18, from 10-11 a.m. at the Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club, 14421 Country Club Rd, Melfa.

Artists whose pieces are not chosen will be notified by phone, and should pick up their work from 2-4 p.m. The show runs through May 10.

Only current members may enter! Please renew your membership, either at the Eastern Shore Art League website - <https://www.esartleague.org/join> - or by sending a check to Dottie Troxler at PO Box 1144, Chincoteague, VA 23336.

Make checks out to ESAL, \$45 single, \$60 couple \$75 patron.

THE FIRST ART CHALLENGE of the year is Jan. 11, at 1 p.m., in the Art League Room (104) at the

Historic Onancock School, 6 College Ave., Onancock.
THE FIRST REGULAR Art League meeting of 2024 is Thursday, Jan. 18, at 1 p.m., in the Art League Room (104) at the Historic Onancock School, 6 College Ave., Onancock.

At that meeting, Charles (Chip) Hall will address the topic of taxes... Chip was the owner of the H&R Block franchise in Exmore for many years. Now in retirement, he still works there during tax season and receives their detailed and thorough tax updates each year.

We all have questions about taxes, so send your questions to VP Susan McGuire at susan.mcguire1@icloud.com. and be sure to attend this informative meeting!

ON THURSDAY, Jan. 25, again in the Art League Room (104) at the Historic Onancock School, 6 College Ave., Onancock, there will be a paint-in, to create pieces for mural wall at the

Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence. People who are in the ESCADV program are invited to take one of our paintings with them, as a source of happiness and comfort.

Canvases are supplied; bring your own brushes, paint and creativity!

THE EASTERN SHORE Art League website is just waiting to introduce you to the world - or at least to the Shore. Please send a brief (25 words or less) description and two photos of your work to Marianne Francavilla at mariannefrancavilla@gmail.com

And please check out the site at www.esartleague.org

Have you made a piece of art you love? Would you like to share it with Art League members? Please email a jpg to me at carrieBjacobson@gmail.com, and I'll use it in the newsletter if space permits. Also, if you have an upcoming event you'd like to tell the League about, or invite the League, to, please let me know - carrieBjacobson@gmail.com