

The Informer

American Canyon Arts Foundation

January-February 2014/Issue 1

Pam Jones Teaching at the Gallery!

We are fortunate to have Pam Jones as one of our instructors at the Gallery. She is teaching ceramics, porcelain doll making & painting, and tile & china painting classes. Her classes are on Tuesdays. In addition, our own Francoise Bowlby is teaching silk painting and watercolor painting classes at her home in Napa. Those classes are on Mondays. Please call the Gallery at (707) 557-2176 for more information, or to sign up. Or you can stop by the Gallery at 3441 Broadway/Hwy. 29 (close to the Hwy. 29 & Donaldson traffic signal).

This is all part of our program to expand our art classroom instruction program. We are planning on adding new programs and are looking for instructors who want to teach, based on a percentage of the classroom fee.



Artist/Instructor Pam Jones with one of her handcrafted porcelain dolls.

So if you want to teach, please let us know, either by phone, (707)557-2176, by email at info@amcanart.org, or stop by the Gallery and let us know!

Call For Artists for the 2014 Art Extravaganza Show!

Our annual Arts Extravaganza is set for April 4-5, 2014 (Friday and Saturday). It will be held in the old Library of Canyon Plaza (or next to West America Bank). This year the art show will be juried, which is new for the Foundation. We hope to receive entries from around the Bay Area and particularly in the Napa

Solano area.

Entry fees are still only \$15 per piece for non-members, and \$7.50 per piece for ACAF members (another good reason to join!). Entry fees are due by March 7, but the artwork is not required until March 19-21.

There will be cash prizes for first place winners in the various categories, but the exact dollar

amount will depend on the number of entries received.

As usual, we also expect to have several silent auction items, and we will hold a reception for the Artists and members on Friday evening starting at 6:00 p.m.

The Call For Artist application is available online at www.amcanart.org or you can pick up a copy at the Gallery.

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We're on the Web!

www.amcanart.org

THANK YOU, Bonnie Waxman!

Not only is Bonnie one of the founding members of ACAF, she was the editor for The Informer for many years. The format may be more electronic, but Bonnie was always the eyes and ears of the Foundation. We will try to do as good a job as you have!



Winterfest 2013 Wrap-up: Best Yet!

Closing out the year was our annual Winterfest held at the Gallery. It was bigger and better than ever, with over \$2000 in sales, not to mention silent auction proceeds from our decorated Christmas Trees.

We held our Annual Open House and Pictures with Santa & Mrs. Claus, and we

are planning to work with community groups to make this a bigger event, including the possibility of a musical performance.

Hats off to Jan, Laura and all the rest for the decorations, the hard work and the success for this year. Looking forward to next year!

Membership Renewal In Full Swing – Still only \$25!

Can you think of anything that hasn't gone up in price for over 20 years? One answer is membership in the American Canyon Arts Foundation. We started in 1992 at \$25/person and haven't changed the rates yet! And membership still entitles you to discounts at ACAF events, such as the upcoming Arts Extravaganza, and is a requirement to rent art space at the Gallery.

It's also important just as a way to support the Arts in American Canyon. Over the last year we have expanded the Gallery to offer a Saturday workshop for artists—there's no fee involved, and fellow artists share their insights and tips with one another. Our Winterfest 2013 was the best ever (see related article) and we are working on a number

of exciting new ideas for 2014.

And for those of you that are into governance, we received a \$5000 capacity building grant from the County to develop a business plan and updated website, and adopted a Board Manual, complete with a comprehensive list of policies.

Renewing your membership is easy—just go to the website at www.amcanart.org and click on Member Renewal. Or stop by the Gallery and pick up an application. You can pay online or in person, or mail your check payable to ACAF to the Gallery at 3441 Broadway St., American Canyon CA 94503.

Board Retreat Sets Priorities for 2014

The Annual Board Retreat was held at the Gallery on February 9, and made changes to some of our Board policies, as well as updated our Two Year Work Plan.

Changes to the Board Policies included adopting a Vision Statement; revising our Standing Committees to better reflect our work effort and updating our Fees & Charges. In particular, we dropped the commission rate for Fine Art sales, from 25% to 15%. Since member artists pay a monthly rental fee, the Board felt a lower commission was only fair.

The Board also updated the Two Year Plan, focusing on improvements to the Gallery, both physical and operational, and ways to enhance the value of being an ACAF member.

During the next year we will also reach out to community groups, other Art Associations and our public schools and identify areas of common ground, in which the Foundation and those groups can benefit.

A full report will be posted on our website.

Craft Project Workshop set for February 22

If you haven't had the time to work on your special project, here's your opportunity! For \$20 you can reserve a work space at the Gallery for Saturday, February 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This includes morning and afternoon snacks, and refreshments.

Work area is limited so call soon to reserve your area. Contact Jan Harris by phone: (925) 759-2555 or email at janrustrum@comcast.net. Of course, you can always stop by the Gallery!

Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner at La Strada's

The annual Membership Dinner/Meeting took place on Sunday, January 26, at La Strada's Restaurant. Approximately 14 members were present, which meant there was a quorum for business. The two agenda items were to elect new Directors for the Board, and approve converting the Foundation to a nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation.

The new Board members are familiar faces: Mark Joseph, Chris Tennyson, Laura Keiser, Roberta Labaw, Jonette McNaughton, Joe McNaughton, Ari Ito-Hood, Jan Harris, Francoise Bowlby and Robert Johnson. With ten Directors elected, this means there are five vacancies, which can be filled by the Board, as appropriate.

The Membership also agreed it was time to formally incorporate (until now, we have legally been an "unincorporated association"). The biggest headache is that we have to file a one-time fee of \$850 to complete the application.

Beyond business matters, the members present,

with their guests, enjoyed a great buffet dinner of pollo marsala, penne ragu, or penne alla fiorentina. We also engaged in our traditional Pirates Exchange (or White Elephant gift exchange). This was a lot of fun, with several "steals" before the night was over. Interestingly, some members ended up with the gift they came with!

And no one left empty-handed: Mark Joseph, President, handed out copies of the Annual Report to the membership, and a Board Manual to the Board members present. This manual, which started over ten years ago, includes Board

Policies, as well as copies of key documents, such as our By-Laws, Insurance and the Budget.

A special copy was given to Bonnie Waxman, one of the founding members of the Foundation (and the person who has always prepared this Informer Newsletter), since she was the biggest proponent of producing this manual. In fact, it was dedicated to Bonnie, because of that.

Everyone else can get a copy of the Annual Report by downloading it from the website, at www.amcanart.org. Hard copies are available upon request.

