



Highlights

January 2019

Looking Back on 2018 – Looking Forward to 2019!

Musings from Officers and Board of GVA

Submitted by Emily Green

It's traditional to make New Year's resolutions, which aren't always easy to keep. I like to think about goals and looking forward to what the new year has to offer. From my seat on the board, it's full of promise for GVA!

2018 has been an eventful year for Grand Valley Artists, and a year of excitement and change for me. Being involved with the board, attending Critique and Program, and taking part in sketch sessions (even if only by modeling) has spurred my goals for 2019. I have already begun to paint with acrylics, and my new job has allowed me to save money for tools and supplies for metalsmithing. In the coming year I plan to attend at least an occasional sketch/still life session – perhaps, even plein air.

As 2018 draws to a close, and we prepare to ring in the new year, I looked at our monthly newsletters from this year, and was struck by all the new and rejoining GVA members – an average of five every month. Our family is growing! Our president credits this to the hardworking board members, and also to the whole GVA membership, who volunteer their time and take part in our various events. To this, I add the tireless efforts of our hardworking president, Carol Lurn, who keeps us moving forward by suggesting new things, and finding ways to make some of our old ideas fresher and more relevant. At her request, I've put together these reflections and thoughts from some of the

Officers and Board of GVA – personal observations, achievements, and future ideas and/or planned events.

Carol Lurn – President

As president of Grand Valley Artists, I have the great pleasure of working with bright and creative board members who have the desire and energy to plan activities and promote our art community. Each member exemplifies the true spirit of working together and support of one another in their desire to make GVA a viable art organization. I am so grateful that our membership handed me the responsibility of sitting at the table to work with these wonderful people. I am also grateful to our membership who volunteer their time to help our organization. We have kept you busy and hope you will continue to support our efforts in 2019. All of you are very special people.

Emily Green – Vice-President

The role of vice-president is a simple one – assisting the president and other members of the board in completing their duties. But it is also my job to effectively contribute to the operations of GVA, in whatever way I can. And I find great satisfaction in being this 'Jill-of-all-trades.' I've been able to pitch in wherever the need arises: in the promotion of GVA members' exhibits, e.g., ArtPrize and Clark Retirement Community; writing articles for the newsletter, and editing and proofreading for other board members; and helping

continued on page 6



This very special drawing by Louise Bauer includes many of the people who have gone above and beyond to make GVA the incredible organization it is. Thank you to all, including those who didn't make it into this caricature, and to you, Louise, for capturing these folks! Look closely to see the details Louise included for each. So much fun!

The Gallery in January

Portraits! These portraits can be classic head and shoulder images, or they can be non-traditional portraits that convey something essential about the subject. The entries don't have to be recent works done in our GVA studios. They can be portraits by our GVA artists created at an earlier time. All 2D and 3D art is eligible, including drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture, photography, digital works, mixed media, etc. This exhibit is not juried and the works do not have to be framed, only hangable.

Hang: December 31 / Monday

Strike: January 28 / Monday



Art Chat

Come join us for fascinating topical discussions on and about our changing art scene locally, nationally, and beyond. Your ideas are important and welcome in this informal and comfortable setting. We plan to meet Friday, January 11, at 1 p.m. in the GVA library. We look forward to seeing and hearing you there!



Show Your Work at Trinity United Methodist

Works by **Ruth VanderMuelen** and **Judy Maggini** are on display until the end of January. If you want to show your work at Trinity, please let Mary Marin know. Her email is marymarin1285@gmail.com.

Artists needed at the Englehardt Public Library in Lowell

The Lowell Library is looking for artists to exhibit their work for a two month period. The library promotes the artists on their website and at the front desk. Currently the works of **Mary Marin** and **Sandi Brogger** are on display.

If you are interested, please contact Sandi Brogger at rsbrogger@gmail.com.



Ruth VanderMuelen



Judy Maggini



Mary Marin and Sandi Brogger



**GVA Welcomes
New Member
Tamara Riggs**

**Returning Member
Jeff Martin**

Program Night

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

Our January Program on the 10th will be presented by Ed Post who is known throughout West Michigan and beyond for his bird, macro, wildlife and landscape images. During this program Ed will review the tools and techniques to create stunning landscape photographs. This program describes when and where to create compelling landscape images, as well as the equipment every landscape photographer needs, the elements of landscape compositions, and digital post-processing that will bring your images to life. Ed also leads workshops and photo tours. His lectures are frequently on nature and landscape photography. His work has been widely published and he has received honors and awards in contests and exhibitions.

Photo Group

News

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

The Photo Group met for their regular meeting on December 4 with their usual critique. Good attendance of 17 with 3 visitors. It was decided that we would not have a second meeting in December due to it being so close to Christmas. Our January meeting is scheduled for January 8 the second Tuesday as the first Tuesday is on New Years Day.



Wes DeVries Abstract Expressionism Workshop

Wes DeVries is offering an Abstract Expressionism Workshop at GVA Studios. The focus is for artists to loosen up their drawing skills and work on composition using shapes and color. Wear old clothes and be prepared to have fun. Please email Joanne Swann at joswann@sbcglobal.net to sign up for the workshop.

When:

Saturday, February 9, 2019 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The cost will be \$20.00. Please bring cash or a check for that amount made out to Wes. The class is limited to 18 people.

Supplies:

- You will need to provide your own medium, Wes works in acrylic but you can work in watercolor or oils (oils will take much longer to dry).
- Paper and/or canvas of any size
- Charcoal
- Photos to work with or he will set up a still-life
- Pallet knife, brushes, etc. will all work
- Containers to clean your brushes
- And, of course, old credit cards

Classifieds

Logan Simplex 700 mat cutter. Used, in good condition. Cuts mats up to 40". Comes with straight and beveled cutters. \$40
Connie Kuhnle 616-866-2730



Area Art News

Lowell Arts

Regular Hours: Tues–Sat 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sunday 12–5 p.m.

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Exhibit Hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Mon.–Fri.
All exhibits are free to the public.

Guardian Gallery Lowell

The gallery is open during regular business hours. Franciscan Life Process Center, 11650 Downes St., Lowell, MI.

Guardian Gallery Grand Rapids

"Franciscan Artists Group Show" will feature the work that is as diverse as each person is, and utterly beautiful. Don't miss this chance to see the beautiful work of these exciting artists. This show will hang from November until February. 654 Davis NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

Terryberry Gallery at St. Cecilia's

The months of December and January show the beautiful watercolors of Jim Johnson. Parking is free next to St. Cecilia's.

Dominican Center at Marywood

The gallery is located at 2025 E. Fulton Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, and is open Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Friday: 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday: 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Bliss & Vinegar

Stop in to B&V to see Mary Jane Pories' excellent work beginning January 3. If you want to show your work at B&V, make sure to load some images to our website, as that is where the owners go to find artists whose work they would like to display. Marty Klar coordinates this opportunity for us. Please do not contact the restaurant directly. Questions? Call Marty at 616-813-7921.

Sketch Rate

Beginning January 1, the cost of portrait and figure sketch for non-members will increase from \$7 to \$10. Member rate remains \$5. Thursday long pose charge, which is \$10 for members, will now be \$15 for non-members—an outstanding deal for six hours of a model's time.

"What I have not drawn, I have never really seen." —Frederick Franck, The Zen of Seeing

Also a profound thought worth contemplating as we think about global warming...

Submitted by John Knight

I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges?

Trinity United Methodist Church

December through January features the work of Ruth VanderMuelen and Judy Maggini. Trinity is located at 1100 Lake Drive SE, and the church is open during business hours on Monday through Thursday. If you would like to show your work at Trinity, please contact Mary Marin at marymarin1285@gmail.com.

Fruenthal Gallery, Muskegon

The months of December and January bring the abstracted landscapes and florals of Judy Tummino. Her work is uniquely her own and beautiful in the grays and the soft, subtle colors. Don't miss this opportunity to see her beautiful works. The Fruenthal is open Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Extended hours on show nights.



Barn in Winter by Mary Jane Pories
See this and more at Bliss & Vinegar beginning
January 3

Looking Back

(continued from page 1)

with our LowellArts exhibit, volunteering during Reeds Lake, and taking shifts at our ArtPrize venue. I have also been able to promote our group through my volunteer work with the ArtPrize organization and other classes/workshops/events I attend, and also support our members by attending many exhibits they have entered. I look forward to finding new and useful ways to help and promote the Grand Valley Artists in 2019!

Evie Carrier – Treasurer

2018 to date has been an excellent year, and I am happy to report to our members that as of November 30th, our net income is \$6,041.04. Our largest expense is our rent: \$17,400 (year-to-date). Our largest source of income is from our Reeds Lake show, which produced \$17,485. Other sources of income are Sketch, Membership Fees, Donations, and Studio Rental. Some of the other significant expenses are Advertising, Building Maintenance, and Model Fees. Our move to Service Road has saved us 15%, with an additional savings on utilities – now included with our rent. Details of my monthly reports are available anytime. Please feel free to email me. The end of our fiscal year is January 31.

Dana Donnell – Secretary

As secretary, I am privileged to observe and record the way in which the board develops ideas, creates programs, markets the organization, and works through sometimes thorny issues. Whenever a large organization does its best to open dialogue with its membership while maintaining streamlined decision-making, there will be bumps in the road. Grand Valley Artists does its best to respect and consider many points of view. My goal for 2019 would be to continue to be transparent in my communications with the organization, and to understand the reasoning and nuances behind board decisions, so that members are reassured that the board has their best interests at heart.

Mary Baine – Membership Chairperson

As membership chair, I try to provide reliable customer service to each member while serving the entire organization. It is my job to process enrollments or renewals and maintain a secure database of member

contact information for GVA use. I facilitate communications by updating our mailing and mass-emailing lists, contribute to our financial stability by collecting dues, and ensure the longevity of our group by cultivating interest in Grand Valley Artists. An ‘interim chair’ since last summer, I am grateful for the patience shown by the board and all other members while I was learning how to handle my responsibilities; my goal for 2019 is continuous improvement – with respect to this position, as well as my personal artwork.

Mary Marin – Communications Chairperson

My role as communications chairperson continues to be fun and rewarding, thanks to the many contributions I receive from members. Articles, gallery information, photos of our events, and club news would never reach our membership without their help and regular submissions. I hope the members enjoy the newsletter and find the website informative. All members are invited to share their news with me so I can pass it along. Regular use of Mailchimp has enabled us to send out important news in a timely fashion, too.

Lora Cecola & Randy Nyhof – Program Chairpersons

As program chairpersons, it is our duty to provide programs each month on the second Thursday that the GVA members would find beneficial and entertaining, pertaining to the art world. There are only two months when we do not provide a program: in July we have our annual GVA Picnic, and in December we have our Holiday Celebration Reception. We try to provide interesting program presenters, interactive workshops, and occasional films on art that might be of interest. To find presenters, we welcome suggestions from GVA members. We act as contacts to any presenters, finding equipment and materials they need to make their presentations. Also, we occasionally substitute program night for other activities, as we did for our Pasta-Thon Dinner.

Randy Nyhof & Lora Cecola – Photography Group Chairpersons

It is our duty, as photography group chairpersons, to oversee the monthly photo critique meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. We also give announcements as to art and photography shows/contests, etc.

In the critiques, we try to expand our knowledge not only of photographic and computer techniques, but also of artistic perspectives on composition, etc. At the suggestion of some members, we occasionally have a second meeting on the third Tuesday of the month, where we have a more hands-on program. This past year we had workshops on portrait photography, macro and close-up photography, night-time and low-light photography, photography using light tables, and long-exposure photography using lighted strings in the dark.

Steve Scarborough – Publicity Chairperson

I represented GVA three times on TV in 2018. In January, 'My West Michigan,' a segment of WZZM 13, sent a news team to our new facility on Service Road; they aired a nice segment showing our sketch group at work, and our gallery's figurative exhibit. I also was on 'eightWest,' of WOOD TV8, to talk about the Reeds Lake Art Festival in June, and then again in September to talk about our ArtPrize venue. They showed a nice slideshow of our members' work both times.

Joanne Swann – Legacy Liaison

As legacy liaison, I believe we accomplished many things in 2018. We moved into our new space, and started a few new traditions. One of them was the New Members Dinner we held in April – an event we plan to repeat in April, 2019. We also held some successful workshops, including Dani Ehlenfeldt's Zentangle Workshop and Ruth VanderMeulen's Pouring Workshop. Plus, we had Larry Blovits's wonderful slideshow of his trip to Russia. Perhaps the biggest accomplishment was securing, preparing, and hosting a successful ArtPrize Venue with over 50 artists! And we have new workshops in the works for 2019, that I hope our members will support.

Bob Kraai – Reeds Lake Art Festival Chairperson

The energy I have put into GVA is due to knowing a few of the founders and gaining insight into what they were wanting to achieve. I wanted to do what I could to get the organization back to that same family, because it had become so segmented into little groups. The unity that the founders had, with the limited means of communication media, took a lot of hard work. I gained a tremendous amount of respect

for their persistence to create this body of artists, whose fierce independence wouldn't allow them to conform to the rules of the Grand Rapids Arts Council. I hope that the amount of effort that has been put into GVA in the past 3 years continues and leaves a lasting legacy for its future.

Kathy Bechtel – Sketch Coordinator

The year 2018 brought painting and drawing in a beautiful new space. Monday's Portrait Sketch is very well-attended. The Tuesday night Sketch is not-so-well attended, but provides a good alternative for those who can't go on Saturdays. The Long Pose on Thursdays is flourishing, as well as the Still Life painting time on Fridays. And Saturday's Sketch continues to grow.

Doug Klemm – Outreach Coordinator

Mark your calendar! There are TWO wonderful upcoming events for GVA artists that we can be very excited about! There is an additional one in-process.

HOLLAND AREA ARTS COUNCIL: Grand Valley Artists Juried Exhibit is May 17 through July 6, 2019. After the first of the year, we will begin planning and setting up a timeline with HAAC. This is a wonderful venue that is very familiar to GVA members. I know many of our artists are excited that our next juried show will be in Holland.

THE BOX FACTORY FOR THE ARTS: Grand Valley Artists Juried Show at the Box Factory for the Arts, St. Joseph, has been accepted! Our show will be September 6 through October 12, 2019. St Joseph is an artsy, beautiful city, and the Box Factory is a perfect venue for us! They are very excited to host a GVA show!

UICA: GVA has applied for a Figurative Show at UICA in 2020. We are awaiting word from UICA's curator.

Due to space constraints, the usual list of board members' contact information does not appear in this issue. You can find that info on our website.



ANOTHER GREAT HOLIDAY PARTY...





WRAPPING UP ANOTHER YEAR OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND PLENTY OF ART, ART, ART!

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to all who have helped make GVA the outstanding club that it is. It isn't magic that keeps the club running smoothly; it's the efforts of dozens of folks, most of whom get zero to no recognition for what they do. From bringing snacks to sketch and critique to hanging shows to taking out the weekly trash...it all takes willing hands, and rarely are there any "kudos" involved. Thanks to all of the behind-the-scenes contributors who enable us all to have remarkable opportunities that enrich our lives every single week. I can't imagine what my life would be like without GVA!

—Mary Marin



Special thanks to Peg McKeown, our wonderful, hardworking hostess.



FIRST PLACE: Jim Johnson



SECOND PLACE: Marty Klar



This year's Holiday Competition included the works of 62 artists and a variety of mediums. Congratulations to the winners, but also to all who participated. So many excellent works made voting a challenge!

THIRD PLACE: Bob McDonald



HONORABLE MENTIONS: Todd Darling and Wes DeVries



Grand Valley Artists

1695 Service Road NE, Suite 106
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

JANUARY CALENDAR

Board Meeting January 3 at 6:00 p.m.

EVERY WEEK

Sundays Closed

Mondays 10:00 a.m. until noon Portrait Sketch*

Tuesdays Every Tuesday 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Figure Sketch*
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month 7:30 p.m. Photo Group

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Open Studio

Thursdays 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Long Pose**
First Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Critique
Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Program

Fridays 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Still Life

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Figure Sketch*

*Member Model fee \$5, Non-Member \$10

**Model fee \$10, Non-Member \$15