

Letter from the President

Rhonda Lane Coleman

We are into spring with a great deal of momentum. Last fall the Gallery noted a record number of visitors, signing up 27 new members Oct-Dec 2014. Guild member participation has doubled, and we sold more than \$7,500 in art during the Joshua Tree National Park Art Expo's juried art exhibition in December. The March exhibitions were a huge success with \$8,000 in sales of artwork.

To add to these exciting stats, our Guild's dedicated Board of Directors has accomplished a majority of the goals set out for this fiscal year:

- increase visibility within our community
- seek out, motivate and mobilize dedicated volunteers
- advance the quality of art exhibitions
- improve the quantity, quality, variety, and participation in education programs
- strengthen our infrastructure
- diversify our revenue streams

These achievements were all made possible by a remarkable group of devoted volunteers and talented artists. Volunteers are at the heart of our organization, and we are blessed to have *Heather Sprague* as a new board member and Volunteer Chair, as well as *Hugh and Becky Huffman* who have graciously and expertly taken charge of our Volunteer/Docent Calendar.

I'm also honored to announce two additional board members: *Emily Helm*, a skilled event planner and project manager, and *Lori Rennie*, a well-respected graphic designer and business owner. You will see more from both of them as Lori leads us in a branding process this spring and Emily (along with Vickie Waite and myself) re-instate the Gallery's Gala Art Auction with a new date to be announced soon.

Committed to being good partners, the Gallery will also be hosting the Joshua Tree National Park Association's 23rd Annual Art Festival on April 3, 4, and 5 on the patio while the park's Oasis Visitor Center is under renovation.

Thank you all for your continued commitment and participation. If you are interested in being more involved, please consider a position as a volunteer, offering your expertise on a committee.

Call for Exhibitions

The Call for Exhibitions for the 29 Palms Art Gallery's 2015-16 season is now OPEN. If you are interested in proposing an exhibition for the time period between September 2015 and August 2016, please review the new application form and submit by May 18, 2015. The exhibition committee will meet to review all the submissions simultaneously, decide on the best fit for the Gallery's program, and alert artists and curators by July 2015.

Each year we receive a number of competitive applications from artists and curators for the upcoming exhibition season. Numerous factors filter into the exhibition decision-making process, among them selecting the highest quality art. We also carefully consider how the variety of exhibitions function together over the course of the year and serve our diverse community.

The 29 Palms Art Gallery is the longest-standing non-profit arts organization in the area and one of the most important resources for artists in the Morongo Basin. The Gallery continues to improve its visibility, visitorship, and receive significant recognition. We encourage you to participate.

~ Rhonda Lane Coleman



Gift Shop News

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for supporting the Gallery through 2014 by purchasing items from the gift shop. Your support is appreciated.

Please remember that as a member you will continue to receive 10% off all items in the gift shop unless they are already on sale. And...there are always items on sale, so be sure to come in and look for those bargains. Visit us soon at the "Biggest little gift shop in 29!"

~ JoAnne Flock, Gift Shop Manager

Student Show Winners



The Gallery hosted a reception February 1 for the annual Juried Students Art Show, open to junior and senior high school students of the Morongo Basin. Cathy Allen of Copper Mountain College Art Department was the judge for this year's student show, which featured 145 works of art by budding artists in photography, painting, watercolor, drawing, and mixed media.

A highlight of the annual event is the \$500 Ada Bigler Award, presented in memory of the late Guild artist to a high school senior whose talent shows outstanding artistic merit and potential. This year's recipient was:

Cheyene Hernandez, Yucca Valley High School
"Apple of My Eye" tempera painting

OTHER SHOW WINNERS:

Nic Hopton, Yucca Valley High School
"The Trap House" - \$250 CMC scholarship

Sydney Rieman, Yucca Valley High School
"Sunlight" - First Place, painting

Lily Naylor, Yucca Valley High School
"Nightmares" - Second Place, painting

Emmie Partridge, Yucca Valley High School
"Crimson" - Third Place, painting

Nic Hopton, Yucca Valley High School
"The Trap House" - Honorable Mention, painting

Kamaljit Singh, Twentynine Palms High School
"The Golden Apple" - First Place, photography

River Smith, Twentynine Palms High School
"Gentle Shadow," - Second Place, photography

Megan Pinilla, Twentynine Palms High School
"Butterfly" - Third Place, photography

Gabriella Romero, Yucca Valley High School
"Flying Fireworks" - First Place, drawing

Matthew Carr, Yucca Valley High School
"Planet X" - Second Place, drawing

Jessy Dickerson, Hope Academy
"Young Tarzan" - Third Place, drawing

Arturo Reyes, Yucca Valley High School
"Texture Lines" - Honorable Mention, drawing

Christopher Falossi, ICE West (pictured above left)
"Chuckwalla" - First Place, limestone sculpture

Michael Yando, Hope Academy
"Self Portrait" - Second Place, digital work

Matthew Wiederhold, Hope Academy
"Linkin Park" - Third Place, print

Markie Rauschenberg, Yucca Valley High
"Bleu" - Honorable Mention, mixed media

Art Auction: rescheduled

A decision has been made to reschedule the 29 Palms Art Gallery Art Auction to a later date to be announced. After preparing and sharing our "Save The Date" announcement for the Starry Night Art Auction on Saturday, May 2, it came to the attention of the board that this event and date were a conflict with fellow non-profit Reach Out Morongo Basin's Art Auction also scheduled for May 2.

With a full calendar of events already scheduled, we are considering a new future date for this spectacular event. Follow our Facebook page "29 Palms Art Gallery", visit our website events page, or look for future postings of our new date for the Starry Night Art Auction. This will be a fun filled evening event you won't want to miss!

Artwork donations for the auction are currently being accepted. Quality pieces from your personal art collection will be appreciated. A tax receipt can be provided upon sale of the item(s). A percentage of sale can be arranged for artists donating an original work. Contact the gallery for information at 29palmsgallery@gmail.com.

~ Emily Helm, Events Chair

Art Classes

The main emphasis for art classes is on classes taught by artists who are showing in the gallery. In this way, teachers have work examples to refer to during class, and participants have an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the artist. All of the artists scheduled for the 2014-2015 year were invited to teach an adult or youth art class during the month of their show.

Coming up in 2015, we have one adult and one youth class scheduled each month. Class schedules are available at the gallery and online at: www.29palmsartgallery.com.

It is recommended that people sign up early, as art classes are limited to 12 participants. The registration book is with the gallery attendant at the reception desk. Or, contact Ed Keesling (760) 365 8193 and email at ededkeesling@aol.com. Interested participants can also sign up by calling the gallery during open hours, 12-3 Wednesday through Sunday: (760) 367-7819.

~ Ed Keesling, Education Chair

Exhibitions

April brings our Annual Guild Members Show, a juried exhibition in all three gallery rooms. Entry rules and guidelines will be posted on our website and available at the gallery. The show will run from April 1 to April 26, with an opening reception and awards on Sunday, April 12, from 12–3 p.m. Please note the April reception will be delayed one week due to Easter Sunday on April 5, and the fact that the Joshua Tree National Park Association will use the gallery's patio and grounds for its annual spring JTNP Art Festival on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 3, 4, and 5 (due to remodeling of the park's Oasis Visitor Center).

- In/Out Day will be Monday, April 27



Our **May** exhibition features Tim Townsley paintings in the East Gallery, Karine Swenson paintings in the West Gallery, and Guild members in the Pickering Room. The show will run from April 29 to May 24, with an opening reception Sunday, May 3, 12–3 p.m.

- In/Out Day is Tuesday, May 26
(*delayed one day due to Memorial Day*)

Sunday, June 7 is the scheduled reception for the Summer Show, which will feature Guild members in all gallery rooms for two months, from May 29 to July 26. The gallery will be on a summer schedule, open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 12 to 3 p.m.

Watch for news about the Summer Youth Arts Program and second annual Clay Camp, plus a new Youth Arts Exhibition in August. Event schedules will be posted in the display case at the Gallery door and at www.29palmsartgallery.com.

For the upcoming 2015-2016 season there will be many opportunities to participate in Guild Member exhibitions and juried shows, or submit a proposal for curated or featured artist exhibitions. Stay tuned!

Docents & Volunteers

Many thanks to all of our Guild Members and Volunteers who have so graciously donated their valuable time to our historic gallery. The year 2014 closed adding yet another year of “best of the Hi-Desert” art exhibitions, classes and events to the history of our Gallery. Looking ahead, 2015 will be a wonderful year, with opportunities to be involved and really make the 29 Palms Art Gallery the place to be.

If you are not yet involved, but would like to be, join Hugh and Becky Huffman, our Docent/Volunteer Co-Chairs, at a monthly orientation to learn how you can contribute!

Volunteer as little as 3 hours per month...welcome gallery visitors, talk about our art exhibitions, or practice your salesperson skills by guiding our visitors into the gift shop where their purchases financially support the gallery. Hugh and Becky will train you to feel like a professional.

Orientation dates for April 2015 are:

- Sunday, April 12, 3–4 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 15, 6–7 p.m.

To participate in these orientations, or attend a refresher course, please contact Hugh or Becky at (760)403-1707 or email at desert_roadrunners@yahoo.com.

I encourage everyone who is volunteering now, or would like to volunteer in the future, to attend our monthly receptions, and to read through the docent handbooks and artist statements. Use these valuable resources. They not only help us to present a standard of excellence at the gallery, but also offer an opportunity to learn about the art and the artists who create it, thus offering a more enjoyable and informative experience to our visitors.

Upcoming receptions will be Sunday, April 12, 12–3 p.m., and Sunday, May 3, 12–3 p.m. The April reception is delayed one week due to Easter and the Joshua Tree National Park Art Festival held at the gallery this year. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

For further questions about volunteering, or to volunteer your time, please contact me at (760)220-1311 or email feylittlewingphotography@gmail.com.

~ Heather Sprague, Volunteer Chair

Member Announcements _____

REMINDER:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & ELECTION

Our annual membership meeting and election of board of directors will be held at the Gallery on **Saturday, April 25, at 10 a.m.** A potluck brunch will follow the meeting.

Your attendance at these special meetings is important so we look forward to seeing you all there.

Landscape Improvements _____

Several improvements have been made to the gallery landscaping since September 2014. We received many generous donations of services, sculptures, and other items to enhance the gallery landscape.

We would like to extend our many thanks to...

- Simi Dabah for 2 large sculptures;
- 29 Palms Parks and Rec team along with Steve Rogers Concrete for installation of those sculptures;
- 29 Palms Parks and Rec for three large boulders at the parking area entrances;
- A local artist refreshed the lettering on our gallery signs and added some more locations for additional visibility;
- Pat Murphy for trimming the palms trees,
- and, Mark Butler for "tree doctor" services trimming all the mature trees on our property.

Additionally, both water fountains have been re-purposed as planters, filled with beautiful donated plants. Other plants on the grounds have been moved to places where they are better suited.

~ Grounds Committee

Remaining 2015 Exhibitions _____

April 1 – 26, 2015

RECEPTION

Sunday, April 12, 2015 – 12 to 3 p.m.

Annual Members Juried Exhibition
All Galleries

IN / OUT

Monday, April 27, 2015 – 9 to 11:30 a.m.

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April 29 – May 24, 2015

RECEPTION

Sunday May 3, 2015 – 12 to 3 p.m.

East: Tim Townsley (painting)
West: Karine Swenson (painting)
Pickering Room: Members exhibition

IN / OUT

Tuesday, May 26, 2015 – 9 to 11:30 a.m.

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May 27 – July 26, 2015

RECEPTION

Sunday, June 7, 2015 – 12 to 3 p.m.

Summer Show – Guild Members
All Galleries

IN / OUT

Monday, July 27, 2015 – 9 to 11:30 a.m.

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July 31 – August 23, 2015

RECEPTION

Sunday, August 2, 2015 – 12 to 3 p.m.

Summer Youth Art Show
All Galleries

IN / OUT

Monday, August 31, 2015 – 9 to 11:30 a.m.

2014-15 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Rhonda Lane Coleman
VICE PRESIDENT: Joe Matoush
SECRETARY: Vickie Waite
TREASURER: JoAnne Flock
DIRECTORS: Emily Helm
Helen Matoush,
Lori Rennie
Heather Sprague
Gillyan Thorburn

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29 PALMS ART GALLERY owned by TWENTYNINE PALMS ARTISTS' GUILD, a non-profit, all-volunteer organization