



From the President

Kathryn Hillyer

This has been a year to remember. Or to forget. My first two 2020 columns in January and March promoted the upcoming convention in Minneapolis. Since then my subjects have narrowed to topics related to being home. We hope for positive change, but live carefully in the meantime.

Zoom has become an even larger part of my life, as it has for many people. I supervise student teachers remotely (some with Zoom, some with other platforms). I visit family via Zoom. I am a “technoverger” for my church and approximately twice a month I design and host the Zoom service. I even worked with three fellow IAEA retirees to present a session at

our virtual state conference in early November! That was interesting—recording the four of us talking about various things.

In addition, our state conference coordinators decided to try a virtual Artisan’s Gallery! I have used Square to take payment for my jewelry at in-person Artisan’s Galleries (both state and national), but never tried to sell remotely. As it turned out, it wasn’t too difficult to set up a website through Square to sell my work. That has given me incentive to get back to making new pieces! (Shameless plug alert here) If you Google my first and last name and Square...you’ll find me. It’s very amateur, but it’s a start!

Through technology we can reach out to others and not feel so isolated. Some older adults are not as comfortable with technology, but my 86 year old mother is very tech savvy—so it’s definitely possible! She attends virtual medieval singing and harp sessions each week!

I found some articles on this topic and am linking them below. Get out virtually if you can’t get out physically!

- **Live On NY** has a number of [resources](#) for virtual activities
- From **The Guardian**: [‘A lifesaver’: US seniors turn to Zoom to connect with friends and family](#)
- [This article](#) in the **Orange County Register** also discusses the benefits of being involved online
- There’s also a need for [virtual volunteers](#)

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A year ago I added a little bit about our former President, **Woody Duncan**. I recently received an update from him. He is also finding Zoom a way to reach out. He wrote: "Everything is on-line now. I do ZOOM critiques with my artist friends every Friday and Saturday. Our watercolor meetings, workshops, and shows are on-line as well. I'm on the city arts board and our meetings are on ZOOM."

It seems appropriate to close with a quote by Leonardo da Vinci, to align with this month's trivia question. **"I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do."**

Respectfully yours,
Kathryn Hillyer
RAEA President

Trivia

September's Trivia question was: What do the flowers in Kehinde Wiley's painting of Barack Obama signify? We had two responses that were so educational (once a teacher...) that I've included excerpts below.

Diane Scully replied with information from Wikipedia: Each flower points to a location which represents an event that happened in Obama's life, such as the chrysanthemum, the official flower of the city of Chicago (where he was elected as senator), African lilies, representing Kenya to show respect to Obama's father, who passed away when he was a child, and jasmine, representing Obama's childhood in Hawaii with his grandparents. During the unveiling of Obama's portrait, Wiley mentioned that Obama and the foreground of the plants are having a battle of, "Who gets to be the star of the show, the story or the man who inhabits that story?", which Wiley wants to show that Obama is the one who claims the spotlight of the portrait and not just his story and experiences that helped contour his life.

Betsy Logan added a link to a Smithsonian article [here](#)

November's question is: Leonardo Da Vinci's portrait of "Mona Lisa"—probably the most famous painting in the world—is known in Italy by a different name. What is it? (the easy part) What does it signify? (a bit harder...)



Remember, email your answers to me at kathiah@aol.com and you too can receive the virtual applause of your peers as I list your name in the newsletter!



In The Spotlight

Cindy Lewis Clark

Utah Outstanding Art Educator and Educator of the Year
Utah Art Education Association Lifetime Achievement Award

Cindy Lewis Clark loves teaching, creating, learning, reading, and especially playing with wax (encaustics). A veteran teacher, Cindy Clark taught advanced placement art, drawing, painting, and art foundations for 30 years in Alpine School District. She has been recognized as outstanding art educator for Utah, received the Arthur Watkins award as educator of the year, received the UAEA Lifetime Achievement Award, and others.



Mother Protector, Encaustic by Cindy Lewis Clark

Besides teaching, she has participated in many juried art shows and won several awards. She retired from public education in 2011. Currently, she serves on the artist roster for the Utah Division of Arts and Museums, where she teaches artists and teachers throughout the state about encaustic painting. She works on a leadership team in the Beverly Taylor Sorenson Arts Program, where she leads professional development and mentors elementary teachers in arts. In addition, she supervises prospective K-12 art educators for BYU. She loves working with student teachers and art teachers and elementary teachers because they are the catalyst that can ignite a life-long love of the arts in children. In her spare time, Cindy plays with wax and heat, creating encaustic paintings. Encaustic painting, an ancient process using resin and beeswax fused with high heat, was discovered by Cindy in 2011, the year she retired. She was never able to teach the process to her own students, so she has taught numerous workshops to other teachers and artists throughout her state. She has even visited many classrooms as a guest artist to teach

students about this creative, versatile process. Mark making in wax through layers of color and texture examine a visual vocabulary of the soul in Clark's encaustic paintings. Often inspired by literature, layers emerge and disappear, as they become a path or portal into something more. Fusing with high heat and melting layers into one another creates a unique image of process and possibility.



A Worn Through Soul Hanging onto a Dream, Encaustic by Cindy Lewis Clark



Cindy teaching elementary teachers how to create marks in space, with charcoal, graphite, and erasers.



Hollow Men, Encaustic by Cindy Lewis Clark

Unprecedented Times - The Art Classroom Today

News from the Ground



Melinda Sims

Licensed K-12 Arts Educator
Knoxville, Tennessee

My name is Melinda Sims, and this is my third year teaching as a Visual Arts Educator. I teach at a High School in Knoxville Tennessee that serves a student body of approximately 2,000 students from all walks of life. I primarily teach our in person students Visual Art I this fall semester and will most likely teach a couple of hybrid courses in the spring.

I tacked on a virtual course known through the platform of Quest for a 4th class where students from the county I teach in would have the opportunity to take art. In total, I teach almost one hundred and thirty students this semester.

If I could sum up this semester in one word, it would be exhausting. The mental tenacity to field student questions and worries along with our own stress as educators has been nothing short of a challenge. I come home almost every school day drained of emotion, coherent thought, and motivation. I introduce myself on the first day of school as the teacher who went to school so that she could have her dream job as an art teacher. I love fostering young minds and creativity. However, to say that fostering creative growth mindsets this year has been easy would be a lie. Students seem stressed, exhausted and less enthusiastic than in the previous two years. There is the ever-present possibility that our school could switch to 'red' meaning students would stay home and attend virtual school, while teachers stay in the building to instruct during the school day.

All of these stressors create undercurrents of tension that have never existed before.

Over the summer, we teachers hypothesized how this time would be handled and what we would be expected to do. Concrete plans were not publicly solidified until within two weeks of the first day of inservice. There were meetings on meetings, virtual chats, impromptu conversations, canvas pages and forums we were encouraged to attend and become familiar with. The sum of which left us minimally more prepared for the year to come and deprived us of individual preparation we so desperately needed.

I still feel like a fairly new teacher. And this school year makes me feel mentally and emotionally like I am back in my final year of college; my graduate school/internship year. My brain has not stopped, I have dropped the ball on countless occasions on simple tasks that usually were not issues for me, and I know of countless other students, teachers, administrators and other professionals that have felt the same.

I can not help but feel that some of this stress and uncertainty could have been avoided if communications from legislators and those making the plan were more transparent and timely, however, I know that even those making the calls are dealing with so many unknowns as well, and to place the blame for every hardship on their shoulders is wrong. Everyone is doing the best they can in the worst of situations.

Now more than ever a sense of community support is important for students, teachers, parents, and everyone else to have the best experience possible under the circumstances. If you are considering how you can help, contact a teacher you know and ask them how they are doing and if you can help with anything in or out of the classroom. Be a friend of education first, consider jumping back in to substitute teaching all you retirees! Search websites like [AdoptAClassroom](#) and [DonorsChoose](#) for classrooms and schools that need financial support.

Finally of course, advocate and be a positive voice for why arts and education is a vital part of our community now more than ever. Think on what we all turned to during quarantine. It all had to do with makers and creatives.

Thank you for your support for the arts and thank you for reading this art educator's thoughts.

“Put Your **ART** in Motion”

Four members of the Illinois Retired Art Educators group presented a session titled “Put Your Art in Motion” in November during the 72nd Illinois Art Education Association fall conference.

Just as most of us have had to pivot and learn new skills, the presenters had to plan and record the presentation through Zoom and various digital applications since the entire conference was held virtually. It was a challenge, but by working together under the direction of our amazing tech guru Kathryn Hillyer, we were able to present an informative and entertaining session “separately AND together virtually.” Our deepest thanks to Kathi for making the presentation possible!

There were three components to the presentation:

1. **Sharing Classroom Tips**
2. **Pursuing Personal Art Making**
3. **Recommendations for How to Respond During a Pandemic and Surviving Retirement**

Presenters for “Put Your ART in Motion”:

Dr. Anne Becker, Kathryn Hillyer, Joan Mills, and Becky Blaine

All four presenters remain actively involved with the Illinois Art Education Association and the National Art Education Association after retirement. In 2017, they were on the planning team for the 2017 NAEA Western Region Leadership Summer Summit along with Laura Milas. For 2021, they are members of the local planning team for the NAEA national convention in Chicago. Anne and Laura Milas are co-chairs of the local team. Anne supervises student teachers for Eastern Illinois University and Northern Illinois University, and Kathryn supervises student teachers for Illinois State University. Kathryn, Becky and Anne are RAEA Board members. All the presenters remain active in their communities and continue to learn new ways to enrich their retirement experiences.

In Part 1, Anne shared Museum Connections and resources for educators. Kathryn shared the experiences she had developing units referencing artists like Stewart Davis and Red Grooms. Joan shared how she applied her computer skills and digital resources with her students when Covid 19 forced everyone to use remote learning.

In Part 2, Kathryn shared how she used her tech skills to help with presentations for her church, and how she was able to keep in contact with friends and colleagues. Anne shared that her experiences with an online color pencil class. She felt the interaction and tips from the participants provided valuable feedback as she used her time to create her own drawings. Joan shared how she learned to make the most of her first year as a retired teacher, encountering and overcoming unexpected challenges due to Covid 19.

During the Q & A section, all three presenters emphasized the importance of creating and maintaining connections with family, colleagues and community, exploring new resources and remaining flexible and resilient. They also said they intend to continue many of their current practices after we return to life with fewer challenges. Everyone felt the challenge of working with the new virtual presentation format ended up being a rewarding experience!

Submitted by Becky Blaine



CONGRATULATIONS!



NAEA President, Thom Knab Hall of Fame, Class of 2020

Reprinted from the September 14, 2020 National Teachers of the Year Hall of Fame Induction on Facebook.com, Extra Yard for Teachers posted a video to playlist:

**Extra Yard for Teachers
Recognition Videos —
with College Football
Playoff and 4 others**
(Thom is featured at 18:39)



The College Football Playoff Foundation and The National Teachers Hall of Fame have come together to share a special 2020 Induction emceed by CFP Foundation Ambassador Rachel Lindsay and features former US Secretary of Education Dr. John King and President of the National Education Association Becky Pringle and CPF Foundation Executive Director Britton Banowsky.

Teachers selected for the Hall of Fame each year must have a minimum of 20 years of full-time teaching in preK-12 classrooms and have submitted a rigorous nomination packet and video. A national selection committee, with representatives from education organizations and corporate partners, met to select the inductees in late February.

The National Teachers Hall of Fame, located in Emporia, Kansas, will be officially inducting the Class of 2020 on June 18, 2021 when the five recognized teachers will meet in Emporia for professional development and a celebration of teaching. Knab will meet his four other “classmates” next April when the National Education Association will honor them at a special reception at their headquarters in Washington DC. The five educators will also be featured presenters at the Education Summit at Disney World in June, 2021, sponsored by Pegasus Springs Education Collective. Surprise announcements have normally been held in the spring at the 5 inductees’ schools with all-school assemblies or special meetings.



To quote Thom, when asked what he does, he shares:

**I teach children...I just try
to reach them through art.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RAEA MISSION STATEMENT

The purposes shall be to define and establish the role of the retired art educators as an interest group of NAEA; to conduct programs of professional activities for state and national events; to encourage continued personal involvement and development in art education; to inform State Associations and NAEA of concerns relevant to members of long-standing; and to encourage and support, as well as provide mentorship for student members of the NAEA.