



From the President

Kathryn Hillyer

For many of us, 2020 has been a blur. Even though it was very eventful—and certainly stressful!—my memories of 2020 are foggy. The lack of variety in my days and activities has contributed to that “fogginess.” The year 2021 will hopefully bring us good things!

One of those good (but also rather sad) things is the first ever virtual NAEA Convention! Registration has been open for a while, so don't miss it! Our two sessions will be LIVE, meaning you have to attend at that time. I'm excited to see how this will play out. I'll be working with the RAEA Board to coordinate the Business Meeting and the Awards. Watch for more news! It will be nice to see your faces, even if we can't meet in person.

We were unable to hold our 2020 and 2021 Silent Auctions (at least, I assume we won't have a 2021 Silent Auction!) and those are the major fundraisers for our budget. Our budget mainly goes to an annual donation to the National Art Education Foundation and two honoraria (for Outstanding Student Chapter and Emeritus Art Educator). Since we haven't been able to have those our funds are very low. We did receive an anonymous contribution that will help defray those costs, so we are fortunate. I checked with the NAEA office, and if you would also like to make a donation you may do so by sending a check to NAEA for the amount you'd like to donate. Make sure to put RAEA in the memo line so they can direct the funds to our account. If you can make a donation, thank you very much, but I certainly understand that times are challenging for us and you may not be able to do so. We have enough funds to cover our two years of honoraria and most of the NAEF donations. Let's aim for New York being a BIG year for the Silent Auction!

Happy New Year and I hope to see many of you at the NAEA convention. The Illinois team worked hard to provide a wonderful experience for attendees coming to Chicago, and I know we all appreciate that work. Let's support NAEA as we take that in-person Chicago experience to a virtual one!

- 1 From the President
- 2 Trivia
- 3 In The Spotlight
- 4 NAEA Member Recognition
- 5 NAEA Virtual Convention Contact Information

Trivia

November's Trivia question was: 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...)

Answer: The other name is La Gioconda. The Italian name for the painting, La Gioconda, means 'jocund' ('happy' or 'jovial') or, literally, 'the jocund one', a pun on the feminine form of Lisa's married name, Giocondo. In French, the title La Joconde has the same meaning.

The article at this link gives a detailed background of the painting, as well as its effect on some people <https://nypost.com/2014/07/26/how-mona-lisas-smile-led-to-love-affairs-and-suicides/>

I didn't receive any responses to November's question. If I did and missed your email, please let me know!

January's Trivia question is: Which of Henri Matisse's paintings was hung upside down at the Museum of Modern Art in New York for 46 days without anyone noticing?

(My personal Matisse trivia is about a work at the National Gallery, "Les Bêtes de la Mer (Beasts of the Sea)." In 2011 or 2012 I was teaching a lesson to my second graders about Matisse's cut outs and relating it to improvising in jazz music. Les Bêtes was one of the artworks we discussed. I had a meeting in Washington DC and told my second graders I'd take a picture of the original artwork at the National Gallery of Art and show them. I left my meeting and raced over to the museum before it closed. Unfortunately, the gallery the collages were displayed in closed earlier! I took a selfie of myself outside the closed doors and showed it to my 2nd graders when I returned. However, I can't find that photo!)

Beasts of the Sea, 1950
Gouache on paper, cut and pasted on white paper, mounted on canvas
Henri Matisse
National Gallery of Art
Alisa Mellon Bruce Fund



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



In The Spotlight

Cathy Weisman Topal

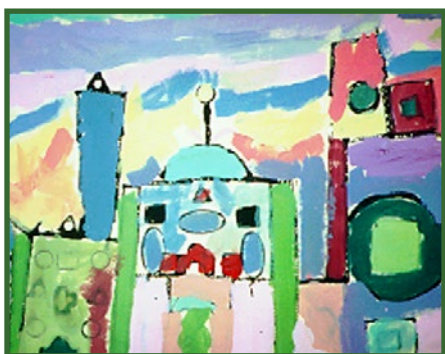
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Hello Fellow Retired Art Educators! I have recently created a **free website full of lessons for educators** interested in teaching and learning through the arts. I hope you will take a little time to explore the site and the lessons and give me some feedback. I also hope that you will pass the site on to current art teachers, educators and parents.



Thinking & Creating with a Line: www.thinkingwithaline.com

I am a longtime studio art teacher who began my career as a junior high school art teacher in Newton, MA where I taught grades 7 through 9 for four years before coming to Smith College. I am also professor and author of *Children, Clay and Sculpture*; *Children and Painting*; *Beautiful Stuff - Learning with Found Materials*, co-authored with Lella Gandini; *Beautiful Stuff from Nature* - co-edited with Lella Gandini; *Teacher's Guide to Thinking with a Line*; *Explorations in Art: Kindergarten*; and *Creative Minds Out of School*, - all published by Davis Publications, Inc. of Worcester, MA.



Over 20 years ago I took an educational technology class at Smith College taught by a colleague. The final project assignment was to create an interactive multimedia program. When I was able to insert short video clips of teachers and children in action into one of the lesson plans I was working on, I saw that technology could help bring the delicate interactive process of teaching and learning to life! It was one of those “Aha” moments! At that same time, the technology department at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts where I have taught in the laboratory school, the early childhood center, and the department of education for over 35 years, was looking for educational technology projects and decided to support me in developing *Thinking & Creating with A Line*. It has taken me many years and grants to computer science students to develop this website, and there have been many iterations!! Who knew that with COVID-19 the website would be so timely! It can also be used for professional development. It was my original intention to help early childhood educators who may feel uncomfortable with studio art materials and processes develop strategies for introducing them and supporting children as they explore materials and processes and make their own discoveries and connections.



Continued on next page



All photos by Cathy Weisman Topal.

Since retiring a few years ago, I have revised *Explorations in Art, Kindergarten*, edited *Beautiful Stuff from Nature/ More Learning with Found Materials*, and revised *Thinking & Creating with A Line*. I have also been participating – virtually – in webinars and blogs, and will be presenting workshops – virtually - during the Bank Street Kindergarten conference (4/17/2021) and the Early Childhood STEM conference - ECSTEM@CALTECH.edu (2/23-24/2021). I have to say that I am awed by the challenges facing today's teachers, and totally impressed by the adaptations made by my grandson's art teachers in Seattle and Massachusetts!!

NAEA Member Recognition

As of January 2021, the National Emeritus Awardee has not yet been announced by NAEA. This is a perfect time to encourage you to take action for next year. If you know of a member who has been retired for **3 or more years** and remains actively supporting arts education, then that individual needs to be recognized.

The STATE EMERITUS AWARD can lead to the NATIONAL EMERITUS AWARD:

If the retired member has continued to be actively engaged in supporting arts education on the local, city, or state levels, then that name needs to be submitted to your state's award chairman by the submission date (usually in the summer). The awardee selected at the state level can then be submitted to NAEA from that state by the NAEA deadline, usually October 1. If that individual has also continued to contribute regionally and nationally to NAEA, then that individual could be considered for the National Emeritus Award. Often the name submitted to national has been a previous state awardee, but not always. Any state winner is eligible to be submitted to NAEA for a national level award. The key to see if you, or a colleague, are eligible is to find and follow the National Rubric for your award.

The National Emeritus Award recognizes contributions made both before and after retirement, however, the emphasis for **this** award is aimed more heavily to recognize those individuals still contributing after retirement on a local, statewide, regional and national level. For the NAEA Emeritus Award, there is a very precise and well-written Rubric that should be considered. When submitting on the national level, the applicant should be short and concise listing all important contributions by the year accomplished and divided into "before" and "after" retirement. If you are not recognized the first time you are nominated, please try again.

Most of you are still contributing in some way. If your colleague encourages you to put your foot in the ring, please do not hesitate. You are probably terribly busy doing for others but take time to update your resume and contemplate where you are. All of you have given you lives in the service of our young people. We salute you and thank you.

The [VIRTUAL] 2021 NAEA NATIONAL CONVENTION

This year will be an excellent opportunity for all of us to attend and to participate in this year's [Virtual] 2021 NAEA NATIONAL CONVENTION, while saving for travel expenses for next year, when we can look forward to being together.



Looking forward to seeing each of you in the two important NAEA Membership Meetings and participating in other workshops and presentations.

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAEA Board

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Silent Auction Chair: Anne Becker, Illinois, anzebe@comcast.net

Membership Chair: Patsy Parker, Virginia, p2artkrt@gmail.com

NAEA 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.