



From the President

Nancy Walkup

As I write this, I have just returned after attending the NAEA Southeastern Regional Conference held in Memphis, Tennessee, July 19-22, 2023. As for the leadership conference last year, issue group representatives were again invited to attend a regional conference. Melody Weintraub, Cindy Todd, and I were members of RAEA who attended and participated in three days of engaging and beneficial camaraderie and leadership professional development.

The conference was held at the **Memphis Brooks Museum of Art**, a perfect setting for us. What is better than meeting in an art museum?

One of the highlights of the conference was a visit to the **Memphis Zoo**, a beautiful Egyptian-style setting. We had an early morning entrance where we fed their giraffes sweet gum leaves and photographed and drew them. Back at the museum, we **created watercolor postcards** from our sketches to donate to the zoo to be sold to raise **money for giraffe conservation**. This **community service learning through art experience** provided a **model that others could easily replicate** if they have **access to a zoo or similar venue**.

Keynote Speakers

The trip to the zoo was followed by two engaging speakers: **Cindy Todd**, NAEA President-Elect, and **Greely Myatt**, a multitalented local artist.

Cindy Todd presented "Reflections of a Leader," pointing out that "if you are here, you are a leader!" She shared her personal path to leadership, while stressing our responsibility to encourage others to take on leadership roles, saying "It's up to you to start the party."

She emphasized that, as leaders, we should be looking for potential in others to empower; **all the while, making it fun.**

- 1 From the President
- 3 Trivia
- 4 In the Spotlight
- 6 RAEA Award
- 7 Giving It All Away
- 8 Contact Information

Our afternoon speaker was Memphis artist **Greely Myatt**, a long-time professor of art at The University of Memphis, widely recognized for his whimsical sculptural objects and monumental installations made from found materials. His light-hearted art incorporates found objects such as metal scraps, neon lights, discarded signage, and more. Most intriguing to me as a quilter were his public art “quilts” made from cut metal scraps. You can see his work at <https://www.davidluskgallery.com/artists/greely.myatt>. This presentation reminded me of the NAEA’s thoughtful practice of featuring local or regional artists at national conventions.

Additional experiences included: a book-making activity led by SEVP **Cheryl Maney** and a presentation, “Growing Your Membership through NAHS,” by **Josh Drews**. **Elise Payne**, Southeast Vice President-Elect, and **Reena Moore** detailed their “Rising Stars” program that recruits and supports students who want to become art educators.

As you can see, there was quite a bit of variety in this well-planned conference that can serve as a model for others. If possible, I encourage our RAEA members to attend such conferences for the camaraderie, hands-on and museum experiences, and other benefits offered by NAEA.



RAEA members **Nancy Walkup** and **Melody Weintraub**, with **Cindy Todd** (NAEA President-Elect) at the Memphis Zoo for a professional development experience.

-AWARDS --AWARDS--AWARDS-

RAEA Emeritus Art Educator of the Year

Nominations for the RAEA Emeritus Art Educator of the Year are **due by October 1, 2023**. Please consider nominating someone for this award, which is based on the teacher’s accomplishments taking place after retirement. Our RAEA members are already demonstrating their ongoing commitment to art education by continuing to attend and participate in the NAEA national conventions. You might be amazed at what they do outside the conference.

The application for this award is available at
<https://www.arteducators.org/opportunities/naea-awards>

Nancy Walkup, RAEA President Email: nancywalkup@mac.com



**NAEA Southeastern Regional Conference
Memphis, Tennessee, July 19-22, 2023**

Trivia

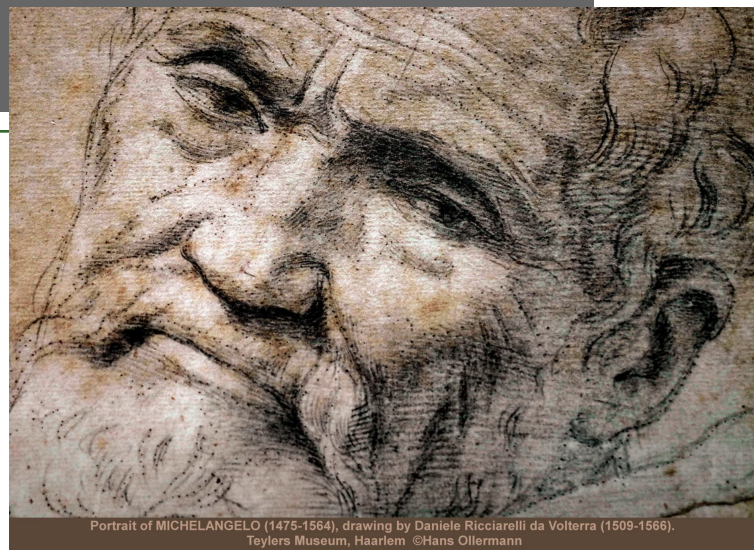
What artist was struck in the face with a mallet by an envious rival, disfiguring him for life?

July Trivia Answer - MICHELANGELO

Torregiano and Michelangelo, while both young, were copying Masaccio's frescoes in the Carmine Chapel. Michelangelo made some slighting remark that so enraged Torregiano that he struck him on the nose, breaking it. Vasari says that Torregiano instigated the fight because he was so motivated by jealousy. As a result of his act, he was forced to flee from Florence.

The disfigurement is conspicuous in all the portraits of Michelangelo.
(Paraphrased from Wikipedia)

(Drawing by Daniele Ricciarelli (1509-1566))



Portrait of MICHELANGELO (1475-1564), drawing by Daniele Ricciarelli da Volterra (1509-1566).
Teylers Museum, Haarlem ©Hans Ollermann

September Trivia Question

English artist, **Andy Brown**, created a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. Using what?

Send your answers to me at: nancywalkup@mac.com



CINDY TODD

In The Spotlight

NAEA President-Elect

NAEA Art Educator of the Year

NAEA Western Region Art Educator of the Year

NAEA Western Region Higher Education Art Educator of the Year

Michigan's Art Education Association President

NAEA Western Region Vice President

Dr. Cindy Todd, NAEA's new NAEA President-Elect is the RAEA spotlight member of this month's newsletter. She taught K-12 art in Michigan for 14 years (1 year of elementary, 11 of junior high and 3 of high school) before teaching higher education for 21 years. In her final position, she chaired the Art Education Program at Kendall College of Art & Design in Grand Rapids, Michigan for 18 years.

After her last graduation ceremony in May of 2022, she tossed her regalia into the back seat and she & her husband drove straight to the airport to go to their small vacation home in Hope town, Elbow Cay, Bahamas. They left their Michigan home ready-to-show and it sold that very first weekend. They live primarily in Hope town now but are planning to purchase a condo near their children in Michigan. In the meantime, they are enjoying the beach.

Elbow Cay is one of two islands that were directly in the eye of Hurricane Dorian, the worst hurricane in recorded history. Over 90 percent of the island structures were left badly damaged. As a contribution to the recovery of the island, Cindy painted a number of business and home signs for the residents and even refurbished a damaged 9 ft fiberglass pelican

There is a small primary school on the island nestled into a tall hill. Cindy worked with the island's school children to create a large mural on the 3 lower retaining walls. The students drew their underwater ideas and she projected and traced them and other images onto the walls. The students painted the first coat of paint and she added shading and detail. This fall they plan to complete the middle and upper walls with scenes of land and sky



Elbow Cay Primary School added the first coat of paint to the mural



"Before" shot with 9ft pelican



2 walls of finished mural



Cindy Todd painting the primary school mural, Cindy added shading and detail.

Cindy also belongs to a **painting group** that meets once a week to plein air paint, something she never had the opportunity to do while working. She is loving having the time to paint consistently. Last February, she recruited one of her graduates to lead a workshop for the group and she is lining up another for this coming winter. She is having a great time flipping roles with her former students and she's learning some great new techniques!

Cindy is excited to begin her work as NAEA's elect. As her first duty, she had the great pleasure to speak at the **Southeastern Regional meeting in Memphis in July**. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet new and exciting members and to experience what is happening around the country. She's hoping that members from all regions will reach out and let her know their vision, concerns, and hopes for NAEA's coming years and is honored to serve in her new role.

Welcome Dr. Cindy Todd

NEW

Changes to the RAEA National Emeritus Art Educator Award

As the “RAEA National Emeritus Art Educator Award” Selection Committee Chairman, I am pleased to report that after two years of hard work by many, the new changes to this award have been approved and put in place! The changes to the eligibility rules and rubric design are as follows.

1. This is now a single-track award focusing on contributions made only after retirement.
2. The nominee must be a current member of the RAEA Interest Group which has no membership fee.
3. The name of the award is officially the **“RAEA National Emeritus Art Educator Award”**.

Eligibility:

The nominee must be a member of NAEA and have been retired at least 3 years. In addition, the nominee must be a current member of the RAEA Interest Group. Experiences should demonstrate distinction to the field of art education by exceptional and continuous records of achievement through teaching, professional leadership, and other contributions after retirement.

As soon as Kathy Duse has posted the information about this award it will be shared online in two locations:

1. On page 6 of the 2024 NAEA Awards Program booklet, you will find:
 - Award Objective
 - Eligibility
 - Submission of Online Award Packet Materials
2. On the rubric page, you will find:
 - Criteria and Submission Requirements for the “RAEA National Emeritus Art Educator Award”.
 - Blank award rubric
 - Rubric directions + Rationale for rubric layout
 - Sample award rubric

I encourage all of you to take a look and familiarize yourself with the changes. Nominations for this award can go through the state organization and then to the national level or nominations can be submitted directly to the national level. **Please encourage other eligible candidates at the state, regional and national levels so they may be recognized for their outstanding service to NAEA / RAEA after retirement in support of Art Education.**

Dr. Emily Boo Ruch, NBCT

RAEA National Emeritus Art Educator Award
Selection Committee Chair

Giving it All Away

by Melody Weintraub

I remember when I first began teaching, I wanted to learn all that I could from others, but I wanted to keep my really good ideas to myself. I know. Sounds pretty selfish, doesn't it? However, I seemed to share this characteristic with a lot of other art teachers at the time who would share certain aspects of a lesson, but leave out a few minor details..like a really good cook who leaves out a secret ingredient, so no one can make that delicious pie quite the same! I think this had a lot to do with my competitive spirit. However, that attitude had no place when it came to focusing on my real purpose for teaching, which was and is; **making a positive difference in the lives of students through art.**

As I got older and as I taught longer, especially when I taught art education at the University of Memphis, and now as I currently supervise teaching candidates at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. **I started a practice of giving away all my best plans to pre-service teachers.** As I do this, it gives me so much joy to know that they might be using what I have designed in their classrooms and even improving upon them. This way, I am helping to teach children that I might never see. Amazing thought, right?

Sharing my best lessons and practices in *SchoolArts Magazine* and on social media, reminds me of those days in Higher Ed. I write up two or three articles a week and share as much as I can in the time I have left on this planet using the memory I have left. **At this point in my career, I want to give it all away.**

As past-president of the Tennessee Art Education Association, I recently chaired the state conference at The University of Memphis. My desire was to make this a memorable and uplifting experience for the teachers across my state who had waited for three long years to meet together in-person! In order to establish some ambience at registration like I used to do in my Middle School Art Classroom, I went through boxes in my garage that had been sealed since I retired and found a few things to decorate with for the conference. One of those objects that I brought was an 18-inch artist nutcracker named, "Pierre," that a student had given me probably 20 years ago and which had followed me everywhere I taught since then. As I stood at the registration table, I noticed a young art teacher who was staring at it and smiling. She took out her phone to take a photo of it. At that point I approached her and she remarked how much she loved it and wondered where it came from. I told her the story and then **I told her to put it in her conference bag and enjoy it in her classroom until she is ready to pass it along to another art teacher.** She hugged me and we both might have teared up a bit.

I would encourage you to start giving it all away sooner than I did. Not just the things you don't want anymore, but the things you treasured. Learn from your colleagues. Share with your colleagues. Don't hoard those lessons like you did those egg cartons that you never used. **Write that article and submit it!. Learn to use Dropbox and Google Drive! Write the blog. Share the handouts. Write the book. Start today to GIVE like an Artist! Trust me, "it is more blessed to GIVE than to receive." If you don't believe me, just ask Pierre.**

Melody Weintraub retired from the art classroom in 2020. She was awarded the 2014 Tennessee Middle Level Art Educator of the Year, and currently supervises art education candidates for The University of Tennessee in Knoxville. She is the **past-president and state conference chair for the Tennessee Art Education Association.** She is a regular contributor to *SchoolArts Magazine* and recently collaborated with Debi West to create a SET OF MOTIVATIONAL CARDS FOR TEACHERS CALLED, "ENCOURAGE-MINTS."

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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.