Greetings!

I hope you are having a wonderful summer! I encourage you to seek out and enjoy the arts opportunities wherever you are. The summer months are filled with art exhibits and festivals; amateur and professional theatre, music, and dance productions; as well as county and state fairs.

Perhaps you can spend some time making wonderful artwork to donate to the RAEA Silent Auction that will be held the first evening of the 2016 Convention. Remember that the proceeds of the silent auction are used to help support RAEA programming, which includes the Outstanding Student Chapter and the Emeritus Art Educator of the Year Awards.

Save the Date!! March 17-19, 2016 at the McCormick Place Convention Center and Hilton Chicago Hotel.
A Call for Nominations by Oct 1st!

NOW is the time to take a moment and NOMINATE one of your fellow… retired but extremely active…NAEA colleagues for the “2016 National Emeritus Art Educator of the Year” Award. The official 2016 NAEA nomination form, vita sheet and award criteria are posted at http://www.arteducators.org/grants/naea-awards. Click on the 2016 Awards Program Booklet in the center of the page. Then go to page 7 and look for the “National Emeritus” award. The nomination form and vita sheet are at the back of the booklet. I can think of no better way to celebrate retirement than by acknowledging the active contributions of others like you! Let’s rejoice together!!!! Thank you!
Dr. Emily "Boo" Ruch, NBCT
RAEA Chairman / Coordinator for the "National Emeritus Art Educator of the Year Award"

“2016 National Emeritus Art Educator Award”

Goal: To recognize continuous outstanding service to art education by an individual before and after retirement.

Eligibility: NAEA/RAEA members who have been retired at least 3 years and have brought distinction to the field of art education by exceptional and continuous records of achievement through teaching, professional leadership, and community service before and after retirement are eligible to receive this award.

Submit to NAEA National Office:

- An updated NAEA Nomination Form noting the date of retirement (mm/dd/yyyy)
- An updated NAEA Standardized Vita Form with all service and achievements including specific dates, occurring both before and after retirement, identified separately in some way (do not exceed space provided on updated NAEA Vita Form)
- One cover letter of nomination
- Two additional letters supporting nomination (with at least one from a retired art educator)
- And a photograph (digitally, if submitting via e-mail or on a disk if submitting via hard copy).
- Deadline postmarked no later than October 1.
In the May issue of the RAEA E-Bulletin, you were treated to the reflective and eloquent journey that Nan Williams, the 2015 National Emeritus Art Educator of the Year shared at the New Orleans Convention, March 2015. You can reread and see her complete presentation in the Bulletin’s May issue which is archived on the RAEA page of the NAEA website (http://www.arteducators.org/community/committees-issues-groups/raea).

Nan concluded her presentation by saying: “Through the arts I’ve learned about Climbing the Mountain so my gratitude for all the arts is deep and powerful. I’ve learned from music, the sublime expression that needs no words, the value of practice, self-evaluation and perfection; from theatre, the revealing of human spirit, the exhilaration of shared achievement, downright stamina; from art, the awakening of personal vision, a thirst for problem-solving, the diversity of global voices. But there will always be mountains. In Star Trek, Captain Kirk explained to an alien being, “We humans need obstacles to strengthen us. Without them, we weaken and die.”

Maybe over a mountain, we’ll find the garden of Edward Mattil’s gentle statement, "Children may be likened to a handful of seeds from many flowers …, Under good conditions, they all bloom and have their own beauty. Our classrooms are the earth for these seeds, and when fertile and rich, they bring forth the best. Our seeds — our students — and our lives — need cultivation. This requires energy, sweat and expectation. So yes, our life’s gardening is often fatiguing and messy, but the fruit is sweet.”

PICTURE THIS: San Diego Bayfront Hotel/ March 30, 2014 / NAEA National Convention where I had just accepted the Emeritus Art Educator of the Year Award -- still can’t thank Dean Johns enough for his technological help in getting that Keynote presentation on the screen!!! Before we left the luncheon, I was surrounded by a number of students from Kendall School of Art & Design of Ferris State University in Michigan who were there to accept the 2014 Outstanding Student Chapter Award. They shared how much they appreciated, identified with and were inspired by my presentation, which was basically sharing my professional and personal journey as an Art Educator. I bumped into many of them during the rest of the convention and received the same feedback -- that I made an impression that would remain with them for the rest of their teaching careers!

Their esteemed advisor, Cindy Todd told me that I had a new FAN CLUB! That was a turning point for me and I knew I had a brand new target audience for the future -- Pre-Service Art Teachers.
Meanwhile back in Michigan, I continue serving as Copy Editor (now 15 years of proofreading)) for our quarterly "ArTeacher" publication and for the onsite program book for each of the MAEA Annual Fall Conferences. As a 48-year member of MAEA, I feel that I can bring an important historical perspective to the editing process... of course, my cataracts and macular degeneration don't necessarily agree! I also continue to be involved with the MAEA Retiree's Division which annually raises thousands of dollars for the MAEA Student Scholarship Fund. To help with this effort, I've donated books, posters, lessons, etc. for the Annual Garage Sales, as well as contributing art work for silent auctions. Along with other retirees, I've also volunteered to share lesson plans and hands-on learning experiences in the Master Medley Workshops where proceeds from these ticketed events also go to the scholarship fund. Have also just put finishing touches on a mixed media collage (featuring handmade papers from plants in my garden) that will be entered in the MAEA Members' Show to be shown at the prestigious Grand Rapids Art Museum in conjunction with the MAEA Fall Conference this October -- quite an honor.

Earlier in March of this year, I was also honored to be appointed by the Mayor of Southfield, Michigan to serve on the newly formed Public Arts Commission. As we stated in our mission statement, the purpose of the commission is to "create a stimulating environment that reflects and enhances our City's heritage, diversity, and character through public art works integrated in the architecture, infrastructure, and landscape of the City." We have already acquired $500K worth of sculpture, including Marshall Frederick's iconic "The Boy and the Bear" which was a beloved fixture for six decades at the recently closed Northland Center in Southfield (one of the nation's first shopping malls). It will now be displayed in the rotunda of the Southfield Public Library -- at home in front of the children's room. Needless to say, I intend to assume a leadership role on the Education and Outreach Sub-Committee. I look forward to beginning to develop public art experiences and creating new opportunities for lifelong learning for Southfield residents of ALL ages (we have a huge senior population -- myself now included). I can't wait for the new school year to begin to develop arts partnerships and collaborate with private/public schools, non-profit organizations, local businesses, universities, colleges and other community groups to further the cause. Will keep you posted...
More opportunities to offer volunteer services have risen during the last couple of years. I am most excited about jurying for exhibits. Right now I am jurying an exhibit for the Perry County Arts Council in Pennsylvania. I have the jpg photos and am going through the inspiring and wonderful images of 82 works. It is an joyful challenge. I am also fortunate to serve on the Arts and Humanities Jury for the Delta Kappa Gamma International Gallery, and online gallery. I have served one year so far and have helped jury two exhibits with three other women (one in Sweden, one in Minnesota, and other in Connecticut). Most of our meetings are online GoTo meetings with one a year in Austin, Texas at International Headquarters. What fun!

Last year, I facilitated a mural project for Little League International Museum here in South Williamsport in celebration of Little League’s 75th anniversary. That involved coordination of activities for ten school districts to work with artist Charles Fazzino. We had teacher workshops, student workshops, a mural created by Fazzino with students from every fifth grade classroom in two counties for Little League, a second smaller mural created by Fazzino with high school students, fully funded individual murals/sculptures designed and built by students in and for each elementary school in the two counties, an exhibit at Penn College of the school works beside Fazzino’s work, and finally the dedication and installation of the Little League mural in their museum during the 2014 World Series. Awesome!

I have the freedom to work in my studio every day and continue to exhibit my own art work.

**In the Eye of the Beholder**
Fibers: twining w/ waxed linen & paper core & strips of recycled woven cloth & contorted filbert branches
Size:  48”x22”x36”
Completed 6/8/15

The exhibit at Penn College visited by Little League teams
I retired not because I no longer wanted to teach but instead because I had goals that retirement gave me the time and freedom needed to explore.

Exciting things have happened since 2012 when I received this award. At the time I had been involved with a women's prison art program, providing art projects every second Saturday for the children of the incarcerated women. Each visit starts at 10:00 with the children arriving for a visit with their mom and includes an art project, lunch and visit ending at 1:00. I continue helping with visits each month and have watched families come and go with women being released and some children I have watched grow from babies through to teens as some women have life sentences.

One goal since 2012 has been to create a mentoring program for our state as so many art educators are isolated in their schools. This came to reality last year as I worked with teacher Anna Nichols and The Alabama Art Education Association to pioneer a state-wide mentoring program specifically for visual art teachers, with the goals of increasing teacher retention and promoting instructional excellence. This will hopefully help increase new art teacher proficiency in instruction as well as keep talented teachers from leaving the field of education. With the new school year we have partnered many veteran with novice teachers and the program continues to grow in numbers.

I also have helped Anna Nichols with a blog. I invite you to visit our blog: [http://artteachershelpal.blogspot.com](http://artteachershelpal.blogspot.com)

**MANAGING THE ART CLASSROOM**
A collection of classroom management research, conversation, and advice by Alabama Elementary, Middle and High School Art Teachers. This website is a “not for profit” educational blog, designed to serve art teachers by proving relevant information about classroom management, art advocacy and teaching art in Alabama. Our mission is to facilitate ways for art teacher to work together to help one another thrive. We believe this is vital for the future of art education, not just in Alabama, but everywhere.

I retired from teaching elementary art in 2005. At that time I was ‘in-service’ on the Executive Board of MAEA. That service continued through 2013 overlapping the beginning of my service to RAEA, in 2012. My early retirement was service oriented, not ‘self’ oriented. During that time [6-2011] I lost my soul-mate/husband. Thinking that I was healing, I buried myself in ‘service’ to my state association and arts education.

I had always recommended art, or creative expression in any manner, to people in my life that were grieving, but for me, nothing came. The grief totally disabled my creative energy. Or perhaps it was my submersion into ‘service to others’ that clouded my ‘service to self.’ I made a tough choice to retire from MAEA, putting the daily organizational responsibility on the back burner. When the change happened, I found I was driven to get into the studio. Collage was the first release my heart/soul chose. I began tearing specialty paper, magazines, family photos apart and restructuring/rebuilding my past life. Quotes from grief books and the Bible found their way into these expressions. I completed a body of work consisting of 13 mixed media collages.

Then my loom called to me. I had not woven in 20 years, but this past winter I could not stop! The simple projects culminated in what I call a Memory Shawl of my life’s journey since our 8-9-1975 wedding. Then, I was called back to the studio to pick up my watercolor brushes once again. Another series of 12 evolved.
Am I still working through grief? Yes. Could I have accomplished this healing process while ‘in-service’ to MAEA? No, I could not. I needed the energy I dedicated to ‘serve others’ to be brought home, to ‘service my soul.’ I think many of us have been in the place I find myself, and perhaps have made a similar choice. Now, I honestly believe, as I have advised since I started teaching in 1971, that art is a great healer, especially if given the proper dedicated time to ‘self.’

Kintsugi: Scars are like broken pottery repaired in the Japanese tradition called Kintsugi. Each piece carefully glued in place with a lacquer resin created to look like gold. The pieces create the visual memory of the vessels’ history. I am a stranger in this broken vessel. I must stay here long enough to explore and embrace my brokenness until I see each piece of my history as beautiful, as gold, making me stronger.

My Autobiography: My autobiography begins with the loss of my soul mate. A loss without a sense of closure. My brokenness is at the bottom of the ocean. The ebb/flow of the water is polishing the harsh edges of loss. Soon only the memory of the love will replace the pain of loss.

Fall, Winter, Spring…summer yet to come: My long journey continues...

Memory Shawl: woven with lace from my wedding day veil, ecru fabric from my wedding dress, the color blue of my husband’s suit, ribbon colors representing our sons, our daughter-in-law, and grand daughters, black and red in honor of those family members lost during our 36 years together.
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Dennis Winston
Virginia

“Reflections of an Emeritus Art Educator”

Retirement has given me more time to spend with my grandkids and to travel outside the U.S. There is more time to enjoy my passion for fishing, for time in the gym to maintain a healthy lifestyle, and for quality time with my family! I also must admit that sometimes I feel that I am just as busy as I was when I was working and that I need to claim retirement. There are times that I need to remind myself that I have the opportunity to choose what to do with my time. Art and art making has always been a necessity within me and a lifelong significant part of my being. I have a need to devote serious effort and energy to finding meaning, substance and quality in my art and I have made that my choice.

Retirement has also afforded me much more time to concentrate on being an artist. I am also teaching as part of the studio school of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Visual Arts Center of Richmond. Recently I participated in a NEA grant as an artist for a middle and high school in Virginia and mentored some college and school students in my studio. It is difficult not to stay connected to your life’s work. I still derive a great deal of satisfaction working with young artists but realize that it zaps more energy than it once did. As a full time art educator I always found the time to create because I could not imagine not being able to allow my artistic spirit to flourish. That spirit is still burning strong in me today! I have a full time studio where I hang out most days and I have a very active exhibition schedule.

As an artist I have mainly embraced the woodcut print as my primary medium for expression. I initially started to work in this medium as a teacher because it was a simple, inexpensive process that would accommodate my busy schedule to produce “multiple original” work. I have continued to gouge into wood to create bold, black and white imagery and to create works that reflect both my social and aesthetic needs as an artist. The woodcut print is an ordinary and very old medium through which I endeavor to capture telling moments in the lives of ordinary people that I have observed or known. Some are the people that I remember from my youth in rural Virginia or observations of my urban experiences. The images that I create are usually an attempt to reveal something of their character, the history that has shaped them or the spirit that sustains them. There have been many artists that have had strong influences on me; A.B Jackson, Charles White, Elizabeth Catlett, John Biggers, Kathe Kollwitz, to name a few. My work is from the black experience but my themes are universal and concern the everyday reality of all human existence and as an artist of that experience I need to graphically react to what I feel socially. Recently animals and images of the natural world has been a focus.

I am part of a group of printmakers called One/off. We as a group are devoted to the promotion of printmaking in many forms. We exhibit together and share new techniques and support each other in our artistic journeys.
I want to share in my work those things that are important to me and not merely record, but to present ideas to which people can respond with their own stories. I have a kinship with artists that were concerned with humanistic values and created works to which all people could relate. I hope that others can recognize and enjoy my visual revelations.
In many ways, it was a difficult decision to leave my position after 38 years teaching elementary art in a suburb north of Chicago, but I wanted to try new things. As I talk to other retired art educators (and those in other fields as well) I hear so many stories about rewarding and satisfying things they’re able to get involved in (or MORE involved in). One of our Illinois Art Education Association members, Dennis Morris, is an example of someone who is doing a variety of things. Most recently, Dennis led a team of volunteers on a project at Feitshans Elementary School in Springfield, Illinois, as part of a ShareFest makeover of the 90+ year old school. Sharefest is a community project where a school in the neediest portion of town is given a complete makeover during a one week interval. Feitshans Elementary School was chosen this year. Dennis described the project to me: “My church focused on making a neglected courtyard into an outdoor classroom with an exterior mural painted on a series of concrete walls lining staircases. The paintings included the solar system and the lifecycle of the Monarch Butterfly. A pergola with picnic tables was built along with a sodden area surrounded with mulched beds of plants. Adjacent to the stairways is a butterfly garden. The murals enliven a very sad area.”

There were over 1300 volunteers who helped with many projects throughout the school. Some of them were parents of students, but others had no connection with the school and just wanted to help. Dennis donated time and talent to this worthwhile project, as well as continuing with his own art.
When I decided to retire I thought about what I would do with all my “extra” time. One of my goals was to go traveling with my husband. I’ve also been inspired by what other retired art educators are doing. One of my main goals was to be able to say, “Yes.” It’s been wonderful this first year of retirement to be able to say “yes” to many things. I’ve worked with the Illinois Education Association on developing a Student Learning Outcomes template, with the Illinois State Board of Education on helping teachers develop assessments in visual art, and recently was on an NAEA team benchmarking the Model Cornerstone Assessments for the national arts standards. Friends ask why I’m doing these things. I reply, “I retired from my job, not my profession!” I’ll be leading the IRAE (Illinois Retired Art Educators) session at our fall conference, November 5-7, at the Hilton in Lisle. Also, mark your calendars for NAEA Chicago 2016, March 17-19!
Michael Phillips, who described himself as a “long-time activist”, will be greatly missed and fondly remembered for his many contributions to the arts, his community, his synagogue, and many charities for equality for all people.

After earning his degree and teaching certificate from Michigan State University where he studied painting, Michael began his teaching career with the Detroit Public Schools in 1972 and retired from the same district in 2008. For the Detroit district, he taught all grades from pre-school to adult, and also taught drama, reading and writing improvement. Additionally, Michael was the coordinator of Detroit Public Schools’ Artistically Gifted and Talented Program (1984 to 2008).

Michael earned his Master’s Degree in painting from Wayne State University in 1982, and worked as a teacher consultant for Wayne State University, Troy Public Schools, Wayne County RESA and Oakland County RESA. In 2002, Michael was selected as Detroit Public School’s Michigan Teacher of the Year and was a runner-up for the State of Michigan Teacher of the Year also in 2002. As a tireless advocate and teacher of the arts, Michael worked in summer programs for Detroit Public Schools, Royal Oak Public Schools, Camp Tamarack, Camp Tikvah and The Rick May “All Star Camp” for learning impaired adults.

After retiring, Michael continued to teach drawing, painting and ceramics to children and adults. At the time of his passing he was teaching at Congregation Shir Tikvah, The Jewish Community Center and the Rick May “All Star Camp”. He was an artist-in-residence” for the Jewish Federation and taught workshops at various congregations around the Detroit Area.

Michael continued to be a practicing and exhibiting artist in the areas of water color, mixed media and ceramics. He wove his talent and love of the arts into his work with many charities such as South Oakland Shelter for the homeless, teaching arts and crafts, and the “Empty Bowls Project” which he organized, and taught members of the Congregation Shir Tikvah how to make ceramic bowls. Michael received several awards for his service to others.

Michael was not only a talented visual artist but had a beautiful voice, and was also an actor/director. For several years, he had been involved with theater and received awards for directing, acting, set design and set dressing. He would have great color by number events at which friends and his theater group created many of the sets for their productions. Michael sang in the Sing Out Detroit Choir and was their production chair. As a committee chair in the Department of Arts, Culture and Education at the West Bloomfield Jewish Community Center, Michael continued to be a long-time activist, public speaker and educator on topics that were extremely important to him, anti-bullying, equal rights, interfaith relations and inclusive justice.

Michael served the Michigan Art Education Association in many capacities including President, NAEA Delegate, Region 1 Liaison, Secondary Division Chairman, and Retired Division Chairman. He continued his relationship with the greater Detroit area educators after his retirement in 2008 and serving as their regional liaison. Michael was an important contributor to many conferences, served as a Conference Chairman and a member of numerous conference planning teams. He was a presenter at state and national conferences and always a willing last minute volunteer.

Over the years, Michael became the voice of the annual MAEA Awards as the Master of Ceremonies. With his humor, grace and charm, he always entertained the audience and made each awardee feel it was their special night. Michael received the MAEA Retired Art Educator Award at his last awards banquet, 2014 Conference.

Michael could be described as a Big Man, with Big Talent, had a Big Heart, loved Big Hugs and made a Big Impact by not only what he did but who he was.
Editor and art historian Peter Trippi discusses how and why what’s happening in art classrooms today impacts his own work encouraging collectors to talk about art.

Through his magazine, Fine Art Connoisseur, Peter Trippi inspires the collectors who subscribe to look more closely at art, then start talking about it with others, no matter how imprecisely. Explaining what we see and why we like (or dislike) something, focuses us, and helps connect us with ideas and with others who share our interest. Recently Trippi learned about the successes being experienced by classroom teachers piloting the Model Cornerstone Assessments (MCA’s). Their strategies and outcomes are highly pertinent to what’s happening in the fields of connoisseurship and collecting: How do we respond to art personally and in public? How do we describe art and present it to others? What happens when two people have the same responses—or different ones? Significant as the MCA findings are for young learners today, they actually possess the capacity to inform and benefit older viewers too.

This is a ticketed event, open to all NAEA Convention attendees. Light Refreshments will be served.
Tickets are $50 ($40 tax deductible).
All proceeds will support the National Art Education Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization.

About the National Art Education Foundation

NAEF supports visual art educators and promotes the teaching of art through professional development, research, and program sponsorship. As an independent, philanthropic organization, NAEF assists with efforts to represent the teachers of art in America, improve the conditions of teaching art; promote the teaching of art; encourage research and experimentation in art education; sponsor institutes, conferences, and programs on art education; and to publish articles, reports, and surveys about art. The Foundation has supported 286 projects since its inception in 1985.

NAEF funding supports a wide variety of professional activities, including research in art education, scholarships for professional development, promotion of art education as an integral part of the curriculum; establishment and/or improvement of art instruction in public and private K-16 schools; promotion of the teaching of art through activities related to the instructional process, curriculum, student learning, student assessment, classroom behavior, management, or discipline; purchase of art equipment and/or instructional resources.
Since retirement I have enjoyed a fulfilling schedule of volunteering and continuing to develop my own artistic skills. I have volunteered for one and two week “Guest Artist” sessions in the schools of several of my art teacher friends. Most often these sessions deal with instruction in clay. It has definitely been a change and very rewarding to work with high school and middle school students after twenty years of teaching elementary students.

For my own continuing education and in support of our local community college, I am enrolled as a student in Ceramic Studies at the West Kentucky Community and Technical College's Paducah School of Art and Design (PSAD). This unique arts campus is not located on the main college grounds but has been established in Paducah's historic LowerTown Arts District. This district began in 2000 and was known internationally as the “Artist Relocation Program”. Artists were offered historical properties for as little as $1 with low interest loans. Of course, the homes had to be restored including gallery/show room space. Artists from as far away as Australia and Great Britain have relocated here.

State of the art ceramic, small metals and sculpture facilities with highly qualified instructors are surrounded by artist galleries and studios in this arts district. A 30,000 sq ft historic building is currently under renovation and will house 2D and Graphic Design opening in January 2016. I will be able to brush up on the drawing and painting skills that I have neglected.

In addition to regular classes for college credit, PSAD has started a Master Artist series of summer workshops bringing renowned artisans from around the country to Paducah. I have been fortunate to participate in workshops with John Neely, Chris Baskin, Susan Beecher, Fong Choo, Harris Deller, Martha Grover and Lisa Naples. I have gained so much knowledge from these folks as well as from my fellow participants. In the years to come as the PSAD expands its course offerings and its summer Master Artist Workshop offerings, I look forward to expanding my knowledge base. Paducah has also just been prestigiously designated a UNESCO Creative City of Craft and Folk Art as one of only seven worldwide in the Creative City Network. What a great place to live!

I encourage everyone to enrich your own communities by sharing your expertise and artistic experiences with your neighbors in your local schools and colleges.
COMMIT to exhibiting in the RAEA Members E-Gallery. When submitting work please include YOUR NAME AND STATE, THE TITLE OF THE WORK, THE MEDIUM AND SIZE, AND A SHORT DESCRIPTIVE COMMENT. HELP MAKE THE E-GALLERY A SUCCESS.

COMMIT to keeping us updated on member news; changes in RAEA State/Province leadership, gallery exhibits, milestones, deaths.

COMMIT to creating new opportunities for yourself and those around you!

YOU ARE THE RAEA!!! DO YOUR PART TO MAKE THE RAEA A VITAL ISSUES GROUP OF THE NAEA!
SEND Dean Johns the name and contact information of your state/province representative.

COMMIT to informing the editors of subjects you would like to see addressed.

COMMIT to contributing an article for inclusion in the E-Bulletin.

COMMIT to contributing artwork and/or sponsoring an auction table for the RAEA Silent Auction at the NAEA Convention (the only revenue source for RAEA).

DEADLINE FOR ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE E-BULLETIN IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION: DECEMBER 15 FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY 15 FOR MARCH, APRIL 15 FOR MAY, JUNE 15 FOR JULY, AUGUST 15 FOR SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER 15 FOR NOVEMBER.

NEXT DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 15
The RAEA e-Bulletin is sent electronically to current members of NAEA whose membership designation is “Retired” and who have an email address on file with NAEA. It is published in months when there is not an NAEA News. Special issues are published as need arises.

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Lead! Share Your Vision