



June 2022 Newsletter

So much has happened in the past few months that we have almost lost track of time!

Our May meeting featured Jack Montmeat, who drew a beautiful charcoal sketch of HAL's Ruth Resnick Johnson, answered our questions, and discussed his materials. A photo of Ruth and Jack's drawing is on our Facebook site.

Also in May HAL participated in the "Amplify the Arts" festival at the Hamden Center, and in June we were part of the "Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce Festival" at the same location. Both events included face painting, food, arts and crafts, and music. HAL's tent offered children and adults a chance to sit down and draw/paint a picture. We supplied watercolor pencils and paper, a floral display, and lots of encouragement. The participants loved that they could take their artwork home with them! The two events gave HAL a chance to reach people who were unaware of our contributions to Hamden. Our set up, staffing and take-down teams for our two presentations included Brenda Burt, Ruth Johnson, Mary Heron and myself.

Liz Scott is hard at work arranging for our artist presentations for the 2022-2023 year. I don't know if she could top the variety and quality of demonstrations that she brought us last year, but I know she will try! For anyone who does not know HAL's meeting pattern, we offer a presentation at each monthly meeting, September through May. The only exceptions are December and April, when we have openings of our two art shows. John Alvaro has been plowing through vast amounts of information on Audio-Visual equipment that we will be able to purchase, thanks to our Connecticut Cultural Fund Grant. The A-V acquisition will improve sound and video quality at our meetings. Both our participation in the arts festivals and the purchase of the improved equipment will help us meet the goals that we set for ourselves when we applied for our grant.

We are now officially a tax exempt non-profit organization, thanks to Bernard Pellegrino, who donated his time and expertise to the process. Brenda Burt, Liz Scott, and Ruth Johnson spent many hours working on the details involved with the grant and the non-profit status. We couldn't have accomplished either without them – and, of course, Bernie!! This means donations to HAL are tax deductible.

Another first this year was our participation in the Greater New Haven Great Give. We hope to continue being involved annually in this charitable event that serves our community.

The Plein Air group has been meeting at nearby places on Thursdays around 10 am. We are hoping we will get plenty of rain this summer, but less of it on Thursdays! There are some pictures on our website (www.hamdenartleague.org) and on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/hamdenartleague>) of the group painting at different locales. Several of the Plein Air artworks won prizes at the past year's Silverbells and Goldenbells shows. Come join us! It is great fun and VERY informal. My outside painting limit is 2+ hours, but others can go on for 6+ hours on a pretty day!! Thank you, Candace Klein and Floyd Caplan, for making these events possible.

This year dues will be \$30 (July 1-June 30), and will be collected in September. Please make the collection job as easy as possible for Diane Chandler and Brenda Burt who work diligently to keep careful records (another grant requirement).

Here is our proposed calendar for the upcoming year at the Hamden Senior Center:

Sept. 13, 7-9pm

Oct. 11, 7-9pm

Nov. 8, 7-9pm

Receiving for Silverbells, Dec. 6, 4-6 pm

Reception for Silverbells, Dec. 13, 7-9 pm

2023

Takedown Silverbells, Jan. 3, 4-6

Jan. 10, 7-9 pm

Feb. 14, 7-9 pm

March 14, 7-9 pm

Receiving for Goldenbells, Apr. 4, 4-6 pm

Reception for Goldenbells, Apr. 11, 7-9 pm

Takedown Goldenbells, May 2, 4-6 pm

May 9, 7-9 pm

Be sure to save these dates! I look forward to the next time we can all be together.

The Hamden Art League Board would like to acknowledge and warmly thank the following organizations and individuals who were instrumental in our gaining our CT Humanities Grant and in our joining the Great Give, which both make us a stronger organization as we move into the future: CT Humanities Council staff, the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven staff and especially, Director of Grantmaking and Nonprofit Support Jackie Downing, and the Arts Council of Greater New Haven staff, especially former Executive Director Daniel Fitzmaurice and Acting Executive Director Winter Marshall.

Regards,

Rosemary Serfilippi

President, Hamden Art League

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