



Richel, 5th Grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake

Our Mission

is to promote, support and advance visual arts education through leadership, professional development and service

The VAEA News Magazine

is a publication of the Virginia Art Education Association, and is distributed to members three times a year: January, June and September.

Articles

are submitted by the Executive Board and Extended Board members. Contact your Regional President, Division Representative, or appropriate Affiliate Liaison to offer news or photographs for inclusion in their reports.

Contact Information

See page 26.

Student Art

Members send submissions directly to Sean Collins, News Magazine Editor at news magazine.vaea@gmail.com

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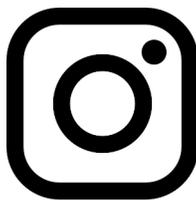
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President's Message

Holly Bess Kincaid

As I reflect on the last two years of a pandemic, I am so proud of all that we have survived together. The first cases of the Covid crisis started in the winter of 2020. None of us could imagine all that would change on that Friday, 13 March 2020. Life has taught me every experience that we have, albeit challenging, can have an opportunity for us to grow and learn. In these last two years, we as art educators have managed to teach virtually, hybrid and in-person. We've learned to make video tutorials for students at home, we've packed art supplies to deliver to students in need, and we've made sure that creativity wasn't canceled. We banded together to share strategies online to meet the obstacles and learned new technology skills together. We've managed to host our first virtual art conference and reinvigorated our social media to make sure that we stay connected through creative prompts and opportunities like artist trading cards or Friday night live events on Facebook.

Just as a marathon runner reaches a point far into the run where exhaustion sets in and they feel the strain on every part of their body, I think art educators are feeling similar exhaustion in problem-solving. Educators across our state are now facing sub shortages and need to cover for their colleagues who are quarantining or home sick. We're facing challenges of morale as we fear for our health and the challenges that face our students and our community. Some of us are challenged by the changes in masking and social distancing policies, not to mention what we will face if the virus spikes again. Also, trauma overtime takes a toll on everyone in our communities.

A quote from Ryan Hall, US Olympic marathoner, fits: "I don't think about the miles that are coming down the road, I don't think about the mile I'm on right now, I don't think about the miles I've already

covered. I think about what I'm doing right now, just being lost in the moment." Likewise, look at our accomplishments and how we have managed to make sure creativity wasn't canceled even during school closures.

One of the many things that helped me through the changes was working collaboratively with colleagues and staying connected with all of you through our social media venues. Reach out to your fellow art educators. You can find an active VAEA Forum through FB if you wish to reach out to others. Our Advocacy Team, VAEA Retirees and Fellows will again be available through our VAEA Hotline if you have questions or need a colleague to give guidance on all things art education!

Reach out to each other through our online community on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. We need each other more than ever to lift us up and share encouragement through this storm of Covid challenges. Conferences invigorate me throughout the year. I loved seeing those who were able to join us in Virginia Beach, and I hope we can connect in NYC in March for the National Art Education Conference.

Stay safe, stay creative and connect to art educators in our community. We ART better together. ■



Eli, 4th Grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake

Vice President's Message

Cheryl Miehl



Art Connects Us in so many ways. It is a basic form of expression and allows us to say what our minds, bodies and heart are processing. I know so many of us have stayed connected with our art communities over these past two years, but I have also realized how my art practice keeps me connected with my inner self and peace of mind. These past two years have challenged us in so many ways and we have learned to adapt our daily interactions drastically. Sometimes these adaptations can leave us feeling alone or even lonely when we are not able to see and spend quality time with those we cherish and love. I have found that art has been my solace during this time and helps keep me connected with myself. It is the place where I can quiet my mind and body and experience a serenity and peace that I find almost nowhere else. I can sit with my thoughts and emotions and use art to express them in a variety of ways. When I need to unburden my mind, I can doodle my mandala drawings and escape the troubles I am processing. Each line is a connection with myself. Sometimes the lines are tight knit and compressed in their layout, other times they flow freely with swirling lines that are light and airy. It is in these contrasting lines that I see a visual story of my thoughts and feelings. Have you taken a moment to think about how art keeps you connected with yourself? If you haven't, I hope you will take a moment to think about and reflect on how art keeps you aware of and able to traverse your daily experiences.

Our fall professional development conference was another connection that served as a source of inspiration and solace for my soul. We met and spent three days together in the beautiful Marriott Oceanfront hotel, which was a gorgeous space! I know my heart was happy and full to see so many of

my favorite art peeps all in the same place once again! We had over 100 presentations, many of them hands-on! We were joined by ceramic artist Ehren Tool who was entertaining as he shared his experiences and talent with us in the general sessions. I have heard nothing but rave reviews from those who were lucky enough to attend one of two sessions held at the Virginia MOCA. There were so many wonderful moments shared between members. My heart was full from the spirit of collegial sharing and support I felt! And just as quickly as it arrived, the wonder was done, and those of us in charge of crafting what we hoped was a wonderful and fulfilling conference are digging in to prepare for the 2022 conference, which is being held at the Westin in Richmond, and hosted by our central region art stars! Be on the lookout for lots of opportunities to share in and help craft the upcoming conference experience! We can always find ways for everyone to contribute! ■



Kylie , 4th Grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake

Advocacy

Jimi Herd



Hello VAEA Members!

Our association continues to play a vital role in connecting art educators throughout Virginia in many meaningful ways!

Through our annual conferences, social media, teacher hotline, website, group projects, and presentations, our connection as a group has never been stronger!

As we welcome a new year full of possibilities, I encourage you to remain active in your advocacy efforts as we champion the importance of the visual arts within our schools! Below are just a few ways to stay engaged!

-Tag local leaders in posts spotlighting your program!

-Stay up to date on local and state legislation for the arts by checking the Virginia Legislative Infor-

mation System (L.I.S) at <https://lis.virginia.gov/>

-Seek opportunities to write and speak about visual arts education to decision makers!

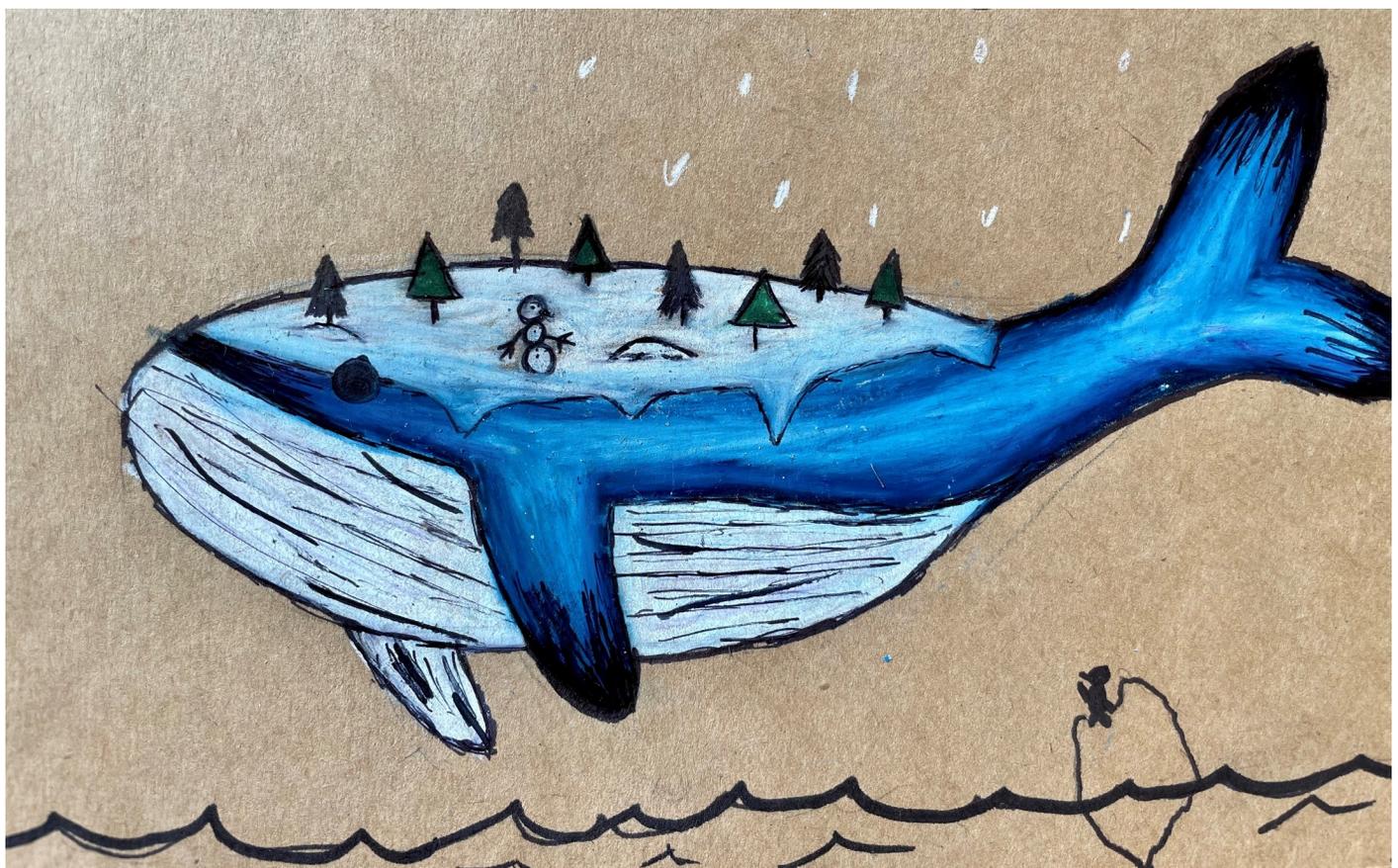
-Connect and contribute to the greater art education community in strengthening our impact!

-Seek opportunities to collaborate with other contents in sharing the success and potential the arts display in all forms of learning and engagement!

Be on the lookout for further ways to connect during our second annual Art Advocacy Month in January and other exciting developments to our teacher hotline!

On behalf of the VAEA Advocacy Committee, we wish you all the best in 2022!

-Jimi, Tisha and Sandee ■



Zoe, 5th Grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake

Archives

Jess Beach



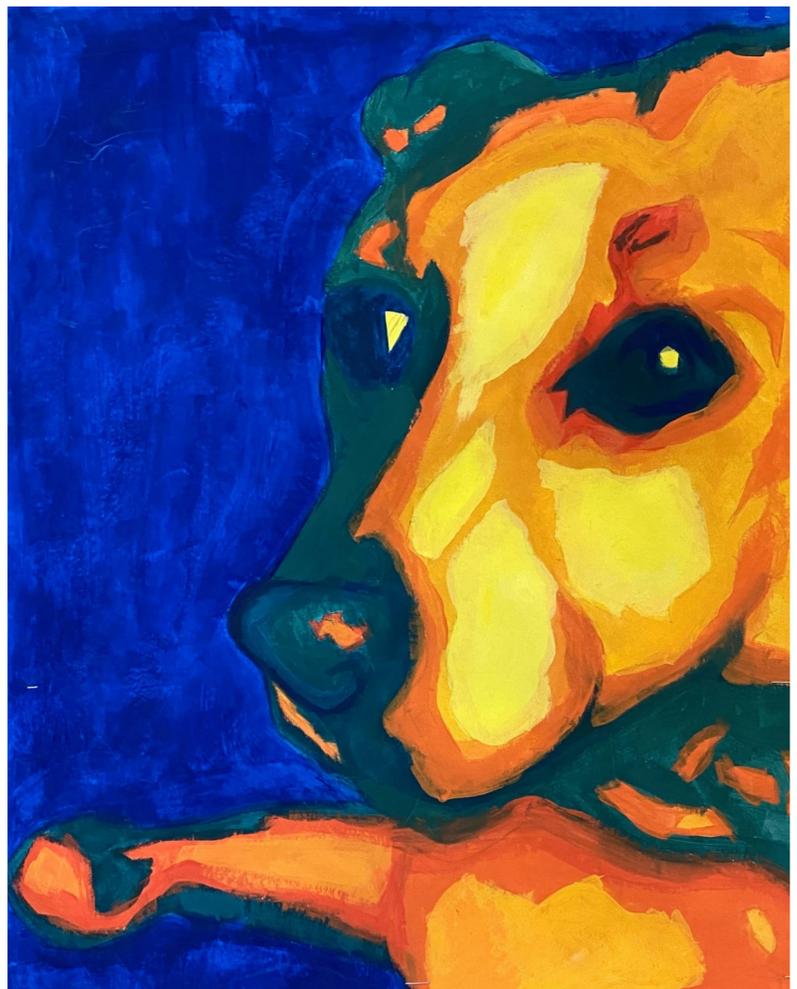
Art keeps us connected in so many ways. As I look back on my tenure as Archivist it has been an unusual two years, to say the least. Little did I know how much our worlds would change as art teachers and a community... I took this position right before the quarantine of 2020. My first newsletter article compared the current events to educators during the 1908 pandemic. Even when writing that I had no idea how closely that would hit home. We would soon be able to relate to those who suffered in our past.

It was my art community that kept me connected throughout this extremely stressful time. Thank you all for being a part of that. It was you who I turned to on social media platforms when I faced the daunting task of simultaneously teaching virtual and in-person students. It was you who bolstered me and gave me ideas on how to get supplies home to students. It was you who I joined with to make artists trading cards—just for a piece of someone else’s world while trapped within my own four walls. It was you with whom I sat online throughout countless Friday Night Draws and our first ever online conference. Honestly, without this connection of my VAEA community, I am not sure how I would have fared these past two years.

But something was still missing. We were connecting in new ways but lacking that critical piece of being together. Until this past fall when I eagerly signed up for conference as I always do, excited to learn from my colleague “art stars.” But it wasn’t till I rolled my suitcase into the hotel that I knew what I needed. I saw my tribe. My dedicated friends

who love art just as much as I do! Finally. Together. Again. The next few days were a whirlwind of amazing ideas, laughter, and much needed intellectual stimulation. It is these moments that I treasure in our community. Connecting, but also nurturing the passion for us all to continue to go back to our own counties and cities and be art stars for our own students.

As I move on from Archivist, I think back on these past record-breaking years. They will forever go down in the record books, not as a disaster, but most likely the most creative years of our history. ■



Genevieve, 11th Grade, Park View High School, Julie Cacciola

Awards

Meghan Hamm



Awards Announced

On October 16, 2021, we celebrated with an Awards Brunch at the conference in Virginia Beach to recognize this year's award winners. We had a wonderful group of nominees this year!

There are many awards recognized by VAEA and NAEA and you can find them in the awards section of each of those websites. We have many people deserving of the many awards honored and I hope you take a look to see if you know someone you can nominate. There is an adjudication process at the regional and state levels using a rubric to assess nominations of all categories. Your vita is key to this process and I encourage each of you to document all the wonderful things you do with your school, outside organizations, VAEA, and NAEA.

Art Educator of the Year

This year's Art Educator of the Year has been deserving of this award for some time. The dynamic and dedicated educator and artist: Helena Agnew received the honor of VAEA's Art Educator of the Year.

Helena has a BFA in Art Education and Painting and Printmaking and an MIS in Painting and Glaze Chemistry from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has served as Department Chair, written curriculum, and co-designed online learning platforms for Chesterfield County Public Schools. Helena has served on the CVAEA regional board and on the VAEA state board. She is an R.E.B. awardee, a prestigious grant offered in Chesterfield County. With the grant, Helena traveled to the Southwest to study Navajo ceramics. There she achieved the status of a Wisdom Keeper, entrusted with the young to help them grow and learn.

Helena has mentored countless pre-service teachers, presents top-tier workshops and lessons at regional and state conferences, and collaborates with her peers to create art. Most notably is the "Monster Plushie" project and show.

Her students created plushie dolls that a partner elementary school art class drew.

"Helena is so passionate and her energy so contagious, that her conference workshops are usually sold out on the first day they are offered" said Peggy Wood. And, when she sells her beautiful and artful clothes at conference, her racks are almost empty at the end of the night.

"Helena is one of the brightest shining stars in the art education world for over three decades."—Sidney Ames

NAEA Southeastern Region Nominees

I would like to recognize the following VAEA 2020 State Award recipients who have been put forth to represent Virginia in the NAEA Southeastern Region adjudication process. Congratulations!

- Libya Doman, Elementary Division
- Sarah Clark, Middle Division
- Liz Bahl-Moore, Secondary Division
- Natalia Pilato, Higher Education Division
- Allison Byrne, Museum Division
- Michael Gettings, Admin & Supervision Division
- Libya Doman, SE Art Educator of the Year

NAEA Nominees

I would like to recognize the following VAEA 2019 State Award recipients who have been put forth to represent Virginia in the NAEA National adjudication process. Congratulations!

- Dr. Matthew Ravenstahl, Secondary Division
- Twyla Kitts, Museum Division
- Pat Franklin, National Art Educator
- Justin Sutters, Higher Education Division was eligible but chose not submit nomination materials this year

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Supervision and Administration

Mike Kalafatis



In June, the Department of Education issued a report documenting the effects of COVID-19 on American students. The report noted that the pandemic has widened inequities in the educational system and has been particularly harmful to at-risk youths and students from schools in lower socioeconomic areas.

The specific effects of the pandemic probably won't be known until years from now. However, we can all agree that students and teachers have experienced trauma and educational challenges unlike anything we've seen before.

Arts Education could play a vital role in our students' recovery. As leaders in the field, we will have a significant impact on policy, advocacy, and our students' social emotional learning. We will also be developing and supporting a teacher work force that is exhausted, and over extended.

At the conference in October, we agreed that there is great value in connecting with one another in person. In 2022, supervisors will be returning to in-person quarterly meetings. Tentatively we are planning to meet at the VMFA in February, May, and September.

Our goals to start the year will be:

- Teacher Recruitment
- Teacher Retention
- Continued alignment of the 2020 Standards to individual school division's curricula and pacing guides

Mentorship: supporting one another

I'd also like to congratulate our 2021 Supervisor/ Administrator of the Year: Aaron Stratten. Currently he serves as the art specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools, supporting over 350 teachers and 125,000 students on an annual basis.

Through the years he has mentored countless art teach-

ers and administrators. He has been a mock interviewer for the NAEA, a supervision and administrative panelist, and speaker to prospective art teachers at George Mason, University of Maryland, and MICA. He has also been an adjunct professor of Art Education at George Mason University from 2009-2019.

Over the years, Aaron has presented at numerous state and national conferences. From 2009- 2016 he presented annually in Minneapolis, Baltimore, Seattle, New York, New Orleans, and Chicago, as well as being a consistent conference presenter at our VAEA Conferences since 2007. He has also been a guest writer for the VAEA News-magazine and an art education blog writer since 2014.

When it comes to pedagogy and curriculum writing, few have given more to our state in recent years. He served as the high school chair on the VDOE's 2019 Virginia Standards of Learning revision team for visual art. Following this experience, he organized and led Fairfax County's K-12 Art Program of Studies revision to align with the 2020 Standards of Learning he helped write. He worked on 'Virtual Learning in Art', a PD website, in collaboration with supervisors and art educators from across Virginia in 2020. He has also been a member of the Virginia Department of Education's Fine Arts Advisory Committee since 2019, has been a VDOE Webinar Presenter and serves on the 2021 Virginia Teacher Performance Evaluation System workgroup.

Aaron serves as his region's Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Regional Program Coordinator. In this role, he oversees an art award program that has more than 4000 participating students and over 500 students recognized at the local level.

Susan Silva writes, "This past school year presented a litany of challenges; however, Aaron was proactive and thoughtful in tackling those challenges. He fosters the

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Virginia Department of Education

Kelly Bisogno



Art Education Ecosystem

Arts education is driven by powerful connections and partnerships to support, advance, and improve art education. It takes all of us working together to produce significant results and achieve lofty goals. Here are a few of the connected partners that work together here in Virginia:

Professional Organizations - VAEA connects educators with the mission to support, promote, and advance visual arts education through professional development, leadership, research, and service.

Local Education Agency - Local schools/divisions provide leadership for art curriculum development at the school or division level.

Educators - Educators work in partnership students, parents, administrators, and colleagues to implement high quality instructional programs.

Advocacy Groups - Groups like the Virginia Coalition for Fine Arts Education monitor proposed legislation for potential impact on fine arts, and advocate for arts education with the mission statement that: "Arts are essential to a board-based curriculum that is derived from rigorous standards."

Virginia Department of Education - As the VDOE Coordinator of Fine Arts, I coordinate and administer the review, revision, and imple-

mentation of Visual Arts Standards of Learning for Virginia public schools.

The above list is only the starting point for exploring the many partners we have in art education. This list could go on to include institutions of higher education, content creators, researchers, museum educators, textbook companies, school boards, parent organizations, and many more. With so many partners in this work, you can imagine how powerful and important connections are between each of these individual parts of the whole. I am learning that real, impactful, and lasting change involves engaging numerous connected partners to reach a desired outcome.

Feel free to connect with me by emailing kelly.bisogno@doe.virginia.gov ■



Kylie , 4th Grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake

Division News

Elementary

Sean Murphy



As many of us have returned to in-person teaching, the struggles have been real, but because of what we teach we have been fortunate to create a special bond with our students which gives us insights into their personalities, their struggles, their culture, and a sense of who they are as people. After a year of teaching virtually I decided to leave the school where I taught at for 21 years and join a new faculty and school where I knew basically no one. I quickly realized this was a bigger challenge than I expected. Setting up a new art room, getting to know new colleagues, learning the names of 500+ students and connecting them to half a face (the other half in a mask of course), and helping them assimilate back into the world of structure/expectations required a lot of deep breaths and re-centering. As the first couple of weeks settled down, I began to see the excitement in the students returning to the art room and the pride in their work. I received many nice compliments from colleagues about seeing bulletin boards filled with art around the school. I had parents (masked and socially distanced) showing me their child's artwork as the screensaver on their iPhone and emails from proud parents who had student work framed. These were all reminders about how art connects us and how the beauty of creating something can bring joy to others.

It was wonderful in October to attend the VAEA Fall conference and see other art educators and learn and grow from them. I empathized with fellow teachers about the struggles they were having readjusting to in-person, masked teaching. The connections with these people, some of whom I see only once a year, build a community of trust, appreciation, and admiration. Being able to stay connected virtually during the pandemic was nice, but it does not compare to the in person experience. We are reminded by art that we are not alone, and that a common love and appreciation of human expression is an important connection

in our lives. Art makes us aware of our similarities and our differences; it gives voices to people who are underserved in our communities and empathy to their struggles. Being together, connected by a common cause, renews our spirit and makes returning to the classroom a lot easier.

Regretfully this is my last article as the Elementary Division Chair for VAEA. I have enjoyed meeting many of you both virtually and in person over the past couple of years. I am still around if you need anything, and please feel free to reach out and stay connected. Come 2022, Scott Russell will be taking over. Scott is an amazing educator whom I have had the privilege of knowing over the past couple years and the winner of VAEA Educator of the Year award in 2019. You will be in good hands with him. Thanks again for all the amazing work you do with your students, districts, and communities. Remember, you are the reason why many students come to school. Keep up the good work. It has been an honor and a privilege. Take care. ■



Zoe, 5th Grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake

Middle

Kristie Hein



Going back to school has been joyful in many ways. It is just so good to see our students' smiling eyes. Navigating our schools' COVID protocols, awkward social interactions, and foggy glasses, art keeps us connected to our students, and the products of their hands and heart, in real life.

It was wonderful to connect with many of you in real life, at the VAEA conference in Virginia Beach in October. Congratulations to Andy Harris, our VAEA Middle Division award recipient. Andy teaches in the Tidewater Region at the Old Donation

School in Virginia Beach. Way to go, Andy!

At the Middle Level Division meeting, we held space for concerns that you are facing in this school year, mischief from TikTok challenges (fingers crossed that has passed!), student numbers and teaching schedules. Remember to access the VAEA's Art Advocacy Hotline, where you can fill out a google form for any concerns you may have. As they say on the website, "There is no question too small or issue too large!"

Art is vital to our lives. A recent OpEd article headline caught my eye: "Arts Education is essential to COVID recovery" reprinted in the Richmond Times Dispatch and written by John Lithgow, Deborah Rutter, and Natasha Tretheway. This article advocates for arts education as a necessity for our students' emotional and intellectual health. I encourage you to read it and share with your colleagues and administrators. Teaching creativity is a skill that builds resiliency and allows people to thrive in challenging circumstances.

Continue to work with your students at the center of your mission, keep a finger on the pulse of your "why" so that when things get rough, you can shift your focus and gain perspective. At the middle level, this may be one of the last times that a student ever will have a visual art class in a school setting. Make your time with your students count. To share words of wisdom from a dear uncle, "Not every day is a great day, but every day is a good day." Recognize that each day that we can be with our students, is indeed a good day. ■



Sophia , 5th Grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake

Division News Secondary

Rachel Principe



Guest Author Helena Agnew

I am honored to be the guest author for the Secondary Division article and I hope I can offer some useful insights to both new and veteran high school teachers. All of you are aware of the continued concerns for our students' emotional well being. There is one place where they can heal their personal traumas and thrive...your classrooms! I thought I would write about things that we all are probably experiencing this year, and also give you a peek into some of my own student's thoughts on how they feel in my classroom studio as well.

Veteran teachers, I know you are giving more to your job this year than ever before. Managing supplies in a no sharing environment in your studios has never been more challenging, right? I teach on a cart this year in four different rooms. It seems like I am working harder to organize and set up my classrooms. Resign yourself to move at a slower, more deliberate pace. Your students will meet you there willingly. I am not pushing my students to work at the pace I have pushed them in years past. I think a slower pace for me gives my students a chance to connect with me in a different way. I am more available to linger longer at their tables and really listen to what they have to say. We spend more time discussing concepts, methods, and ideas now that I allow myself to slow down in my teaching. Those of you who know how "high energy" I am understand that I have to work hard to flow more gently with my teaching this year! Our students have more to say than we can imagine, especially after the last 2 years. I am continually amazed at their resiliency and how their "post Covid" voices come out in their art work, aren't you? Many of you veteran teachers are also mentors to a new teacher, or have stepped up to personally take a new teacher under your wing. Your experience is invaluable. It is a gift you can offer to art educators just entering the field. My mentee this year is actually one of my former high school students. Yes-that makes me feel as old as dirt! I wonder how many of you are currently teaching with your own former students as colleagues. It is one of the greatest joys I have experienced so far. As I approach retirement next year, I am preparing to pass the torch on to my mentee. She brings fresh new ideas to the table every day and is way more tech-savvy than I will ever be! I know without a doubt that my students will be in good hands

after I am gone. I am learning to let go, with grace.

New teachers, get to know your students on a personal level. You are a big part of their lives at school. Have you been told yet by a student that your class is their favorite? Don't worry, you will hear that so many times over the years. Be a witness to their struggles, their challenges and their successes. Notice them so they don't feel invisible in your studio. Be flexible with your due dates, especially for the kids who have missed a lot of days due to Covid illness or quarantine. I have more student absences than I've ever experienced in 25 years of teaching K-12. It's so important to tell them how much you missed them while they were gone and be lenient with time extensions for project completion. Some days, I abandon my lesson plan all together because an impromptu opportunity arises to connect on a deeply personal level instead. A sudden "free journal" day springs forth and we all just make a beautiful mess in our sketchbooks to address the current mood of the classroom. My students are always so grateful when I am flexible and acknowledge their need to express themselves freely in the moment. They will thank you in many ways. Keep every single sweet note that you receive from your students and go back through them periodically, especially after a particularly difficult teaching day. It will remind you just how important you are. It will affirm how critical the arts are to the well-being of your students. It will be what keeps you going on the hardest of days.

Here are a few lines from some student notes I received before Thanksgiving. "I like your class the most because I don't have to work hard or think about reading chapters in a book or taking copious notes. I can just get messy and have fun with my ideas." Don't have to work hard?! It's funny that they don't think making art is work-I love that! And another line- "The best part of my day is having Crafts first period. It puts me in a good mood and helps me get through Physics second block." And another favorite...."Thank you Mrs. Agnew for letting me rummage through your closet and take whatever I want and make art out of it." Here's the one that made me cry...."You always seem happy to see me walk into your class and even when I was a butt head, you still give me another

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Higher Education

Karin Tollefson-Hall



Reconnections and New Connections through Conference

There was no better place to reconnect with VAEA friendships and create new connections than Virginia Beach in October! We are very grateful for the hard work that the Tidewater region committed to provide us with an outstanding return to in-person conferences this fall. The Higher Education division meeting enjoyed welcoming several new members from 2020 and 2021. I am pleased to share short excerpts of their experiences.

VCU, Dr. Lillian Lewis has been an artist/educator/researcher in P-12 U.S. public schools, art museums, community nonprofits, and higher education prior to joining the faculty at VCU. Lewis' work explores collaborative learner-led inquiry with and through materials, investigations in and of natural and built environments, and intersections of conceptual art and pedagogy.

ODU, Ginger Brinn, Lecturer of Art, received an M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education from Armstrong Atlantic State University and a B.F.A. in Art Education from VCU and is expected to receive a Ph.D. in Education, Art Education from VCU. Previously she was an Adjunct Faculty member at VCU and GMU.

GMU, Dr. Hayon Park is an Assistant Professor of Art Education at George Mason University. Informed by critical, poststructuralist, and post-developmental approaches, Dr. Park's research and teaching focus on the politics, ethics, and aesthetics of childhood art and culture. Her research

has appeared in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes at the intersection of visual arts education and early childhood studies.

JMU. Dr. Hannah Sions, Assistant Professor of Art Education at James Madison University. Dr. Sions worked as an elementary art teacher for six years teaching students in rural, urban and suburban areas. She also worked with the Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium as a research assistant, participating in the evaluation of a regional magnet school in the Richmond area whose mission included diversifying the regional CS work force by providing students from all backgrounds an opportunity for an innovative education.

Radford, Dr. Stuart Robinson is an associate professor of art and chair of the art department at Radford University. He has shared his creative scholarship in regional, national, and international forums, in various publications, and he was named as a 40-under-40 artist by the Shenandoah Valley Art Center in 2018.

Stuart has exhibited his fiber art and installations in national, juried shows. CUA, Dr. Delane Ingalls Vanada, Associate Professor of Art Education, conducts research focused on learner-centered pedagogy, the psychology of creativity, a/r/tography, and innovative methods for teacher preparation. Ingalls Vanada is an award-winning teacher and director of K-12 art programs—receiving the national Kennedy Center Distinction Award and named NAEA's Pacific region Elementary Educator of the Year in 2004. ■



Kayla, 5th Grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake

Division News Museum Education

Laura McManus



During #VAEA2021, I attended a session led by Hampton University Museum. I wanted to learn about the museum and the symbolic paintings of John Biggers (1924-2001), a graduate of Hampton University (then, Hampton Institute). During the session, I discovered a wealth of resources to share with you. Please forgive the blatant name-dropping, but this museum deserves a spotlight!

Did you know that the Hampton University Museum is the country's oldest African American museum and one of the oldest museums in Virginia? I did not. The collection offers a two-hundred-year history of African American art from the earliest practitioners to contemporary artists. Pioneers like Henry Ossawa Tanner (The Banjo Lesson was acquired in 1894!) and Joshua Johnson, the earliest documented professional African American portrait painter, are in the collection. Influential artists from the Harlem Renaissance on view include Archibald Motley (1891-1981), Lois Mailou Jones (1905-1998), Aaron Douglas (1899-1979) and Augusta Savage (1892-1962). Important American artists from the mid-19th century are at the museum: collage artist, Romare Bearden (1911-1988), social realist, Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000) and sculptor and printmaker, Elizabeth Catlett (1915-2012), to name a few. Self-taught artists include Purvis Young (1943-2010) and Thornton Dial (1928-2016). Well known contemporary artists include Sam Gilliam (b. 1933), Margo Humphrey (b. 1942), David MacDonald (b. 1945) and Sonya Clark (b. 1967).

Back to John Biggers: In the early 1990s, Biggers created a massive two-panel mural for University's library. Each panel is 20 feet high and 10 feet wide. The mural is a metaphor for the experience of growing from a child to an adult and of growing into wisdom and harmony with the universe. For the two panels, called "House of a Turtle" and "Tree House," Biggers painted

in his signature style of heavily patterned, layered, and narrative symbolic imagery. I also learned that Biggers was a student of Viktor Lowenfeld, so I geeked-out over that fact!

In addition to presenting works of art by African American artists, the museum collects artifacts and works of art which illustrate the cultures, heritages and histories of African, Native American, Oceanic and Asian peoples. The African collection, which began in the 1870s, contains objects from nearly 100 ethnic groups and cultures. A 17th-century iron ceremonial sword with copper and brass inlay from the Democratic Republic of Congo and carved wood memorial twin figures, known as "ere ibeji," from the Yoruba people of Nigeria are just two of the objects you will encounter at the museum.

The Native American Gallery features ceremonial, decorative, and utilitarian works from the Anishinaabe, Lakota, and many others. Another interesting fact: from 1878 until 1923, the then-named Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute educated over 1,400 American Indians representing 66 tribes. This historic American Indian Education program was the forerunner of the federal government's late 19th century boarding school system.

Thank you to Kenlonae' Turner and Chrystal Johnson, PhD. for their insightful session. Due to the pandemic, the Hampton University Museum is only open to the campus at this time. I look forward to exploring the museum in 2022. I hope you have a chance to connect with this untapped art and cultural resource in Virginia!

Policy

Barbara Laws



It's that time again! When you receive this newsletter, it will be about time for the Virginia General Assembly to convene. This is the year for a long session which runs from January 12 to March 12. Pending current recounts, it appears as though the House of Delegates has flipped from Democratic control to Republican, which may bring a different focus to the proceedings. Further change could be occurring in the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) with the election of a Republican governor. At the very least we expect the appointment of a new Secretary of Education.

The Virginia Coalition for Fine Arts Education (VCFAE), comprised of arts and arts education stakeholders, will also continue to work together to ensure we address any challenges. We, as usual, will be monitoring the legislative process, identifying legislation that requires support or causes concern, and responding in kind. If we need to oppose any proposed legislation, we count on you to contact your legislators.

Despite all of the challenges of the past couple of years, there are a number of things in the works. The proposed fine arts diploma seal is making its way through the VDOE and the Virginia Board of Education approval processes. Our data dashboard project which will provide universal access to searchable information on arts classes, student enrollment, and teacher licensure is in its earliest stages of implementation. The VCFAE is waiting to hear from the National Endowment for the Arts regarding our grant application to support the dashboard project.

As an outgrowth of the NAEA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force and Commission recommendations, a cohort of ED&I State Liaisons has been appointed. The liaisons will be tasked with serving as "a communication conduit between NAEA leadership and their respective states regarding ED&I-related strategic goals, priorities, and organizational needs." VAEA President Holly Bess Kincaid has appointed Tiffany Floyd and Barbara Laws to this role. The first meeting was November 30. More information will be forthcoming. We are also fortunate to have the expertise of VAEA's Libya Doman, who served on the NAEA ED&I Task Force. ■

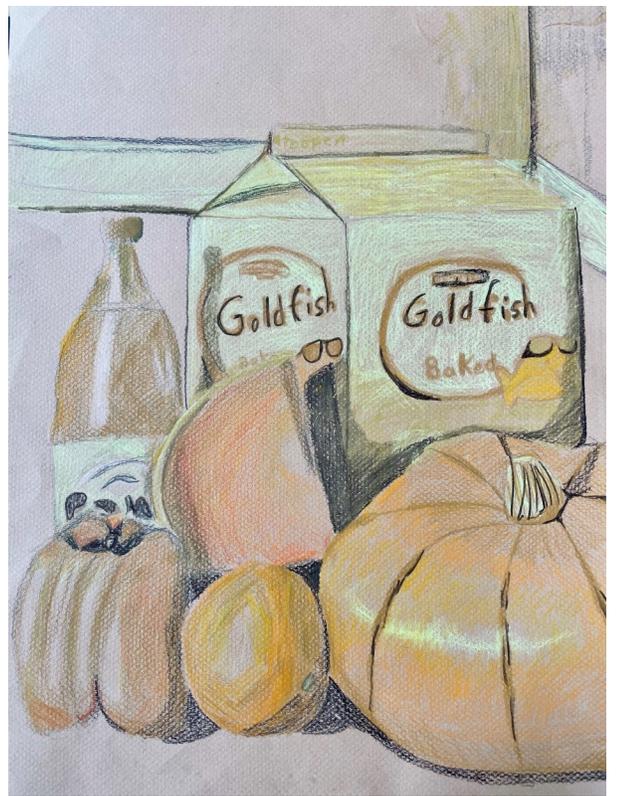


appointed. The liaisons will be tasked with serving as "a communication conduit between NAEA leadership and their respective states regarding ED&I-related strategic goals, priorities, and organizational needs." VAEA President Holly Bess Kincaid has appointed Tiffany Floyd and Barbara Laws to this role. The first meeting was November 30. More information will be forthcoming. We are also fortunate to have the expertise of VAEA's Libya Doman, who served on the NAEA ED&I Task Force. ■

Mae, 8th Grade, The Hill School, Linda Conti



Nolan, 11th Grade, Kettle Run High School, Tisha Burke



Ada, 5th Grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake





Emily, 12th Grade, Potomac Falls High School, Elizabeth Chodrow



Dora, 12th Grade, Park View High School, Julie Cacciola



Chloe, 9th Grade, Brentsville District High School, Cheryl Miehl



Maddie, 12th Grade, Kettle Run High School, Tisha Burke

Membership

Patsy Parker



Memory is the acquisition, storage, retention, and retrieval of information. Memory shapes who we are, how we respond and how we move forward. Our experiences make us our own best teachers because problem solving and regrouping after failure makes us stronger. We guide our students using our own experience, leading them in to discover their capabilities and also themselves with each art challenge we present.

This process begins with our pre-school/elementary experiences and continues through retirement. Our generalized education takes an aggressive turn upward when we choose our major in college. Memory is the glue that holds us together when we first step on the campus. It broadens far into our careers as art educators.

When participating in school system and VAEA weekend workshops, state conferences and NAEA conventions, please remember that what shapes us as art educators is how we acquire, store, retain and retrieve a vast amount of information crossing many areas. We are able to collect this information in a short span of time in a collegial setting and shape or reshape our art curriculum.

This year's fall state conference is in Virginia Beach and scheduled over two and a half days. Art

educators from across Virginia will present sessions concerning cross curricula units, art history, media and technique. General session speakers are brought in so they may present information concerning current trends in art and art education. These experi-

ences are not just about what ideas that can be replicated in the K-12 art setting but rather how lessons and units may be modified or intensified using your memory to shape your art program into a more enriching and memorable experience for your students.

The VAEA provides group support, mentoring, and connections with art educators across the commonwealth. These experiences have proven to be an asset to the ad-

vancement of art education, propel the VDOE's mission of professional excellence and provide a vehicle to stay current with the larger goal of art education.

When you speak to/share with/inform a colleague about the VAEA you are not "selling" a membership. You may be offering a "lifeline" to an art educator who is or feels isolated and has no concept of the reciprocation offered by participation in the VAEA. You will be giving them an opportunity to make new memories. ■



Henry, 8th Grade, The Hill School, Linda Conti

Research

Yiwen Wei



Dr. Yiwen Wei, Research Representative

I could not wait to skim through the latest Art Education journal (Volume 74, No.6). A photo of our outstanding VAEA president, Holly Kincaid, caught my attention. Using photo collages, she recreated famous artworks with a pandemic theme and encouraged students to play along. In that article, the authors Sarah Ackermann and Trina Harlow (2021) promoted art teachers' innovative ideas and tremendous efforts to support one another on social media amid the pandemic. The participating art teachers generously shared their creative works and inspired countless members.

Art keeps us connected. Even during the most challenging time, people find ways to reach out and connect with their friends, families, and communities. Some created art or played music together via video calls, while some mailed cards or distributed food to express their love and care. Living through the pandemic, we experience isolated experiences together. We talked about the collective trauma,

complex emotions, and desire to reprioritize our lives. In response to the needs, the editorial team of Art Education launched special issues, including "Experiences in Distance and Isolation: Art Stories from the Pandemic" and "Reflections in Isolation as History in the Making" over the past year.

The pandemic dramatically shifted the way we teach and learn. Since March 2020, it has impacted my teaching and students' practicum experiences. Still, we were fortunate to have an incredible amount of support from many local elementary art teachers who opened their classrooms, hosted the students, and in the meantime, navigated through the uncertainties in the shift to online instruction and scheduling. Despite the challenges, we learned to be resourceful, flexible, and resilient. We discovered useful online drawing tools and acquired new skills needed for online instruction (e.g., Zoom, Google Meet). We have learned to integrate technologies into teaching and have more access to teaching resources

through the internet. I am optimistic about the future and look forward to exploring the potential of incorporating digital learning tools into physical manipulations of art materials. ■

Reference:

Ackermann, S., & Harlow, T. (2021). The battle of COVID-19: Art teachers as indestructible force. *Art Education*, 74(6), 28-32.



Riley, 12th Grade, Kettle Run High School, Tisha Burke

Virginia Commission for the Arts

Casey Polczynski



The Virginia Commission for the Art's (VCA's) mission is rooted in connecting the arts to all Virginians. The VCA's Artists in Education (AIE) program has two immediate opportunities to align artists with Virginians. One opportunity is through the Commission's [Teaching Artist Roster](#) (TA Roster). The TA Roster is an online database of vetted Teaching Artists representing a wide range of artistic disciplines. Each Teaching Artist's webpage provides a biography, program description (including virtual options), contact information, residency/workshop fees as well as availability. The TA Roster is an active and engaging group of artists who are passionate about the arts and sharing their expertise in schools, community centers, summer programs and after-school programs. Anyone can learn more about the Teaching Artists by visiting the VCA Teaching Artist Roster, and by contacting the artists directly to plan and explore programming opportunities.

Another VCA opportunity for connecting artists to Virginians is through the Artists in Education Express (AIE) grant. AIE is very different from the typical grant opportunity.

AIE is a rolling grant program, which means that funds are available until fully allocated. AIE is for short-term programming, less than twenty (20) hours in total for a maximum request amount of \$1,500 with 15% cash match. That means if a school requests \$1,500, the school would need to provide a cash match of \$225 for a total budget of \$1,725. Budgets can exceed this amount. Applicants that utilize a VCA Teaching Artist from the TA Roster significantly reduce required application information making the process very streamlined. The AIE application opened July 1 for programming taking place mid-August through June 30, 2022. Applicants are encouraged to apply at least six weeks in advance of the program. Funds are currently still available; however, the VCA requests that you reach out in advance of program planning to verify funding availability. For more information about VCA's AIE Program, click [HERE](#).

For questions about any of the Commissions Artists in Education Programs contact :



Danielle, 10th Grade, Kettle Run High School, Tisha Burke

Regional Messages **Blue Ridge**

Liz Reid



Can art truly connect us? Absolutely. Attending the VAEA conference at Virginia Beach in October was a testament to art connecting us back together after a long year of physical separation. Attending the conference was a time to reconnect face to face to our friends, co-workers, and art leaders. So many of us spent time sharing stories of the past year, how we survived and coped with all the challenges of creativity through personal teaching circumstances. And although last year's ways of teaching and learning for both educators and students was very different from previous years, the discussion of Covid challenges was brief. Conference attendees were so much more excited to share all the classroom and curriculum success stories that came of Covid learning. The inspiring discussions sparked a direct connection to art for all of us at the conference. Stories popped up at scheduled events and meetings, planned workshops, the museum tours and activities, and even during gatherings at mealtime. The hotel's atmosphere helped the discussion of art connecting us. The variety of artwork chosen to display within the hotel lobby and public grounds was unique and tailored to its natural setting, the ocean. The overall atmosphere of the conference reestablished and kindled how art can connect us by allowing each participant to clearly see the connection to art: in ourselves, from those around us, and in the environments and setting in which we choose to travel. . ■



Central

Lydia Walters



Artists reflect the events of the world. As we look back into art history, we are able to gain understanding and broaden our perspectives on what happened before our time. Through art, we are also able to better understand one another, often without having to use any words at all.



In my teaching career, I have been lucky to witness the personalities of so many humans through what they create in the room. I am a big believer in letting my students choose their subject matter within our projects. This often reveals things about my students that I would have never known otherwise. I feel so fortunate to have a job in which I can connect with the people around me in a universal language that we are all capable of speaking: art.

There are many beautiful things about art, but perhaps the most beautiful is the way that a person's fleeting emotions can freeze in time on a piece of paper or a canvas. It's far rarer for a person to share these vulnerabilities through words, but we get to witness them in such a raw, unfiltered state when they are expressed through genuine art. Children are often the makers of some of the most genuine art. Seeing a student in a true state of flow is always so inspiring, and it reminds me to continue to nurture my inner child artist as often as possible.

At its core, art really is the truest expression of human imagination. It still gets classified and graded and put in fancy galleries and, much like everything else, it has been monitored and manipulated and has only been held to any value when created by a select few. But we are in a time now where art is more exploratory, open and loud than ever before. It is forcing people to stop and discuss and dig deep, and if we continue to move in this direction, art can absolutely change our world for the better, and connect us universally. ■

Regional Messages Northern Virginia

Julie Cacciola



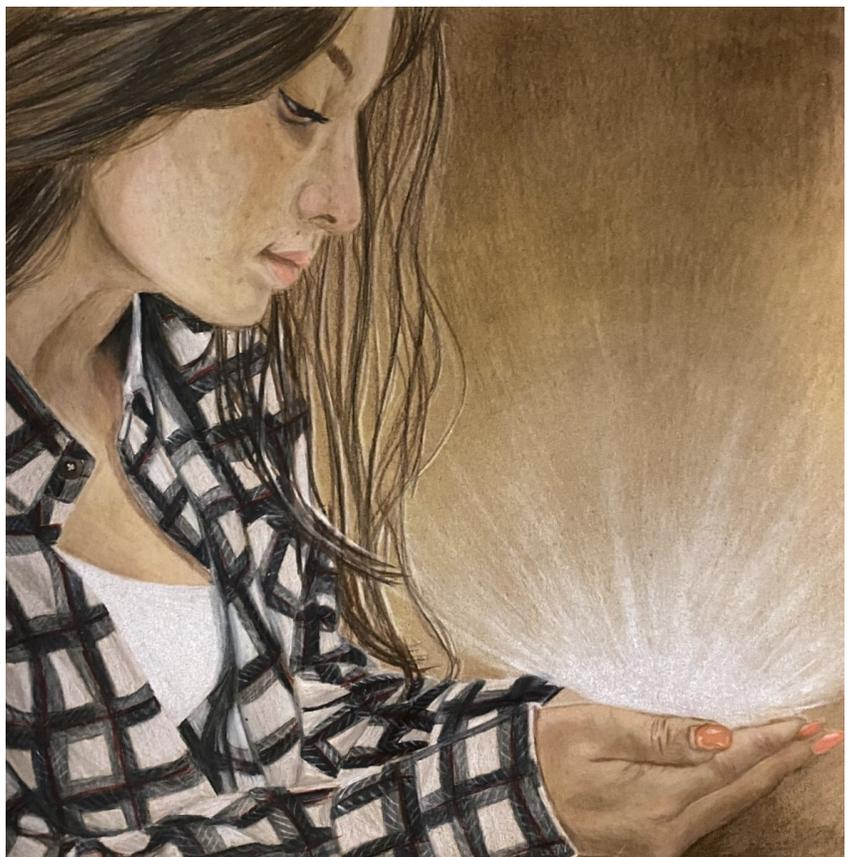
Happy new year to all! I hope this school year has been enjoyable for everyone. I know that I was very happy to have the students back in the building. I hadn't realized just how much I had missed them all. Certainly, there are days when silence can be cathartic, but after a whole year of teaching to "dots", I am very grateful for the chatter as students work on their projects.

We have desperately needed connections throughout the pandemic. Art is one such connector. I have learned of teachers doing collaborative projects to acquaint students with in-school artmaking and working together. A few elementary schools have celebrated Dot Day (September 15) by creating installation displays with different circle themed projects. Each grade level would have a different project. A middle school in Fairfax County had each 6th grader create a different tile that was part of a well-known painting. The tiles were then displayed together, Chuck Close style. A high school art teacher had her students work together to create large collage color wheels from magazines. Each table of four students made a color wheel. Final projects were displayed at a local hospital. These projects help foster social interaction, communication and problem solving. The results are incredible!

As Covid continues to rear its ugly head, it's important to keep ourselves, our kids, and our classrooms safe. What measures have you taken to ensure that your supplies remain clean? I know it can be daunting, especially with many young artists sharing supplies. Some teachers have mini kits that are assigned to each student. Other

teachers have students wash hands or sanitize at the beginning of each class. It is indeed a challenge, especially with time being so limited. If you find yourself struggling with a way to keep supplies clean, please reach out to colleagues for assistance. You are not alone in this fight. Please reach out to other VAEA members!

On that note, I would love to hear about any other challenges or victories that you guys are experiencing in the classroom. Many art teachers are alone in their schools, and it is hard not to feel isolated. I have learned over the years just how important it is for art teachers to lean on one another for support. Please share your stories and concerns. You can email me at jcacciola@lcps.org. I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable new year. Keep on Arting!! ■



Emily, 11th Grade, Brentsville High School, Cheryl Miehl

Southwest Lauren Balint



As this school year goes on, I find myself still trying to put the pieces of everything back into place...or finding a new place for them. The return of the in-person



VAEA Conference helped me even feel more like I was reconnecting with pieces of myself that I haven't been able to locate. Seeing art teacher friends, having moments to talk and reflect with others, having a chance to make some new art, and exploring new techniques allowed me to realize how much art keeps us connected. I'm very grateful that I had the chance to attend this year's conference and the connections I was able to make.

The Southwest Region is planning some get-togethers during the upcoming months to keep connected. In December, Lynchburg areas teachers are getting together, with Roanoke and Montgomery areas following in January and February. Meet and Makes (via Zoom) are still giving our members the moment to connect on the first Wednesday of the month. On April 1st and April 2nd, SWVAEA will be hosting our Spring Mini-Conference at the Maier Museum of Art as well as other local schools, studios and art centers in the Lynchburg area. We are excited to continue planning this as the winter progresses.

As spring rolls around, we are hoping to start to have more in-person events but are still planning some virtual activities to keep our region connected, such as still having a virtual YAM art show, which will link in-person YAM art shows together. We look forward to some weekend workshops and evening social times.

Also don't forget we have an Instagram account, so feel free to follow us @swvaea. If you are a member of SWVAEA and have things for us to share, email us at swvaea@gmail.com or message us on Instagram. ■

Tidewater Leigh Drake



"The most valuable resource that all teachers have is each other. Without collaboration our growth is limited to our own perspective." Robert John Meehan



The year's theme was "Art Keeps Us Connected". I cannot think of a better theme after leaving fall conference this year in Virginia Beach. It was so wonderful to be back face-to-face working with and learning from each other in the pristine beauty of the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. With the constant struggles we face in our daily lives, it was great to be afforded the opportunity to be together again and see those smiling eyes above our face masks. The conference at the beach was two years in the making due to COVID-19. A HUGE thank you to the Tidewater Region conference planning committee. Their tireless efforts made for such a great experience for all who attended both near and far. We are fortunate to have such dedicated educators as yourselves. To be with "our people" again was just the inspiration we all needed for what has been a very tough year. It provided us with that motivational push we all needed.

Art does not show people what to do but opens the window to discover potential and growth. Throughout the pandemic, I have felt how important it is that we need to be the teachers that cheer for other teachers. After all, ultimately, we are all in this together. As an individual, one can only gain so much, but with the connections and conversations with our artsy colleagues, we can go further than we have ever imagined. Even through troubling times, art offers us a powerful way for us to collaborate and share our experiences with each other.

Continued on page 24

Distinguished Fellows Class of 2021

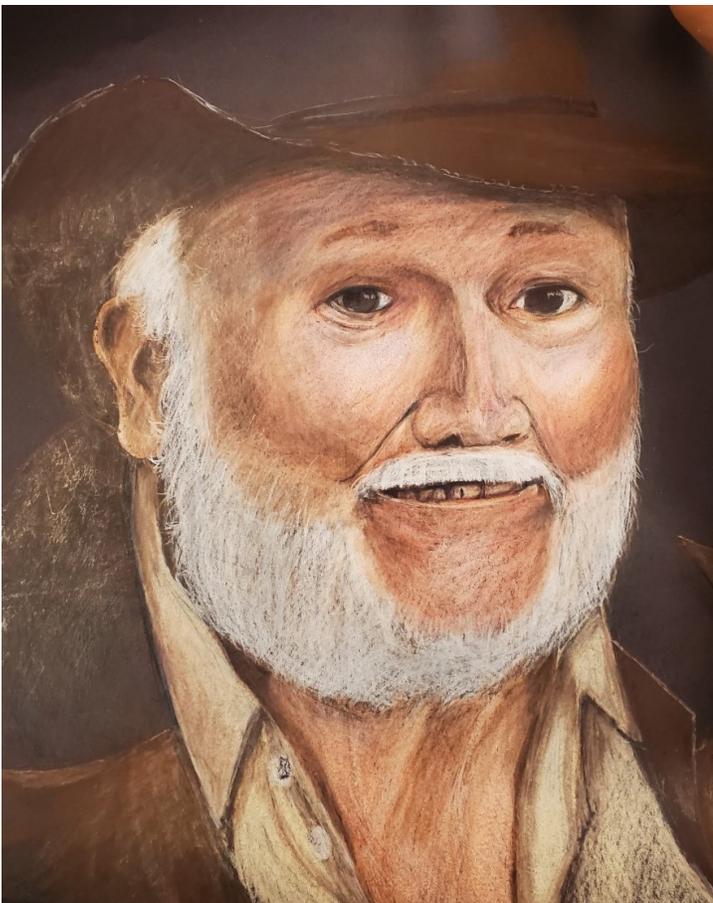
Distinguished Fellows of the Virginia Art Education Association are members of the VAEA who are recognized for their long and distinguished leadership and service to the Association and to our art education profession. Since being established in 2012, twenty-three fellows have been selected and then ratified by the VAEA Board. We are pleased to recognize the Distinguished Fellows Class of 2021.

During his long and illustrious career Dr. Charles Bleick, VCU Associate Professor Emeritus, has held many leadership positions - too many to enumerate in detail but here's a sampling. During his time at VCU, he has served as Director of the Art Foundation Program, Chair of the Art Education Department, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in Doha, Qatar, and Interim Chair for the Department of Art History and for Art Education. Highlights from his

lengthy record of service to the profession include NAEA Museum Division Director and VAEA Vice President, state conference coordinator, and President. He was also instrumental in coordinating the Virginia Alliance of Arts Education and received the NAEA Virginia Art Educator of the Year award. His nominator says the following: "Chuck Bleick is beloved by his former students for his integrity and passion for art education...just ask them! Having served on the VAEA Board with him, I have seen the same passion for the VAEA and integrity carrying out each elected state office."

Our second member of the Class of 2021 is Dr. Karin Tollefson-Hall. Also a leader with many hats, she is currently James Madison University Interim Director for the School of Theatre and Dance; Associate Director, School of Art, Design, and Art History; and Professor of Art Education. Her service to our profession includes terms as Southeastern Region Higher Education Division Director, NAEA Professional Learning through Research Committee member, and NAEA Art Education Journal reviewer. Her contributions to the VAEA include serving as VAEA Blue Ridge Region President and multiple terms as VAEA Higher Education Division Director. Many of you will remember the wonderful 2019 annual conference hosted at JMU under her leadership as VAEA Conference Site Coordinator. Karin has been recognized as the VAEA Higher Education Educator of the Year and has received an award for the NAEA Outstanding Student Chapter. One supporter says, "She is a remarkable art educator who has taken the best of our storied past, taken on the most challenging issues of our current and (post?)-pandemic art teacher training, and is taking JMU art education into a bright future with calm, knowledgeable, and wise decision-making. I consider her among the best that our profession has to offer."

Congratulations to both Chuck and Karin! Thank you for your service. ■



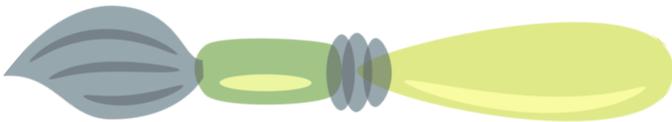
Cesar, 12th Grade, Brentsvillie High School, Cheryl Miehler

Continued

Continued from Leigh

As a TVAEA board, we have been working hard to schedule some great events and activities for the Tidewater Region and all our VAEA members. Our events are a great place to meet and share creative ideas with fellow art educators throughout our region as well as the state. We are in the process of planning our annual Winter Workshop, to be held this year at Old Dominion University on February 5th, 2022, from 9am to 2pm. We will have 6 sessions for participants to choose from in a mini conference-type workshop setting. We are looking forward to having our members together again this February.

Additional information can be found on the VAEA website and the Tidewater Region Facebook page for our up-and-coming activities and workshops. ■



Continued from Mike

growth of teacher leaders by creating and supporting collaborative learning teams by geographic location as well as art discipline. These CLT's provide art teachers the opportunity to lead and support each other in small communities. These collaborative teams were an incredible asset during the past school year, meeting virtually several times a month to keep teachers connected."

Andrew Watson writes, "He constantly pushes teachers and administrators to think deeper and re-examine our preconceived notions for what visual arts education should look like and how we can be most effective in engaging our students. For many years, he has nurtured a highly collaborative and deeply progressive visual arts educational culture in Fairfax County. This has had lasting influence across the region, state, and nation. " ■

Continued from Rachel

chance to try again. None of my other teachers love me like you seem to and I really need that right now, so yeah-thanks!"

If you ever need validation, seek it not from parents, colleagues or administration. Just sit down at a table in your classroom and listen. They will give you everything you need. You will understand why you chose to be an art educator. I hope each and every one of you has as rewarding a career as I have had!

In closing, let me congratulate Jessica van Veenhuyzen, who is the VAEA State Art Educator of the Year for the Secondary Division! I know how much time and effort it takes to be an excellent teacher in your building, in your county, and in your service to the VAEA organization. All of you are capable of reaching this level of excellence, so I urge you to document and archive all of your achievements by keeping your VITA current and updated. It is, in fact, your resume and it contains the best of what you do in a variety of professional arenas. I am always in awe of how amazing many of you are and find myself humbled and impressed each time I sit in on one of your workshops at conference. Looking forward to connecting again with you at the 2022 Conference in Richmond! Have a great rest of the year-finish strong! ■



Continued

Continued from Meghan

Elementary

VAEA applauds each of you for your work with our tiny young artists. Thank you for teaching these students the skills and knowledge to love and appreciate art with every fiber of their being.

The Regional Winners:

- Angie Salerno (Tidewater)
- Julie Crowder (Central Virginia)

Elementary Art Educator of the Year

Angie Salerno is an elementary art educator from Suffolk County Public Schools. She has taught at Kilby Shores Elementary School for the past 27 years. She is very active in TVAEA, VAEA, YAM, and NAEA. She has recently been elected to serve on the VAEA board as Secretary after many years serving on the TVAEA board in various positions. Angie presents at Tidewater workshops and VAEA conferences. Angie is also an active volunteer with the Girl Scouts and her church's missionary team as the Arts & Crafts Director. She is always ready to get involved. Angie participates in the monthly ATC and Friday Night Draw sessions, paints murals in the school and community as service projects, mentors student teachers, exhibits student art in the community, and even found time to write virtual art curriculum during the pandemic. Over the past 13 years, Angie has collected 8033.5 plastic bags from the community for TREC to keep them out of landfills. Thank you, Angie for your dedication to your school, students, community, and VAEA!

Middle School

The VAEA applauds these art educators for teaching the most challenging population of students how to take ownership in their creative process and encourage critical analysis to prepare them for secondary and life. Honestly, I don't know how you do it!

Middle School Art Educator of the Year

Andy Harris, from Tidewater Region, has a BFA in Fine Arts, a master's in special education, and a Gifted Education Endorsement. Andy teaches at Old Donation School in Virginia Beach, teaching out of the box and unique lessons and working collaboratively with his students. He explores different approaches to art education through interdisciplinary learning. Andy is also a well-respected artist in the community by participating in exhibitions and frequently serving as a guest artist at TVAEA workshops and at MOCA. Andy gives his time and expertise to help others celebrate and embrace the visual arts.

Secondary

The VAEA applauds these art educators for teaching our young adults to think critically and creatively, collaborate, communicate and be citizens in our world.

Secondary Regional Award Winners:

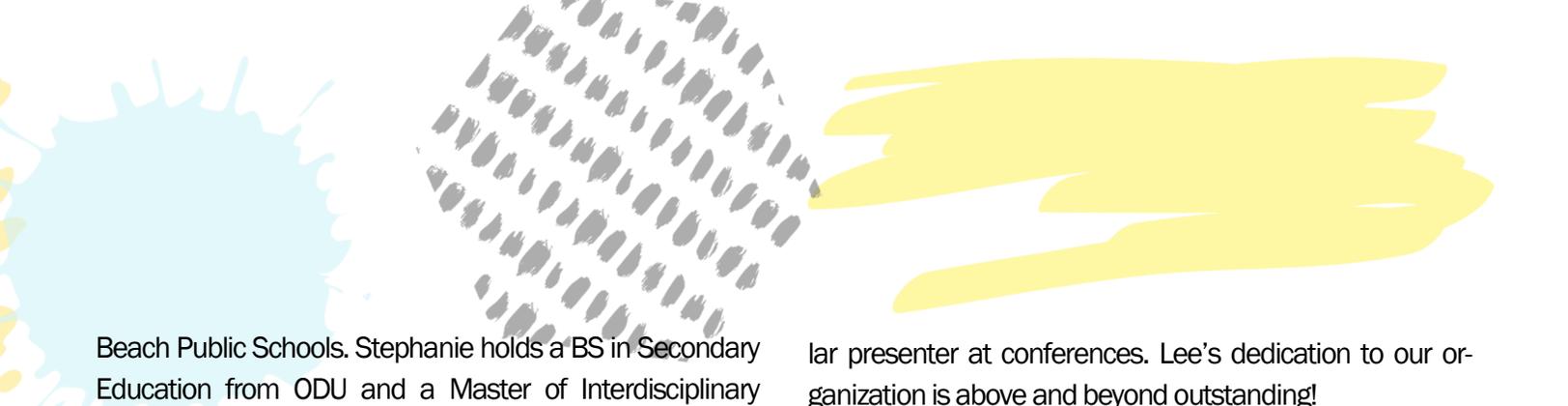
- Nina Good (Central Virginia)
- Jessica van Veenhuyzen (Tidewater)

Secondary Art Educator of the Year

Jessica van Veenhuyzen has an associate's degree in Science and BA's in both studio art and Art Education. Jessica is a sponsor for the National Art Honor Society at Cox High School since 2013 where she has been lead art teacher, a cooperating teacher, and founder of the "Falcon to Falcon" support group which allows the art room to be a safe place for students who need social and mental support. Jessica encourages her students to be involved with the community, locally and internationally, with the Memory project, the Bra-ha-ha design contest, and the Ellie Wiese art contest. These opportunities help her students to use art as a powerful tool for social change and community involvement.

Retired Art Educator of the Year

Stephanie Slate is a retired Art Specialist from Virginia



Beach Public Schools. Stephanie holds a BS in Secondary Education from ODU and a Master of Interdisciplinary Studies from VCU. Over her 34-year career in Virginia Beach Public Schools, Stephanie was a mentor and a leader in the community, school system and TVAEA. She was a cooperating teacher, involved in her school's PTA, and participated in curriculum development. She has chaired the YAM committee and served on the board for TVAEA for many years. Stephanie continues to serve students in her community by offering extracurricular outdoor art camps.

Supervision & Administration Regional Award Winners:

- Aaron Stratten (Northern Virginia)
- Chris Buhner (Tidewater)

Supervision & Administration Art Educator of the Year

Aaron Stratten is the Visual Art Education Specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools. He has BAs in Studio Art and Art Education, a Master of Interdisciplinary Studies, Studio Art and an endorsement in K-12 Supervision and Administration. Aaron is an educator and leader who contributes to the art education profession by creating research-based curriculum, working on DOE's state standards, writing a blog, and creating visual arts resource web page for not only his teachers, but teachers across the state. Aaron serves as the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Regional Program Coordinator. He fosters growth of teacher leaders through collaboration and support.

Outstanding Service inside of the Organization Award

This year, it isn't surprising to award Lee Darter for her service inside the VAEA. Lee's creation of the Friday Night Draw lessons became a highlight for VAEA members during the pandemic. She also helped our organization share events, creative ideas and encourage our community during times of isolation as our first official Social Media Chair. Lee has been a leader on the VAEA board as Elementary Chair, Youth Art Month Chair, Advocacy Chair and a regu-

lar presenter at conferences. Lee's dedication to our organization is above and beyond outstanding!

Outstanding Service outside of the Organization Award

John Brewington is the Fine Arts Coordinator for Virginia Public Schools for the band, orchestra, chorus and theatre programs and the Music Director and Conductor for the Tidewater Winds. John has been involved and supportive of the art in Virginia as an educator and leader of the Virginia Coalition for Fine Art in Education. He has brought the fine arts associations together as a united force. John's leadership has led to advancements such as the Fine Arts seal for high school diplomas and a statewide data project that involves gathering arts education data in Virginia's schools. Through the Coalition, the Virginia Board of Education is kept abreast to the concerns of each of the fine arts disciplines.

Congratulations to all of our nominees and awardees!

Youth Art Month

Jauan Brooks &
Kelly Shradley-Horst



Youth Art Month Can Help Your Students Feel Connected

March feels pretty far away but planning for events needs to start now. If you have not yet thought about how Youth Art Month can happen in your classroom, school, division or region, now is the time to research ideas, get together with colleagues or just figure out which of your existing programs you are going to highlight and document (yes, it really is that simple - document what you already do).

If you would like to participate in the annual YAM flag design competition, a template is posted on the VAEA website (Advocacy>Youth Art Month). The rubric used for judging can also be found there. Students must include the YAM logo but can then focus designs on the state of Virginia, art and art supplies or the 2022 theme: Art Connects Us. Deadline: Postmarked by December 17.

Several divisions submitted digital documentation for Youth Art Month 2021 with portfolios. Recognition for the portfolios submitted in July were given at the VAEA conference in Virginia Beach. Because we wanted to recognize as many school divisions as possible, we awarded each participating division a piece of our YAM puzzle.

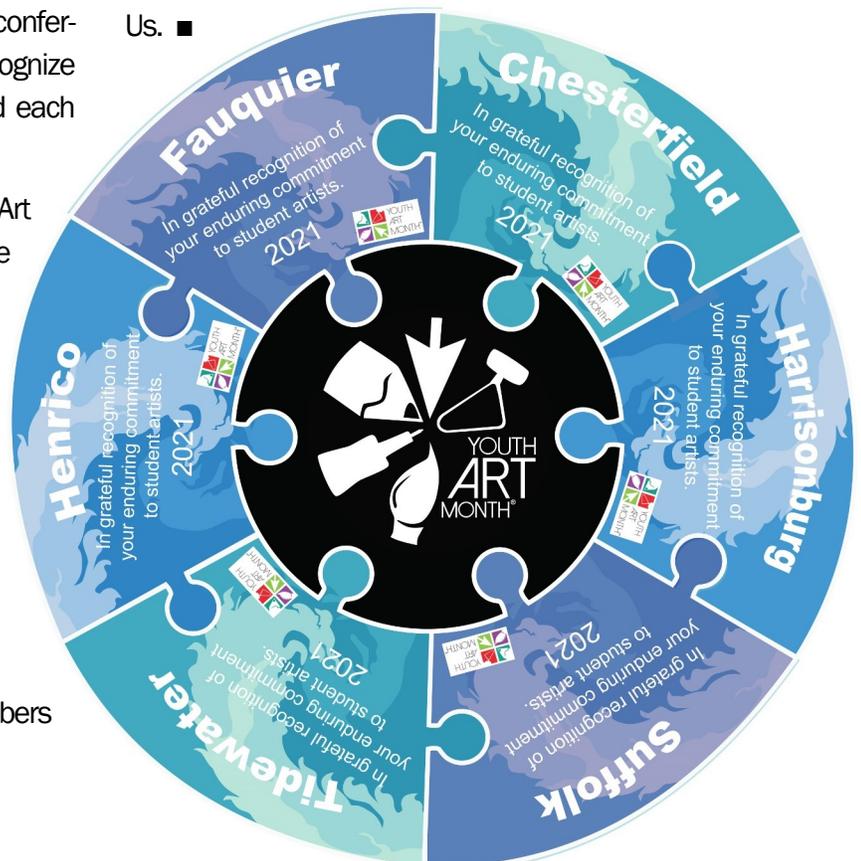
Virginia took the lead nationally as our Youth Art Month Portfolio documenting YAM 2021 across the commonwealth was given the Award of Excellence. We will receive the official award from the Council for Art Education at the national conference in New York. Thank you for your contributions. Without the excellent documentation from many schools and divisions we could not have compiled such a wonderful portfolio. Visit the VAEA YAM webpage to see the 2021 portfolio.

The following Youth Art Month Committee members connect us to each region:

- Blue Ridge - Liz Reid ReidEF@pwcs.edu
- Central - Rachel Burgett rachel_burgett@ccpsnet.net
- Northern - Julia Schickel julia_schickel@yahoo.com
- Southwest - Karen Camden Camdenke@lcsedu.net
- Tidewater - Angie Salerno angelasalerno@spsk12.net

Please don't hesitate to contact these members or your VAEA YAM co-chairs Jauan (jmbrooks@harrisonburg.k12.va.us) and Kelley (kshradley@harrisonburg.k12.va.us) if you have questions or would like to become more involved.

If you would like to participate in Youth Art Month 2022, please take a few moments to review the website. You can gather ideas (bottom left), grab some logos for publicity and plan how you are going to document your efforts. You can find many ways to share how Art Connects Us. ■



Retiree News

Ginna Cullen & Carla Jaranson



“ART CONNECTS US.”

What a logical statement. Without the arts where would we be? The explosion of technology has vastly emphasized the crucial necessity and the role of the arts in our lives. How would we have navigated the current pandemic without employing visual communication?

We should never forget that the arts in our society, in all of its forms, are necessary and cannot be ignored. As a culture we are creators, makers, collectors, designers, observers and so much more. Where would we be without books, galleries, television, film, architecture, and the images therein just to name a few?

As artists and art teachers we have the unique opportunity to connect with the coming generations. It is our obligation

to remember that we need to make sure that we communicate the value of how art connects all of us.

During the past two years while we were not often able to meet in person as art teachers and artists, some of us discovered that the lack of personal interaction while making art and creating lesson plans was difficult. The energy generated by personal contact was sadly missing. This fact became very obvious during the VAEA conference at Virginia Beach. There was such joy everywhere because we were finally able to connect in person with each other.



2021 Youth Art Month award winners.



2022 Board Contacts

Executive Board



President

Holly Bess Kincaid
hollybess@gmail.com



Past President

Linda Conti
lconti@hillschool.org



Vice President

Cheryl Miehl
cherylmiehl@gmail.com



Secretary

Rachel Burgett
rachel_burgett@ccpsnet.net



Treasurer

Truly Matthews
truly@virginiamoca.org



Executive Secretary

Peggy Wood
wood.vaea@gmail.com

Exofficio Members



VA Dept. of Education

Kelly Bisogno
kelly.bisogno@doe.virginia.gov



VA Commission for the Arts

Casey Polczynski
casey.polczynski@vca.virginia.gov

Regional Presidents



Blue Ridge

Liz Reid
lizzart68@gmail.com



Central

Lydia Walters
lydia_walters@ccpsnet.net



Northern

Julie Cacciola
Jjcatch7@aol.com



Southwest

Lauren Balint
lauren.balint@gmail.com



Tidewater

Leigh Drake
leigh.drake@vbschools.com

Division Representatives



Elementary

Sean Murphy
smurphy@asps.k12.va.us



Middle School

Kirstie Hein
khein@rvaschools.net



Secondary

Rachel Principe
rachel.principe@gmail.com



Higher Education

Karin Tollefson-Hall
tollefk1@jmu.edu



Supervision

Mike Kalafatis
mckalafatis@henrico.k12.va.us



Museum Education

Laura McManus
lmcmamus@randolphcollege.edu

Committee Chairs & Affiliates



Advocacy

Jimi Herd
JimiHerdVarts@gmail.com



Archivist

Jessica Beach
jessicabeach4@gmail.com



Awards

Meghan Hamm
meghan.hamm@djj.virginia.gov



Membership

Patsy Parker
p2artkrt@gmail.com



Policy

Barbara Laws
Bblaws@verizon.net



Research & Curriculum

Yiwen Wei
weiy2@vcu.edu



Retired Educators

Ginna Cullen (Co-Chair)
ginnacullen@gmail.com



Retired Educators

Carla Jaranson (Co-Chair)
carlajean8@gmail.com



Social Media

Lee Darter
artroomblog@yahoo.com



Webmaster

LeAnne Poindexter
leanne@bigrockstudio.com



Editor

Sean Collins
newsmagazine.vaea@gmail.com



Youth Art Month

Jauan Brooks (Co-Chair)
Brooksball@comcast.net



Youth Art Month

Kelly Shradley-Horst (Co-Chair)
Kshradley@harrisonburg.k12.va.us

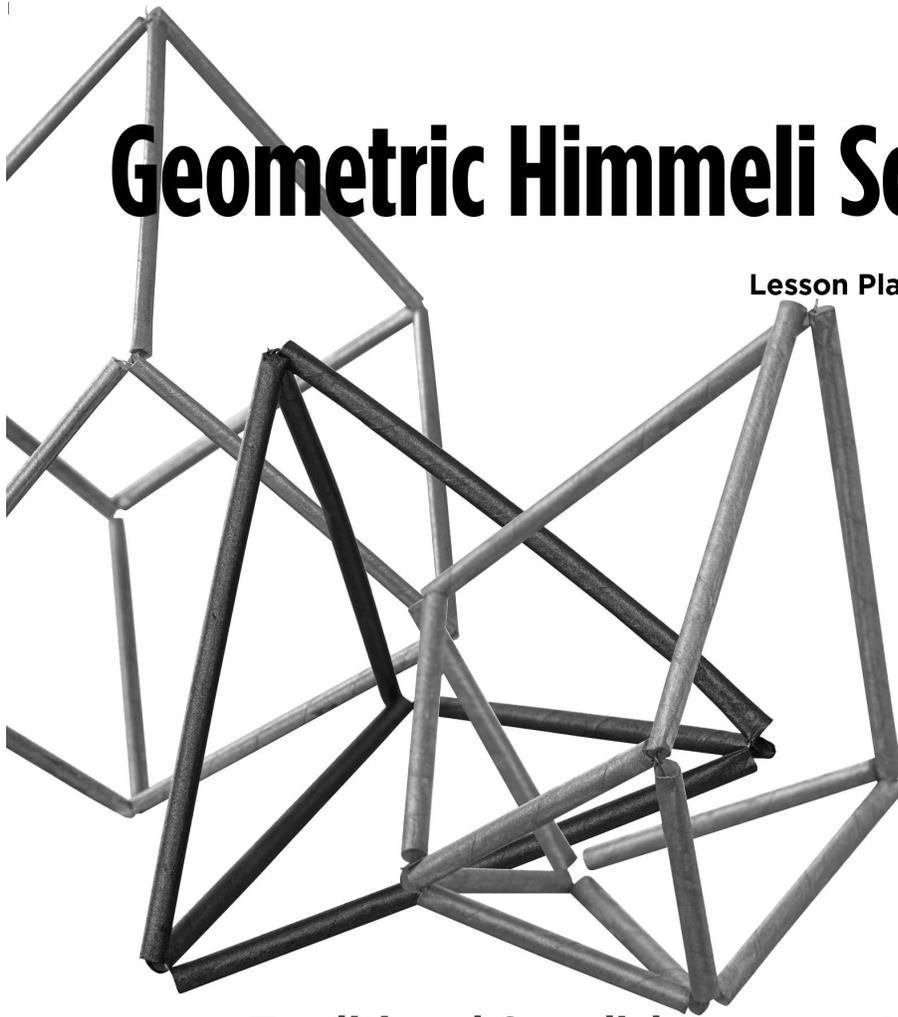
Send reports and articles to Peggy Wood, Executive Secretary, at wood.vaea@gmail.com

Submit photos and student artwork by using the form at vaea.org/news-magazine

Send address changes to Patsy Parker, Membership Chair, at p2artkrt@gmail.com

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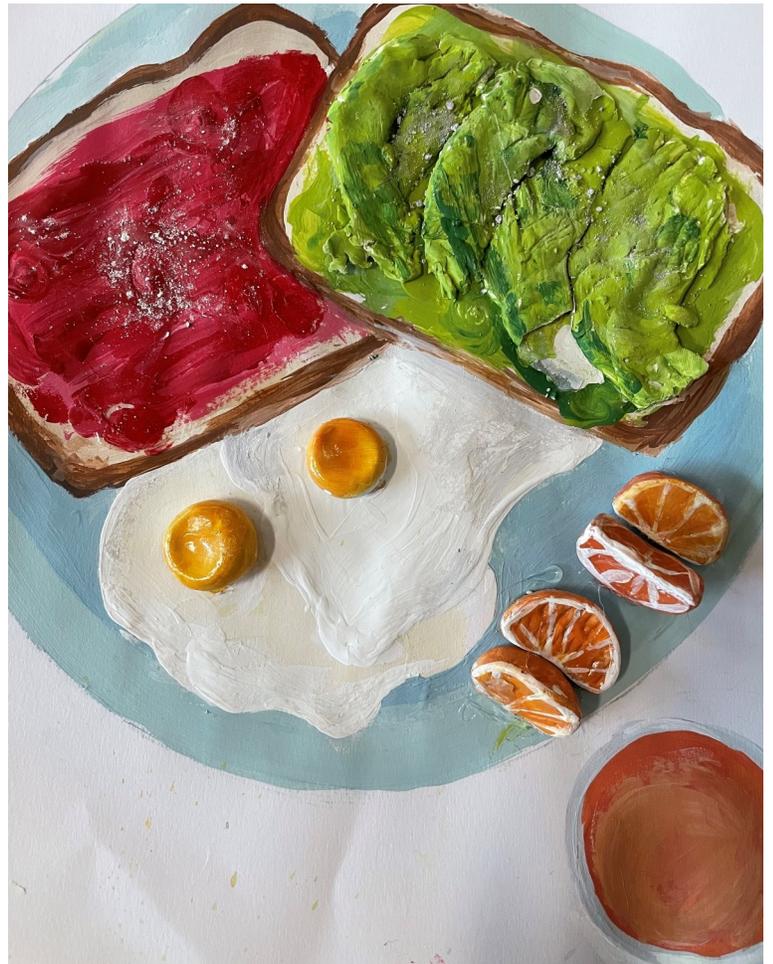


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