

Harbor Art Guild celebrates art in the community for 10 years

by Mary Lou Gregory

After our five-year celebration in August 2013, Harbor Art Guild continued bringing artists together and art to the community through our activities and Six Rivers Gallery in Hoquiam.

An informal art show called "Artpourri" brought gift shop items into the gallery area while the gift shop area was being re-painted and reorganized. Kathleen Graddy was our president with Lee Staley as VP, Barb Shillinger, secretary and Jenny Fisher, treasurer.

The Gallery had a nice article in *The Daily World*. It mentioned Tina Karvonen's amazing Psyanka eggs and not long after *The Daily World* featured Tina Karvonen. And in November Jenny Fisher was featured in the paper.

Our Holiday Extravaganza followed and we had a good celebratory opening on the same day as Ho Ho Hoquiam's seasonal fest.

In late January 2014 we held the second retrospective show of art by Larry Hagethorn with the help of Dolores Hagethorn and curated by Lee Staley.

Our "Black & White" Show remains a favorite in our collective memory. This colorfree show, curated by Tina Karvonen, demonstrated our creativity in a unique way.

Gary Douglas Lennon curated the Awakenings Show, celebrating Spring in 2014.

The 6th Annual Young Artists Show, curated by Jenny Fisher and assisted by Erik Pederson exhibited the works of 70 young artists. Our annual young artists shows recog-



Our December 2015 meeting brings lots of fun with an ugly sweater contest. Modeling are Gary Lennon, Robin Harlow, Ken Hunt, Danni Rodewald and Tana Roland.

nized these youngsters as artists. Many proud parents, grandparents, and friends attended our opening celebrations and bought art.

A Fiber Arts Show came next and brought out more talent from our members in basketry, handmade paper, knitted work, quilted pieces, needlework and more.

The next show, Pacifica, curated by Lee Staley, displayed pieces that show influences from the Pacific Ocean and its environs.

For several summers we held Starving Artists yard sales and always had gently used art supplies as well as other typical items. Proceeds from these sales helped pay the bills necessary in running a gallery.

Officers in HAG included R.P. Myers, president; Mary Lou Gregory, VP; Donna Miller, secretary; Dawn Huntsman, treasurer; Kathleen Graddy, past president; and boardmembers: Heidi Davis, Nancy Eichenberger, Robin Harlow, Ken Hunt, Tina Karvonen, Ed Schroll,

Barb Shillinger and Lee Staley.

HAG did double duty in September 2014. On September 19, we opened the "Rhythms of our Lives" show at our gallery, curated by Danni Rodewald and Lee Staley. Also, we had a show at the Grays Harbor College Library's gallery, titled "Directions," curated by Kathleen Graddy.

Feeling a need to reflect on where we wanted to take Harbor Art Guild in the future, HAG Board members held a retreat in October 2014. One of the outcomes of this retreat was this newsletter which has been compiled and edited by Mary Lou Gregory since that time. Members of HAG have contributed articles.

Our Holiday Extravaganza was the last show of 2014 and included our usual fun reception on December 6.

The year 2015 brought many milestones in HAG's journey. In April we qualified for our 501 (c) (3)

non-profit status after a long time trying. Thanks go to Harold Warren our advisor and Jenny Fisher on this.

RP Myers and his wife decided to move into their travel trailer and hit the road which meant Mary Lou Gregory became our president.

HAG was the hosting organization for Grays Harbor College's 2015 Fall Gala. Several of our artists participated in the show: Robin Harlow, Ken Hunt, Kimmi Kerns, Ed Schroll among others from the community.

Kathleen Graddy held a drawing class, "Drawing the Head and Shoulders," and gathered a nice group of students. She also had an ongoing art class for children.

Our general membership meetings began having fun and fascinating programs of interest to artists with Ken Hunt as our talent scout, aka Education Chair.

Shows in 2015 included: Objects Found, curated by Kimmi Kerns, with art made with found objects.

Barely Human, curated by Donna Miller, an edgy show celebrating the human form.

7th Annual Young Artists Show, curated by Jenny Fisher, our most fun, original, and successful show with artwork by artists all under age 21.

Driven to Abstraction, curated by Gary Douglas Lennon, with HAG members' abstract art.

Probably Not, solo show by Lee Staley, photo illusions that may look like one thing but probably not.

Double Take, curated by Jenny Fisher, with pairs of artists working from the same subject and their works shown side by side.

Rustica, curated by Danni Rodewald, showing art with a rustic tinge or maybe just rusty.

Wintertide Show, curated by Ken Hunt, a classy display of our best art and gift items.

The Daily World's annual survey

of Best of the Twin Harbors 2016 listed Six Rivers Gallery as the best art gallery, a nice feather in our cap!

In May 2016 HAG participated in a special art show with four other local art groups called Art for Health at the Pearsall Building in Aberdeen.

The board for 2016-17 included John Miller, president; Mary Lou Gregory, past president; Barb Shillinger, vice president; Danni Rodewald, secretary; Dawn Huntsman, treasurer; and board members: Heidi Davis, Jenny Fisher, Tina Karvonen, Doug Orr, and Tana Roland.

Shows for 2016 were: Just Art, curated by Danni Roland, as the name says, just art.

Icons, curated by John Miller, persons, places or things that have influenced your life.

8th Annual Young Artists Show, curated by Jenny Fisher. One large piece by Judi Lohr's class was their take on work by Jackson Pollock.

Urban Decay, curated by Robin Harlow with art showing the seamier side of the environment.

Caliente, curated by Donna Miller, with special guest artist, Don Tackett, a retired Hoquiam High School music teacher from Westport.

Autumnal Frenzy, curated by Danni Roland, art with a fall theme.

Where Art Thou? Solo Show with Tina Atterbury Karvonen. Tina worked in oils for a year to put this show together and it was amazing.

Winter Extraordinaire, curated by John Miller, our seasonal array of enticing art and gifts.

Probably the biggest event in 2017 was our move to the Aberdeen Art Center at the end of May with our first show there in June. Shows from 2017 included:

Seeing Red, Doug Orr curator
Spring Fever, Tana Roland curator

The Stories People Tell, The photography of Jamila Clarke, solo show

Come to My Garden,

Take Time To Smell The Roses, Watercolor and Oils and acrylics by Brenda Peterson, solo show
Terra Firma, things of the earth, curated by the HAG Board, our first show at our new location.

Our next two show were titled Textures and Expressions.

The 9th annual Young Artists' Show, curated by Jenny Fisher, brought together another amazing group of young artists.

Cool Yule, curated by Sandy Early. With this show the walls were divided so each artist had a section to fill with his or her art.

The shows of 2018 continued this practice and each had a featured artist of the show:

Winds of Change - Cara Beth Stevenson

Whispers & Dreams - Kimmi Kerns

Heavy Metal - Tina Karvonen
A Walk on the Wild Side - Lyn Hayes.

Touchstones - Douglas Orr

Officers elected for the 2017-18 year were President Douglas Orr, Vice President Tina Karvonen, Secretary Mary Lou Gregory, Treasurer Jenny Fisher, and Past president John Miller. Board members include Heidi Davis, Sandy Early, Danni Rodewald, and Barb Shillinger, and later, Cassie Andre joined the board. Cassie designed many beautiful posters and ads publicizing HAG.

Through the ten years we have had great successes but have struggled with staffing the gallery, financing our efforts, gathering new members, and participation by members. For those of us who have been active members Harbor Art Guild has provided a source of camaraderie, nine young artist shows, inspiration for doing art, places to show and sell art to the community, and just plain fun.