

## *February 2024 AAC Newsletter*

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### **Retreat Roundup:**

Our **January retreat** brought us together like never before! The snow couldn't stop our enthusiasm as we set individual goals for our creative journeys, mapped out exciting plans for the AAC in 2024, and defined leadership roles to guide us forward. Special thanks to co-conspirator **Betty O'Regan**, whose dedication was invaluable, and to all the fantastic **muffin bakers, buffet helpers, guest speaker greeters, BUZZ crew members, registration volunteers, and Jeanne Orr (money master!)** – your contributions made the day truly special. We achieved all our goals – setting intentions, charting the group's path, defining leadership, gaining inspiration, and of course, fostering deep connections with fellow artisans. This retreat will shape our future and we can't wait to see what we create together!

*\*You can find minutes from our AAC Meeting (Which took place during the retreat) as well as resources from our speakers in the Members dropdown menu at the top of our Arden Artisans Website.*

### **Earth Day Art Show Update:**

Get ready to celebrate Earth Day with stunning art! Applications for the **AAC Earth Day Art Show** are in, and we'll announce accepted pieces by mid-February. Remember, artwork delivery is on **March 5th (4-6:30 PM)** at the **Delaware Center for Horticulture**. For 3D art, delivery and pick-up will happen on **April 5th, Art Loop** night. Mark your calendars!

## Upcoming Events:

Immerse yourself in the vibrant art scene of the Ardens...and!

- **Friday, February 2nd, 6-8:30 PM:** Join us for the **Art Loop at the Buzz**, featuring the work of 14 talented young artists (ages 9-18). See the future of creativity in bloom!
- **Saturday, February 10th, 12-4:00 PM:** Open House at the Delaware Contemporary: An event just for artists! Join ArtSource, apply for our Artist-in-Residence program, learn about our Studios@ community, and discover all of the professional programming that we offer through our (discounted) Art Maker Membership!. The event is free but requires registration.
- **Sunday, February 11th, 1-3 PM:** Celebrate love and handcrafted beauty at the **Afternoon with the Artist** featuring **Clare Consavage** at the Arden Craft Shop Museum. Don't miss her talk and inspiring creations!

## Congratulations to our Sculpting Stars!

A round of applause for **David Burslem** (Established Artist) recipient of the prestigious Delaware Division of the Arts Fellowships for 2024 and **Michael Tanis** for his Honorable Mention as an Emerging Artist! We're incredibly proud of their achievements and excited to see their artistic journeys unfold.

## Steering Committee Takes the Helm:

Our newly formed **Steering Committee** of seven dedicated volunteers is ready to guide the AAC's course for 2024. They'll meet monthly, manage our agenda, approve spending, and explore joining the Arden Club's Arts & Crafts Guild, creating even more opportunities for artistic growth and collaboration. Their first meeting is February 13th. **All meeting minutes will be available on the AAC website in the Members dropdown section.** Steering Committee members: Shay Seaborne, Cookie Ohlson, Linda Toman, Stevie Nolan, Jill Althouse-Wood, Rachel Kantner, Megan King.

## Arts & Crafts Guild of the Arden Club

After a 17-6 vote at the January meeting, we are pursuing a course to become affiliated with the Arden Club. The idea is that the AAC will continue as a daughter grouping to a

larger Art & Crafts Guild with a separate but linked website. We are in the beginning conversations with the club and will bring a more detailed proposal to the AAC to vote on before moving our organization into the fold of the Arden Club. This could happen as early as April. Stay tuned for announcements of progress and meeting dates.

## Join the Conversation!

Connect, share, and create!

- **Facebook Group:** Find us on the new "Arden Artisans" Facebook Group. This private space is perfect for engaging with fellow members, sharing news, and fostering connections. Request to join and let's get the conversation going!
- **Baby Grand Exhibit:** Show your work in Wilmington! Applications for our juried exhibit at the **Baby Grand (July/August)** are now open and available online under the Members section of the AAC website. This show is being curated by Megan King and Jeanne Orr. Showcase your talent - the first of two submission deadlines is **March 1st**.
- **Champions Needed:** Be the driving force behind future initiatives! The Steering Committee will be seeking passionate volunteers to champion the itinerary items proposed at our January meeting: artisan socials, studio tours, a spring market, public art projects, workshops, Arden Fair Booth, a vibrant website. These will remain mere ideas until they find their torch bearer. What are the initiatives that are closest to your heart? How can you help make them a reality. The Steering Committee will be calling you to action soon.

## Website Spotlight:

Let's make our online calendar shine! Submit details for your upcoming events by the **15th of each month**, including a picture and concise copy-ready description, complete with date, time, and location. *(Make it easy for us so our volunteer web developers can paste the information in place. We won't be writing copy. We won't be managing this task more than monthly.)* We want to broadcast where you are selling, where you are showing, what magazines you are in, what you are teaching. Let us know! With everyone's contribution, we can showcase the vibrant energy of the AAC to the world.

Remember, your membership and involvement are the lifeblood of the Arden Artisan Collective. This Collective will be whatever we make of it. Let's work together to make 2024 a year of creativity, collaboration, and artistic triumph!

