

December 2016

Dear Artists and Friends,

As the Essex Art Association's 70th anniversary year comes to a close, we continue to thank you for supporting the gallery in many meaningful ways. Each year we rely on our members to gallery sit, bring food to openings, chair and hang shows, help with maintenance, and encourage friends to join. Your active participation is greatly appreciated!

The 2017 council was elected during our annual meeting in October. Returning to the Council in their current capacities are: Chip Rutan, President; Pam Carlson, Vice President; Nancy King, Secretary; Barbara Morrissey, Treasurer; and Council members Bob Gantner, Peggy Price, Susan Malan, and Elin Dolle. Kay Brigante will also be returning as Co-Director. Ellen Gaube was newly elected to the council this year and Janet Rayner will be joining Kay as Co-Director – replacing Cathy Puccio and Anne Coffey, respectively. Please join me in thanking Cathy and Anne for their contributions to EAA.

You may have noticed a fair amount of activity swirling about the yellow gallery on the hill. Beginning with house and grounds, this past year witnessed: preventive maintenance to the large trees hovering over the gallery; a new red "GALLERY" banner; new paint to our pedestals; masonry touchup to the front steps and rear stone patio; and last but certainly not least, a fresh coat of yellow paint to the gallery! Stay tuned, more improvements in the planning stage.

We had some fun extra events during 2016: In June, we hosted "Founding Fathers' Day," with wonderful presentations by Luisa Kreis, Ned Chalker, and Bill Freeman, whose fathers were three of the founders of EAA 70 years ago. And in November, Geoffrey Paul gave EAA members a fantastic tour of the artwork of the Griswold Inn.

I'm especially pleased to announce that EAA applied for and received a "Supporting Arts in Place" grant in the amount of \$1,616 from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts. EAA is also on this year's ballot of the Essex Savings Bank's Community Investment Program, which provides donations to area non-profit organizations. Please consider voting for EAA!

As always, our gallery showcased the artwork of our creative community. We began the year with an exhibition of student artwork from Valley Regional High School, which was followed by our five themed shows. Capping off the exhibition year was an impressive display of artwork by the students of the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts. In addition to showing our work in the gallery, EAA members had the ongoing opportunity of exhibiting artwork at the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club.

The upcoming 2017 season is poised to be an equally busy year. In addition to our scheduled exhibitions, we are anticipating another Rotary Club of Essex fundraiser which exclusively showcases EAA artwork; continuing collaborations with the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts; "Chili, Cheap & Chilly" in December; and a possible return of the Valley Railroad Train Show.

We hope you will continue to support the Essex Art Association during the 2017 season and beyond.

Sincerely,



Chip Rutan
EAA Council President