



## November 2020 Diamond State Branch Newsletter

### President's Message

The fall weather has certainly gotten our attention. Leaves are falling from the trees; the days are getting colder and the birds are leaving for warmer climates telling us it is time to think about the holidays that are fast approaching. Our Diamond State Branch Board Show ended last month at the Station Gallery. There were many visitors to view the artwork and there were two sales made during the Show. A good result considering these restrictive circumstances.

### FIRST MEMBERS MEETING SINCE FEBRUARY

Our first Branch Meeting took place at Sandra Michel's home on October 27 with a potluck lunch and a Members' program. There were 11 members who attended. Social distancing was practiced, we wore masks when appropriate and had a wonderful time finally being able to socialize with our friends. Missing from this photo are Sandra Michel (our photographer) and Evelyn Swensson.



**Iris Gray Dowling** took us through the process of what it was like to publish a book in the past and how much easier the process has become for writers who want to publish today. She brought some of her earlier works as well as her newest publication: *Toads: The Friends You Did Not Know You Had*.

**Evelyn Swensson** read a poem that she wrote for golfers using Psalm 23. She wrote it for a memorial for a golfer friend who had recently died. She later told me she gave the poem to a priest living at Cokesbury who will use it as one of his memorial eulogies.

**Betsy Greer** took charge of our "Show and Tell" portion of our program. Some of us brought paintings in progress and paintings begun during our Branch week in Rehoboth Beach. It was wonderful to finally be together again and witness our productivity during these Covid months.





**Note:**

**No one was sick or has gotten sick from attending the meeting meaning that we can be social without health consequences. We are doing what we need to do to stay safe and healthy.**

**Trip to D.C. and the Pen Arts Gallery and a Toast to our Purchase Prize Winner**

On Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> Betsy Greer, Karen Kuhrt and Mary Lou Griffin traveled to D.C. to see the 50<sup>th</sup> Biennial Art Show that is set to close at the end of November. National President Evelyn Wofford was happy to welcome us, have us tour the Pen Arts Building and see the artwork in the newly renovated Gallery. There were seven Branch Members who had work in this Show. It was the largest number of members from ONE Branch that had accepted work. Our Branch should be immensely proud of this result. Moreover, Karen Kuhrt's painting, Golden Fields, was selected by the juror, Barbara Wolanin for the Purchase Prize Award. This means Karen's painting is now part of the Pen Arts Permanent Art Collection. We are so proud.



Evelyn Wofford, Betsy Greer, Karen Kuhrt and Mary Lou Griffin in the Pen Arts Gallery in front of Golden Fields, Purchase Prize Award 2020.

**Next Diamond State Branch Meeting Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup>  
at Karen Kuhrt's home -**

Karen Kuhrt graciously volunteered to host our next Diamond State Branch meeting before we break for the Christmas holidays. Yes, we are concerned about the spread of Covid. However, we, in our age group are being careful. We are not the ones who are responsible for the spread: younger age groups who socialize regularly and families with multigenerational members letting down their guard and getting together are most likely the ones spreading this disease. Members of our Board have talked about having this meeting considering the circumstances. It has been decided that we need to keep in touch and active. **We will have this meeting and we will continue to be socially responsible.** We can wear masks and socially distance as well. Please come and maintain your relationships. We are being as careful and safe as we can regardless of what others are doing.

**Board Meeting at 10:30 Board Members**

**Potluck Luncheon 12 noon – Bring something to share if you are able.**

**Christmas Cookie Exchange – Bring 2 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookie for a cookie exchange with other members**

**Please email me to let me know whether you plan to attend and what you would like to contribute for lunch.**

**Program: Pairing Art and Writing-Get your creative juices flowing**

Our Board has decided to challenge our artists and writers with a joint project:

**Writers:** will bring a poem or an excerpt from a piece that an artist will use as inspiration to create a visual piece

**Artist:** will bring a painting/piece of artwork that a writer will use to inspire a piece of writing/[poem.

**Musician:** (Evelyn Swensson) Can create a piece of music to a painting or a written piece of her choice

**For those members who are both Letters and Arts members, you can do one of each if you are so inclined!**

**This will be a long-term project giving members ample time to be creative. We will decide later how long a period is needed to complete this Branch project. Perhaps we can share the results in February 2021.**

**NOTE: Those members who cannot attend can also participate.** We will post the writing pieces and artwork on our Diamond State Branch website ([www.DiamondStatePenWomen.org](http://www.DiamondStatePenWomen.org)) so you can choose a piece of writing or artwork that you would like to use. Perhaps another Show is in the making!

## MEMBERS NEWS

**Kerin Hearn** is our most recent Art Member of the Diamond State Branch. She was presented with her membership certificate and letter from National President Evelyn Woffford at my home before our Thanksgiving Day dinner this week. Welcome, Kerin!



**Linda Campbell** For those of you who do not already know, Linda is at home recovering from a right hip replacement after a fall two weeks ago. She was delivering her paintings from the DFVA online Art Show for pickup at Christ Church when she fell and was taken to the hospital. I delivered our get-well flowers, nuts, and nut bread along with our get well wishes to her at her home last Sunday. She was happy to have the visit and our good wishes. Speedy recovery, Linda.

**Cyndy Falcoff** Cyndy Falcoff is over the moon after hearing that her poem, Memories, will be published in the Winter Pen Women Magazine coming out next month. We will be excited to read your piece in this issue.

Please send me any news items you would like to share with our membership.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy and happy holiday season no matter how you choose to spend it!