



Diamond State Branch January 2021 Newsletter

President's Message

We have certainly proven that we can change when necessary: last Saturday, January 23rd, we had our first Zoom Branch meeting of 2021. Fourteen of our members attended. It was so good to finally see faces that we have not seen for many months. We discussed what members have been doing and shared information about where and when to sign up for the Covid vaccine in our area. Sandy Mallett and Nita Balderston were fortunate enough to get vaccinated last week, however many of us are still waiting for appointments as the State has run out of doses. So frustrating for all of us who are trying to stay safe and wanting to be protected.

We also invited our writers to share some of their poems with us and we discussed our Joint Art and Letters Project in more detail.

Our Joint Art/Letters Project and Website Update

Dean has been working extremely hard on updating and reorganizing our Diamond State Branch website, **DiamondStatePenWomen.org**, that no one had been using. We will be launching the "new and improved" version shortly. It has a brief history of the Diamond State Branch, a listing of our current Officers and Chairs, and a description of our Branch Outreach Project. We can use the site as a membership tool for prospective members. I have posted several older newsletters (minus any email or home addresses to protect members' privacy) The public will be able to access basic information by visiting our website. However, **the Art and Letters Project section will be password protected. I will email everyone with the website and password very shortly.** We have uploaded the artwork and writing we have received to date, and we will continue to add more to each section as more members send in their work. So far, I have received work from: Trina Gardner, Betsy Greer, Karen Kuhrt, Kerin Hearn, Tracy Landmann, Linda Patton, Carol Mangano, Sharon Sheppard, Maria Keane, Sandra Michel, Iris Gray Dowling, and myself. **Writers, where are you?** Whatever you send does not have to be current. **For those of you who have not yet done so,**

please email me your written piece (please limit to one page) and/or artwork for this project with the title. The more pieces we have, the more interesting this project will be. I am hopeful that once this project is completed, we can have a themed art exhibit showcasing the artwork and writings borne from this group effort. A goal for 2021!

Members News

Trina Gardner and her husband have moved to a new home on 20 Ravin Road in the development of Highland Woods, Wilmington, Delaware 19810. She will be sharing the house with her daughter and grandson. Unfortunately, the basement flooded the first week they were there, the roof needed to be replaced and they have had to make many other repairs. However, she is incredibly happy to have her grandson now living with them and enjoys being so close to Arden. Her cell phone number remains the same-302-268-5401.

Maria Keane has had work accepted into an online art show by the National Association of Women Artists. The theme of the Show is **The Resilience of Grief**. Maria's painting is titled **Vacant House-Empty Nest**. You can view the Show on the website www.thenawa.org

Tracey Landmann has been invited to hang a collection of paintings from her world travels at FIT, a fitness and health center 62 Rockford Rd. Wilmington, Delaware 19806. The exhibit will be up for several months.



Gaggle of Geese



Karen Hearn will have a group of paintings on display at Greenville Country Club beginning February 11. The name of the exhibit is **When My World Was Wider**.

Amsterdam

Please send me any news you would like in the February Newsletter.

Rehoboth Beach Update

Betsy Greer has received reservation deposits from 10 people for our week in Rehoboth Beach Friday September 24 thru Oct 1, 2021. There is still room for more who might want to come for several days. Please get in touch with Betsy Greer if you are interested in joining us.

Scholastic update from Betsy Greer and Taralee Morgan

The judging for the Scholastic Regional Writing Awards has been completed. There were 24 individual Gold Key recipients in grades 7-12 and three Senior Gold Key portfolio works totaling 27 Gold Key awards in all. Three Juniors and five Seniors were considered for the Boden Award. Samantha Oliver, a Junior, received three Gold Key Awards for her works. Our Branch has chosen her as this year's Diamond State Branch Boden Award recipient. She will receive a check for \$200. The Gold Key students' works will now go on to be judged at the National Level. National Awards will be announced on March 17th.

Our next Branch Zoom Meeting will be on Saturday February 27th at 11 AM.

Trish Chambers will be hosting the Zoom meeting as Trish will be doing a presentation of our First Women Supreme Court Justices. A link will be mailed out to everyone the week before the meeting.

Everyone please stay safe and well until we meet again. Look for my email with a link to our new website and the password to get into the Art/Writing Project.

Mary Lou

