

December 2021 Diamond State Branch Newsletter



President's Message

It is December and our Diamond State Branch has been active in the late summer and into the

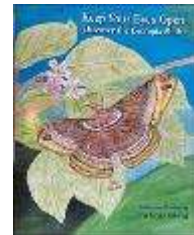
fall season. We ended the summer season with several events. We kept the traditional **Creative Week at the Beach** in Rehoboth Beach

Delaware. Eleven Art and Letters members spent the last week in September supporting each other, dining together, and working on individual and group art projects in a large rental home in an inspiring setting on Pennsylvania Avenue. The weather was beautiful the entire week. Ideas and new projects for the coming year were discussed. While there, we helped Taralee Morgan, Branch Outreach coordinator, with the task of putting together and mailing letters, posters, and postcards to educators across the Delaware region for this year's Scholastic Student Art and Writing Competition. The week ended and it was time to return to Wilmington for the Opening Reception of the NLAPW Diamond State Biennial Art tShow at the Station Gallery on October 8th.



The Diamond State Branch Biennial Art Show 2021 at the Station Gallery

There were eighteen artists and one Letters member, Iris Gray Dowling, who participated in the Show. Iris Gray Dowling brought her



recent publications and did a book signing at the event. Art Awards - **First Place –Bursting Forth**, Anita Balderston; **Second Place – Fertile Fields**, Maria Keane; **Third Place – Working the Early Shift**, Joan Supplee. Catherine Bosk, Michele Foster, and Mary Lou Griffin received honorable mentions. There were two paintings sold during the month and Iris wins the prize for selling all but one of her books at the Gallery! The Opening was well attended, and the Station Gallery was pleased that there were new visitors coming to see who these “Pen Woman” are and what they do. The Show remained up for the month of October.



October 2021 Diamond State Branch Meeting

Our Branch held its first meeting of the season on October 23rd with a luncheon and guest speaker, Darlene Amobi, from the Hockessin Delaware Historical Society. Nineteen members attended the event, visited with each other, and listened to an interesting educational presentation about the town of Hockessin Delaware, and its importance to the Underground Railroad in transporting of runaway slaves to freedom in Pennsylvania. Three new Branch members were welcomed by the membership and were presented with their NLAPW membership certificates: Catherine Lawrence, Letters; Carol Mangano, Art; and Joan Supplee, Art. Kerin Hearn, Art was also recognized as she received her membership certificate last November during our Covid Branch meeting hiatus.





Next Diamond State Branch Meeting -Saturday December 11, 2021, at the Village of Brandywine Clubhouse

Board Meeting 10:30 Luncheon 12PM
Menu – Lasagna, salad, Italian bread, dessert, hot tea and iced tea
Cost \$15. pp

After-lunch program will be presented by

Music member, Evelyn Swensson. **Evelyn Swensson** -‘My program will be about Photographer Doris Ulmann-1882-1934 and John Jacob Niles, her driver, who drove her to Appalachia and where he collected Songs from the mountain people, some of which I will sing with my auto-harp. I will bring four books of photographs by Doris Ulmann and books of songs by my friend, John Jacob Niles.’

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING.

Note: January 2022 Meeting will be on Saturday January 22, 2022, at the Village of Brandywine Clubhouse. Our own Letter member, Trish Chambers will be presenting a special program. Trish had presented a program about the first Women Justices of the Supreme Court via Zoom last year. We are excited to hear what she has planned for us in January. Details will follow in January 2022.

OTHER NLAPW NATIONAL NEWS



Vinnie Ream finalists and Scholastic Art.Write.Now Tour at Pen Arts

As one of my last projects as National Art Chair, the 2021 Vinnie Ream finalists artwork along with part of the 2021 Scholastic Art.Write.Now tour was hung in the Pen Arts Gallery in D.C. It was on public display from September through the month of November. To have our own members Vinnie Ream Competition work in our own national gallery along with the gold medal Scholastic student work as well as another D.C. local artist made for a unique and interesting exhibit for all age groups. I was not able to see the total exhibit myself due to my own personal scheduling conflicts. However, President Evelyn Wofford has told me that it was a tremendous success. Patrick Reynolds, Scholastic exhibit coordinator, was a pleasure to work with and was so pleased at the success of the tour at Pen Arts. I am very pleased with this accomplishment. There were four of our Branch members who had work in the Vinnie Ream Competition: Linda Campbell Arena, Betsy Greer, Karen Kuhrt and me. The Diamond State Branch has a lot to be proud of. As promised, I will be traveling to Pen Arts later this month to pick up our members' artwork.

2022 Biennial Art Competition is open for submissions. Don't wait to submit.

Although I have stepped down as National Art Chair, the Biennial Art Competition goes on as planned. Joan Applebaum from the Central NY Branch has taken over as Art Chair and will be accepting the submissions. The 2022 Biennial Art exhibit will again hang in Pen Arts Gallery in conjunction with the 2022 NLAPW National Conference at the end of April. The prospectus for the Competition is in the Fall issue of Pen Woman Magazine. It is also on the NLAPW website. **I am urging all our Art members to submit work to this Competition which gives out monetary prizes. It is your opportunity to have work in a national art show. Please don't wait until the last minute to submit.** For those who have an iPhone or Mac computer, you will again need to send the jpgs as a separate attachment, so you need to figure out how to do that before you submit.

The last time, to save our members shipping costs to Pen Arts, I had volunteered to bring the accepted paintings down to D.C. ***I will offer to again transport the accepted paintings to D.C. if those members would help pay the cost of the tolls and gas for the trip.** I so want our Branch to be well represented again. We had seven Branch members in the show last time. Something to think about.

Please send me any member's news for the next newsletter.

Mary Lou Griffin, Diamond State Branch President

