



image credit: Dawn at Parker River, Kathleen Bennett

April 29, 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

So much has transpired in the past six weeks at the NAA, in our community and in the world in general. As you know, the NAA followed the Governor's recommendations, and with great sorrow closed its doors to the public. With our closing, we were forced to make the painful decision to lay-off our Executive Director Jessica Pappathan, Associate Director Annemarie Smith, Gallery Manager Jay McCarthy, Accounts Associate Kathy Porter, and our Gallery Associates Susan Spellman and Rosalie Cuticchia. Annemarie and Kathy stayed on thru April to provide support by working limited hours to finish up the many projects and tasks needed for a shut-down. If you would like to message any of the staff, please email me and I will see that they receive it.

I have been asked why the Board had to make this difficult decision. The NAA is a small non-profit organization that must raise its yearly operating budget within a 12 month cycle. With closing our doors comes the loss of all revenue associated with art exhibits, art sales and art instruction and the postponement of The Annual Art Auction and Party that provides over 25% of our annual funding. In the absence of this significant revenue source as well as the loss of all other revenue sources, it was our only choice.

What Can I Do To Help?

Renew Your Membership!

Please renew your membership when it expires as this is a very important revenue source for us. To re-open stronger than before we need a fortified membership whose fees are used to support our artists and to sustain our community outreach programs for local schools, adults with developmental disabilities and veterans.

Be Heard!

Please stay in touch! We are exploring new ideas on how to best connect with all our members. Have an idea on how our members can continue to connect with each other and the community? Interested in reviving or writing a piece for a weekly art blog? Want to be interviewed for the "Meet our Members", our revived weekly artist series at newburyportart.squarespace.com written by Bella Nadeau. Have a demonstration, a lecture or something else you would like to share virtually? Email us at naa@newburyportart.org We want your ideas and your expertise on how to stay in touch!

Volunteer!

With hard times brings the opportunity to reinvigorate our vision as we approach a New Dawn! The NAA will open again and we are hard at work strategizing on how to position the NAA to be as vibrant as before, but more self-sufficient and sustainable to better weather any future storms. It is essential that the NAA has a strong volunteer force to make this happen. It is an exciting time to be on the ground floor and if you can contribute your time and want to have a bigger voice in our art community, email me your availability and your preferences at sdemrowdent@newburyportart.org . We have openings for many areas including administrative work, social media campaigns, building upkeep, and keeping the sculpture garden landscaped.

Donate!

A major initiative to ensure the best NAA possible is the launch of our New Dawn Capital Campaign as we look to raise \$50,000 over the coming months. We have been serving the Newburyport Art community for 72 years and the current leadership is focused on being a financially thriving organization once again. If you are in a position to donate, please do and encourage others who love art and the NAA to do the same. Posting a link to donate on your social media pages is an easy way to let your community know you care. You can donate to the NAA New Dawn Capital Campaign by clicking [COUNT ME IN!](#)

What's Next? The Regional Juried Show is Online!

As a first step toward our New Dawn, we opened our Regional Jury Show online (a little early! but its so beautiful we couldn't wait to share!) which will run through June 30th. Please be sure to take time to enjoy all the truly inspirational pieces in the show and remember all artwork is available for purchase.

I will be reaching out bi-monthly to keep our members and friends informed. In the mean time, if there is anyone who is reading this that needs help - please reach out to me. If you need food or medicine, I can arrange a delivery. If you need to talk, I have an ear for you, and if you need artistic advice, I will try my best. I am here for all of you and I know I speak for the entire board when I send you care and support.

Although I am so sad for the reason I am back, I feel grateful to be able to help us reconnect during this difficult time as we all look forward to an exciting New Dawn!

Please stay well and safe.

Sara Demrow Dent
BOD, Artist Advocate

NAA Board of Directors: Warren Moskowitz, President; Terry Rooney, Vice President; Wendy Smith, Treasurer; Evan Jespersen, Secretary; Paige Baumann, Lori Clark, Robert Currier, Sara Demrow Dent, Ryan Kelley, Jason Harris, Deb Pare, Lisa Purinton, and Jean Trim.