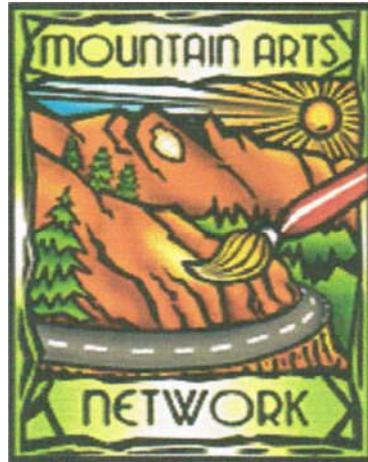


# **MOUNTAIN ARTS NETWORK**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**Fiscal Year 2019**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2019 fiscal year began with elections to Mountain Arts Network Board of Directors (BOD).

- Pat Davis – President
- Larry Reider – Vice President
- Alma Borcuk – Treasurer
- Susan Priest – Director
- Casey Whitesell – Director
- John Smeby - Director

Current directors names, a summary of their contributions and their plans for the 2019-20 fiscal year are outlined in this Annual Report.

The Mountain Arts Gallery continues to showcase the work of outstanding local artists, photographers and craftsmen, becoming a highlight for shoppers and browsers in its eleventh year in the resort area of Lake Arrowhead Village. During the 2018-19 fiscal year a new Gallery Co-manager was appointed, Joyce Johnson. Mary Reider, Co-Gallery Manager with Joyce, and the Gallery Management Team have continued to make significant improvements in the gallery. Lighting upgrades and floor resurfacing were planned and are currently in progress under the direction of Dean Lent. The art and artisan work in the windows continues to get a fresh look every month with seasonal themes prevailing. The gallery hosted three receptions during 2018-19 which were all well attended and received by locals and mountain visitors alike.

Mountain Arts Gallery` hosted a Student Art Show in April 2019 organized by the gallery management team and emceed by a dynamic Dave Ficke. 2-D and 3-D student art was displayed in the window and window shelves. As a non-profit we have partnered with schools in the Rim School District to give special recognition, shows and awards to students of all ages, helping to fill the increasing gap in local arts education. Member artists have a venue to show and sell their work and MAN has the support it needs to flourish and continue the development of its mission statement to bring art appreciation and education in the visual arts to mountain residents.

Additionally, Mountain Arts Network operates an art center located on the lower level on the opposite side of Lake Arrowhead Village. Mountain Arts Network Community Arts Center (CAC) offers a variety of classes in painting, photography and artisan crafts taught by both local and guest artists. Late spring and early summer offered a variety of one/two day classes as well as long term classes in oil painting and Chinese brush painting.

Another outstanding class hosted in our Community Arts Center is a weekly art class designed for Special Needs Adult students. This class, a vision of Darlene Kraft starting in 2014, continues every Thursday morning under the direction of Linda White. Linda has taken her students' creativity to a new level. She teaches them the basics of watercolor, pencil and charcoal techniques and allows them to experiment and create masterpieces! Her students have created still life paintings, abstracts, self-portraits, wild life, bird and domestic

animal paintings to name a few. The students are part of Mountains of Promise and this partnership has allowed them to open up a beautiful colorful world of endless possibilities.

Another part of MAN, the Mountain Arts Photographic Society (MAPS), continued growth under the leadership of photographer Dennis Warnesky. MAPS meets monthly in the CAC. Each month a special topic or skill is discussed, enabling members to enhance their technical and artistic abilities. A photographic challenge, generally based on the topic discussed, is given at the end of the meeting, with each artist displaying several images to the group during the next monthly meeting.

MAN posts a monthly E-newsletter to over 1000 members and patrons on our website and through our Constant Contact email list. Every month one of the gallery artists is featured along with current MAN news and recent/upcoming events. During 2018-19 Natalie Olsen created and managed the E-newsletter.

MAN leadership is very proud to be a non-profit organization that returned our funds to our community. Grants from the Morning Sunrise Rotary, the Lake Arrowhead Rotary and the San Manual Indians were received during the 2019 fiscal year. These funds help to offset expenses for our Special Needs classes and enable us to offer low cost or no cost classes to our mountain communities families. We strive toward serving more families, offering more opportunities to make and share art and making Lake Arrowhead an art destination!

# LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

The Mountain Arts Network (MAN) has now been in operation for over a decade with our Mountain Arts Gallery located lakefront in Lake Arrowhead Village, California. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and are proud to showcase the work of almost fifty local artists. Under the leadership of Pat Davis, MAN President, we also operate the Community Arts Center (CAC) on the opposite side of the Lake Arrowhead Village to offer art classes and workshops to children, teens and adults. We offer art classes to both children and adults taught by gallery artists and invited guest instructors.

We offer weekly classes for Special Needs Adults on Thursday mornings at our Community Arts Center. These classes are taught by Linda Harlan White, a MAN artist.

We utilize the facility for our monthly Board and Gallery meetings as well as the classroom location for the Mountain Area Photography Society (MAPS). We also host seasonal receptions in our Gallery for guests to enjoy the variety of art.

We recently adopted a new and concise Mission Statement this past year: “Inspiring the visual arts in the mountain communities”

Our organization awards scholarships annually to graduating seniors from our local high school to students who intend to continue their art education in college. We also host a juried middle school and high school art show in coordination with our spring reception, recognizing those outstanding students with ribbons and cash prizes in various categories of two and three-dimensional art.

The artists of Mountain Arts Network are committed not only to their art, but to sharing their love and knowledge of art with the community.

# MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Pat Davis, President

Pat grew up in a Chicago suburbs and attended the Art Institute of Chicago every weekend for many years. It was a great education in the arts.



Pat lived in Illinois, Arizona, New Mexico, Mississippi, Florida and Italy before moving to Lake Arrowhead in 2008. She commuted down the hill for four years as President of the St. Bernardine Medical Center Foundation and then as head of the Mountains Community Hospital Foundation before retiring in 2016.

She returned to oil painting in 2010 and was accepted into the MAN Gallery. There is nothing like the beauty of the mountains to inspire.

Pat has served as the president of the Mountain Arts Network for two years.

## Larry Reider, Vice President



Larry Reider, owner of an engineering business in Lake Arrowhead, brings a set of business skills to MAN's Board, including marketing, planning and implementation. During FY 2018-19 he helped to facilitate renewed 5-year leases with the Village for both the Gallery and



the classroom. His goals for MAN continue to be more community involvement and more fun activities. Larry continues to serve as the Chaplain in the Elks, and works with the Lake Arrowhead Chamber of Commerce on the Political Affairs Committee. Shown is Larry trying on Halloween costumes.

## **Alma Borcuk, Treasurer**

Alma Borcuk is a resident of Lake Arrowhead. She functions fully in her role as Treasurer as described in the bylaws. She is a nature artist who specializes in watercolor. In the last few years her focus has been on Chinese Brush and Sumi-e painting techniques. In addition, she is also an instructor in these techniques. She was awarded “Best of Show” in the 2018 Lake Arrowhead Rotary Art and Wine Festival (pictured).



In 2000, when her family relocated to Lake Arrowhead, Alma “retired” from her profession as a chemist. From managing an environmental laboratory she became a full-fledged stay-at-home mom. Over the years, she has volunteered at various non-profit organizations, assuming the role of treasurer in her children’s school PTAs and her daughter’s volleyball club. Her extensive experience in non-profit finance as treasurer as well as her

management experience in a for-profit business has greatly prepared her for her current role as treasurer of MAN.

## **Terry Williams, Director**



Terry Lynn Williams is continuing into her second year with the MAN board. Currently she orders supplies for the gallery and changes out the window display monthly.

She’s been a member of the MAN Gallery since 2011 along with her husband John Arthur who is also an artist in the gallery. She is a jewelry artist and creates hand-made Romantasy Jewelry, much of it inspired by her husband's artwork. Sue enjoys the camaraderie and ongoing friendships that she has experienced at the gallery and looks forward to a productive and creative year ahead for the MAN Co-op.

## **Linda White, Director**

Linda Harlan White wanted to be an artist since she was ten years old. She specializes in artistic hand-painted tiles. In her career she has received 23 awards for her art. Linda is an active member of our mountain community. Every Thursday between 10 and 12 she is at the CAC leading the Special Needs Art Class. She represents MAN at Crestline Connect, which currently meets every Wednesday at 7:30 AM at the Bear House in Crestline. Other



community activities include donations of her artwork for charitable events such as the Taste of Literacy, supporting Give Big for non-profits in San Bernardino County, supporting grant acquisition efforts for MAN and participating in the scholarship awards provided by MAN to Rim High School artistic students. Linda is shown focused on detail.

As a child Casey Whitesell developed an interest in art, photography, music and theater stagecraft. She graduated from Rim of the World High School in 2007, and in the same year was accepted to the Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts in Santa Maria, California. While at PCPA Casey took classes in theatrical props design and management, as well as



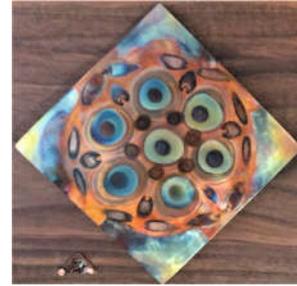
scenery shop, scenic painting and costume crafts. While working in the prop and scene shop, Casey was introduced to welding while learning how to build large sets for elaborate productions that were built out of steel. She first learned to MIG weld, and enjoyed it so much that she wanted to learn more about the welding process and how to work with various metals.



Throughout the years, Casey has developed a passion for welding and working with steel. She loves TIG (GTAW) welding, and the FCAW/GMAW processes. She has found that she loves to combine art, metal, and her love of nature and animals to create unique wall hangings and sculptures. Casey especially enjoys working with metal because it is a resilient material that stands the test of time indoors and out, and can be altered using so many methods, such as heat, rust treatments or special dyes. She uses reclaimed steel whenever she can, using material that was sourced locally that is sometimes considered useless or trash by other people.



Susan Priest, has been a student of this splendid Earth for nearly five decades, and has spent much of her time jumping into the deep end of the lake as a negotiator of change. Presently, Sue is building the foundation for Castor Peak Catchment Solutions, LLC, an environmental company dedicated to the possibility of increasing the capture of water upon the land (i.e. catchment solutions) through means which focus on less human magic and more naturally abundant magic. Sue has dedicated over 15 years her life to wetland work of any kind, no job was too small or to great, but often required a life of wading through unknown territory in the public, private and non-profit sectors.



Sue obtained a BS in Ecology and Environmental Science from the University of Maine and a Masters of Science through the University of Florida, in Forest Conservation and Management with a concentration in Ecological Restoration. By the time both degrees were completed Susan had acquired over 280 college credits spanning a variety of specialties: Ecology (wetland science, ecological restoration, soil science, forestry, botany, agriculture, and biological soil crusts), art (both 2 and 3 dimensional art) conflict resolution, education, and cultural studies.

In her spare time and to keep her sanity while wading through unknown territory Susan creates beauty, through art. She creates art through a variety of mediums, but copper is her primary medium of choice. Currently, Sue serves as a volunteer board member with Mountain Arts Network and her work is also on display at the Mountain Arts Gallery in Lake Arrowhead, California.

Joyce Johnson



From her earliest memory she enjoyed creating things. She was very fortunate when attending grade school to have a traveling art teacher. Each week when she visited, there would be a new project. Joyce learned something about all the various disciplines.

Junior High opened up a whole new world for Joyce. She was able to take an art class every day. Entering high school, she was now an "art major." Drawing, painting, sculpturing, carving and creating jewelry were all open to her.

Upon entering college, she would take two or three art classes every day. At that time, her goal was to become an art teacher to pass on my love of art to children.

However, that was not to be. She fell in love, married and moved to Illinois. After a year in the Midwest, she returned to California and took classes while raising a family. She completed my B.A., but with three children in tow, she became



a stay-at-home-mom but still creating projects. She also enrolled in additional art classes just for the enjoyment.

In 1980 the local Parks & Rec offered a stained-glass class and the rest is history. She had found her niche.

In 1981 she displayed some of my work at a local holidays arts and crafts show. She was thrilled that people would actually buy something she had created.



For the past 38 years , she has shown her pieces in countless shops, been in hundreds of shows.

She is grateful to have been accepted into the mountain arts gallery - her "forever home." She loves the interaction between the fellow Gallery artists and the customers. She hopes to spend many more years displaying and selling her whimsical pieces of glass work in the Gallery!

# MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission Statement is...

*“Inspiring the visual arts in the mountain communities”*

Mountain Arts Network makes the visual arts accessible to the people of our mountain communities and people of all abilities through providing arts, education and cultural opportunities by, with, and for people with/without disabilities.

Guiding principles and beliefs include: respecting people and focusing on their abilities; utilizing the arts to promote understanding and communication among all people; expanding artistic inclusion to reach all schools; promoting accessibility to community cultural facilities; and helping to ensure that everyone who aspires to a career in the arts has the opportunity to develop those skills.

## OBJECTIVES

Section 3.02 of the Mountain Arts Network Bylaws states: The objective of this organization shall be to foster appreciation of the arts in the San Bernardino Mountains region in Southern California; to provide one or more public exhibition venues for its members and associated organizations; to sell the works of its members to the public; to educate the community by collaboration with schools and charitable organizations; and to enhance love, appreciation and promotion of the arts and culture in general.

# HISTORY

This year marked the twelfth anniversary of Mountain Arts Network (MAN), which began in Crestline in 2003. Initially located mostly in Crestline, the Network began with art shows in the lobby and front of the quonset hut theater on Crestline's main street. Artists displayed their work in front of the theater for a weekend, with many visitors dropping by to look at the local artists' works.

In time, 14 member artists displayed their work at the MAN Gallery in Sky Forest, the first gallery sponsored by Mountain Arts Network. The network became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the goal of spreading visual arts and art experiences in the mountain communities.

While in Sky Forest, CA, Mountain Arts, in collaboration with other artists located in the rustic buildings in Willow Woods, held several shows with guests moving from gallery to gallery enjoying the local art, food and wine. The location was lovely, but traffic tended to fly by on its way to Big Bear or other mountain towns.

Art shows of a larger scale were held annually at the Burnt Mill Beach Club in Lake Arrowhead, which widened MAN's exposure to the community in general.

In May of 2010, after discussions with the Lake Arrowhead Village, MAN was able to secure a spot on the lake in our current location for the Mountain Arts Gallery, which currently houses 48 local artists. From day one the gallery blossomed, becoming a popular spot for obtaining gifts and treasures produced by local artists, and visited by locals and visitors from all over the world. Art shows in the Lake Arrowhead Resort or one of the beach clubs, on the Village green or down along the lakeside, and receptions in the gallery were well attended.

Finally, in June of 2013, MAN fulfilled a long-time dream and opened the Mountain Arts Community Art Center (CAC) in Lake Arrowhead Village. This has become an active art learning center, which serves the mountain communities from Big Bear to Crestline, spreading memorable art experiences and instilling the love of art. Since the CAC's opening, it has offered a multitude of classes, workshops and special events for artists and the community. It has also become a resource for children and teens in the Rim School District to foster a celebration of their artwork and provide scholarship funds to study art after high school.

Mountain Arts Network is proud of its growth and progress over the last 14 years, now taking its place as a premiere art organization in the San Bernardino Mountains, with over 125 members, a gallery and a Community Arts Center. With the donations received this year, as well as active participation from our members, we will strive to bring art to those members of the community who might not have that exposure otherwise. We look forward to continued growth and progress in our mission to promote the visual arts on the mountain.

# COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER

All year long classes are offered to artists in the mountain communities. This past summer, from June through September 1, low-cost summer art classes were offered thanks to the generous donations received from members of our community. Classes are held at the Community Arts Center (CAC) located in Lake Arrowhead Village, lower level, between Lux Nails and the Studio Boutique.

The instructors are generally from among the 48 artists whose work is displayed at the Mountain Arts Gallery, located dockside in the Lake Arrowhead Village. Occasionally special instructors, some of whom are recognized locally or nationally for their expertise, are brought in for classes or workshops..

Helga Batman-Koplin, one of the gallery's premier oil painters holds her first class of the summer. With her expert guidance, each of her students goes home with a lake scene masterpiece!



**Helga Batman and Students – Oil Painting**

Below Alma Borcuk, recipient of a Rotary Art & Wine Festival Best of Show, shares her passion for Chinese brush painting. In her summer class, her students learned to paint plum blossoms using this ancient but fun technique.



**Chinese Brush Painting Students**

Terry Williams, creator of the unique and popular Romantasy jewelry line, has a class on making hand wire wrapped rings. In her first class, students were inspired to artistically combine beads and wires of varying shapes, sizes and colors to create not just one but three rings, uniquely their own.



### **Ring Art**

The cost of the classes ranges from only \$10 to \$25 with all materials included. All levels, beginners to advance are welcome. Students may preregister but walk-ins are also welcome.

For the complete schedule and to preregister, please visit the Mountain Arts Gallery, dockside at the Lake Arrowhead Village or go online at [mountainartsnetwork.org](http://mountainartsnetwork.org).

# **ART SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Eight years ago, in the fall of 2010, we approached the local district, Rim of the World Unified, and the Art Departments at both the middle and high schools about the possibility of an annual show hosted in our lakefront Gallery. As part of our mission to “give-back” to the local communities, we have continued to jury and exhibit student work, and to offer cash awards and scholarships.

We typically receive 10-15 portfolios of work in various media, and with the help of a selection committee, narrow down the applicants to between two and four who meet our criteria for quality, motivation, sincerity and goals. In April of 2019 the directors voted to award \$4,000 in scholarships in 2020. The student artwork is displayed in the Gallery for a month and a reception is held at the Gallery in April for student artists.

# GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The Mountain Arts Network has been fortunate to have received three grants to support our art education instruction in our Community Arts Center (CAC). A grant was received from the San Manuel Mission Indians, the Lake Arrowhead Rotary and the Mountain Sunrise Rotary to support our special needs art program.

These monies were vital to the initial success of the CAC as we were able to offer classes at no cost to the students enrolled. Our work with the special needs adults has been particularly rewarding for those artist-teachers involved in this program. Classes are generally held on Thursday morning, and the students are guided through art projects prepared by Linda White. We have dedicated a wall to showcase the fabulous art generated through this program.



**Donation Cards Created By Special Needs Students**

# MOUNTAIN ARTS GALLERY

The Mountain Arts Network Gallery is located at the Lake Arrowhead Village in Lake Arrowhead, California. The gallery continues to be a striking lakeside storefront that displays the artwork of MAN gallery members for patrons to enjoy. The MAN Gallery has experienced many successes this past year as it migrated to a new operations team management system.



**Mountain Arts Gallery Artists Gather for Summer Reception:** Top (L-R): Linda Harlan White, Delphine Beach-Jones, Rebecca Smith, Jon Olson, Darleen Ortlieb, Sandra Charlebois, Patty McDonald, Molly Collins, Helga Batman-Koplin, Ruth Woods, Bryan Allen, David Ficke, John Smeby, Pat Davis, Lilellen Boroach, Graeme Gale, Lisa Cook; Lower (L-R): Brenda Lee Gibson, Nancy Grace, Dennis Warnesky, Nancy Anderson, Alma Bocuk, Marly Walters, Marry Reider.

The Gallery management team, headed by the gallery managers, share the functions required to run the gallery among gallery artists and other MAN members. This approach encouraged ideas and participation from our many talented members, while distributing the workload of running the gallery. Functions included:

- Daily Management
- Supplies and Duck Food
- Security, Maintenance and Cleaning

- Display Space Assignments and Rent Collection
- Work Scheduling
- Community Outreach, the Website and Our Monthly Newsletter
- Receptions and Special Events

Policies and procedures were updated, with new policies implemented as necessary and obsolete policies discarded. A new orientation procedure was created to better prepare new gallery artists for working the gallery.

The gallery was repainted, giving it a fresh, clean appearance. New displays were added, including an easel to allow working artists the opportunity of displaying their work at the gallery entrance.

Gallery artists representing MAN participated in several new community events. MAN was represented as a group in the Rotary sponsored Art and Wine Festival held at the Tavern Bay Beach Club last May.

More and more local coverage of gallery activities is getting us known throughout the mountain communities. Gallery events and student art classes are reported on the Chamber Website, and through Chamber email blasts. The Mountain News, Alpenhorn and Mountain Lifestyles newspapers regularly feature gallery activities and highlight our artists.

# **MOUNTAIN ARTS PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

## **A Division of Mountain Arts Network**

2019 has been a great year at the Mountain Arts Photographic Society. The membership continues to grow with 47 total members and an average of 20 attending each meeting. In August the members voted to keep the same executive team in place. This includes Dennis Warnesky - President, Joe Whyte-Vice President, Jim Morrell-Treasurer, Dave Ficke-Education Coordinator, and Stefanie Morrell and Rebecca Smith as Co-Secretaries.

Our educational team continues its dedication to providing quality monthly lectures and instruction for all skill levels. Each educational presentation is followed up with a monthly photo challenge to build on and enforce what is learned in the months meeting. If possible, a field trip is also planned to work on photos for that month's challenge. Some of this year's challenges and field trips have included: Panorama Photography with a field trip to Heaps Peak, Night Street photography, Studio Still Life photography, Camera Lenses use and buying guide, Wildlife photography, and Part Of photos with a field trip to the SoCal Rail Museum.

One of our goals is to encourage our members to look more closely at what they are photographing; to get them to explore the relationships between the objects in their photos and how they come together to create a good composition. By looking at things from different points of view, we may find better ways of photographing the subjects we choose.

Along with our educational lectures we have had the privilege of viewing some wonderful photographic presentations from our member's and some great guest lecturers: Rebecca Smith's Portraits and Still-life book, Brian Allen's travel photos, Hugh Bialecki's travel photos of Iceland, and guest lecturers Neal Parisi from Wild Coyote Gallery and Hernan Godoy lecturer and leader of scenic photography workshops.

Our goal is to provide all area photographers, no matter their skill level, a place to learn, share and enjoy photography in a friendly and non-competitive environment.



**Photography by Dean Lent**

# MEMBERSHIP

Sue Priest took over membership activities in April of 2019. Sue's responsibilities include quarterly mailers for renewals, new member "Welcome letters", membership cards for a 10% gallery discount, email follow-ups, and maintaining appropriate membership records. Presently there are 92 members in good standing, down 8 members from last year's 100. Forty of the ninety members are also gallery participants.

There are currently two major membership challenges: timely payment response and member sustainment. To improve member sustainability, Sue is creating survey response letters and internet survey's to better identify why a members might not be interested in renewing. The survey will include a section for suggestions on how to retain members. Once there are adequate responses to the survey, she will analyze and create a plan for further improvement.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

This fiscal year has been challenging one due to the weather. February was a particularly challenging month. Total artists sales this year was approximately the same as last year. However, overall expenses were reduced, allowing MAN to increase student scholarships, have more low-cost classes and get more involved in the community.

Our duck food pricing remains unchanged from previous years, and at a lower price when compared to other businesses in the Lake Arrowhead Village. Sales of duck food continue to be strong while attracting potential shoppers to the Gallery.

Our offering of Low Cost Art classes at the Community Arts Center has been popular. Word of mouth, social media advertising and repeat attendance contributed to this increase.