



Allied Arts of Renton



Allied Arts Presidents' Letter

By Co-Presidents Linda Middlebrooks and Deloris Dewing



At this crazy time in our state, nation & world with the corona virus, we are driven to the thought that we need to care for each other. This virus may be a wake-up call that we need to take better care of our community and its people. We care for you – not just because you are the ones who keep us going with your donations and memberships, but because we are community. Keeping the arts alive and well in our area is probably more important now than it ever has been to help with our stress and worries. We commend the Renton Municipal Arts Commission for their activities helping to keep our spirits positive in these difficult times. We were pleased that we could contribute to the chalk art in downtown Renton with a contribution of chalk.

With this newsletter, we try to bring you interesting articles, news, and other items about creative happenings in our community. We hope you will share it with friends and neighbors and if you have ideas or sugges-

tions for us, please share them. It may be the time to re-evaluate. Another way you can send donations and renew membership is on line by going to www.alliedartsofrenton.org. Any of these contributions will be processed through Renton Regional Community Foundation.

May you all keep safe and may we soon return to a life where we are able to sit in IKEA Performing Arts auditorium watching a concert or play, enjoy an art show at a gallery or attend Renton River Days and other events. We will be so glad when we can safely gather once again in what will be an even stronger community. ♦

We are thinking of sending our next newsletter electronically, **SO PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS** when you send in your membership. Of course, we will also send paper copies via snail mail to those who prefer.

Downtown Storefront Art Walk

By Jessie Kotarski

In an effort to support local artists during the Stay Home orders, the Renton Municipal Arts Commission partnered with downtown merchants to create a self-guided walking tour to provide an opportunity to connect *safely* with local artists while adding vibrancy and creativity to the downtown.

The tour was available on the Visit Renton mobile app for the public to explore as they walked or drove by. The tour and artist profiles could be viewed on the app from home for those unable to make it downtown. The tour included links and contact information on the participating artists for anyone interested in connecting with the artists or making a purchasing. ♦



Annual Art Show

By Linda Middlebrooks

The Art Show board is sad to announce the Renton Annual Art Show has been canceled for 2020. In this unprecedented and challenging time, we hope you and your family are safe and healthy.

We expect to be back, better than ever, for the 2021 show and look forward to seeing you there. Allied Arts of Renton will offer our annual Memorial Art Awards again in 2021. ♦

CONTRIBUTORS: THANK YOU!

The Allied Arts fiscal year is June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020. The following have made contributions to Allied Arts of Renton for this past fiscal year.

ACADEMY AWARD WINNERS \$500

David & Melody Kroeger; Wagner, Rich Wagner (Andee Jorgensen RAAS scholarship award)

ARTIST EXTRAORDINAIRE \$150+

Anonymous; Leslie Aungst; Nordstrom match add; Jim & Char Baker; Patricia Char (In memory of Daisy Char Ching and Lloyd Ching); Shari Fisher; Gary & Barbara Glasscock; Denis & Patty Law; Bea Matheson (In memory of Gloria Cartwright); Bea Matheson (In memory of Margarete Srivastava); Jerry & Cheryl Scheuermann; Patricia E Tucker-Dolan

SUPER STARS (\$100 TO \$149)

Norm & Carol Abrahamson; Stuart & Shannon Avery; Bob Bliesner; Rolland & Deloris Dewing; Dolores Gibbons; John & Linda Middlebrooks; Joan Moffatt; Becky Nickels; Michael & Valerie O'Halloran; Larry & Cira Reymann; Gene and Huong Sens; Janice Tanner; Kenneth Williams

STAR PERFORMERS \$50 TO \$99

Patricia Auten; Greg & Carrie Bergquist (In memory of Bea Mathewson); Donna Chevallier; Betty Childers; Dennis Conte & Elizabeth Stewart; Diana Hagen; Roberta Logue; Gary Miller & Sharon Feucht; Sally Rochelle; Basil & Ellie Simpson; Richard Williamson

ARTS DEVOTEE \$25 TO \$49

Russ & Carole Berg; Greg & Carrie Bergquist; Gene & Judy Craig; Maryann Di Pasquale & Steve Lavender; Jerri Everett; Patricia Gouge; Ellie Hartman & Henrietta Hartman & Evan Joy; Ray & Julie Johnson; Hisako Leatherman; Sandi Lewis & Ron Fisher; Naomi Mathisen; Russell & Marie McPeak; Nancy Osborn

BUDDING ARTIST up to \$24

Nancy Clow; Bill Collins; Sylvia Coppock; Gloria Duffy; Gary & Vicki Faull; Rich & Jo Ann Foster; Linda Harris; Sandra Holman for granddaughter Taylor Dansie; Juanita Kraght; James Lambka; Barbara MacGregor; Marcie Maxwell & Bob Reeder; Lyn McKay; Bill & Fay Moss; Kay Nairn; Roger & Rosemary Richert; Pat Roland; Susan Schmidt; Judy Schrager; Jack Webster; Stephanie Webster; Theresa Zimmerman; Joe & Terri Zura

BUSINESS

SUPER STAR \$100 TO \$149

Red Door Dance Studio (Mary Kaye Owen); St.Charles Place Antiques

ARTS DEVOTEE \$25 to \$149

Lisa Lam & Marcie Maxwell Realtors; McCorkle & Associates (Bob & Sue); Richert & Associates – Architects

DOUG KYES FUND

Norm & Carol Abrahamson; Jim & Char Baker; Lynn Bohart; Rowland & Deloris Dewing; Jaris English; Shari Fisher; Rich & Joann Foster; Terry & Dennis Higashiyama; Marcie Maxwell & Bob Reeder; Kathy McKnight; Linda Middlebrooks; Barbara Nilson; Jim Sullivan; Janice Tanner; Patricia Tucker-Dolan

Members of Allied Arts

AAR Icon, Char Baker Reminisces

By Jaris English

Char Baker and her husband moved to Renton in 1957. She spent eight years working for the City of Renton as a Senior Community Relations Specialist. During her time with the city, she was heavily involved in coordinating Renton River Days.

Char has been a shining icon for Allied Arts of Renton since she joined the board in 1993 when meetings were held in the Renton School District Administration Building. She remembers fundraising projects in those days such as selling Entertainment Books. In 1995, the meetings were moved to Renton High School, and Char began a term as secretary. She was instrumental in the Arts Alive for Kids project which raised funds and provided grants for worthy arts programs in local schools.

Then, in 1999, Char replaced Nancy Hoben as president. She also served as the chairman of a fundraising committee to develop a performing arts center in Renton, eventually raising \$1.6 million dollars. Construction began in 2002 at the Renton High School campus, and in June of 2003, the new IKEA Performing Arts Center was dedicated. The Fall Family Concert with the Seattle Philharmonic has been held there since then.

Through the years, Char has worked diligently with other board members on AAR events, including the concert, the Chalk Art Festival, and the Annual Art Show. She also served as the editor of this newsletter for several years. Although retired from the board, she is a life-time member and a consultant who is heavily relied upon.

Char said, "I believe that a community art scene is only as strong as the people who support it. We are so fortunate to have passionate art supporters here in Renton." ♦



CURRENT OFFICERS

Co-presidents: Deloris Dewing and Linda Middlebrooks
Secretary: Pat Tucker-Dolan Treasurer: Shari Fisher

BOARD MEMBERS

Jaris English ~ Melody Kroeger ~ Sonja Kyes ~ Cira Reymann ~
Janis Tanner ~ Sue Tierney ~ Leslie Aungst

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Charmaine Baker ~ Eleanor Bertagni ~ Sylvia Langdon ~ Barbara Nilson ~
Nancy Osborn ~ Terri Zura

ALLIED ARTS OF RENTON NEWSLETTER

Editor: Jaris English

Production: Lynda Barger

Reporters: Allied Arts of Renton Members and other contributors as named.

ALLIED ARTS OF RENTON MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 151, Renton, WA 98057-0151

Website: www.alliedartsofrenton.org

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Spotlight on Local Artists

Pockets of Beauty

By Helga Jaques

Many artists need pictorial and emotional stimulus to be creative. It is easy to find inspiring subjects in Italy, France, Spain and Austria. I have visited all these countries, hiked and sketched there on many occasions. Once back home, I use photographs, sketches and memories to bring back the beauty of these countries. There is never enough time to satisfy the soul fully. It brings me great joy to put down on canvas pockets of beauty and joy. To share my experience with the public, to make people feel good when viewing my work.

My roots are from Austria, but I feel very much at home in the Northwest. I have lived in Renton for over fifty years. At first glance, a visitor is probably not smitten with its hidden charm. But I have walked, biked, and driven in every corner of that town, and there is plenty of

beauty and surprises. I have painted several views of Coulon Park and found subjects in Renton's historic buildings. Sadly, many of them are no longer here, but they keep on living in my paintings. I have won the poster contest twice, organized by the movers and shakers of Renton River Days. For these posters, I tried to highlight parts of Renton which would speak to the diverse community living here.

My latest inspiration came while visiting my friend Jaris English, who lives in a charming cabin on Lake Kathleen. The sun was setting and the shimmer on the water reminded me of several paintings by Klimt. I did a WC sketch on site and continued at home this acrylic. Having painted for many years exclusively in watercolor, I love the strong visual impact of the later one.

I like to add that what really makes Renton great is not its visual beauty, but the people who live there. It consists of a solid core of caring, dedicated, and honest citizens. They have been wonderful supporters of my art. This year I have several subjects to paint in my mind including parts of Renton. ♦



"Reflections on Lake Kathleen"
By Helga Jaques (Beauty in Renton)



Fall Family Concert Uncertain

By Jaris English

Board members of Allied Arts have been concerned about whether we can hope to have our traditional Fall Family Concert considering the present crisis that has affected performances throughout the world. Our co-president, Deloris Dewing recently heard from Maestro Adam Stern regarding the Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra.

"I hope this finds you and yours well and dealing with the current situation safely and healthfully. We at the Philharmonic were heartbroken to have had to cancel our March and June concerts (Carmina Burana was to have been the climax of the season), and we're all determined to get back to business as usual come autumn! On the menu for October is a fun Halloween-

themed program entitled "In the startled ear of night..." The musical will include a couple of fun surprises as well, which will be announced from the stage."

The Philharmonic has announced their fall program as follows: OFFENBACH: Overture, Orpheus in the Underworld; TARTINI: Sonata in G minor, for Violin and Orchestra, The Devil's Trill • Luke Fitzpatrick, violin, MUSSORGSKY: Night on Bald Mountain, •Intermission•, DUKAS: The Sorcerer's Apprentice.

We are trying to be hopeful that our beloved concert will be held this October at the Ikea Performing Arts Center as usual, and we will keep you all informed as to whether it becomes feasible. ♦

Renton Chalk Art

The Evolution of Chalk Art

By Barbara Nilson and Jaris English

In 1996, Allied Arts started the first Chalk Art Festival in the Piazza area of downtown Renton. Sylvia Langdon chaired the event which included a photo partnership with the Downtown Renton Association. Chalk Art continued as a downtown Renton event in partnership with Piazza Renton with Nancy Hoben as chairman until 2005. There was a break for one year when the Piazza discontinued the event, and then on July 22, 2006, Allied Arts held the 10th Annual Chalk Art on the Liberty Park sidewalk during Renton River Days. It remained there until 2012 when the 16th Annual Chalk Art Contest moved to the tennis courts at Liberty Park for the July event, under the direction of Sonja Kyes and Vicki Navarro.

Chalk Art Judging guidelines included the following categories: Judges Award for Best Theme: Professional Artist: Winner \$100; Runner up \$50. gift certificate; Adult, Age 13 and up; winner \$100 cash; Runner up \$50. gift certificate; Honorable Mention gift certificate depending on donations; People's Choice: Winner \$50. cash donated by Allied Arts President Barbara Nilson, enlarged to \$100. for later contests. on River Days. The 16th and 17th Annual Chalk Art shows filled the



tennis courts at Liberty Park with a record number of professional artists and has remained there since, 2012.

There has been less participation in the Chalk Art Festival recently, and therefore, this year, the board voted to discontinue the event. It has been a sad decision for Allied Arts because of the wonderful memories from the last thirty-seven years. However, the entire collection of accumulated supplies and chalk has been donated to the Renton Municipal Art Commission. They are continuing with the spirit of chalk art during these challenging times, and you can now enjoy the beautiful results throughout Renton. ♦

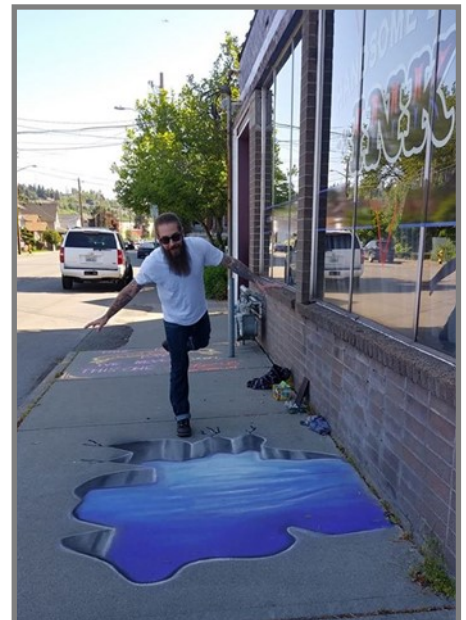
Chalk Your Walk Event

By Jessie Kotarski

The City of Renton Recreation and Neighborhoods Division held its first **Chalk Your Walk** event May 4-10, 2020. The event encouraged the entire community to chalk the sidewalks and driveway in their neighborhoods to generate inspiration and positive messaging during the Governor's Stay Home orders. The City worked with community volunteers, the Renton Municipal Arts Commission, Renton Downtown Partnership and the Renton AmeriCorps VISTA team to distribute chalk and decorate sites all over the city.

Over 300 bundles of chalk were provided to families and 25

businesses in Renton. Each day featured a fun theme to engage all ages and provide tools for the community to connect during a time that social distancing is important. The themes on Day 1 and 2 of the event encouraged people to write messages of support and gratitude to essential workers, small businesses, and others affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. One volunteer mentioned, "it was cathartic to be able to show support for those on the front line of this pandemic with something physical." Day 3 provided a creative way to get people moving by creating obstacle courses, hopscotch boards,



--continued on page 6

Scholarships

Past Scholarship Winner Solana Jenkins, Moving Forward

By Jaris English

Solana Jenkins has been steadily advancing her musical goals since receiving the 2018 Arts Alive for Youth Scholarship. Solana gives Allied Arts a lot of credit for giving her the confidence she needed to pursue her dream. Playing trumpet, Solana has been part of the Liberty High School marching band. She performed a "Solo and Ensemble" at Mount Si High School in Snoqualmie earlier this year. She also performed with the Liberty High School Jazz Band at a jazz festival held at Bellevue College.

Solana has just graduated from high school during this strange pandemic year, and received glowing words and a special medal from her band teacher at his end of year farewell speech. Next, she has been accepted with a scholarship to the school of music at the Universi-

ty of Pacific Sound. She will be studying trumpet and kinesiology.

All of us associated with Allied Arts are proud of Solana's achievements.

We continue to offer scholarships in cultural arts fields to be awarded to students between the ages of 12-19. The purpose of these scholarships is to encourage and help talented young students to further train in their chosen artistic field. ♦



Scholarship Winner: Stage Star, Danielle Spahn

By Jaris English

We were happy to award Danielle Spahn an Arts Alive for Youth scholarship which allows her to attend MTCA - Musical Theatre Competition of America. The MTCA competition includes audition workshops, feedback from industry leaders, Broadway-style auditions, and instruction from industry professionals.

In January, she performed the role of Anna in Disney's *Frozen* with the *Royal Theatre Company* at the Carco Theatre in Renton. Danielle has been in performances with the *Renton Christian School*, *Hi-Liners Mainstage*, and the *Renton Civic Theatre*.

Danielle is a talented actress, dancer and singer and she said, "I am passionate about musical theatre

and I plan to pursue a career in musical theatre and am trying to get as much experience as possible."

We hope to see Danielle on Broadway! Please let the talented youth you know who are involved in any of the arts know about the Allied Arts Scholarship Program. Details are available on our website at www.alliedartsofrenton.org. ♦



New Board Member, Leslie Aungst

Art has been a part of my life from an early age where my interest in culturally diverse hand-crafted items began with a fondness for Native Artworks. My Grandfather created bowls from burls found on the beach. My mother, a skilled seamstress and my father's hand-dyed Easter eggs destined me for my bent-wire jewelry-making in my teens.

I volunteered at the Bellevue Art Fair for many years and started my own collection of art in varied mediums. I love to travel and always seek out art galleries and local crafters along the way and bring home a treasured piece. My aspirations of watercolor painting is one I plan to pursue now that I am newly retired after 45 years at Nordstrom. I feel grateful to join the Board of Allied Arts Of Renton and look forward to helping to support art awareness in our community



Art in Action in Renton

Paint the Town! New Murals Coming to Renton

By Jessie Kotarski

Four new mural projects, in various phases of completion, are in the works around the city. Currently, in the downtown, Renton artist Sybil McIntyre is working on her tribute to the Farmers Market on the back of the Burger Town building on the corner of S 3rd St and Smithers Ave S. Sybil's piece, titled, *Market Melody*, includes a larger than life saxophone player whose horn emits graphic "notes" illustrating fruits, vegetables, bees, flowers and historic market posters from years.

Just a few blocks away, the Call for Proposals closed on May 30. for a mural on the east side of the Renton Printery building. This mural, funded in part by Allied Arts of Renton, is intended to be a celebration of Renton history. The call encouraged artists to submit their proposals to help tell the story of Downtown Renton and celebrate the rich culture and history of the region. Six artists responded to the call. The collaborative proposal submitted by Brelse Illustration and River Valley Cheese and featuring a design concept based loosely on the idea of the Four Cow Bridge, was selected for the project. Painting will begin this summer

On Benson Hill, artist Mari Shibuya has been selected to paint a mural on the sound wall at the intersection of SE Petrovitsky Rd and 117 Ave SE. Mari will work closely with the public to create a design that represents the neighborhood and illustrates the shared values they have as a community. "I am passionate about de-

signing creative experiences for communities to come together and create new levels of order and visually tell the story of what they stand for together and who they are as a community,"

Mari explains. Several community engagement events are planned to facilitate conversation and the mural is scheduled to be complete before the end of summer.

The final mural, designed as a celebration of Renton athletes, remains "homeless." Originally planned for a building in downtown, the property owner had a change of heart and now the artist is seeking a wall for his design. Artist, Alexander Codd, worked closely with the Renton Municipal Arts Commission to connect with the families of famous athletes who had their start in Renton. The families and athletes were delighted to grant permission to use their likeness in the art and the artist and members of the Commission are hopeful to see the project completed and the accomplishments of these individuals publicly celebrated. ♦



Example of wall Art:
"Market Melody" by Sybil McIntyre

Continued: Chalk Your Walk Event

and other games that provided a fun way to stay active.

The rest of the week was dedicated to imagination. Participants drew images of the things they have missed the most during the Stay Home orders and filled the sidewalks with fantastic pictures of dragons, characters, and incredible illusions. Another volunteer noted, "we were able to talk to people passing by who would stop to watch us draw and have those connections we've been missing in quarantine, we could bond over the things we were missing or take a minute to focus on art, not everything else going on."

At the end of the week, the Renton Downtown Partnership awarded four \$25 gift cards for downtown Renton restaurants to community members for their ex-

cellent art. The Renton Downtown Partnership is a local non-profit dedicated to cultivating a vibrant social, cultural, and economic scene in downtown Renton.

While the chalk art was temporary, you can still view the images on Facebook/RentonArts. A special thank you to Allied Arts for the generous donation of chalk that was distributed to the businesses and community in Downtown Renton. ♦



I WANT TO JOIN ALLIED ARTS TO SUPPORT THE ARTS IN RENTON

Please clip and make check payable to Allied Arts of Renton, Inc.
Send form to P.O. Box 151, Renton, WA 98057-0151

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Please include email to receive the next newsletter

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Membership dues are tax deductible and help us produce newsletters, brochures, pay for postage, etc. Membership entitles you to vote on any changes to the Allied Arts Bylaws, attend the Annual Meeting held in May and be assured of receiving our twice a year newsletter.

- STUDENT/SENIOR MEMBERSHIP \$ 5.00
- ADULT MEMBERSHIP \$ 8.00
- COUPLE MEMBERSHIP \$15.00
- BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP \$25.00

Allied arts is an all-volunteer 501c3 non-profit organization; all contributions received are designated specifically for local arts projects and are also tax deductible.

- ACADEMY AWARD WINNERS \$500.00 and up
- ARTIST EXTRAORDINAIRE \$150.00 to \$500
- SUPERSTARS \$100.00 to \$149.00
- STAR PERFORMER \$50.00-\$99.00
- ARTS DEVOTEE \$25.00-\$49.00
- BUDDING ARTIST \$5.00-\$24.00

Allied Arts of Renton

MEMBERSHIP \$ _____

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TOTAL AMOUNT
ENCLOSED \$ _____

Thank You!

RENTON REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Donations can be made online
to Allied Arts through the Renton
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are a wonderful thing!*

ALLIED ARTS MEETINGS

Held the fourth Tuesday
of each month,
6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
There are no meetings in
July or December.
Locations vary—
call **206-772-4010**

Allied Arts Mailing Address
P.O. Box 151
Renton, WA 98057-0151

Website is
www.alliedartsofrenton.org

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Renton Civic Theatre - Leaving the Light On

By Bill Hulls

Renton Civic Theatre has a special note to pass on. In the theater, we have a tradition in which one small light, called the ghost light, is left on when the theater is dark. It lights our way safely in and out and holds the spark of our work for us to pick up again when we return. We are leaving this light on for you – and we look so forward to the moment when we can be together again.



RENTON CIVIC THEATRE

507 S. 3rd Street in Renton

Information:

425-226-5529

boxoffice@rentoncivictheatre.org



Allied Arts of Renton

P.O. Box 151
Renton, WA 98057-0151

A Message from The AAR Board

The board members of Allied Arts believe in encouraging the acceptance and inclusion of diversity in the community and we welcome the expression of creative arts from different cultures. Our hearts go out to families severely affected by this deadly virus. We also stand behind all individuals who are speaking up for humane and equal treatment.



About Allied Arts of Renton

Allied Arts is an all volunteer non-profit organization where every cent received in donations goes directly into arts-oriented programs. By seeking grants and partnerships, and using our own in-kind talents, we have helped keep the arts alive and well in Renton. Our organization supports visual arts, vocal and instrumental music, performing arts, as well as the literary arts. Your generous donations help us greatly in this endeavor.