

Yakima Valley Artists Association  
General Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2024

5:30 p.m. – Social Time

6:00 p.m. – Welcome. Jack Cannon, Membership chair, welcomed new and first attending members. He thanked AnaLi Gresham and Cathy Reed for providing refreshments for this meeting.

6:00 p.m. – Presentation: Grace Clark, certified Zentangle Instructor, Zentangle Drawing

**BUSINESS MEETING:**

Board members present: Kate Bowditch, vice-president; Mary Jepsen, secretary; Kathy Birdwell, treasurer; Board Member Jack Cannon. Absent: Meldra Driscoll, president; Board Member Kris Knight.

Kate called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and asked guests and new members to introduce themselves; New member, Larry Duran; guests Abby Mendoza; Mercedes Mendoza, Azuree Kafker, Heather Hein, and Diane Crocket.

Secretary Report: To be accessed on the YVAA website.

Treasury Report: As of 12/31/2023 there was a balance of \$1,723.51. A written record of expenses and deposits was made available to all members present.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Membership & Hospitality Committee: Mike Mullen explained the set-up with the membership booklet on the YVAA website, stating there is a version of the booklet that is available for viewing and another version available to print out in order to fold the paper in half to form a 5.5 x 8.5-inch booklet and staple. Mary explained that the QR code on the backside of the membership card is a direct access to the viewable version on the website using one's phone camera.

Fresh Air Committee: Kate announced that the Fresh Air group will be meeting at Le Mercantile Coffee House, 218 W. Yakima Avenue, on Jan 18, at 10:00 a.m. Those interested are to bring their art supplies. Beverages and light breakfast/lunch items will be available to purchase for those who wish to.

Virtual Show: Mike presented the current virtual show on the YVAA website, "A Piece of Work" with Kate's written introduction to the show. Following the viewing, eight virtual show titles receiving the most interest on the 2023 Survey were provided and voted on by show of hands. The four titles selected for 2024 YVAA website virtual shows are: Nature's Pallet: Art Inspired by the Earth, Abstract Art: Colors in Motion, Beyond the Frame, and Whimsy & Wonder: A Whimsical Art Showcase.

Social Media & Website Committee: Kate reminded members to contact Mike with any news or "bragging rights" such as acceptance into shows so that the information may be listed on the YVAA website.

**ON-GOING BUSINESS:**

Yakima Coffeehouse Poets & YVAA Collaboration: Doug Lewis described the decisions made by a committee of YVAA and YVP members at a recent meeting, stating that the show featuring poems

and art will be held at the Larson Gallery in 2025. The group is in the process of collecting poems from YCP poets to be submitted altogether to artists who will have several months to create visual artwork to accompany a selected poem.

Barbed Wire Art: Doug also presented a large piece of barbed wire worked into a sphere and stated that Cowiche Canyon is currently clearing out barbed wire from a section of the shrub-steppe area and with, the help of artist, Vic Smith, interested YVAA artists are invited to create large sculptures using the wire. Those interested in the project may contact Doug at: kiralena@hotmail.com.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser: Heather Hein, creative director at Habitat for Humanity, Yakima, spoke to the group about a fundraiser that they are planning in the Spring. The project involves approximately 10 Adirondak chairs already available at the Habitat store. The agency is seeking artists to paint or otherwise decorate the chairs to be, then donated back to Habitat to be auctioned off. The end result must still be a chair for sitting. Those interested in participating in the project may contact Heather at: heather@yakimahabitat.org.

2023 Survey: Mary discussed the results of the survey provided to members in late 2023 with Mike projecting the tabulated answers on an overhead screen. The presentation topic that received the most votes was, "How to Sell Online," followed by "Beginning Pastels." The top two plein air events receiving the most votes were, "Coffee Houses of Yakima" and "Quick Draw: Plein Air at a Winery." The results of the survey will be turned over to the various committees to begin planning the 2024 events. Those members wishing to see the compiled results may contact Mary to have them sent via email. One winner of the contest to guess the presentation topic of most interest was announced, guest Abby Mendoza.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Without further business, Kate adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Mary S. Jepsen, Secretary