



HCAA Newsletter

This newsletter is supported in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council.

Visit

HCAAonline.org

for info on

- Installation/deinstallation days/times
- Exhibit registration
- Receptions
- Artwork by Members
- Join/renew HCAA membership
- & more!

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A Message from HCAA President-Elect Eileen Cave:

Returning Home to the HCAA Creative Network

Hello everyone! I am looking forward to serving, again, as President of HCAA, as I resume my role as a full-time artist effective July 1, 2022. I previously served as President from 2003 to 2009. When several members approached me about taking on this responsibility, I thought—why not? Absolutely, since I am retiring from working as an art teacher for the Prince George’s County Public Schools in June. While I remained a member of the organization over the years, I have been a periodic painter, and I am anxious to get back to the canvas and network with HCAA members more frequently.

I look forward to talking and meeting with the many members who have joined since I was president and learning how we can maintain the legacy of this great organization. We owe so much to Denise Brown and her enduring commitment and outstanding leadership.



Eileen Cave, HCAA President-Elect

For those of you who do not know me well, or at all, I have resided in

Hyattsville for 26 years. In addition to working as an art teacher, I am a consultant for the Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council, developing arts education and creative programs, and I once served as chairwoman of that organization. I have two grown sons, and I am a passionate art museum girl. I look forward to getting back inside or our museums as the pandemic winds down.

Please feel free to contact me at ecaveart@aol.com; my cell is 240-535-9761. I look forward to working and creating a greater “artmosphere” in our community!

HCAA doesn’t run itself! The more we all join in, the more we all gain. Please consider getting more involved.

**Do you have ideas for venues where HCAA could exhibit?
Do you have ideas for future HCAA activities?
Would you like to help with graphics, membership, art hangings, receptions,...?**

Contact Eileen Cave at ecaveart@aol.com to help HCAA spread the art!

Franklins: A Hyattsville Institution—and a Boon for Local Artists

by Pete Pichaske

In 1992, toy sales representative Mike Franklin and his schoolteacher wife, Debbie, bought the former Hyattsville Hardware Co., a solid building perched on a dying strip of Route 1, and transformed it into a general store and deli.

Thirty years later, that neighborhood business has evolved into Franklins, a Hyattsville institution that has grown to become a combination restaurant, brew pub, and toy store – and a valued venue for scores of local artists eager to display, and sometimes sell, their work.

Neither Mike nor Debbie had any experience running a business when they bought the property. But, according to Mike, they went into it thinking, How can we best serve the neighborhood? “If we did that, we knew we were bound to be successful, and we’ve continued to follow that as our North Star,” he said.

On its website, Franklins bills itself as “the only combination restaurant, brewery, and toy store in the world.” Mike Franklin says it’s a business model that “no one else on Earth probably would do. It’s way too complicated.”

The art component started about a quarter-century ago. At that time, Franklins was just a novelty toy store with a small deli in the back. Most of the food sold was carryout, but the space had a few tables—porcelain-topped tables, picked up from thrift stores and dating from the 1930s and 1940s—for people who wanted to dine in.

It also had wall space that eventually attracted the attention of local artists, who asked if they could display their work. Ever amenable, Mike Franklin agreed, and local art, usually one-person shows, started appearing on the walls.

The problem, Franklin said, was that not all of the art that people brought was good, but he was reluctant to refuse to accept it and risk alienating customers.

“It was always kind of a pain because customers would show up and we had no experience with curating,” he said. “Sometimes the artworks would be worth hanging, but sometimes not.”

The solution to the problem appeared when the Franklins heard that the Hyattsville Community Arts Alliance had formed. The Franklins approached the fledgling group about curating and hanging their artwork on the wall ... or the artists approached them; this far removed, memories of who first asked whom are blurry. In any event, the upshot was a partnership that has lasted a quarter-century.

Monna Kauppinen, one of the early members of HCAA, recalled hanging her paintings at Franklins in the early



Mike Franklin, supporting local art
(painting by Maureen Wheatley)

days, even before the business had expanded to include the brew pub.

“I think when he [Franklin] got the new big place, he wanted to continue showing art, preferably whimsical and preferably from local artists.” Having HCAA provide the skilled artists and the expertise in hanging made the pairing ideal for the newly expanded restaurant.

And also for the artists.

Over the years, while other venues have come and gone, Franklins has been a constant. “It’s good for us,” Kauppinen said. “It’s consistently been one of our best sales venues.”

Even without the sales, artists see Franklins as a place where – even in a pandemic – their work gets valuable public exposure. “It’s a place you can take people in and show them your work,” Kauppinen said. Franklins might have been the first venue that HCAA paired up with to show art on a regular basis, she added.

As for Franklins, the alliance freed the owners from having to turn down unacceptable art and is in line with its mission to be a valuable part of the community.

Small Size, Big Impact

by Sally Ann Rogers and Diane Elliott

In March 2021, Judith and Michael Cotter opened Your Tiny Art Gallery in front of 4301 Van Buren Street, in University Park, MD. Judith was inspired by a Seattle artist who had built a Tiny Gallery in her neighborhood. The Cotters hoped that Your Tiny Art Gallery would bring a sense of joy and community to their neighborhood.

Michael Cotter designed, built, and painted the wooden gallery and installed it by the public sidewalk in their front yard. Unlike the similar Free Little Libraries, the gallery is locked, but artists can provide pricing and contact information if their artworks are available for purchase. So far, around twenty local artists have had Tiny Art Gallery shows, which change every two weeks. These exhibits have featured paintings, drawings, mixed media art and even historical lessons about famous artists.

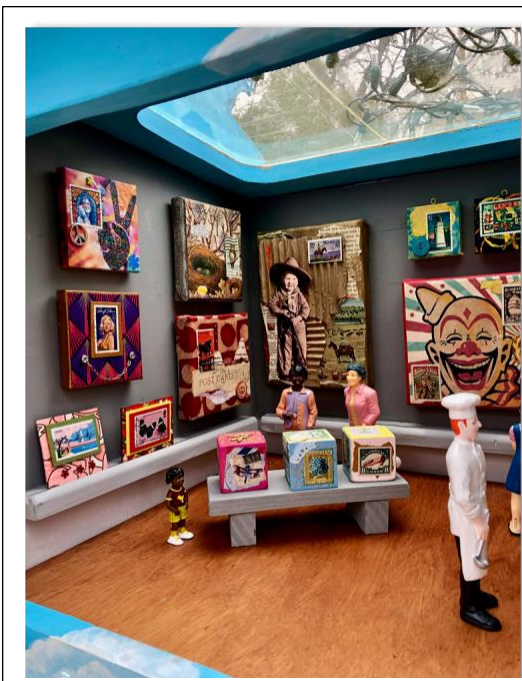
HCAA member Sally Ann Rogers recently exhibited more than twenty small collages in a show titled "Going Postal." Each collage features a postage stamp. Artists have the option of hosting a Tiny Reception, and Sally Ann invited friends to join her at the gallery on a chilly Sunday afternoon. Dozens of people showed up to drink tiny cups of wine, eat tiny cheese and crackers, and sample tiny food from the "tiny food truck" installation in the back of one guest's SUV.

Judith Cotter curates the exhibits, and any local artists who are interested in being a part of this should contact her (jcayocotter@gmail.com) with a description of their work and two photo examples. Follow the exhibits on Instagram, @yourtinyartgallery.

The Tiny Art Museum, at 4301 Van Buren St. in University Park, MD, is open for viewing 24/7.



Your Tiny Art Gallery, built by Michael Cotter, curated by Judith Cotter



"Going Postal," a recent tiny collage exhibit by Sally Ann Rogers

An Artist's Perspective: Art and Healing

By Delia Mychaljuk

Over the years, I have found, through interacting with other people—both artists and those that are not practicing artmaking—that utilizing artwork as a “jumping off” place can facilitate communication that can go in many different directions but is always a sharing between individuals. The process of creating for myself has been both a way of learning about myself and my values and an outlet for processing the many difficulties that one faces in life.

My first experience with considering art as an instrument of healing was back in the mid-1970s when I was working as a psychiatric nurse on a large crisis intervention in-patient unit. During those days, I had the opportunity to assist our art therapist in some group and individual art therapy sessions. It became apparent that, for some individuals who were mute or otherwise had difficulty with verbal communication, communication was possible via their artwork. Sometimes, the art making served to assist staff in understanding what was happening with an individual and therefore was helpful in focusing treatment. The art making created bonds between people and decreased feelings of isolation and alienation in some people. Hospitals use art as a vehicle for healing and, in particular, look for artwork on oncology units to be peaceful—often landscape works.

During this difficult time of COVID, political division, concerns about war, etc., I find that some art reminds one of beauty in the world, and some art, just by sharing universal feelings, can be healing for both the artist and the viewer. Art classes or workshops can provide an opportunity for communication, as can collaborations between artists in the creation of art.

There have been a number of recent shows that have emphasized the link between art and healing, such as 2019's The Art & Science of Healing exhibit at the American Association for the Advancement of Science. There are some organizations who have this as their primary focus, such as the Smith Center for Healing and the Arts on U Street, which is home to the Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery. Even mainstream art institutions recognize the symbiosis of art and well-being; for example, The Phillips Collection states that “The museum was founded on the principles of the deep connection between art and wellness.


I have experienced the power of art as a vehicle of healing as a healthcare professional. As an art student at the Corcoran and as a member of HCAA and Passageways Artist Studios, I have had opportunities to communicate and collaborate with other artists and with the community at large. Creating and sharing my art has enriched my life, and my wish is that my art enriches other people's lives and alleviates feelings of isolation and alienation.

“He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and head is a craftsman. He who works with his hands and his head and his heart is an artist.”


St. Francis of Assisi

HCAA Current Exhibitions

“Spectrum”
Franklins Restaurant and Brewery
5121 Baltimore Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20781
January 8, 2022–March 5, 2022



RECEPTION
Sunday, February 20, 2022
2:00 PM—4:00PM



Hyattsville
Community
Arts
Alliance

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MARGOT BRASWELL: MARGOTBRASWELL@GMAIL.COM OR VISIT: WWW.HCAAONLINE.ORG

HCAA Calendar

February/March

February 20: 3–5 PM Franklins reception
March 5: 9 AM Franklins installation “Right Brained Image”
9:45 AM Fleisher’s installation “Color and Light”
12 noon PGPCC installation “A Vision Awakens”
March 19: 1–3 PM PGPCC Solo Wall reception for Pete Pichaske

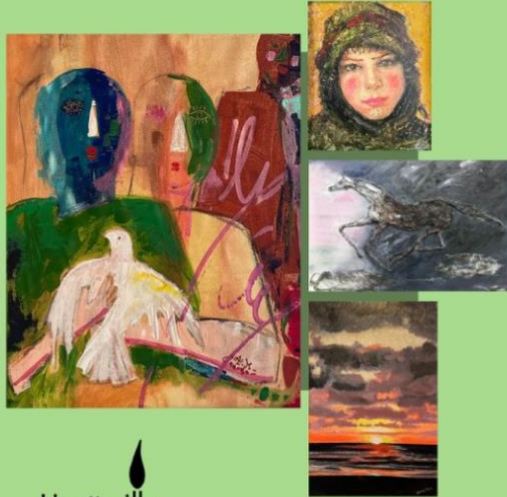
Other local art newsletters, offering news and exhibition information, are available from:

Maryland State Arts Council
msac.org

Prince George’s Arts & Humanities
pgahc.org


East City Art
eastcityart.com

“A Season for Harmony”
January 8, 2022–March 5, 2022



Hyattsville
Community
Arts
Alliance

Fleisher’s Jewelers
5200 Baltimore Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20781



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Hyattsville Community Arts Alliance

**PO Box 37
Hyattsville, MD 20781
USA**

Phone: 301-699-1148
Email:
HCAAonline@gmail.com

Co-Editors: Diane Elliott, Aimee Doyle, and Delia Mychaljuk



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Bladensburg Waterfront Park
outdoors.pgparcs.com/Sites/Bladensburg_Waterfront_Park.htm

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fleishersjewelers.com
5200 Baltimore Ave., Ste. 103
Hyattsville, MD 20781
301-699-5553

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Franklinsbrewery.com
5123 Baltimore Ave.
Hyattsville, MD 20781
301-927-2740

Prince George's Plaza Community Center
Pgparcs.com
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Hyattsville, MD 20782
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