

Oregon Botanical Artists Biannual Membership Meeting, November 16, 2019

In attendance: Aislinn Adams, Janet Parker, Laurie Griff, Jane Campbell, Carol Putnam, Margot Cole, Kip Nordstrom, Alice Debo Fredericy, Kristine Mackessy, Tina Lange, Mary McCarty, Dorothy Krogh, Kate Simonson, Dorota Haber-Lehigh, Janene Walkky, Jeanne Debons, Karen Tillou, Marilyn Lindberg, Suzanne Jones, Kay French, Laura Shea

Meet and greet: Members started arriving at 9:30. Many brought art pieces they were working on and shared tips, challenges and favored media.

Dorota gave a presentation describing her experience of achieving a diploma from the Society of Botanical Artists Distance Course in London. The distance course included 11 assignments, an essay and a four-part diploma portfolio. It took 27 months to complete and involved correspondence with a tutor who provided feedback and grades. We were able to see the beautiful result of her determination and perseverance.

Lunch: We enjoyed a wide assortment of sweet and savory items for our potluck lunch and settled into our business meeting.

Aislinn began facilitating the meeting at about 12:15. She welcomed everyone and started with reports from leadership chairs.

Treasurer and membership chair: Dorota has been organizing the various collections and disbursements of funds in regards to workshop fees, honorariums, alphabet journals and membership. She mentioned that OBA purchased 20 extra journals in case members decided to purchase more or to be given as thank you gifts for workshop or exhibit presenters. Currently OBA has 45 members. Membership renewal for 2020 will be emailed in December and a 2020 membership roster will be sent in an email to all members in late January 2020.

Workshops chair: Tina reported that Jeanne Debons' workshop was well attended and challenging. She engaged members in a discussion about possible workshops and gathering space. Ideas presented included having workshops or gatherings two to four times a year on topics generated by members, creating mini-workshops (taught or introduced by members) as well as signing up for small group gatherings. Mary McCarty reminded everyone that the community space where she lives is available if she knows the date in advance.

Tina will work on creating a questionnaire or possibly using Survey Monkey to get a consensus of opinion related to future workshops/classes/gatherings to draw and send it in an email to all members.

Website Chair: Carol has kept the website up to date by adding names of new members, changes to the directors list, posting exhibit information and providing links to workshops and classes. She will add more as the Lan Su exhibit finishes and as our sketchbook exchange continues on. Carol encourages members interested in posting their art on the OBA website to contact her.

Product Liaison: The alphabet journal product is complete. Alice presented members with their journal orders earlier in the day. The books were impressive and beautifully wrapped.

Alice introduced a new product plan. Fabric with a botanical theme will be created. Alice generated a list of 21 ideas with a brainstorming activity. All members attending then voted for their top choices. Alice, Aislinn and Dorota will be working together organizing how the fabric will be produced (spoonflower.com). Alice will send an email to all OBA members with the top three choices to vote on as well as details and expectations. The size of images for this will be specific and a professional scan will be needed.

Lan Su Exhibition Update: Alice reported that four art pieces have sold at the garden. Many prints and cards are selling. Lan Su will reach out to artists individually if more art is needed. Jane reminded everyone that the monthly meeting that usually takes place in her home will instead be at the Lan Su garden tea house on December 4th from 10:00 to 12:00. Jane will send an email with details. There is limited space and she needs to know who will be attending. The intent is to have a meeting in the tea house and then walk across the street to pick up art from the storage area.

Future events and announcements: Janet talked about the American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA) and our connection with it. ASBA is celebrating 25 years and our OBA seven years. OBA is a circle within the larger group. Janet also announced that she will conclude her time as President in December 2019 and noted that Janene Walkky is interested in the position. Everyone attending supported Janene in her willingness to take on the role with a unanimous 'yes' vote.

Janet and Aislinn went on to talk about future events. There was some discussion about possible native plant exhibits, workshops, presentations and outings. Janet mentioned a collaboration between the Oregon Society of Artists (OSA) and OBA.

Heeyoung Kim (a member of ASBA) will be teaching a workshop in April. Aislinn talked about many plans for learning more about native plants.

Both Janet and Aislinn will email members with details as dates, times and subjects are decided upon.

ASBA report: Laurie Griff gave members an information sheet highlighting the ASBA 25th anniversary and suggested viewing a video of the history and founding of at YouTube.com ASBA 25th. She talked about the many activities that took place at conference in Pittsburgh. Laurie encourages OBA members to visit the ASBA website and all it has to offer.

There was a celebratory atmosphere before, during and after the meeting in regards to our seven year anniversary, the 25th year anniversary of ASBA as well as welcoming our new president, Janene Walkky.

In an email exchange amongst leadership members after the meeting it was decided that Wednesday, January 8 will be the first monthly meeting of 2020 at Jane's and May 2nd was agreed upon as a tentative date for the next biannual meeting. Aislinn will confirm the use of the room with Mary McCarty.

Matting mini-Workshop with Deb Rossi:

Janene Walkky introduced Deb Rossi from Portland Urban Sketchers to present the matting workshop. Deb gave a demonstration on how to cut the size and the opening of a mat using a Logan Compact Mat Cutter. She also showed how she positions art, uses hinging tape and puts the top and back together.

Deb provided 9x12 mounting board and handed out other mat board to cut to size.

Each participant had time to use the Logan cutter to prepare a mat for a 5"x 7" art piece. Deb provided suggestions and encouragement throughout the work time.

We finished a full day by approximately 3:30.
Dorothy Krogh



A celebration of 7 years of OBA.

Janene bestowed flowers and cards on Jane Levy Campbell for 7 years of her generous hosting of our monthly meetings - the backbone of our group, and to Janet for 7 years as President.

Alice presented and distributed our latest project - a huge hit! Botanical Illustrated Letters turned into a 2020 / 2021 journal. Well done - again - Alice!



Dorota held us all captive while she walked us through the portfolio that represents her 2 plus years in the distance-learning certificate program of the British Society of Botanical Artists. Wonderful work, earning the highest marks. Well done, Dorota!

Deb Rossi generously brought her mat cutter and equipment to give us a mini workshop in art presentation and mat cutting, to cap off our afternoon.

