

WEST HILLS ART LEAGUE

Minutes for Meeting of April 20, 2017

Cindy Gilberti Presiding

Minutes for our 3/16/17 meeting have been posted on line. Anyone with corrections or additions should feel free to submit them. Meantime, the minutes were approved.

Audra Zampogna submitted her current **Treasurer's report** which shows a current balance of \$4,902.54. The report was approved.

Election of Officers: Cindy reported that all current officers had agreed to stay on for another year, except for herself, VP Starr Hull and Membership Chairman Janine Simmons. She asked for volunteers to replace these retiring officers and was pleased that three members stepped up to take their places: Ashley Robles, a new member, has agreed to be President, Dianne Bauman will be our new Vice President, and Lance Maloney will be our new Membership Chairman.

Website: Amy Short announced that May's Artist of the Month would be Audra Zampogna. Amy also noted that anyone interested in helping administer the website would be welcome to join her.

50th Anniversary Celebration: Printed invitations to our celebration on May 13 were available at the meeting. All paid-up members are invited and may bring one guest. If you didn't pick up your invitation at tonight's meeting, Cindy would appreciate an RSVP. No one needs to bring food or beverages. These will be provided, along with music and..."surprises."

Annual Exhibit: The judge for our annual show will be Randy Morgan. Drop off work on May 1, from 10 a.m. to Noon. The reception is May 14, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Members are asked to arrive early and bring snacks or beverages. Pickup is Thursday night, May 18, when the Judge will discuss prize winners. (Participants must be paid-up members and are asked to leave their art up until the end of the meeting.) Entry fee: \$5 per piece, two pieces maximum. 20% commission to WHAL for any art sold at the show.

Earth Day: Cindy noted the art brought in by members for hanging during Moon Twp Parks & Recreation's Earth Day celebration on April 23. Art can be sold, and there are no commissions. Pickup is at the end of the day, April 23.

Gilberti Gallery: Besides noting openings still available for Dianne Bauman's oil painting class and Doug Brown's watercolor class, Cindy reminded us that every Tuesday, from 10 to 3, the gallery would be available for an "Open Studio." Cost is \$10. There is no instruction, but attendees typically exchange ideas and critiques. In addition, Cindy announced that Bonnie Wright, who does Cindy's framing, will be available on the first day of each month with sample materials and advice on framing.

Robert Morris Summer Schedule: Cindy asked for suggestions for classes and workshops that we could conduct at the Robert Morris. U. facility. We have use of the whole building and the rental is minimal.

Fiber Artist: We were treated to a brief special showing of fabric art by Cathy Stechschulte, who describes herself as a contemporary textile artist and creativity coach. She showed us two

pieces of fabric she had decorated and currently uses as wall hangings. On one piece of white fabric she had silk-printed designs using screens she had made with the help of a Thermofax machine. The other, she confessed, was an “accident.” It was a piece of black fabric on which she had bleached out a design which she then re-dyed. But when it came out of the dryer, it had holes in it. Undaunted, she incorporated the holes into a revised design which was a memorial to victims of a recent invasion in the Mid-East.

Demonstrator: Our guest presenter was Connie Clutter, who paints “portraits of the past.” Connie, who said she has been painting for 15 years, said she started her current specialty when she entered some of her work in a “Whiskey Rebellion” festival in Washington, PA. Intrigued by re-enactors at the festival, she began photographing them – and later making paintings from the snapshots. (She brought along a prize-winning portrait of a re-enactor who turned out not to be a local resident but rather a “free lancer” from Virginia who just liked to go around and participate in various festivals.)

Technique: Connie snaps pictures of her subjects, mainly at the Whiskey Rebellion Festival. She next makes a free-hand sketch, usually with a watercolor pencil, and then uses a brush loaded with clear water to make a monochromatic “underpainting.” When that dries, she glazes over it with her finished colors.

Preliminary Sketch: To help her compose and determine lighting and shadows, she sometimes does a preliminary sketch, often in pencil but sometimes in watercolor.

Paper: She uses 140# cold press Arches “Natural White” paper for her paintings. She finds 16 X 20 a convenient size, although she sometimes paints larger pictures.

Easel: She likes to work at a table easel tilted almost vertically, because it helps her washes to flow down the page evenly.

Tools: She uses her iPad Pro to take most of her initial photos and is usually happy with its ability to crop while maintaining fairly high resolution. The pencil she uses for her “underpainting” is a Creta Color Aquamonolith, which she gets from Dick Blick. For brushes she likes Robert Simmons, which “hold a lot of water.” However, a favorite brush is a one-inch Rosemary & Co. Series 222 brush, which is actually intended for varnishing oil paintings. It’s inexpensive – ca. \$10 – but she likes how it keeps its sharp edge, even better than expensive Kolinsky sable brushes.

Colors: Connie says she likes a limited palette, which consists of Cad Red, Cad Yellow, Cobalt, Alizarin Crimson, French Ultramarine and Aureolin Yellow, plus Naples Yellow and Titanium. Her basic skin tone is a mix of Naples and Alizarin. She usually mixes on the paper, rather than on the palette.

Composition: She says she will often simplify a portrait – e.g. eliminating fancy jewelry or overly fussy costume fabrics. When composing, she tries to be especially conscious of negative spaces.

Backgrounds: Her washes are sometimes wet-on-wet, and she will sometimes embellish them as she did with one portrait where she added soft verticals of Titanium White, suggesting folds of fabric behind the subject. She avoids going over an area, and she never masks, preferring to paint around white areas.

Timing: On average, it takes Connie about 8 to 10 hours to complete a painting.

Subject Matter: She enjoys her current focus on “portraits of the past.” She has done commissioned portraits, though.

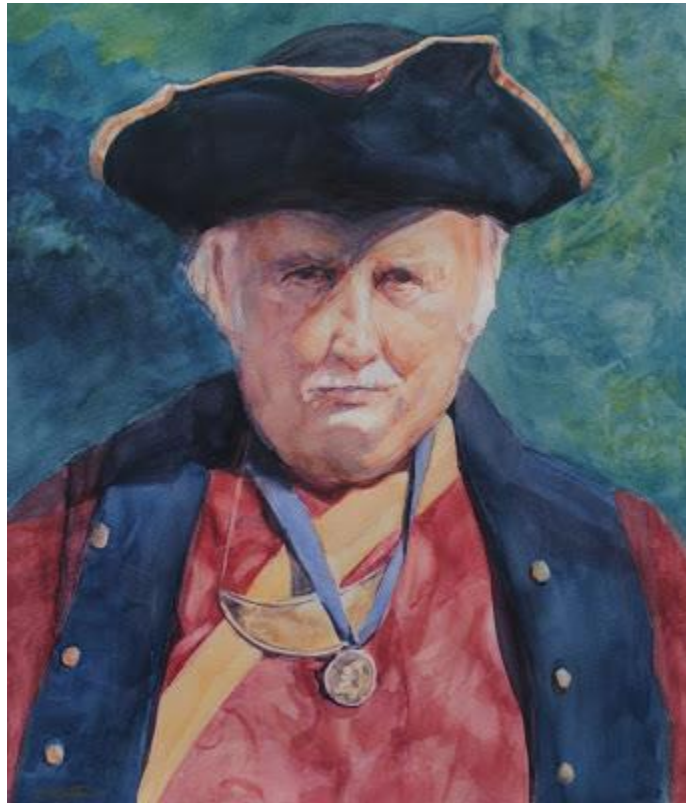
Prints: She is still reluctant to let go of her originals (except for commissioned portraits), so she usually offers prints of her work. She uses American Frame to make her prints.

Framing: She uses Countryside Framing in Washington for her framing and shipping.

Sales: Most of her sales are at festivals, although she now has a website and has begun to sell prints over the internet. Her website is <http://connieclutterartist.blogspot.com/>

Respectfully submitted,

Will White



“Before the Battle” 17 X 20

