



MIXED MEDIA

April 2019

A publication of the Maine ART Education Association

Spring Gatherings

NAEA
Boston

MAEA
Belfast Area HS



"Joyous Exhalation" a work in progress Stephanie Peters began at the MAEA Spring Conference. Photo by Bobbi Tardiff. See page 4 for more photos and reflections from our day at Belfast Area High School.



MESSAGE from the President

Suzanne Goulet

WATERVILLE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

**HOW
do we
Do It?**

April Showers bring...snow plowers!

A colleague sarcastically asked if April was shorter this year. "*What happened to March?*" was my response. A wide swing of weather has me constantly questioning if I should move the broom and shovel out of the truck.

How do we do it?

**Great Quality Art Education Professional
Development Experiences, Leadership Team**

**Assembling, Recognizing and Honoring
Excellence in our Esteemed Colleagues**, and making connections with the many statewide professional arts groups through **Arts and Culture Day** at the Statehouse are just some of the exciting statewide professional experiences that are Art Education in April... in Maine

How do we do it?

One Saturday in April is our annual Spring Conference, brought to you this year by our host, **Heidi O'Donnell**, at *Belfast HS*. Best practice, studio sessions, and round table discussions are brought to you by generous volunteers.

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MAEA Board

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Every two years the next MAEA Leadership Team is assembled in April. Congratulations and thank you to: President - **Lisa Ingraham** (*Madison ES*), President - Elect - **Lynda Leonas** (*Auburn/Washburn ES*), Secretary - **Heidi O'Donnell** (*Belfast AHS*), and Membership Services - **Hope Lord** (*Maranacook MS*). We look forward to your leadership.

The Annual MAEA Awards and Recognition ceremony is one of the most affirming, inspiring, and uplifting unique professional experiences that you can be a part of. Thank you to **Holly Houston** (*Yarmouth HS*) for chairing this quality event. **Make a plan to attend next year. Use your shovel and broom to get there, if needed.**

Monday, April 22nd, at the Statehouse was Arts and Culture Day. The Hall of Flags was filled with representatives of Arts groups ranging from educators, creators, advocates, performers, legislators, and MDOE staff. MAEA was well represented with student artists from Belfast HS and MAEA leadership (**O'Donnell, Leonas, Ingraham, and Goulet**)

How do we do it?

The truck has the shovel and the broom. Tools needed for a Maine April (March/Feb/Jan).

You are invited...

The next meeting is on May 9th at 5pm
at the MEA offices in Augusta
(35 Community Drive, Augusta)

Distance an issue? You can join in
virtually via Zoom.

MAEA has the tools. You are the broom. You are the shovel.

That's how we do it.

It's a matter of perspective

Suzanne C. Goulet

President, Maine Art Education Association
Traditional, Digital, and Emerging Art Educator,
Waterville SHS

Thank You!

***to everyone who submitted photos
and/or reflections for this issue:***

Deb Arter • Shawna Barnes • Deb Bickford
Jennie Driscoll • Suzanne Goulet
Brooke Holland • Katie Kiger
Lynda Leonas • Melissa Maher
Kimberly Medsker-Mehalic • Elise Pelletier
Stephanie Peters • Bobbi Tardiff
and Jodi Thomas

**Your creative contributions make this
newsletter possible!**

MIXED MEDIA is the award-winning (September-June) newsletter of the MAEA. It is sent to membership and shared on our website aeforme.org. Please contact us for reprinting considerations.

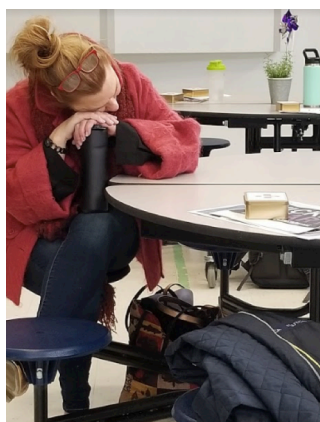
Submissions can be shared with Lisa Ingraham (Editor/Designer) at lisa.ingraham@msad59.org.

The opinions expressed in Mixed Media are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent MAEA policies.

MAEA Spring Conference

Belfast Area High School • April 6, 2019

Clockwise from right: Conference host Heidi O'Donnell with MAEA President Suzanne Goulet, Sue Shapiro working in sgraffito, before and after clay pieces, "The State of the Arts" with DOE Arts Specialist Nathaniel Menifield, Past-president, Deb Bickford and Treasurer/ Honoree Matthew Johnson, Superstar Sedomocha Art Teachers Martha Ladd and Bobbi Tardiff, and in the center (soon to be President-elect) Lynda Leonas after a long, happy, and creative day!





Clockwise from below: Nancy Goan working on her wire/plaster figure, artwork from Bobbi's Giacometti-inspired workshop, artwork from Holly and Tim's clay workshop, Smoke firing, Holly Houston and Honoree Cami Davis, Creating in clay, and Jodi Thomas sharing a Polaroid photography technique (center).





The MAEA recognizes these art educators for their commitment to excellence, their passion for art education, and their dedication to the young artists they teach every day: Jodi Thomas (Thornton Academy) Secondary Art Educator of the Year, Amy Cousins (Gorham MS) Art Educator of the Year 2020, Allie Rimkunis (Gorham ES) Elementary Art Educator of the Year, Judy Novey (Waynelete) Outstanding Commitment to the Profession, Cami Davis (Acton PK-8) Middle Art Educator of the Year, and Matthew Johnson (Westbrook HS) Outstanding Service to the Profession.

The new MAEA interest group - Art Teachers Create *first art-making date is April 27th!*

This group will meet once a month on the last Saturday of the month (holidays permitting) from 9AM-Noon all over the state in different volunteers' art rooms or homes. Participants are asked to bring their own art supplies. There is no commitment required, but you will do to RSVP the host if you plan to attend.

Alli Rimkunis is your host for April 27th at Great Falls Elementary School, 73 Justice Way, Gorham. More Info from Alli: "Mine is a large room without opening windows so toxic smelly materials would not be a good fit. However, if weather allows, folks can go outside behind the room on a large lawn. There are picnic tables too. Inside I have 6 large tables and 3 sinks for washing."
RSVP to Alli at allie.rimkunas@gorhamschools.org.

***If you are interested in hosting one of these monthly art-making meetings,
contact Jodi Thomas at jodi.thomas@thorntonacademy.org***

NAEA Convention Boston

Not enough room for all **The Highlights**

This is an incredibly small sample of the events of the NAEA Convention. To explore resources - including videos - from Boston, visit the NAEA website: <https://www.arteducators.org/learn-tools/convention-resources>. My favorite, which I did need to experience again via video, was the presentation given by Howard Gardner on "Wit and Grit." *You may need an NAEA membership login to access some of these resources.



Suzanne Goulet and Lisa Ingraham (center) proudly accept the President's Citation from Diane Wilkin, Eastern Region VP (left) and Kim Huyler Defibaugh, Past President (right).



MAEA President, Suzanne Goulet enjoying quality time with her sister Christine in the vendors exhibit hall.



Portland Elementary Art Teachers.



A crowd of Maine Art Educators attended the NAEA National Awards ceremony recognizing Paula and Peter Lunder, who received the Distinguished Service Outside of the Profession award for their dedication to the visual arts. Personally, it was an honor to meet and speak with two people who have had an impact on the lives of my students. ~Lisa Ingraham.

Reflections on NAEA Boston Conditions for Learning

by LYNDA LEONAS
Art Teacher, Auburn Public Schools

Condition Comfort: The Right Pair of Shoes

My travel companion, Laura Manchester, Lewiston High School art teacher, and I were off the ground running from the very night we arrived until the day we left. Laura even purchased a new pair of sneakers more fit to the Running of the Art Educators in Boston! I was thrilled with how the National Arts Education Association could pack such amazing learning experiences into a few short days. With the support of the Maine Art Education Association and the scholarship I received, I attended the national convention for the first time in my teaching career.

While I conditioned myself for planning out schedules the evening ahead, waking earlier than had I been in the classroom back home, moving quickly from session to session each day with a quick break for snacks, and maneuvering through the NAEA app on my phone for shorthand note-taking, I couldn't help but think of the students we all teach. Many of us teach amazing learning experiences within a pace befitting of this three day national convention!

The Kindergarten through sixth grade students I work with learn, produce, and reteach incredible works of art as well as processes all within a 40 minute period each week throughout the school calendar year. I utilize the working lunch



Laura Manchester with early morning coffee in hand for Day 1 of the NAEA Boston 2019 Convention.



Laura Manchester (Lewiston Schools), and Lynda Leonas, (Auburn Public Schools) at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts Sunday, March 17th, 2019.

strategy with many of the students to help deepen our connections and provide additional studio work time. This convention held true to the conditions for learning I keep with my own students even though the distance to get to those profitable enrichment strategy sessions and workshops was greater than I travel at work...those visual arts educators teaching from a cart would have beat me to those sessions every time!

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Boticelli exhibit at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston.



20
19

DEEPLY INSPIRATIONAL (Howard Gardner)...I cannot think of a more timely or valuable speaker. I was in awe. I so wish I could have shaken the hand of greatness. I just loved the humble way he laid out his lifetime of work and showed his own personal growth as a teacher and thinker. The best part of all is how human he was. How deeply he felt about his work was right out there for us all to see. Despite his age he is STILL working...inspirational in every way. It was an honor to hear him speak.

PRIDE/HONOR (Maine Awards)

CONFIRMING / useful / organizational awe (Workshops)
Some of the best offerings I have attended in the past 3 years. Convention Center and rooms all together in a beautiful setting was fabulous.

HOLY SMOKES (Food)

~Deb Bickford

A High School Perspective

by KIMBERLY MEDSKER-MEHALIC
Art Teacher, Freeport High School

I attended my first NAEA convention this spring and was absolutely thrilled by my experience. Definitely, there is a steep price associated with the conference and the fact that it was within close driving distance made it possible for me to fit it into my work and family schedule. I am greatly thankful (and appreciative) that I received one of the MAEA \$100 scholarships. That sum, obviously, helped with the high costs associated with the conference.

As a high school teacher teaching eight different preps ranging from Foundations of Art through AP Art History, this experience was the best possible professional development for me. The range of workshops and presentations was incredible. I don't think I have been that intellectually stimulated since college.

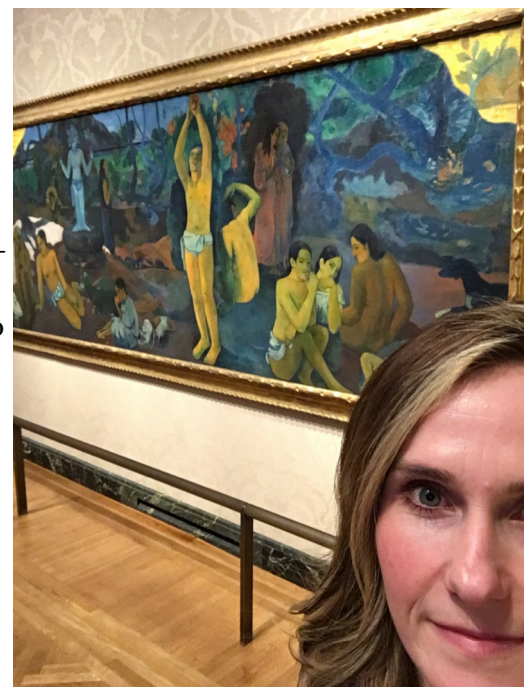
I loved using the app to schedule every hour of my day and had to remind myself to take breaks to eat and enjoy the art in Boston too. I made sure to explore the MFA and find all of the exhibited works that are included in the AP Art History 250. I ended up with many selfies in

front of the specific works to show my students the size relationships.

I was able to have a sit down with the founders of Artsonia.com to share my experiences with their app and offer constructive criticism to improve it for high schoolers. I was thrilled to be able to move from a presentation on teaching students with disabilities to one on integrating technology deeper into the curriculum. It was inspiring.

I had many positive take-aways and I look forward to trying to make it to more of them in the future.

#visual-arted-matters



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Condition Creativity:

The Right Amount of Play

My first session, Chen-Sung Chang's "Theories of Art as Play" in Art Education, educated his audience to utilize play as a manner to stimulate students' thoughts to overcome extreme situations in the educational setting concerning lower academic achievements. Taking us through the many definitions of play and theories of its use, Chen-Sung Chang confirmed the benefits of play as a tool for student engagement and academic improvement.

*With the support of the Maine
Art Education Association ...
I attended the national
convention for the first time
in my teaching career.*

As I toured the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum's Boticelli exhibit, I was pleasantly surprised to find the use of play on view. An employee of the Gardner produced comic

versions of the historical paintings in the exhibit, inspiring me to include a new unit for the 5th and 6th grade students that could stimulate them through a visually dramatic use of play.

"Banish Boring Critiques" with Lisa Casey was an inspiring workshop that I was willing to sit on the floor in the aisle for! Lisa encouraged her audience to interpret art works with their students in a playful manner and suggested that students match adjectives to a work of art they feel it best fits and to explain why. She also recommended that students call out the sounds they hear in the work of art, engaging the five senses of our students and their abilities to analyze those works. This will be a fabulous addition to my newly inspired unit with the cartooning of famous works of art! Can you imagine the sounds of onomatopoeia being called out throughout the visual arts studio?!?!?

Thank you to the Maine Arts Education Association for supporting my attendance at the convention in Boston. Your assistance made my own learning possible! You have helped to increase the playful and creative learning environment of the studios my students work in!



One story that comes to mind: When I was sitting in the first-time attendees' session, totally overwhelmed by the crowd, I looked around thinking "Where are my people?" A moment later, relief washed over me when I realized that these were all my people. As diverse as the group appeared to be, the people in attendance were all my people. I'd never quite felt that before. And my word...connection!

~Katie Kiger

This year I took some time to attend the local museums. With free admission to the MFA and Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum for convention attendees this was a real highlight. I love the amazing, unique galleries at the Gardner that make me contemplate on Isabella's intentions as a collector and how amazing it was that she would share her passion for art with the world. It makes me really think about selecting and displaying art. It is such a personal space. Then in contrast a visit to the MFA is so amazing and comprehensive with its modern exhibits and bright displays. How fortunate we are to have this opportunity to visit these two museums!

~Jennie Driscoll

You Can Get There...

by BROOKE HOLLAND

Art Teacher, Medomak Valley High School

This was my first NAEA convention. I have been teaching art for 15 years now and, of course wish I went sooner. I have come back so invigorated. The connections with fellow colleagues both within my district, state, and nation gave me a renewed affirmation on the work we are doing and as always for myself; the desire to do better.

I think my big take away was learning what sessions and talks drew me in and what felt best for my teaching and reflect on that. I believe what makes me happiest is feeling as though I am doing my best work as an art educator. For me, it is being a positive guide in my student's life by creating rich art lessons that focus on the student's emotional development. I taught elementary art for 10 years and moved to high school five years ago. More and more I see how important it is to bring those centered themes of oneself and one's worth back into the high school art curriculum.

This was something that I felt



was missing. Of course teaching the National Standards is the structure, but filling the structure with strong Making Meaning Reflections of introspective memories, personal expression and life goals is what makes it a home. This convention reawakened that importance for me on a high school level.

One word: Reawaken

The Bangor Art Society

SUPPORTING VISUAL ARTISTS IN BANGOR SINCE 1875

2019 Open Juried Art Show • April 27th – May 30th

Art intake is Saturday, April 27th from 10:00am-3:00pm, at Bangor Public Library

See their website for more information: thebangorartsociety.com

MAEA Mission _____

The Maine Art Education Association is a statewide professional organization whose members are committed to excellence in visual arts education.



MAEA Goals:

- To encourage best practices in standards-based and learner-centered visual arts classrooms in all Maine schools.
- To foster high quality teaching in the visual art and provide professional development opportunities in curriculum, instruction and assessment, as well as in current issues and artistic practice.
- To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and support collaboration among educators and other arts agencies to ensure quality programs for all learners.

It is our purpose to promote the highest quality instruction in visual arts programs that provide depth and breadth of experience to meet the varied needs of students.

Join Us Today!

You can sign up online at aeforme.org/membership or complete this membership form and include a check for membership dues made out to: MAEA and mail to MAEA, c/o Holly Houston, P.O. Box 10463, Portland, ME 04104

Name: _____

[] New Member [] Renewal

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Grades taught (circle) K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Higher Ed

_____ years

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[] Retired \$15.00

[] Retired LIFETIME \$120.00

[] Pay It Forward donation to new teacher scholarship to Haystack Fall Conference

Membership is renewed with each school year. New or renewal is required at time of Fall Conference

Registration. Membership expires August 31st.