

# Mixed Media

A Publication of the Maine Art Education Association

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May 2023

## SPRING CONFERENCE

Art educators gathered at the Ecology School in Saco to create, refuel, socialize, and recognize their peers with this year's MAEA Teacher of the Year awards.



Yurts at the Ecology School at River Bend Farm in Saco, Maine

# DEAR COLLEAGUES, MEMBERS, ARTISTS, AND SUPPORTERS OF ARTS IN EDUCATION,

I fondly offer my appreciation to each of you for your support of the arts in education during my tenure as President-Elect and as President of the Maine Art Education Association. The past four years have been a pleasure to work alongside such dedicated individuals. I have learned from so many MAEA members and have grown as an educator and artist through our shared experiences. The challenges art educators face in K-12 settings are numerous and yet to be resolved in many instances; however, the tireless dedication you each offer your districts, colleagues, programs, students and their families breaks the barriers of most of the challenges you face on any given day.

Our MAEA Officers and Active Voting Board Members have been able to update our advocacy document, **MAEA Art Education Advisory Recommendations**, as a result of our Maine art educator requests and insistence to promote quality visual arts programs. It has been my pleasure to serve each of you that proposed solutions not only for yourselves and your students, but for all art educators and students to benefit from. Thank you for your insight and forward thinking.

— President’s message continued on next page



Lynda Leonas, MAEA President



Cory Bucknam, MAEA President-Elect

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*Mixed Media is the award-winning newsletter of the MAEA. It is sent to anyone interested in the MAEA and shared on our website: [aeforme.org](http://aeforme.org). Please contact us for reprinting considerations.*

*Submissions for consideration can be submitted to the newsletter editor, Megan McConagha, at [megan.mcconagha@gmail.com](mailto:megan.mcconagha@gmail.com).*

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

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED:

I have enjoyed becoming part of teams working with multiple museum educators to develop new practices within programs that support our students here in Maine beyond traditional boundaries, to create additional workshop alternatives and conferences, and to increase the geographic reach of our MAEA opportunities for educators and students. While Maine Museums have been leaders when it comes to creating extensive and dynamic educational programs, it became even more apparent in the past four years how zealous our Museum Educators are in defining effective programs no matter the challenges. I am grateful for the assistance our Association received from so many Museum Educators here in Maine during challenging times. Allow me to applaud the immediacy that Museum Educators at Bates College Museum of Art, Colby College Museum of Art, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Farnsworth Museum of Art, and Portland Museum of Art responded with to seek MAEA input as they formed new or transformed current offerings to students and educators here in Maine.

I am impressed by the collegiate level programs here in Maine designed to offer successful arts education programming, including courses at local community colleges that now highlight creativity in the general education classrooms. It is exciting to find so many Maine

colleges currently increasing the status of the visual arts in education. I must thank the Maine College of Art & Design in offering our Association continued exhibit opportunities for Members and for inventing meaningful partnerships with MAT program students.

It is with great sadness that I express my personal gratitude to Jason Anderson, our former Maine Department of Education Visual and Performing Arts Specialist. In memoriam of Jason, I am forever indebted to him for his support. Whether he was attending our events or promoting them, creating new platforms to enliven connectivity or offering his continuous communication and rapid feedback concerning every aspect of the arts in education or gracing others with his personal collegiality, he was one of the greatest reasons for my persistence and survival during many trying times. Jason provided me with continued assistance and advice that in the end offered the MAEA a positive collective impact.

I must spotlight Argy Nestor, my personal and dedicated project partner and editor, for the past four years. Argy has offered countless hours to indulge our MAEA advocacy goals by asking me insightful questions, filtering lengthy answers, and editing works. Her partnership created effective conversations as we worked

with the Maine Alliance for Arts Education on multiple issues and at many events in advocacy of all arts disciplines within education. Thank you, Argy, for recently offering me a different platform to highlight art education goals here in Maine and to reassert preCovid MAEA Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program goals and to propose we re-envision inclusive assessments. As members were inspired by former MAEA President Lisa Ingraham to review Gifted and Talented assessments during a 2019 MAEA Spring Conference, Argy offered me a dedicated space to advocate for equity within our programs here in Maine. Please review, [\*\*Re-envisioning Art Enrichment Assessments: The Policy of Gifted and Talented Programs\*\*](#) in the Spring 2023 Maine Arts Journal: *Truths and Lies-Insight/Incite*. How exciting it was to offer such insight to Maine artists and art supporters on how the Maine Art Education Association has been promoting the development and continued evaluation of inclusive art education programs within our Members' districts.

Carry on, dear colleagues! Wishing you each the greatest artistic future!

Fondly,

*Lynda*

Lynda G. Leonas  
President

Maine Art Education Association

## MENTORSHIP MEETINGS

The next meeting is June 8th at 5pm via Zoom.

Join us for a series of casual virtual get-togethers to give new and emerging art educators a chance to connect with and learn from those with more experience. Meetings are hosted by Cory Bucknam from 5:00-6:00pm.

Please contact Cory to join this group: [cbucknam@brunswicksd.org](mailto:cbucknam@brunswicksd.org).

## PHOTO TEACHER MEETINGS

The photo teacher meetings have concluded for the year, but will back in full force this fall. This group provides photography teachers with an opportunity to make connections with each other and share our creative approaches to teaching young people.

If you are interested in joining this group, or hosting us at your school, please contact Jennie Driscoll: [jdriscoll@brunswicksd.org](mailto:jdriscoll@brunswicksd.org).

## MAEA CREATES ARTMAKING SATURDAYS

The next meeting is May 27th in Gorham at Great Falls Elementary or at Allie Rimkunas' house (if nice out).

MAEA Creates is a monthly gathering to give art teachers an opportunity to socialize and make art together.

At the March gathering, the group was treated to an extra-special meet-up hosted by Waterville Creates. Art teachers met at the Paul J. Schupf Art Center, a brand-new arts space in downtown Waterville that includes two galleries, a clay studio, an arts classroom, three movie theaters, a rehearsal space, and a chocolate café! We also got to tour the Greene Block + Studios and viewed the beautiful Youth Art Month exhibition on display. Afterward our hosts led us in an art activity where we got to work with metal stamping and leather crafting. We all had a blast and are so appreciative to everyone at Waterville Creates who helped make it happen.

For more info on MAEA Creates, email Erin Landry Fowler at [elandry-fowler@scarboroughschools.org](mailto:elandry-fowler@scarboroughschools.org).

## NEW LGBTQIA+ INTEREST GROUP

Do you identify as LGBTQIA+? Are you an ally/accomplice? Join us for the very first MAEA LGBTQIA+ gathering on Tuesday, June 6th between 5:00 and 7:00 pm at El Rayo Taqueria on Free Street in Portland. This first get-together will be social in nature, but we'll also brainstorm actions to take next year to support each other and our LGBTQIA+ students. Email Cory Bucknam [cbucknam@brunswicksd.org](mailto:cbucknam@brunswicksd.org) if you're interested in attending (or if you can't attend, but still want to participate in the group).



Art educators gather at Waterville Creates

# SPRING CONFERENCE REVIEW

Thirty MAEA members joined workshop hosts Vicki Bove, Laurie Chiasson, Russel Whitten, and Jamie Hogan at the 2023 Maine Art Education Association Spring Conference and Retreat on April 29-30, 2023. The conference retreat — titled **eART h** “The world without art is just, eh...” — took place at the The Ecology School at River Bend Farm in Saco, Maine.



Jamie Hogan, Maine artist, illustrator, and author of Tilbury House Publishing’s “Skywatcher,” provided a lively discussion during our first evening together. Her weekend “Zines to Inspire and Inform” workshop presented a variety of formats to create inspirational or informational zines within art studios or to use as we integrate arts into general education classrooms. Bernie Reim of The Astronomical Society of Northern New England moved the outside in. Sharing student paintings, he encouraged educators to continue to have students look up to gather awareness of where we really are within this Earth and to incorporate the creation of art to exemplify our existence within space. The Maine Art Education Association awards ceremony that followed (see page 7) completed the last day of National Sky Awareness Week in a cloudy weather pattern.

## PLEIN AIR WATERCOLORS WITH RUSSEL WHITTEN

*By Hope Lord*

Russel Whitten is an incredible watercolor artist and instructor. In our workshop we learned Russel’s step-by-step process of sketching and creating a plein air watercolor painting. Russel demonstrated various techniques for sketching a landscape, mixing watercolor paints, and layering paints from lightest to darkest values. Russel did a great job at balancing instruction and demonstration with studio time, so we could try the techniques ourselves. Even though our group consisted of varying skill levels from novice to more experienced watercolor artists, we all came away with new techniques to improve our craft.



## JUNK JOURNALS RECYCLE WITH VICKI BOVE

*By Justine Lasdin*

You walk into the yurt after having a fulfilling breakfast to find piles of textures and colors. The excitement grows. We all find our space and start unpacking our own “junk” from what we were asked to bring. Everyone is brimming with excitement as you can feel the energy of creativity about to begin. Vicki starts by describing junk journaling and showing us her sample books. This inspires all of us and brings the realization of the uniqueness each book can take on. We then all make a small book to get the idea of the folding and stitching. Next is the fun part, she takes us on a tour of all the different materials she has sourced from her life and brought in to share with us. It was astounding to see the variety of items that we can collect instead of throwing in the trash. One person’s trash is truly our new treasure for this way of creating and thinking. As we

are creating our own journals and learning all the different ideas, my head is spinning with how to support this concept in my classroom and my own studio practice. I walked away from this class with a promise to never buy another sketchbook and just make my own with all the drawings and paintings that I never know what to do with. I also walked away being able to re-envision my collage center in my classroom and get more of my classes into art journals. This class was just what I needed before the school year ends as it reinvigorated my current plans and influenced changes for the following year. Thanks to everyone who helped pull this together and Vicki for her knowledge.

## BROOCH SEWING WITH LAURIE CHIASSON

*By Crystal Priestly*

The brooch making class that Laurie Chiasson presented at the Ecology School of Maine was a soothing, and inspiring,



Left, Russel Whitten starts his demo; Right: his final artwork



exploration of small artwork that can be worn. She explained how she uses this process in her own classes, and gave lots of wonderful suggestions and ideas for working with our individual groups as well. She was very encouraging if we wanted to explore different techniques than what she demonstrated. She supplied copious materials and resources to share. Overall the experience was very worthwhile, and sparked my enthusiasm for the remainder of the school year!

### ZINES TO INSPIRE AND INFORM WITH JAMIE HOGAN

*By Jamie Hogan (excerpt from her blog: jamiepeeps.com)*

I was delighted to speak this past weekend at the MAEA awards ceremony and lead two zine making workshops. Bonus: my former MECA student, Liz Long, was my ride! She's now in her second year teaching Commercial Art at PATHS.

All the workshops were held in these yurts, which looked like stubby pencils to me. The zine makers, all teachers, were ready to roll. It was fun to watch the zines take form, all in the span of four hours. Philippa, one of the art teachers, is already teaching zines to students in Sanford.

On Saturday, after a delicious dinner, the award ceremony began with a recognition of incoming officers. Guest speaker Bernie



Reim talked about Astronomy and Art. He shared some works done in his astronomy course at USM. I'm a huge fan of his monthly sky guide in the local paper, and it was an honor to meet him!

I was delighted to see Pamela Moulton win the Community Art Educator of the Year. We were once colleagues in the Side x Side arts integration program, and I know first hand the dazzling energy she brings to every encounter.

I got teary as each teacher's colleagues presented their award with glowing praise of their dedication. Teaching is complicated in these times, and art teachers are not always recognized for their passionate efforts in a school curriculum. Elise Pelletier, who I'd just met in the zine workshop, won High School Art Educator of the Year. Congratulations to all the amazing winners!



Phillippa Adam and Allie Rimkunas express their excitement after the Zines workshop

### SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING ZENTANGLES WITH LAURIE CHIASSON

*By Megan McConagha*

If creating zentangles isn't meditative enough, doing it under the gentle leadership of Laurie Chiasson is about as zen as artmaking gets. Laurie helped us find our zentagle groove by sharing different examples of this drawing method, demoing the technique, and providing many canvases to try (including tile and cardboard). We discovered first hand that creating zentangles not only increases focus and creativity, but also soothes the

soul. In fact, the method is utilized in therapy programs to treat anxiety, addiction, sleep disorders, and more. We all delighted in the process, and in each other's company.



### OPEN STUDIO

*By Hope Lord*

At the Spring Conference, two yurts were designated as Open Studio spaces throughout the weekend. The yurts were warm and dry, even though it was pouring rain outside. The Open Studios were available to attendees who wanted to do yoga, draw, paint, or even engage in team planning for your school.

The Open Studio option was a terrific place to continue to work on art pieces in a tranquil environment. Several of us in the Plein Air workshop continued to paint together in the Open Studio Sunday morning. It was wonderful to share our work with one another and see the finished paintings.



# MAEA AWARDS CEREMONY



<b>Kari McCarthy</b> 2023 Middle School Art Educator of the Year	<b>Iva Damon</b> 2024 Maine Art Educator of the Year	<b>Amy Crosby</b> 2023 Outstanding Service through the Profession	<b>Elise Pelletier</b> 2023 High School Art Educator of the Year	<b>Pamela Moulton</b> 2023 Community Art Educator of the Year	<b>Jessica Nadeau</b> 2023 Elementary Art Educator of the Year	<b>Christina Wotton</b> 2023 Administration and Supervision Art Educator of the Year	<b>Kaleigh Jones</b> 2022 Pre-Service Art Educator of the Year	<b>Abigail Newkirk</b> 2023 Museum Art Educator of the Year
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At this year's Awards Ceremony at the Spring Conference, we celebrated an outstanding group of educators, artists, and administrators with the MAEA's highest recognitions. With handmade trophies made by MAEA member Carolyn Brown, inspiration from special guest speakers, heartfelt words of support from colleagues and friends, and the presence of families and loved ones, the ceremony was a special time to recognize the incredible work being done by MAEA members.

*Do you know or work with an outstanding art educator? Consider nominating them for next year's round of awards and recognitions! Nominations are due January 5, 2024. Find out more on [our website](#).*



MAEA President Lynda Leonas recognizes Iva Damon, 2024 Maine Art Educator of the Year



High School Art Educator of the Year Elise Pelletier admires the ceramic trophies made by Carolyn Brown

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**IVA DAMON**

2024 Maine Art Educator of the Year

**JESSICA NADEAU**

2023 Elementary Art Educator of the Year

**KARI McCARTHY**

2023 Middle School Art Educator of the Year

**ELISE PELLETIER**

2023 High School Art Educator of the Year

**PAM MOULTON**

2023 Community Art Educator of the Year

**CHRISTINA WOTTON**

2023 Administrative + Supervision  
Art Educator of the Year

**AMY CROSBY**

2023 Outstanding Service Through the Profession

**ABBY NEWKIRK**

2023 Museum Art Educator of the Year

**KALEIGH JONES**

2022 Preservice Art Educator of the Year  
*(recognized in 2023)*

# NAEA CONVENTION REVIEW

*The NAEA Convention took place in San Antonio, Texas April 13-15, 2023. Review by Cory Bucknam.*

There are so many reasons to go to the National Art Education Association's National Convention! I could write an entire newsletter devoted to nothing else. Here are my top three:

**Reason #1:** Attending the convention will make you a better teacher. You will come home with a brain full of innovative ideas, new lesson plans, inspiring conversations, and a suitcase full of swag and art supplies for your classroom. Pick and choose sessions that align with your interests — for example, I attended sessions that focused on middle-level learners, ED&I (equity, diversity, and inclusion), supporting LGBTQ+ students, and mentoring new art educators. I'm already implementing new strategies and ideas I learned in Texas!

**Reason #2:** Submitting a proposal to present a session (even if you don't get accepted) is an incredible professional experience and is a great way to take the next step in your leadership journey. Presenting also makes your resume incredibly impressive and boosts your score on MAEA Awards rubrics. From a purely strategic standpoint, presenting

also makes your district look really, really good, and they are much more likely to help pay for you to attend. I was thrilled to co-present a session this year WITH MY PRINCIPAL! Yes, my principal



Brunswick Junior High Principal Laurie Catanese and Art Teacher Cory Bucknam present at the NAEA Convention

actually came to Texas with me, and we presented how art teachers and administrators can collaborate to bring art and art integration training to non-arts staff. My principal still doesn't fully realize how unusual and special it was for her to be there as my co-presenter. Our session was extremely well-attended - it was a remarkable and unique opportunity for art educators to learn strategies for working with administrators straight from the horse's mouth.

**Reason #3:** Learning from and connecting with other art educators around the country (and around the world) will fill your cup and make you fall in love with your career all over again. We are not alone. When we have conversations with other art teachers, it validates what we do. When we hear others have the same struggles as us, we gain perspective and learn new strategies for overcoming challenges. When we share our successes, it inspires others to succeed as well. It is inspiring beyond words. And celebrating the success of outstanding teachers like Matt Johnson, Maine's 2023 Art Educator of the Year, is nothing if not inspiring!



Heidi O'Donnell, Matt Johnson, Cory Bucknam

**Bonus reason:** It's a great way to earn 30 contact hours to apply toward recertification!

Are you motivated to go to a convention? Start planning now!

- 2024: April 4-6, Minneapolis, MN
- 2025: March 20-22, Louisville, KY
- 2026: March 5-7, Chicago, IL
- 2027: March 4-6, New York, NY

## MAEA ELECTION RESULTS

Welcome to the 21st Century! This year marks the first time MAEA members have voted for incoming Board Officers via secure online ballots through Election Buddy. There are numerous reasons why we chose to hold elections this way. We believe it will increase voter turnout; the ballots are secure, with several features to protect voter integrity; it aligns with our goal of transparency in leadership; and we hope it will raise awareness of leadership roles, encouraging more members to participate and step into those roles in the future. What did you think about the online voting process? Let us know your thoughts so we can make things even better moving forward: [President.MaineArtEd@gmail.com](mailto:President.MaineArtEd@gmail.com).

**Congratulations to our newly-elected Board Officers:**

**President-Elect:**  
Matt Johnson

**Treasurer:**  
Libbie Winslow

**Secretary:**  
Peg Maxwell

**Membership Services Coordinator:**  
Hope Lord





# MAEA SUMMER RETREAT

## JULY 5-8 (WED-SAT) AT PILGRIM LODGE LAKE COBBOSSEECONTEE, WEST GARDINER



The MAEA Summer Retreat and Conference will once again take place at beautiful Pilgrim Lodge on Lake Cobbosseecontee in West Gardiner! Join us July 5th-8th (Wednesday afternoon through Saturday breakfast) for a few days of relaxation and creativity. This is a retreat with no agenda except to breathe, relax, and create.

All 17 cabins have bathrooms, showers, and porches and are connected with a boardwalk that leads to the Main Lodge.

The lodge has three large rooms for setting up art projects and two porches for hanging out.

Pilgrim Lodge has 100 acres of woodland with many trails and a labyrinth for quiet meditation. The waterfront is open several times a day for swimming, and paddling — there are canoes, kayaks, prams, and paddle boards.

We hope you will consider this haven for a few days of camaraderie and creativity. We are not limiting this opportunity to just MAEA members, so bring a friend — or five!

If you are not a member of the MAEA, some of the registration questions do not pertain to you (ignore them). Registration closes July 1st.

### THE RETREAT IS ONLY \$250! LESS THAN LAST YEAR!

LEARN MORE

REGISTER



**QUESTIONS**

Email Registrar Allie  
Rimkunas at [allie.rimkunas@gorhamschools.org](mailto:allie.rimkunas@gorhamschools.org).

# MAEA FALL RETREAT + CONFERENCE

## “BUILDING BRIDGES” SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2023 HAYSTACK + MONSON

The MAEA Fall Conference is a time for art educators in our state to gather together for professional development, for conversations around curriculum and instruction, and to create art in a studio workshop.

The intensive nature of our Fall Conference and the settings at both Monson and Haystack School of Crafts on Deer Isle give art educators the opportunity to refuel their commitment to education and the arts, free from the distractions of daily life.

Studio workshops allow teachers to become students again, learning from outstanding artist facilitators. Communal meals, presentations, and our annual MAEA meeting serve as a catalyst for many more conversations and shared activities throughout the school year.

Co-chairs for this year’s “Building Bridges” conference, Holly Houston and Lynn Bustard, are busy preparing for the weekend. Please note some workshops will require you to supply some of your own tools or an additional studio fee to cover costs. Here are the workshops so far:

### HAYSTACK WORKSHOPS

- Needle Felted Faces with Jennifer Field
- Experimental Serial Printmaking with Judy Novey
- Enameling 101 with Emily Schaffer
- Wheel Throwing Pot-Pourri with Marian Baker
- The Art of CNC Fabrication with James Rutter
- Bookish with Sandy Weisman
- Window of Opportunity with Pam Wilcox

### MONSON WORKSHOPS

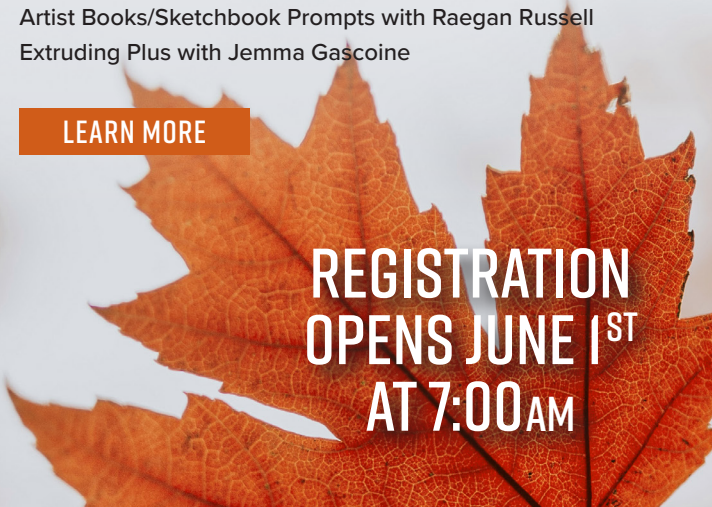
- Artist Books/Sketchbook Prompts with Raegan Russell
- Extruding Plus with Jemma Gascoine

### MAEA MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

MAEA membership ends May 31st. In order to register for the fall conference, you must be an active member for the 2023-2024 membership year. The opportunity to join or renew your membership and to register for the conference will happen simultaneously.

- Joining or renewing as an active member: \$35
- Joining or renewing as a full-time student: \$5
- Joining or renewing as a retired art educator: \$18
- Joining or renewing with a retired lifetime membership: \$140

LEARN MORE



Facilitators and conference attendees at Haystack last fall



The \$295 conference fee includes accommodations, meals, and about \$20 of studio materials.

## GAUGING INTEREST IN “TRASH TO ART”

Kim Bernard has been offering *Trash to Art* programming at schools, colleges, art centers, museums, and libraries throughout Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. She is now considering a cross country *Trash Tour* in early 2024. She is trying to find out who might be interested in having her visit to offer a sculptural installation workshop with upcycled plastic. She is not asking for any commitments, just trying to gauge interest. If you or your community might be interested, please contact Kim for more info: [kimbernard65@gmail.com](mailto:kimbernard65@gmail.com) or [kimbernard.com/popupcyclor](http://kimbernard.com/popupcyclor).

If you are interested in getting involved, Kim is leading a Haystack workshop on Upcycled Sculptural Installation this summer (August 27 - September 2). Find out more info on the [Haystack Website](#).



ME  
CA  
&D | MAINE COLLEGE  
OF ART & DESIGN

Maine College of Art & Design  
2023 PD Art Educator Survey

## MECA & D WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Maine College of Art & Design  
would like to learn more about  
your interests and preferences  
as we expand programming  
for K-12 art teachers.

Your input is critical!

**TAKE THE SURVEY**

Thank you for participating!

## OCEAN AWARENESS ART CONTEST

*By Eric Carstens, Program Manager at Bow Seat Ocean Awareness*

Students ages 11-18 from around the world are invited to create art, writing, poetry, music, dance, film, and more.

Amplify your student's creative voice in the fight against climate change! Bow Seat's Ocean Awareness Contest provides a platform for young people to learn about environmental issues through artmaking and creative communication to explore their relationship to a changing world and to become advocates for positive change.

Entries are due June 13th.

**LEARN MORE**