

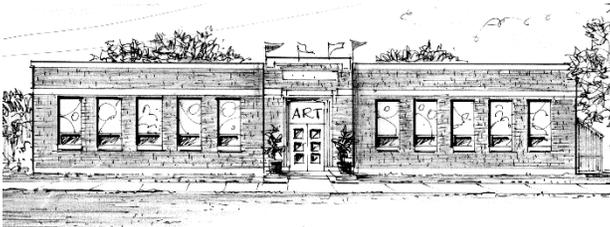
# LONDON VISUAL ARTS GUILD

LONDON ARTS CENTER

Vol. 4

September 2020

NO. 8



## PROGRESS REPORT

Though our work has been hampered from time to time and the cash outlay has been increased a little beyond estimate, we are making progress. The few volunteers who work strenuously and on schedule have been doing a fabulous job as you will see in the article By **Tony Reeder** as to the advancements made on the interior of the building.

## LONDON ARTS CENTER REMODEL

No major renovation of a building is ever easy and there are always bumps in the road along the way. The new Arts Center building is no exception. There have been dips and bumps, twists and turns, delays and drama. And, of course, there has been the COVID – 19. The renovation is moving along in spite of all that. The gallery, the gift shop/whatever room, and the entry are painted and the new flooring is down. The kitchen is coming along and most of the cabinets are in. The countertops have been approved and will be installed in the next couple of weeks. The grid for the dropped ceiling in the bathrooms is in place and soon the partition wall will go up.



The electricians plan to be there this weekend installing extra exit signs and emergency lights to satisfy

requirements. Changes are taking place every week, and a lot of people are working very hard to provide our London Visual Arts Guild with a wonderful new space we

can all be proud of. In spite of the new diggs, our mission remains the same, to provide art and art education for London and all of Madison County. When the last nail is driven, the last screw is turned, and the paint rollers have been put away, we will get back to our mission. Hopefully we will have a new zest for artistic endeavor and a strong desire to share our talents and love for the arts. Progress is being made constantly, and soon we will realize the fruits of all the labor when we officially open the London Arts Center. Stick with us until then. It's going to be great.

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Many of the members of the London Visual Arts Guild gather their equipment, jump in their car every Saturday and travel to 121 E. First St. to take part in their day of art on the lawn at the new gallery.

They place their art supplies on the collapsible table or a chair they have brought and either begin a new piece of art or continue to work on a creation from a past meeting. Some go to a park or simply choose a photo they wish to reproduce.

I did a short piece a few years ago about the individuals who are not able to operate in this fashion. They are the ones I once called the disabled, until I found they were not disabled. Many persons are able to adjust to their situation.

When I was much younger, my mother would transport persons who were not fortunate enough to own a car. On one occasion she took a lady to visit a friend whose daughter 'painted pictures'. She was fourteen and being interviewed for an article in the Charleston Daily Mail, Charleston, West Virginia's newspaper. As usual, I was dragged along.

I did not realize, until many years later that it was a privilege to be there. That fourteen-year-old girl was an artist who worked with oils. Some of her paintings were three feet square. I just remember that they were pretty.

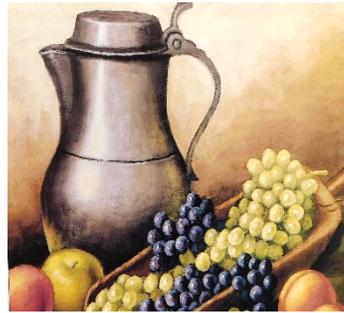
The amazing thing about the interview was that she had been chosen as the poster person of the year. She was that year's example of a successful person with a disability. She

was born without complete arms. Her arms stopped at the elbow. She painted with her right foot.

Now let's fast forward about forty years. I was working with mental health in Madison County. There was a conference coming up and our drop-in center had a booth representing Eastern Miami Valley Mental Health. Pfizer Inc. had been sponsoring an educational program. They produced booklets attempting to explain mental illness to the public. The following paintings are from those booklets. Some have been created by foot and mouth painters and some from persons with other debilitating mental diseases. They are all beautiful and a wonder to behold. I hope you like the ones I have chosen. There are many more.



Winter Realm Ruth McDowell



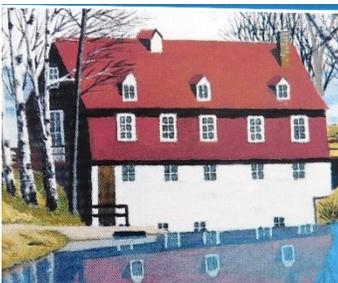
The Harbour T Iliadis



Harvest Time N Litteral Snowy Village B Wikstrom

Vacation Home M Guillemette Three Butterflies K Hsieh

The vacation house, the Three Butterflies and Winter Realm were mouth painted. Harvest Time, Snowy village and The Harbour were listed as being Foot painted or mouth painted. When man and woman was created he and she was givin talent, endless talent. What we do with our talent, or if we even use it, is up to us.



## PRESIDENTS CORNER

“New Beginnings” is the theme the London Visual Arts Guild adopted for our future grand opening and Community Show to be held at the new Arts Center. New Beginnings is far more than a show title. The year 2020 represents new relationships with corporate and state sponsors. One of those relationships is with the Ohio Arts Council. (OAC)

Facing major remodeling at the London Arts Center meant finding revenue to support our project. Grant funding for the gallery was pursued and awarded from the Ohio Arts Council. Gallery lighting, display units and advertising were all funded through the council and a new relationship and beginning was generated.

Spring 2020 we applied for our second grant under the ArtSTART program. ArtSTART awards funding for projects providing education, performing arts shows and art exhibits. The ArtSTART grant was awarded for the period of July 1, 2020. The application deadline was April 30, 2020, hitting the middle of our introduction to Covid 19.

Our ArtSTART grant was written with the impact of Covid in mind. Families facing reduced income due to Covid 19 are invited, through social service agencies, to participate in children, teen and adult art programs at the London Arts Center. Our grant efforts were funded and will provide the community four opportunities to participate in children, juvenile and adult classes.

Fall opens with October costume decorating. Children ages 4 through 10 will decorate Super Hero's Capes and princess/fairy dresses. All costume components are pre-made and require reservation to assure your child's package is available. Signup will be held at local food bank locations. Costume components and basic instructions are included. Families may decorate with the help of guild members during our “Arts on the Lawn” outside the London Arts Center building on Saturday morning from 10:00 till 12:00. All supplies and instructions are included to decorate the costume. Class cost \$25. Voucher cost free.

Our fall/winter class includes jewelry making with local artist Kim Burdette and Sarah LeVan. Kim and Sarah will teach jewelry to teens and adults. All supplies are included and projects are geared toward gift making. Class date and project specifics will be announced at a later date. Class cost \$25 to \$35. Vouchers available.

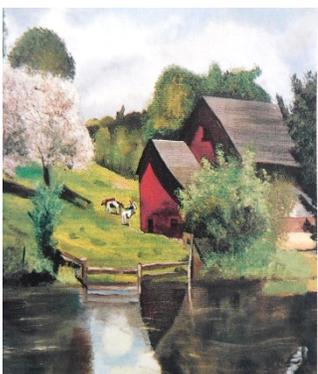
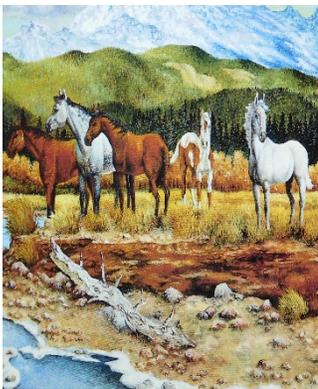
Spring/Summer grant project classes to be announced in our winter and spring newsletters.

We hope you will join us this fall, for this opportunity to design and create. We are happy to share our “New Beginning” and gratitude to the Ohio Arts Council.

Liz Lassel, President

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Just a few more pieces of lovely art work painted by persons who have a disabilities!



If you have any questions, suggestions or contributions concerning the LVAG newsletter, please contact me, jim Donohoe, at: [donohoejames7@gmail.com](mailto:donohoejames7@gmail.com) or phone: 740-248-1527.

For information concerning the new LVAG London Arts Center, membership, donations or information on the status of the new building, contact Sandy fox at: 937-207-7400

Mark your calendar for our Saturday on the lawn between 10am and 12am. Bring your project or questions if you need help. We will be there, weather permitting.

Also, we are preparing to begin our Writers Group, so all you poet and prose enthusiasts sharpen your pencils or get out that quill pen and get ready for our meetings at the London Arts Center. The day and time will be announced in the near future.

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