

## Annual reports for the International Guild of Miniature Artisans Annual General Meeting Sunday 22nd September 2019

### ARTISAN COMMITTEE

Misty Barth, Chairperson

#### Committee Members:

Karon Cunningham, Guild President

Susan Robbins, Fellow Chairperson

Jeanne Anderson, Phyllis Hawkes, Isabel Leininger,

Sally Manwell, Mark Murphy, Diane Nash, Pat Richards

Barbara Davis, as Guild School Director, participated as an observer.

### ANNUAL REPORT — 2019

The Artisan Selection Committee has joined with the Fellow Council to form the Guild Council for Artisan and Fellow Section. The Artisan meeting was held on September 18 prior to the Guild Show.

In accordance with the findings of the committee, the Board of Trustees voted to elevate the following members to Artisan membership.

NAME	CATEGORY	COUNTRY
AYALA Bel	Food	UK
DeLAGE Brigitte	Needlework & Textiles/Embroidery	France
DENNING Carolyn	Needlework & Textiles/PetitPoint	USA
DLUGOWOLSKA Kamilla	Furniture/Wicker	Italy
LEE Hillary	Metalwork	USA
LEMMENS Sun	Accessories/Jewelry	Netherlands
MASAKAGE Tomoko	Animal Figures	Japan
MATEUSIAK Dorota	Accessories/Home Appliances	Poland
MILMORE Susan	Needlework & Textiles/French Knots	USA
OKA Chiemi	Decorative Art	Japan
SCHWANDT-LANG Svibille	Figures/Fantasy	Germany
SHEVCHENKO Sergeev	Metalwork	Russia
TONETTI Loredana	Accessories	Italy

### FELLOW COMMITTEE

Susan Robbins, Chair person

We had five submissions and none of the applicants were successful. There are no expenditures as yet. If we have successful submissions there will be engraving costs. In the past, certificates were framed before they were presented. I do not have the capacity to print certificates in Hartford and they must be signed by the president. I do have seals.

## **AUCTION COMMITTEE**

Audrey Tripp, Chair person

### Committee members

Annelle Ferguson,  
Barbara Davis,  
Sandy Kraft,  
Carol Hardy,  
Dick Hardy.

The auction committee held live and silent auctions at Hartford, CT during the Guild show in 2018. The silent auction team led by Sandy Kraft tried a Friday night auction which was very successful. The live auction Saturday evening kicked off a fun evening.

The committee also held a live auction at the Philadelphia Miniature show in November.

We held the final live auction of the year at Tom Bishop's Chicago Miniature show to a packed room. We had some nice items to auction thanks to donations from our members.

For 2019-2020 we will have the live and silent auctions at the Guild Show and a live auction in April at the Tom Bishop show in Chicago. We are always in need of items to auction, please keep that in mind as you add your new purchases to your existing collection.

## **CUBE REPORT**

Bill Studebaker, Editor

Our many thanks go out to Isabel Leininger for serving so faithfully as past Editor of the Cube. We truly appreciate all of the hard work and time that she, Carol Hardy and innumerable others have expended to keep us all informed of the Guild's doings over the years. Her decision to step aside and offer the reins to someone else was done with grace and lack of fanfare, as was her offer of continued assistance if needed in the future. Thank you, Isabel!

Our ongoing challenge is to continue to serve the informational needs of the membership in a cost effective and timely manner while being aware of the many changes in the way

we now receive and consume that information. The Cube has always relied on volunteers to help provide content and articles of interest, and we will continue to do so. Anyone wishing to offer assistance with articles, pictures or ideas is encouraged to contact us.

## **EDUCATION REPORT**

### **Pat Richards & Peter Kendall, Co- chair people until March 2019**

Bev Gelfand, Co-ordinator for the CW GSP from April 2019

### **Colonial Williamsburg 2019**

Twenty-four students enrolled in classes taught by Pam and Pete Boorum, Pat Richards, and Bill Studebaker. Additionally, there was a tour of the Architectural Collections Storage Building, viewing a collection of architectural fragments belonging to CWF. A full feature article is printed in the April 2019 edition of the CUBE.

### **Kentucky Gateway Museum, Maysville KY**

Maysville GSP was a success. Classes were taught by Carol Hardy, Tine Krijnen, Mark Murphy, and Jeanne Rullie, and all classes sold out. Attendees enjoyed special tours of Maysville and the Gateway Museum Center, and even a bourbon tasting.

### **Colonial Williamsburg 2020**

Bev Gelfand took over the position of GSP CW 2020 Coordinator in April 2019. The brochure/booklet was completed and uploaded to the IGMA website in May, and was released in print at Guild School in June. Hard copies and digital links were sent to members in July. The 2020 program offers four fantastic classes from Phyllis Hawkes, Bob Hurd, Iulia Chin Lee, and Deb Mackie. As of mid-August, enrollment is already at the halfway mark for max enrollment and classes are beginning to fill up – maximum enrollment is 40 students. The traditional dinner with the Rountrees on Friday night is again part of the program, and a special behind-the-scenes tour of the Carter House and Governor's mansion – both normally closed at this time of year – is also in the offerings, and only 10 tour tickets remain as of mid-August.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Treasury Report FY 2018-2019

Bev Gelfand, Treasurer and chair person

Committee members

Juliana Hagel,  
Karon Cunningham,  
Carol Hardy,

FY 2018-2019 ended at a loss for the year, due to reductions in membership revenue and lower student enrollment in various programs, and some unexpected expenses and increases in insurance, payroll taxes, and other general office expenses.

Implementing cost-savings measures and efforts to reduce spending – but without compromising membership benefits and programs – will help get the Guild moving toward a net positive. In addition, efforts to increase membership enrollment, student enrollment, and auction income will help ensure income for the coming fiscal year. These areas are the most important forms of raising revenue, and your continued support makes everything possible. Exploration and pursuit of additional revenue streams will also add to a positive bottom line – ideas and suggestions from the Membership are welcomed. With dedication and input from the Board, Volunteers, and you the Membership, I am confident that the budget for FY 2019-2020 can achieve a break-even point and turn profitable for the Guild.

Thank you to the Board of Trustees and all of the IGMA Volunteers for their efforts in managing the Guild and continuing to steer it in a forward direction, and most importantly, thank you to the Membership at large.

## **GALLERY OF THE GUILD**

Carol A. Block, Chairman

The mission of the Gallery of the Guild is to provide artisan and fellow members of the Guild who do not have sufficient inventory to sustain a table or are not represented by a dealer, an opportunity to display and sell merchandise. The Gallery of the Guild sponsored a table at five shows in 2018-2019, The Guild Show, Philadelphia Miniaturia, Handcrafters of Miniatures, Nashua NH, Chicago International and the NAME National in Nashville TN. On average, 21 talented artisan and fellow members participated this year representing the following categories: flowers, dolls, needlework, paintings, turnings, metalwork, terrariums, furniture, weaving, basketry and pottery.

Thank you to Tom Bishop, Chicago International and Carol Block and Sue Krzysko, Handcrafters of Miniatures for donating table space for this IGMA program.

Thank you to Julie Hagel, Sue Krzysko, Isabel Leininger, Lissa Loosemore and Annelle Ferguson for helping to man the Gallery table.

The Gallery of the Guild information is available on the IGMA website. The application to participate can also be found on the IGMA website – [www.igma.org](http://www.igma.org) under the member tab.

## 2019 Guild School Annual Report

*Submitted by Barbara Davis, Guild School Director*

The 2019 Guild School, *Miniatures Build Bridges*, was held the week of June 8<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> at the Maine Maritime Academy in Castine, Maine. There were 27 instructors, all Artisans and Fellows of the Guild, offering a selection of 40 different classes. Classes included furniture construction, plant making, upholstery, metal-working, folk painting, structures, needlework, wood turning, and sculpting. Skill levels ranged from beginner to advanced. 180 students attended; 29 were first-year students. There were 20 guests. Students and instructors joined us from 38 states and 14 countries. Three scholarships, funded by the school auctions, were awarded to: Hella Groetzinger from Germany, Nora Mazonson from Washington, and Loredana Tonetti from Italy. In addition to providing scholarships, auction proceeds went towards the purchase of tools and equipment for the Tool Pool and towards the general operating expenses of the school. The 2019 school silent and live auctions brought in \$32,478. Other activities which took place during the school week included; new student orientation; opening banquet and program; school exhibit; two nights of seminars; a lobster cookout; live auction; four days of silent auctions; sell night; display of student projects; graduation banquet and party; and nightly social gatherings. This is in addition to 36 or 48 hours of daily instruction over 6 days.

Plans for the 2020 Guild School began on the closing day of 2019 school with the convening of the School Committee for the purpose of selecting instructors for the following year. Over the months of June and July, instructors and classes were finalized and contracts signed. The *Catalogue of Class Offerings* will be available in September. Throughout the year, the school is marketed through various means: pre-registration (former students and word-of-mouth); postings on Facebook and Instagram, and the IGMA and Forum websites; and staffing a table and giving presentations at nationally recognized miniature shows. The theme for 2020 is ***Minis Make Me Smile.***

### 2019 Guild School Committee

Director	Barbara Davis
Assistant to the Director	Carol Hardy
Office Manager	Annelle Ferguson
Scholarship Chairperson	Peggy Bugg
Auction Coordinators	Carol Hinkle
Exhibit Coordinator	Audrey Tripp
Tool Pool Coordinator	Pete Boorum
IGMA 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Julie Hagel
Social Media Liaison	Pat Richards
Students at Large	Steve Davies
	Elizabeth Gazmuri
	Sylvia Royall
Instructors at Large	Diane Almeyda

International Representative

Mary Grady O'Brien

Daniela Keifhaber

**2019 Guild School Scholarship Committee**

Peggy Bugg, Chairperson

Mike Barbour

Cheryl Kerfoot

Cristina Minischetti

Bill Robertson

**GUILD SHOW**

Carol Block, Show Director

Committee member:

Annelle Ferguson

Pat Richards

Lissa Loosemore

Julie Hagel

Ruth Clay

Cindy Adams

Carol Kubrican

The 2018 Guild Show was held September 22-23, 2018, at the Hartford Windsor Airport Marriott in Windsor, CT. The show featured 80 dealers from across the U.S. and around the world including many of the Guild's Artisan and Fellow members. In the days leading up to the show 19 classes were held, taught by 15 instructors and attended by 104 students. On Wednesday a local cultural interest tour traveled to Stockbridge, MA to visit the Naumkeag estate and the Norman Rockwell Museum. On Wednesday evening there was a tour of Marcia McClain's miniature collection. Show festivities began Friday evening with the Gathering of the Guild featuring demonstrations by 14 artists and dealers and a selection of nibbles for attendees to enjoy while connecting with friends new and old. Auctions, both live and silent were held over the weekend and a gala dinner was held Saturday evening and featured a presentation by artist/architect Mohammed Hafez. Exhibits were on view during show hours and younger shoppers were able to take advantage of the Small Beginnings program set up in the sales room. There were complimentary workshops on Sunday afternoon. The show also provided the venue for the annual meeting Sunday morning and for Artisan and Fellow evaluations held on Tuesday and Wednesday.

**MARKETING REPORTS:**

ADVERTISING

## **INTERNET REPORT**

Julie Hagel, Coordinator

Committee members:

Cindy Adams, Karon Cunningham, Teresa Layman, Kate Unver, Pat Richards, Bonni Backe, Betsy Roxby, Carol Hardy, Tamra Brogden, Lissa Loosemore...

## **FACEBOOK REPORT**

From Cindy Adams -Facebook Administrator

At this time, we have 9,940 members on the page. It has slowed down a bit as it always does in the summer. We are all busy enjoying life.

Facebook has a new format now where we can post ten announcements to the top of the page. We have been switching the announcements around so that they will be seen by those opening the page. We have included show announcements, our room box, Guild Study Program, membership, welcome to the page and highlighted one of our Artisans.. The later we will switch around. We will also be changing the heading now and then.

It seems the most popular day to post is Sunday afternoon, the most popular Country is the US with England as second and the average age and gender are females 55 to 64.

The official page remains about the same with little growth. We have 2,267 followers. I blame this on the fact that people can't interact on there and unless you pay Face book to advertise, it is seen by only a few who go there. We reach a much larger audience on the Community page at no cost.

Guild School Facebook: Pat Richards has taken over for Bonni Backe as of July 21-2019 there are 1556 members. See Barbara Davis' report.

## **FINE MINIATURES FORUM**

Tamra Brogdon has been busy with the Fine Miniature Forum, she took over in March 2018 for Bill Robertson who started the Forum in 2014. Betsy Roxby continues to help administer the site. Tamra is working on a multi year project for CURRENT Artisan and Fellows to introduce themselves and post a few photos of their work to the forum. I will work with the membership chair to send an email via Wild Apricot System and post a short article in The Cube to notify the General Members. From last September 13, 2018 - "The Fine Miniatures forum has experienced over 81,767 visits since May 25, 2014. The top 10 countries and number of visits to the forum is illustrated below from Live Statistics associated with the Forum Software Provider. People from 119 countries have visited the Fine Miniatures Forum since the forums' debut.

Top 10 visiting Countries and Percentage of visits to the forum:

USA (61.22%) Australia (2.10%) South Africa (11.93%) Canada (2.10%) United Kingdom (4.68%) Spain (1.87%) Denmark (4.14%) France (1.54%) Russian Federation (2.85%) Germany (.93%)

As of today there are: 1526 members, 1016 Total Topics and 7661 Total Posts.

Top 5 Topics as of July 22, 2019

978 posts in furniture and woodworking

937 posts in metal working

927 posts in tools and supplies

681 posts in structures & dollhouses

518 posts in textiles

Thank you to Betsy Roxby for her continued technical support to the Fine Miniatures Forum. Betsy recently added the Fine Miniatures Forum to Google Statistics, and we can review the statistics annually in the future.

The forum is a wonderful way to reach additional members for IGMA. Friendly, enthusiastic volunteers to post content about miniatures and their experiences with IGMA are welcomed!

Thank you to all who volunteer their time to promote IGMA:

Karon Cunningham (IGMA Facebook access and IGMA Instagram access)

Barbara Davis (Guild School Instagram and Guild School YouTube)

Julie Hagel (IGMA Facebook Community and Official Pages, Smallisimo, Miniature forum)

Teresa Layman (IGMA Pinterest, IGMA Facebook Community and Official pages)

Pat Richards (Guild Show Instagram, IGMA Blog admin, IGMA Community page)

Betsy Roxby (Guild School YouTube- IGMA.org webmaster)

Kate Ünver (IGMA Instagram, Guild School Instagram, IGMA Facebook Community and Official Pages)

Guild Notes/Email Newsletter- now fully using Wild Apricot

Julie Hagel, Teresa Layman , Lissa Loosemore

The Guild Show is also on the NAME calendar.

Please let me know if you know of other places we need to be. Any shows, websites etc.

## **WEBSITE REPORT**

Betsy Roxby - Co-ordinator

The website continues to be a successful way of communicating with members and potential members. The site has been maintained and updated regularly.

Google Analytics from August 1, 2018 to July 25, 2019 report is attached. The main driver of traffic to the website is the school, followed by show classes, blog and artisan and membership page. 49% of visitors use a laptop to view the website, while 36% are on phones and 14% on tablets.



As usual, updates to the site included the 2019 Guild School catalog, 2020 Guild School Pre-registration and theme announcement, 2018 and 2019 Guild Show information and classes, 2019 and 2020 Guild Study Programs in Colonial Williamsburg, Gallery of the Guild and new Artisans and Fellow information.

New additions to the website include:

- Addition of online payment option for Colonial Williamsburg
- Raffle Room Box page with online payment of tickets

## **ESTATE PLANNING & DONATIONS**

IGMA 2018-2019

Julie Hagel , Chair person

I have been contacted by 3 people via the link on the IGMA website. The Charles Krug Estate where 50% went to the family. A dollhouse donation being given to the auction committee and other one that has not replied to me.

A brokerage account was set up several years ago to accept donations as per request of a member. This account is always available if needed.

Please let me know if you need help with donations to the Guild.

## **DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

Julie Hagel, Chair person

We had several meeting in the past and Don Marcone who submitted a grant for IGMA, which we did not win.

Please let me know if there are any companies you normally deal with, that you think we can add to our list of affiliates. Here is a list from the past year and donations:

Dick Blick cut us out and needs to be removed from our list.

Do you know anyone that would be a good fit for this committee?

Please let me know.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Currently seeking a chair person

Membership numbers are currently sitting around the 880 mark, consistent with previous years.

Carl Hardy, Guild Administrator, was present at the Chicago International, Philadelphia Miniaturia and Good Sam shows with membership information and to allow members to renew their subscription in person.

A position of chair person is currently available, if anyone feels they would like to help in this area, please see a member of the Board.

## **NOMINATING REPORT**

Cindy Adams, Chairperson  
Committee:  
Erin Carter  
Annelle Ferguson  
Natalia Frank  
Deb Mackie  
Debi Weisler

The members of the International Guild of Miniature Artisans and the board of trustees have elected the following people to serve on the board from 2019-2022.

Toni Ballinger  
Diane DeGan  
Sandra Kraft  
Audrey Tripp  
Debi Weisler

We welcome all of you to the board of trustees.

The Board of Trustees appointed the following people to serve as officers for 2019-2020

President: Bill Studebaker  
1st Vice President: Erin Carter  
2nd Vice President Deb Mackie  
3rd Vice President Natalia Frank  
Treasurer: Bev Gelfand  
Recording Secretary: Debi Weisler  
Corresponding Secretary: Cindy Adams

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Karon Cunningham**

Welcome everyone to our 2019 Annual General Meeting and thank you for taking the time to be here this morning.

I stepped back into the role of President after Lissa Loosemore's resignation earlier this year. Protocol dictates the 1st Vice President moves up to fill the role and that fell to me.

As in any voluntary organisation there are always changes in the vital roles that keep it running on a daily basis. This year was no exception.

During this year we have had 3 new Board members join us to replace resignations. Bev Gelfand, Diane DeGan and Bill Studebaker. And I thank them for stepping up to the challenge.

Also a new Auction Chair Audrey Tripp who replaced Carol Hinkle at the start of this Fiscal Year.

Sally Manwell has kindly offered to take the role of Artisan Chair from Misty Barth at the end of this year and has been working along side Misty to ease herself into the position.

Our Social Media presence has grown hugely over the past year and we have over 10,000 followers with more joining daily. This has allowed us to reach out and spread the word about our Events and promote our recognised Artisans and Fellows.

One of our main events to explain the wonders of the Guild is at the annual 'This is the Guild Presentation' held every April in Chicago. We are immensely grateful for the generous support from Tom & Leni Bishop in allowing us this opportunity to show people the benefits of becoming a Guild member as well as space to host our auction and tables for the Gallery of the Guild and Administration.

Our international presence wouldn't be possible without the support of 2 overseas show organisers who allow us to spread the word of our organisation overseas. I would like to recognise and thank them for their kind generosity.

Charlotte Stokoe at Kensington in London and Rika van Nellestijn & Marcus Verhey at the Dollhouse Nederland show in Arnhem, Holland, this table is looked after by Sun Lemmens.

The overall financial situation of the IGMA has seen the decline reduced over the last 3 years. Our membership numbers remain steady in the 880 range. This is reassuring considering there has been a shift in expectations from our members to provide benefits of a more financial saving. The days when just being a member of a community of like minded people seem to be dwindling.

When people ask me, 'if I don't travel and attend the Guild events, and I'm not a maker, what benefit do I get?'

Well - my answer to that would be with 2 questions - 'How much pleasure do you get from your miniature collection?' and "How would you feel if artists were to stop making miniatures?

whether it was for financial reasons, they couldn't make it pay or because they retired or died and there was no new talent to follow them on.'

The Guild exists to promote and encourage. To help those makers earn income and market their wares. You may not attend the events the Guild hosts, but others do and this in turn helps these makers to continue doing what they do best and what you enjoy to collect.

Your membership fee supports these events, allowing the maker to earn money through teaching and selling. It helps us to promote their businesses to a wider audience online. Our classes encourage the next generation of artist, so that this wonderful world that we are all so passionate about can continue.

So the next time someone asks you 'Why join the Guild?' ask them those 2 simple questions.

The Guild is just as passionate about the art of making fine miniatures today as it was 40 years ago. Many joined us last night in celebrating this incredible milestone.

The advancements in technology and the way we interact with people in our daily lives has come a long way in those 40 years.

The Guild began before the availability of the mobile phone.

It had already been running for 24 years before Facebook was invented and 30 years before Instagram and Youtube.

So I wonder what the Guild will look like in the future. Will the power of the internet mean we could hold classes remotely, offering those members who can't travel the ability to participate.

Could online auctions be a reality?

These could be exciting times for the Guild and its members, but someone has to organise and run these things.

so here is my pitch to you - Do you have an interest in helping the Guild move forward? Do you think you would enjoy encouraging new talent out there? or help support and promote today's artists so that we can continue to enjoy their creations in our collections?

We need volunteers, we need your help.

So it's my time to hand the baton over to your next President. A man who has experienced first hand those benefits as a member can bring. He is an Artisan in Furniture making and has taught at Guild School and at our Guild Study programs and is a dealer here at our show.

Please welcome Bill Studebaker.