

July OPAA ArtWalks Column, Suzan Noyes, 2021

“Problems are not stop-signs, they are guidelines.” Robert H. Schuller

The world we used to know reappears bit by bit. We heave a sigh of relief, hoping stray variants avoid the USA and our own Olympic Peninsula. Meanwhile we visit in person (Wow!) with friends and family, perhaps feel secure enough to stop by local restaurants we’ve really missed...and shop at a big box store rather than take delivery. See friends that you’ve only Zoomed with this past year. We all want to hug - still only bumping elbows? Your choice. Etiquette’s up in the air right now.

To mask or not to mask remains a question. I’m fully vaccinated, but I wear a mask into public places. I feel better keeping both myself and you safe, the dang bugs are still out there. Masks may trigger rude comments. (Folks think you’re *not* vaccinated, so there’s backlash. Or, dang – you *have* been vaccinated, you must be a Wimp.) I generally add a sticker on my shirt while out: “I’ve been VAXXED!”

Just stay safe, people.

I happily proceed to Sequim venues opening in time for summer months:

Note that the ***Blue Whole Art Gallery*** has regular hours and First Fridays. YES! June’s First Friday was well-attended, it was great to visit friends and fellow artists, enjoy the new art on show throughout the gallery.

Welcome back ***Sequim Museum***, which reopened in June, featuring the ***North Olympic Watercolorists*** group show in conjunction with Sequim’s First Fridays downtown. This was a lovely display (dismantled by the time this hits your email, sorry); I was fortunate to know several painters involved and enjoyed their fine array of work. I was also lucky to speak to several artists I hadn’t met, and hear more about their techniques. Shirley Rudolf is the leader/organizer of this band of watercolorists, and I hope to write more about them in future.

Olympic Theatre Arts also gears up for the Sequim public, holding some parking lot rummage sales on Farmer’s Market Saturdays. OTA is rehearsing local short plays for a long-awaited, *live* opening show in July. What theater aficionado hasn’t missed live performances?

Opening dates for the Local Playwright's offering are slated for the weekend of July 16, 17, 18th, so book your seats now, (360) 683-7326 . OTA kept great momentum and community interest going with Old Time Radio performances during this pandemic, let's return their support. Many thanks!

The *Olympic Peninsula Art Association* plans to reconnect in person with our membership in September, if possible. Prior to this, our Board will meet in person at KSQM offices. We do look forward to polishing up our social skills. No jammies, sweats, or slippers as Anne dusts off her gavel.

Thanks to our members and friends for supporting our **Small Treasures Art Show** with such generosity, both in donated art works, monetary donations, and purchases. One OPAA full scholarship was raised through this event for another lucky student in 2022. You and friends will have another shot at leafing through these little masterpieces in person during our fun event planned for July 24th: **OPAA's St. Luke's Parking Lot Art Supply Sale**. Our 2019 sale was SO successful – our 2020 sale got scuttled due to Covid-19 - now we've collected great donations for you to snap up. Be an early bird and grab some serious art supplies. Mark the date:

Sat., July 24th, 10 -2, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 525 N. Fifth Ave, Sequim.

Will you join our help/staff for this event?? Simply answer questions and direct customers to supplies and/or checkout; assist with set up or break down the event. Please connect with **Allyne Lawson**. Mingle outside, nail some fine supplies. At our last sale, I scored both watercolor and sanded paper, several art books, two gallery canvasses, and several tubes of paint. I've used it ALL.

Another incentive for artists – be an independent vendor selling art-related stock. Sign up and sell your own supplies or cards, prints or artsy items for a small \$25 fee. Space is available, email **Allyne Lawson** to book a spot. I'm personally selling off my entire stock of jewelry supplies (beads, charms, findings, foreign coins, display forms, costume jewelry), Anne will part (sadly) with her specialty quilting fabrics, tools, batting and books. Melissa Doyel, watercolorist, will offer an array of greeting cards and matted art prints. Join us in a great opportunity to downsize and support a second scholarship fundraiser.

We had three great scholarship applicants in 2021. It's one of the best things this organization does for local artists, young and old.

Please note that Eva Kozun's *Free Little Art Galleries* continue to appear. She's placed three more and another one (two?) to go. Visit the new one at *Port Angeles Fine Arts Center* or watch for her exciting mosaic FLAG to place locally at **Jardin de Soleil Lavender**.

Eva is now compiling **SAKS** to be dispersed by local organizations. These include basics for fledgling artists - quality beginner/art materials such as good paper, clip boards or a paint box, brushes, colored pencils, sharpeners, erasers and markers. She'll include a simple small workbook/guide for new artists to explore the how-to of making art. Eva would like these SAKS used as a retreat from ordinary or difficult everyday challenges. Creativity is a joy that she hopes to share throughout the community. Eva hopes to complete 100 of these bags and appreciates donations of art supplies towards her project.

Connect with Eva about helping with donations for SAKS art supplies, volunteering to curate a tiny gallery and/or with questions: artpelaeva@gmail.com

Check out OPAA's newsletter for many artistic opportunities in Port Angeles, Port Townsend, Port Ludlow, Bainbridge Island for galleries and classes. It's our noteworthy local artistic compendium for most artistic happenings in our region, in more detail than I can list here.

Allyne Lawson welcomes notice (before the 25th of each month) of an upcoming show or event you wish to include: malawson55@aol.com