



The AAC Corner

Edition 1

An Introduction to The Ashford Arts Council

by, *Valarie Oliver*

Since its founding in 2015, as an offshoot of the grassroots organization Ashford's "Our Town Our Future," the Ashford Arts Council (AAC) owes its beginnings to the inspired work of Francine Hodovan, recently deceased. AAC has set its agenda on increasing support for our local artists and promoting interest in and the availability of a variety of arts for both students and folks here in Ashford. We are a group of citizens who love our town and strive to keep it vibrant and interesting to our residents and surrounding communities. As a way of featuring local artists and crafts people we have held the Holiday Artists' Market at the Knowlton Memorial Hall and Old Post Office since 2016 each fall and have held a fundraiser Dinner Dance for two years in the spring. At this affair we held silent auctions of members' artistic work on display.

Our members Anna Harding, stained glass, Frietha Lawrence, zentangle, and Pat Morris, pet portraits, have provided workshops for Danielle Boulanger's art classes at the Ashford School. Some members have exhibited in the Town Hall exhibit cases.

Also we have now offered financial support and assistance with the newly created Drama Club led by Mike Young at the Ashford School. In November we donated \$250 to their Cultural Arts Program. Our other donations have been to provide \$200 for the Ashford School Art Club and two \$250 scholarships for E.O. Smith students graduating in 2018 who were to pursue their artistic talents in college.

Our initial sponsorship of the Writing Stroll in June of 2018 was an attempt to offer an outlet for those interested in writing, a way to enjoy the outside and meet kindred spirits. The central Storrs stroll was led by Marian Matthews. Art Walks, held in natural settings to see artists at work, and a Hollywood Review type performance are ideas for the future. We are also planning to hold Art Workshops for members by members. We welcome those interested to join us; your talents and your support is valued.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, February 10th, 2019
6pm – 8pm

AAC 1st Annual Members Appreciation Meeting

Old members, new members, future members, this town hall style gathering is for you. Enjoy complimentary snacks and refreshments as we bring to you the last year in review and a preview of the upcoming year. Give us your feedback, tell us what you want, how can we bring more arts to the community this upcoming year?

Contact Carli Gidman, with any questions
GidmanCreations@gmail.com

Are you an artist? Would like to become a member of our local artist community?
We are always welcoming new members.

Visit us online at www.AshfordArts.org for more information.

To become a member of the AAC, fill out this form and return it along with your check for \$20.00 annual dues.

CUT HERE AND RETURN THE BELOW FORM

Check #:		Amount Paid:	
Your Name:			
Email Address:			
Business Name / Website:			
Mailing Address:			
Street		Apartment	
City		State	Zip
Phone Number:			

MAIL TO:

Kathryn Eidson,
Finance director
Ashford Arts Council
459 Zaicek Road,
Ashford, CT 06278

Check Payable To:
ASHFORD ARTS COUNCIL
Memo Line:
2019 AAC MEMBERSHIP

