



NEWSLETTER

Blackstone Valley Art Association

Number One

September 5, 1985

FAREWELL TO SUMMER AND GREETINGS TO A NEW YEAR

Certainly it went by too fast. And certainly you didn't accomplish all you expected to. No matter, summer is a scant nine or ten months away. We greet the membership to the Association's 1985-86 year with hope and expectation. From most quarters, our past year was successful by virtually every standard and, to many, symbolic of a renewed collective interest in the BVAA and its long tradition of excellence. Once again, we also welcome those who are new to our ranks, wishing them success for all those reasons they decided to grab our coat tails and ride with us.

INFORMATION OF THE UTMOST INTEREST

Believe it or not, there are people who need lights, signs and arrows to have their attention drawn to important facts. Fortunately, members of the BVAA do not fall into such a category. So we shall mention only casually that meetings this year will take place in Whitinsville. The first is set for Monday, September 16 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Whitin Community Center, located on Memorial Square at the corner of Main and Hill Streets (parking on the Hill Street side). You will be informed, of course, as to places, times and guest speakers of future meetings. For September 16, our new president, Jeanne Gould, will bring us to order promptly so we may enjoy our guest speaker without unnecessary delay.

INTRODUCING

With its first meeting, the Association begins what is hoped will be one more impressive season of guest speakers and painting demonstrators. And the appearance of distinguished watercolorist Spencer Crooks of Cranston, R.I. promises to get us off on the right foot. Mr. Crooks was born in Ireland, but received his education in the United States and in England. He also studied scenic design at Tanglewood and, later, at the Longy School of Music. Over the years, his work has received countless honors for excellence, including those awards given by the U.S. Army, Forbes Magazine, the Providence Art Club, the Rhode Island School of Design, and many others. He has shown in one-man or group settings with the American Watercolor Society, at exhibitions in Dublin, Brussels and London; with the Rockport Art Association, at Symphony Hall Gallery in Boston and at the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, Mass. His work is part of numerous private and public collections, and owned by such notable figures as President Ford, the late President Johnson, the late Arthur Fiedler, as well as prominent public and political figures throughout New England. Mr. Crooks currently teaches and gives watercolor demonstrations over the six-state region and conducts watercolor workshops in the U.S. and overseas. And to no ones surprise he is listed in "Who's Who" in American Art. The BVAA is pleased to present Mr. Crooks, and is confident the Association's reputation for noteworthy guest artists will be enhanced by his visit.

GIVING THE DUES HIS DUE

The first of several reminders; membership dues are an evil without which we cannot live. The week-to-week function of the BVAA depends to a great extent on revenues from this source. A continuing program of meetings, guest speakers, and the planning

and execution of our annual spring show -- among other activities -- does not materialize from thin air. We need the cooperation of all and the understanding that, according to BVAA by-laws, dues are expected and required no later than the September meeting. This is, in most cases, a trivial matter and almost always depends on nothing more than a sense of orderly personal book-keeping. You can use the enclosed form when paying your dues, either at the September 16 meeting or by mail. Please forward to the BVAA's new treasurer, Mrs. Patricia Morse, [REDACTED]

HELP WANTED

Two keys jobs are open within the BVAA; publicity chairman and recording secretary. The later was unexpectedly opened with the resignation (for circumstances beyond her control) of Alice Babcock, who was elected last May. The role of publicity chairman, as has been stated here previously, is of vital importance to the BVAA, along with that of the recording secretary. Members with a disposition for either of these vacancies can explore their possibilities by contacting Jeanne Gould at [REDACTED]. You can telephone her, too, at [REDACTED].

FOR SERVICE ABOVE AND BEYOND

The good fortunes of any organization traditionally flow from its leadership. Those who have recently ended terms of office for the Association have the gratitude of every member for the unselfish sacrifices that have kept the BVAA on course and, during the last 12 months, reaching for even greater heights. To Rothene Hiscock, whose tireless yet gentle leadership, as both president and friend, has been a galvanizing force in a time of transition and a time of uncertainty; to vice president Mary Curley, whose years of self-effacing service have yielded a harvest of progress, showing us, as well, the definition of loyalty and a path for others to follow; to Priscilla McConnell, whose combination of good nature and sobriety gave her a special approach to the often thankless job of treasurer, while giving us a rare kind of dedication; to Janet Boucher, whose role as recording secretary has informed us and delighted us, all in a way that breathes life into the inanimate and turns the ordinary task into a model of dependability; to all goes our salute and heartiest well-done. The BVAA will be the poorer without your direct participation, yet richer for those new standards you leave behind.

FOR YOUR FILES

The following are names and addresses of the BVAA's 1985-86 slate of officers: Jeanne Gould, president, [REDACTED] Judith Collin, vice president, [REDACTED] Robert Wood, corresponding secretary, [REDACTED] Recording secretary, vacant; Patricia Morse, treasurer, [REDACTED]. Please feel free to contact any with questions or problems with which you need assistance.

SHOWING OUR STUFF

Please forward information about your summer art activities; exhibits, awards, grants, special studies, etc. to Bob Wood, [REDACTED]. It is planned that the next issue of the newsletter include a round-up of such information for all members to share. Please don't be bashful. Please don't think of it as tooting your own horn. Think of it as reflecting favorably on the Association.