



# The Sketch Pad

Newburyport Art Association's Member Newsletter • www.newburyportart.org • April/May/June 2008

## 11th Annual Regional Juried Show Private Preview Party & Fun Fundraiser

In response to our many patrons who like to be the first to see our show, as they don't want to miss a special painting to bring home, we will be hosting a "Private Preview Party" on Friday, May 23rd from 7 - 9 p.m. in conjunction with the opening of our 11th Annual Regional Juried Show.

This fun fundraiser will be a "dress-up" affair featuring fine wine, food and art, plus a small auction of works by such artists as J.C. Airoidi and Karen Jones.

Tickets for this Private Preview Party are \$50.00 per person, and may be purchased at the NAA starting the first week of May. All proceeds go towards supporting the NAA's mission. We look forward to enjoying this special evening with you and your friends!

## Save the Date for the 7th Annual Art Auction - "Artful Feast"

Saturday, June 21st is our 7th Annual Art Auction. If you missed last year's auction, then you definitely won't want to miss it this year as it is quickly becoming one of the "must attend" fundraising events in Newburyport!

Artful Feast 2008 will feature live and silent action lots made up of wonderful art and exciting non-art items, plus fine food, wine and music, and the VIP (Very Important Patron) Champagne Reception.

Our galleries will be open for the auction preview Friday, June 20th, 11am - 5pm, and Saturday, June 21st, 11am - 4pm. The VIP Reception is 5 - 6pm, the Silent Auction 6 - 7:30pm, and the Live Auction starts at 7:30pm. Online preview will be posted to the NAA website by May 15th.

Tickets for the VIP Champagne Reception are \$50.00 per person, and General Admission tickets are \$20.00 per person. Tickets will be available to purchase the first week of June, and reservations are strongly recommended for the VIP Champagne Reception



"Sequence" by Mary Pollak

## Pennies from Heaven Spring Open Show April 25 - May 17

"Pennies From Heaven"? The theme for NAA's Spring Open Show comes from a musical set in the 1930's. The lyrics offer visuals for your interpretation. Theme shows are to challenge artistic imagination. They are usually titled with open ended words or phrases to stimulate creativity.

What does the title of the show mean to you? A literal interpretation might become an illustration, but an abstract connection has endless possibilities. Look over the works in your studio or create a new piece with the theme in mind. This show should be uplifting, and is all about being positive, wishful thinking, looking at the silver lining and yes, maybe even, if life gives you lemons make lemonade.

NAA will accept two pieces of art per artist in all media and expects to fill the galleries with heavenly art and happy buyers. The opening reception is Saturday, April 26th, 7-9 pm during the Newburyport Literary Festival and the Art Walk. The public will vote for their favorite artwork. Please refer to the Call For Entries that was mailed and is also on the website for details and dates.

This show is made possible through the support of The Tannery, who wishes to congratulate Jabberwocky Bookshop & WishBasket who are both celebrating their 20th year.

## Happy 60th NAA!

On March 10, 2008, your art association celebrated its 60th birthday. Yes, there are older organizations out there, but when you consider what it has taken over the past 6 decades for the NAA to become the active, vibrant, visual art cornerstone it has for our region, it truly is an amazing accomplishment.

Featured in this issue of The SketchPad is the first of a multi-part series on the NAA's history, as researched and written by our members Skip & Marge Motes. We truly hope you enjoy this series.

And remember, please join us during the course of this year as we continue to celebrate this milestone during our exhibition receptions, education programs, outreach activities, and fundraising events.

## The 11th Annual NAA Regional Juried Show

May 23 - June 15

Reception:  
May 24, 7 - 9 pm



"Vastratto" by Nella Lush

Sponsored by:

**THE H. PATTERSON HALE, JR.  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

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NAA Gallery Summer Hours: Monday - Saturday, 11-5 pm and Sunday, 1-5 pm

# Calendar of Events April - June 2008

NAA's Summer Hours: Monday - Saturday 11 am - 5 pm, Sundays 1 - 5 pm

## Featured Artist Series

April 3 to April 16

Sara R. Demrow-Dent

*Imagined Landscapes: New Work in Acrylic*  
Media: Acrylic & Graphite on Canvas  
Reception: Friday, April 4, 6-9pm

April 17 to April 30

Patricia Bashford & Robert Pyle

*Gems & Passions*  
Media: Photography  
Reception: Friday, April 18, 7-9pm

May 1 to May 17

Cheryl Dymont

*On the Loose*  
Media: Oil  
Reception: Friday, May 2, 7-9pm

June 24 to July 9

Paul Osborne & Catherine Davis

Media: Photography  
Reception: Friday, June 27, 7-9pm

## Informal Critique Sessions

Need some constructive criticism before you finish that painting? Come to an informal critique among friends. New members are welcome. This is a great way to meet other artists. Critique sessions meet on Sundays at 5:30 pm

April 20th

May 18th

June 15th

## Gift Shop News:

The gift shop will be taking submissions for review the week of May 5th - May 12th, during gallery hours. Artists may submit 3 to 5 pieces with descriptions and proposed prices. Small, affordable items are requested and items priced under \$200 are preferable. There is a need for three dimensional fine crafts such as pottery, glass, baskets, wood, metal works, textiles and functional art.

## Exhibitions

10th Annual Budding Artist Show

An Exhibit by Middle & High School Students

April 4 to April 20

All NAA Media

Receiving: Mon., March 31, 11am - 7pm

Reception: Sun., April 13, 3 - 5 pm

Pick up Work:

Sun., April 20, 1 - 5 pm and

Mon., April 21, 11am - 5 pm

Pennies from Heaven

Spring Open Show

April 25 to May 17

All NAA Media

Receiving: Mon. April 21, 11am - 7pm

Reception: Sat., April 26, 7 - 9 pm

Pick up Work:

Sat., May 17, 11am - 5 pm and

Sun., May 18, 1pm - 5 pm

11th Annual Regional Juried Art Show

May 23 to June 15

All NAA Media (except no Fine Crafts)

CD Entries Due: Mon., March 17, 5pm

Notification: Mon., April 21

Accepted Art Receiving: Mon., May 19,

11am - 7pm

Preview Party: Fri., May 23, 7-9 pm

Reception: Sat., May 24, 7-9 pm

Pick up Work:

Sun., June 15, 1 - 5 pm and

Mon., June 16, 11am - 5 pm



Cartoon by John Cody

## Interest Groups

Figure Drawing

Wednesdays: 7 - 9:30 pm

No Instructor

Drop in: \$6 members/\$8 non

www.wednesdaylifedrawing.blogspot.com

Photography Interest Group

2nd Monday of the Month,

7 - 9 pm

Contact: Jay McCarthy, 978-499-9009

Printmaking Group

3rd Tuesday of the month, email for times to

stranc@stranc@comcast.net

Contact: Barbara Kedesdy 978-462-1893

Abstract & Experimental Group

2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 - 9 pm

Contact: Contact: Greg Sperounes

gsperounes@hotmail.com

Plein Air Group- "Band of Brushes"

Tuesdays, 9 am- Noon

Location: TBA

Cynthia Stern, suttonmgt@comcast.net

## Readings

Powow River Poets

Laura Coombs Hills Gallery

Contact: Michael Cantor,

mcantor@prodigy.net

Meetings begin at 7:30 pm

April 16th

May 14th

June 18th

## Call to Artists

Call to artists: outdoor sculpture art at Maudslay The theme of this year's show is ten. Walk through Sunday, April 6th. Application deadline is Monday, May 5th For more information call Bert @ 978.462.0423 or Caroline @ 978.462.5603

## Art Walk

April 26th

June 28th

Art Walks are from 3 - 7 pm.

# Education News: Spring & Summer

## Visiting Artist Series:

Artist Talk with Barrie McDowell

Includes: 4 Drawing & Composition Sessions

Dates: Sundays, May 4, 11, 18 & 25th

Time: 11:30 - 1:00 PM

Cost: \$170 members/ \$180 non

Combined lectures and drawing sessions with Barrie McDowell will address the key to drawing well, comfortably, with ease and eventually with authority.

Renowned artist Barrie McDowell is national known for his work in Painting, Drawing and Bronze Sculpture. McDowell has had solo exhibitions at the Pace Gallery, NYC, Charles Byron Gallery NYC, Van Der Voort Gallery, San Francisco, Ritz Gallery, CA, David Cole Gallery, CA as well as a one man retrospective at the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco. Public Collections - The Whitney Museum, NYC, The Oakland Museum, Oakland CA, Brooklyn Museum NYC, Staten Island Art Museum and Everson Museum, Syracuse, NY. Mr. McDowell holds a BFA from Yale School of Fine Arts, Yale University. He has held positions as professor in the Art Department at San Francisco State University and the Jr. College of Marin.

"I have always been first and foremost an artist. I have also been many other things out of necessity and curiosity but I have never let the other things make me a stranger to my creativeness which constantly seeks to be original and have integrity."

- Barrie McDowell

## Art Studio Classes Sign up Continues

April 6

Landscape Painting in Pastel

April 13

The Digital Camera for Artists

April 15 - June 17

Plein Air Painting

April 20

Real Fish Printmaking

April 29 - May 27

Wildlife Oil Painting

May 27 - June 24

Documentary Portrait Photography

June 23 - 26

Plein Air Painting 4 Day Workshop



Tree & Ball Image  
By Barrie McDowell

## NAA Interns

Two Amesbury High School Seniors are interning at the Newburyport Art Association through the spring term. Megan Taylor and Jill Hurley are involved in all aspects of gallery operations through our Artlink Program. Both are art students who chose to work at the NAA for different reasons.

Megan's focus is to learn more about the creative process. She is interested in portraiture and digital arts photography and finds the media interesting for the experimental nature with light and contrast. Ansel Adams and Andy Warhol are her favorite artists. She is presently applying to photography schools.



Megan Taylor assists with hanging the WJS III

Jill came to NAA to learn about the gallery interworkings, and the business side of art. She wants to be a curator. She plans on attending the Massachusetts College of Art to study Museum Sciences and Printmaking. She likes printmaking because it is ancient, but current. Her favorite places are museums and is especially drawn to the work of Gustav Klimt, Egon Sheile, and Matisse.



Jill Hurley in the gallery

The NAA Staff and membership is fortunate to have these students who are so serious about their future in art. Artist Members please introduce yourselves and share your artwork with Megan and Jill. In a few years we may be hearing about their exciting art careers that began here at the NAA.

## Student Tips:

from NAA Instructor, J.C. Airoidi

### Another use for Post-it notes:

Reshape and revive your old frayed brushes after washing with a good brush soap, wring out excess water and coat brush with small amount of soap. Take a post-it note roughly twice the size of your brush and fold over the top of your brush. Press the crease tightly over the tip of your brush and seal the stick side of the post-it to the non-sticky side, sandwiching your brush handle (or ferrule). Place brushes in the sun on or near a heating vent to dry. Within a day, remove the post-it and presto! Your brush, once again has a chiseled edge.

Preserving Oil painting brushes: After cleaning excess paint out of sable, mongoose and other natural hair brushes, rinse with hair conditioner.

## Around the Gallery

RJS  
Then-



Volunteering on Jury day 2007, when more than 500 entries were received for the Regional Juried Show.

RJS  
Now-



Reviewing Digital submissions in preparation for the 2008 The Regional Juried Show.



Beverly Mitchell, looks over the many thank you cards she received for the presentation she made to the Amesbury High School student body.



Young Budding Artist, Cammi Balentine, with her pastel, "Cat"



Member's Winter Juried Show III



Winners are posted on the NAA website

### 2008 ArtLink College & Pre-College Scholarships Available

The NAA is excited to announce we will be awarding four college and one pre-college ArtLink scholarships to local high school students in 2008.

The four 2008 ArtLink College Scholarships available are: Newburyport High School, the Hemphill Family Foundation Scholarship (\$1,000) and the Ruthanne Arbeit Memorial Scholarship (\$500).

Amesbury High School, the Hemphill Family Foundation Scholarship (\$1,000)

Triton Regional High School, the Sam Sargent Scholarship (\$400)

The 2008 ArtLink Pre-college Scholarship is for the Mass College of Art Summer 08 Studio, which includes tuition, room and board, and art supplies, and is open to students in their junior year at the Newburyport or Amesbury High Schools.



Applications for these 2008 ArtLink College & Pre-College Scholarships are available in the Guidance Departments at the participating high schools, and at the NAA. For more information, please call 978.465.8769, or stop by the NAA during gallery hours.

## In the Gallery...

### Come See the Tiny Shop Full of Art



Art Collectors come appreciate the smallest gift shop in Newburyport! Celebrating its 60 Year anniversary, the Newburyport Art Association would like to reintroduce you to our NAA Gift Shop.

There are new items to see! Come discover small affordable artworks and unique gifts created by more than 65 artist members. Have you ever observed glass being blown? With the finesse of a dancer the artist twists and turns the molten material as he shapes the form. Come see Peter Ridabock's colorful translucent vases. Have you ever imagined the patience and skill it takes to precisely cut over 100 tiny slivers of exotic woods into a puzzle of contrasting color and grain? Come see Al Cormier's dory, hummingbird or landscape puzzles that are not only a challenge to put together, but a tiny piece of art on an easel.

What colorfully glazed ceramic piece is shaped like a shell and is meant to be held and shaken? Come see Connie Rossetti's healing rattles among her mermaids, vases, and other expressive creations. Did you know that some of the pearls, opals, and swarovski crystals that make up the designs of the beaded bracelets, necklaces, and earrings designed by our artists are from around the world, but sea glass from our local shores is also precious in an artist's hands? Come see jewelry by Nancy Powers, Judith Bly, Linda Siwak, Cathy Sweazey and many more.

What can be sewn from red leather, or a cotton starfish print, lined, and or beaded? Come see "Posh pockets", hand bags and clutches, by Mary North Phillips. What do you find inside a decoratively hand painted wooden box embellished with antique drawer pulls? Come see Ingrid Regina's colorful keepsake boxes with little phrases of wisdom painted onto the piece.

Have you ever seen a Storyboard unfold into a piece of colorful children's literature? Come see illustrator Susan Spellman's delightful books. And did you know that an internationally acclaimed poet reads her poetry at the NAA? Come browse through the poetry books by Rhina Espaillat, founder of the Powow River Poets.

Walking through Newburyport, have you ever noticed our photographers capturing the city's beautiful flower box lined streets; or have you ever imagined the hours an artist spends painting the light on nearby Plum Island and then matting and framing it into an exquisite memory that you can own? Come see the tiny artworks created by Herb Crooks, Michele Jata, Janis Sanders or the cards and matted photographs by Mary Mogan Pacheco, Matthew Shelter, John Raleigh, Jane Sydney and many, many more.

It is amazing the variety of works artist members sell here in the tiny Newburyport Art Association Gift Shop. This little store offers buyers one-of-a-kind gifts that are hand made by local artists and range from \$15 to \$275. Help support your local artist's community and fellow members. Come see the tiny shop full of art. It's an opportunity to begin your art collection with small works, treat yourself to a fine craft, or discover a special gift for a birthday, wedding, or Holiday here at the Newburyport Art Association.

Carol Reynolds,  
NAA Gallery Director

## Executive Director Notes



### About turning 60

I may not be 60 years old, yet, but I have been around long enough to identify with most of the changes that have taken place since a group of local artists organized under the name "Newburyport Art Association" in 1948.

Six decades ago a knock on a door, a handwritten note, a notice in the local paper, or a phone call to the local "Ma Bell" switchboard operator let members know a meeting was to be held, or a show organized. The membership was small, technology was limited, new media and styles were emerging, and the general public had a different relationship with artists and the visual arts.

Today, our members live miles apart, emails have replaced handwritten notes, newspaper notices are press releases, Ma' Bell became New England Telephone, who became NYNEX, and is now Verizon (wireless and land-line), getting a show together takes advanced planning and many hands, the visual arts scene has evolved to include new media, and the general public has a plethora of options when it comes to the "who, what and where's" of viewing and buying art.

### and embracing technology

As much as many of us prefer "the broom over the vacuum cleaner" approach to technology, the fact of the matter is, if we want to run and maintain a healthy, vibrant, active and environmentally responsible organization in today's economy, we have to embrace and utilize technology when and wherever possible.

It is with these facts in mind that we have steadily increased the use of our website and Constant Contact to make the dissemination of information and management of communications more timely and cost effective. It is also a reason we are testing the waters of Digital Jurying for the 11th Annual Regional Juried Show.

### while serving all our members

I used the term, "where and whenever possible, with the full understanding that some of our members do not own or use computers for various reasons. That is why we let you choose how you wish to receive Call for Entries, Show Post Cards and the SketchPad - through the U.S. Postal Service or via email. It is also a reason we have been working with anyone who has asked for help in understanding and participating in our first Digitally Juried show.

As we celebrate our 60th birthday, I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we continue to learn our technological needs and limitations.

Dean A. Wills  
NAA Executive Director

p.s. Thank you H. Patterson Hale, Jr. Charitable Foundation for our new computers and office equipment!

## The Traveling Artist

Bonnie Jean Malcolm exhibited a glass mosaic in the "Antarctic: On Thin ice" exhibition at the United Nations Gallery in New York City, December 17, 2007 to March 15th, 2008. The exhibit will go to a gallery in London, then in 2009 will be shown at the world Global Warming conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.



The exhibition explored the fragile beauty of Polar regions. Artists and photographers from ten different countries participated. The artist's images were shown along with NASA satellite photos showing the vulnerability and rapid transformation of the Antarctic Ice Sheet. A bridge made of ice was created by renowned Norwegian artist, Vebjorn Sand, outside the UN building. The melting of the bridge symbolizing our changing climate.

### Joining the Sam Sargent Circle is a Unique Way to Say, "Thank You"

You can show your appreciation for all the NAA has done over the past 60 years by making a bequest gift. Your gift can take many forms: one-time, over-time, in your will, or in your estate plan.

If you would like to thank the NAA, or you want to honor someone who has, or had a special connection with the NAA, please call to learn more about this new program.

Your bequest, large or small, will ensure the NAA's growth and support of the visual arts in our great community for many years to come. Contact Dean Wills at 978.465.1669, or via email at [dwills@newburyportart.org](mailto:dwills@newburyportart.org)

## CORRECTION...

NAA Founder, Sam Sargent's relatives came to visit Newburyport in July. Sam's sons, Warren, from Glenwood, Maryland and Robert, from Toronto, Canada stopped in with Warren's daughter, Luanne.

In the October/November/December issue of the Sketch Pad we mistakenly identified where each of Sam's sons currently live.

Our apologies to the Sargents



Warren, Luanne & Robert Sargent

## Kudos!

**Jenny Page** had her work, "Matt and the floating Hat", selected for "The Exhibiting Artist -22nd International Juried Show at the Visual Art Center of New Jersey. The Juror was Carter Foster, Curator of Drawings at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, N.Y. Jenny is also part of the Online exhibition, Women's History Month: Relics & Remembrances, Fountainhead Gallery, 32 w. 28th St., 3rd Floor, NYC.

NAA member **Steve Lush** recently won "The Painter's Award" at the Concord Art Association Member's Juried Show juried by Peter Alpers, Alpers Gallery, Andover, MA. Steve also was juried into the Cambridge Art Association's "Red" show, an open juried competition with his acrylic on paper, "Siena". Additionally, Steve won 1st prize for his 1:20 scale model of Johua Slocum's "Spray" at the USS Constitution Museum Model Shipwright Guild's annual model ship show. Juror's included the curator of models for the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA. This model show ran from 2/5/08 to 3/8/08 at the USS Constitution Museum, Charlestown, MA.

**Eva Hoffman** and **Carol Groezinger** were accepted into the Redbrick Arts Center juried Exhibition, "Water"

The 2nd Annual Open Photography & Sculpture Exhibit at The Marblehead Arts Association recognized two NAA Members in their show. **Jurgen Kedesdy** won 1st Place in Photography for "Nail Dust" and **Marilyn Coon** was awarded an Honorable Mention for her sculpture "Spooked" (bronze).

## The Sketch Pad

The Sketch Pad is the newsletter of The Newburyport Art Association, Inc. 65 Water Street Newburyport, MA www.newburyportart.org Tel. (978) 465-8769 Email: naa@newburyportart.org

### NAA Board of Directors

#### Officers

President: Monica Welsh  
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Vice President: Susan Hebenstreit  
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Education Director: Lully Schwartz  
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Gallery Associate: Linda Dahlberg  
Gallery Associate: Ashley Shorb

**Board Meetings** – are held the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m., unless otherwise announced.

#### **Submissions to the Sketch Pad** –

Email to: [naa@newburyportart.org](mailto:naa@newburyportart.org).  
Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month, for the following month's issue.

**NAA Mission Statement** – The NAA is a community of artists devoted to supporting, encouraging and motivating all artists. Our mission is to provide: Education in the visual arts for both children and adults, in-house and outreach programs to enhance awareness and appreciation of the Arts, promotion of artists through exhibition and media exposure, financial security for our historical association and building which serves as a place for local artists to promote their art in a community setting.

## Community Outreach News

### OpArt's "Color Block '08" Show

During two cold weeks at the end of January and start of February, the NAA hosted the Opportunity Works artist's for their annual OpArt Show in the Hills Gallery. This year's show featured "Color Blocks", vibrant contemporary works done in acrylic on canvas stretched over a thick wood frame.

Thanks to the hard work of OpArt volunteers Monica Welsh, Richard Johnson, Alex Richard and Joan Hancock the new color block work was a complete hit, with the local media covering the artist's and their work in the show, a number of which sold at the well attended reception held on January 27th.

The NAA's OpArt program strives to encourage and train adults with disabilities to develop and further their create abilities by providing increased opportunities to experiment with different media, techniques and materials. The majority of all sales proceeds go directly to the artist with the balance reinvested in the program.

If you are interested in getting involved with OpArt as a volunteer, or would like to know the dates and venues for future Color Block '08 Shows, please contact Monica Welsh at [monicawelsh1@mac.com](mailto:monicawelsh1@mac.com).



### NAA Business Partners

**Corporate Gold Circle** (gifts of \$25,000+)  
The Mary Alice Arakelian Foundation  
The H. Patterson Hale, Jr. Charitable Foundation

**Corporate Silver Circle** (gifts of \$10,000+)  
Newburyport Area Industrial Development Foundation. (NAID)  
Newburyport Community Preservation Act  
Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank

**Corporate Bronze Circle** (gifts of \$5,000+)  
Institution for Savings Charitable Foundation  
Hall and Moskow (in-kind)  
IBM Corp.  
Rogers Family Foundation

**Patron Level** (\$1,000+)  
Hemphill Family Foundation  
Strem Chemicals, Inc.  
Provident Bank

**Contributing Level** (\$250+)  
Inverness Financial Group  
Mechanica USA  
The Shops at the Tannery

**Basic Level**  
Raleigh Design  
Tomlinson, Inc.

### Sketch Pad Advertising

For a 2.35" x 3.65" camera ready ad, for one issue (3 months), the rate is \$75. Electronic files are accepted. Please send \$75 payment by check or credit card to the NAA office. The Sketch Pad is published quarterly and mailed to members and patrons.

### NAA Outstanding Volunteer:



There are many members who help the staff by signing up during receiving to gallery sit or answer the phone calls with a yes when asked to work installation week, but there is no way to measure how valuable the volunteer is who identifies the need and offers to help on the spot like Marilyn Coon.

A sculptor and NAA Instructor, Marilyn has often come to our assistance when it was most needed. An hour here, three hours there. She has consistently been the member to thank for helping out when a volunteer has cancelled at the last minute or a time sensitive task is at hand.

Our most sincere thanks to Marilyn Coon!

## The Newburyport Art Association Story

*This article by Skip and Marge Motes begins a series commemorating the 60th anniversary of NAA. The articles are excerpts from their book being written, in association with NAA, on the history of Water Street, from Federal Street to Market Square, 1700 – 2000.*

### 1. THE EARLY YEARS: 1948 - 1960

At 8:48 on Wednesday evening, March 10, 1948, Sam Sargent convened a meeting of twenty persons in an “enthusiastic gathering” in Corliss Hall at the YMCA on State Street and launched the Newburyport Art Association. The group wanted to “bring together people of common interest ... to bring art to the public.” They started “with a handful of embryonic artists and less than a dozen experienced craftsmen.” Sargent was the association’s first president.

Postwar Newburyport, once a prominent maritime and manufacturing center, was in economic decline. Sargent had a long term vision “that some day a group...would be formed...to restore the cultural splendor in a city rich with a tradition in the appreciation of the arts.” A participant in the March meeting observed that “the community, dormant for a long time, could be revived by the creativeness of such a group.” The editor of the Daily News wrote that Sargent “may be starting something which will grow into a great Newburyport asset.”

### *Sam Sargent*

Sam Sargent — Sam, not Samuel, and no middle name — was a successful painter and popular art teacher in the first half of the twentieth century in Newburyport. He was “the city’s best-known artist, second only to the universally-famed Laura Coombs Hills.”



Sam Sargent at Gloucester, 1947.

Sargent was born in Newburyport on January 11, 1889, and spent some of his childhood in Vermont where he lost the sight in one eye in an accident. He graduated in 1912 from the Massachusetts Normal Art School in Boston (later Massachusetts College of Art) where he majored in portrait painting and became a qualified art teacher. His paintings were exhibited at the London Museum, Museo Historico Provincial in Argentina, the Copley Gallery,

Boston, the Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, Currier Museum, Manchester, NH, and the Historical Society of Old Newbury. Sargent’s painting of Mount Chocorua, NH hung in Grand Central Station in New York City for 14 years. His works are found in many Newburyport area private and business collections. From 1938 to 1950 Sargent held art shows at Florence Bushee’s barn on Route 1A in Newbury.

Sargent founded the Sargent School of Painting in 1942 in his barn studio on Green Street. The Newburyport Daily News wrote that “this new movement to bring Newburyport to the fore in the art world marks the first time a school of painting has been established here.” His “pride and joy” was his school of painting, wrote his son, Robert, “Which led directly to the founding of the art association.”

In failing health, Sargent and his wife, Bertha, moved to Maryland in 1958 to be close to their son. He died there on August 5, 1959.

### *Art Association’s First Exhibition*

The newly formed NAA held its first exhibition at the county court house on Bartlet Mall in July 1948 — over 3,000 persons signed the guest register. The Daily News wrote that it was “another chapter into the illustrious history of our city in almost astounding fashion...It solved a long-felt problem in cultural efforts of the entire area. For a rebirth of the arts, an amazingly successful social, civic, and cultural enterprise was launched. Because of the efforts of the [art association], the city itself stands on an equal footing with Ogunquit, Rockport and similar renowned centers... of artistic activity.”

The association had seventy-two members by the end of 1948 and in December leased three rooms above Mildred Pearson’s florist shop at 1 Threadneedle Alley in downtown Newburyport. Initially membership was restricted to Newburyport and bordering towns. Persons qualified as artists members if they brought in their art work for critique, otherwise they were associate members.

The annual summer exhibitions at the courthouse on Bartlet Mall, the holiday shows, art classes, awards of an annual high school scholarship, and monthly demonstrations and lectures continued through the 1950’s. Costume balls, started in 1949, were held into the mid-1950’s.



Sargent teaching his Wednesday evening class in his Green Street studio, March 1949. [Photograph by Robert Roger.]

## The Newburyport Art Association Story

### 2. "OUR NEW HOME," 1969

By the early 1960's, the association had over one-hundred members and sought to be a "strong factor in this community, deserving of recognition and support...we must get away from the idea that the summer exhibition [on Bartlet Mall] is the sole purpose of the club."

With growing space needs, a search committee in 1961 investigated buildings for purchase. One was a two-story, brick waterfront building at 65 Water Street — "interesting building; fine location; open to the river in the rear; parking OK; large two story interior; but very dirty and oily upstairs and much work needed downstairs." But NAA deferred purchase until a building fund could be established, and instead leased space in May 1961 in the old Marine Society building at 12 State Street, then known as Scott's Market.

The initial plan for Newburyport urban renewal called for demolition of most of the historic, but deteriorated, downtown buildings, and the association had to vacate the Marine Society building in February 1968. The building search for a "new home" was on once again.

G. Michael Elwell, NAA president from 1967 to 1970, recounted in a 1989 letter the eviction and the eventual purchase of the NAA building at 65 Water Street, which, once again, was for sale: "Knowing that we were about to be evicted by urban renewal from our rented store stall in the Marine Society Building on State St., [we] began a search for a place we might buy — property values were still depressed. We moved our few gallery props into a vacant room in the home of past president John Jepsen, and found reasonable fees for space at the YWCA for meeting night. Fortunately our biggest piles of gallery gear...for the 'Summer Show' were stored in the basement of the courthouse on Bartlet Mall, where the show was held, so the time pressure was not desperate. We looked at a house on State St., but that was suddenly sold out from under us. Another place on Merrimac Street in front of the old Caldwell's Rum plant was also about [to be] accepted by the Board, when it was withdrawn from the market. Stasia Cassellini then learned the old Yerxa's Grocery building [at 65] Water St. was for sale again. This time we made it."

However, the board was divided — some thought the purchase was unaffordable and risky, others that the association had to have a presence in the area with its own building. Finally the board approved. Elwell wrote that we "did some careful money figuring... [and did] some midnight oil burning...Past president Harold Melanson was at that meeting." They prepared the presentation for the bank, and Elwell brought it to the loan officer. The word came back affirmative. The building was purchased in October 1969 for \$14,400, financed by a \$11,900, twenty-year term mortgage.

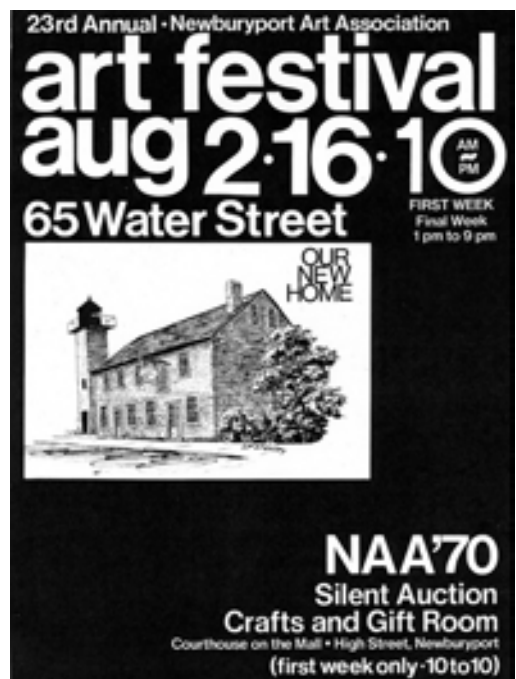
The association still held part of the 1970 Summer Show at the court house, since the NAA building's upstairs was unusable and the board was uneasy about public recognition of the new location so soon.



First floor of the NAA building during renovation in March 1970. From left to right are Mary Whiting, Stasia Casellini, Rosemary Sloane, Audrey Bechler and Mildred Hartson.



Rear of the NAA building in 1971 taken through a ship's railing. An oil storage tank is on the left, with the Newburyport Tanning plant in the background on Water Street, all parts of the industrial neighborhood.



Poster for the 1970 NAA Art Festival at the Courthouse with a drawing of the NAA building by Les Plumly.

Series continues in the next issue.



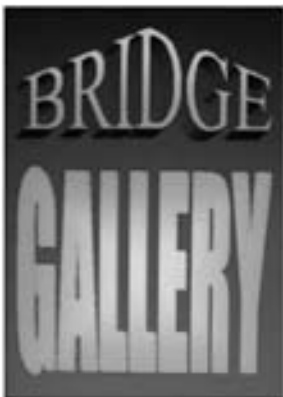
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Dated Material – April 2008



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