

WIAC Letter from the Prez

As the incoming president I am excited about Whidbey Island Arts Council moving into the new decade with enthusiasm and vigor. We have added to and modified our program orientation, been blessed with a mixture of talented members and look forward to additional board and committee members in new and revised positions. I encourage your participation and hope you will join us in supporting all of the arts and the rich and diverse artist community of Whidbey Island.

WIAC has several activities planned for the 2010, some of which are continuing and others are new.

Open Studio Tour promises to be as good as or even better than the exceptionally successful 2009 tour. We are adding a permanent tour, the Whidbey Island Art Path.

Arts in Education got off to an amazing start with a grant from the state and will be fully operational this next year.

Several music events are scheduled, including the Whidbey Island Music Festival and a new CD.

An Artist's Garage or Studio Sale is scheduled for the spring, an artist lecture series will start in the summer, a new project promoting art in public places is underway, and plans are being made to co-sponsor an EDGE (professional training for artists) with the Pacific Northwest Art School and Artist's Trust.

Literary arts will continue to sponsor Poetry Slams, support Brave New Words and start a new reading program.

The council, of course, continues to fund grants for artists, to give scholarships to graduating high school students continuing in art, and sponsor community events such as Oktoberfest and Choochokam.

We now have an employee, Barbara Cummings, who is working in her office at Pacific Northwest Art School. Barbara is organizing our database, mailing and emailing information and responding to phone calls.

Our website is being revised and will be the go to place for all information concerning the WIAC art events and calendar, application forms and so forth. The website is [HYPERLINK "http://www.islandartscouncil.org" www.islandartscouncil.org](http://www.islandartscouncil.org). Please visit regularly and often.

I want to personally thank and acknowledge the efforts of the 2009 board: Joe Menth, Pres.; Sue Symons, Sec.; Mike Muzos, Treas.; Patricia Duff; Mona Newbauer, Frank Rose, and Sue Taves. Their work and ideas have transformed our organization. I look forward to working with them and you through this next year.

Skip Smith