


Newsletter April 2014

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	Corresponding Secretary:	Stephanie McClain	

UAC MEETING NOTICE

April 15th , Meeting 6:00 p.m. Call to order 6:30 p.m.

This month meeting will be at the Uniontown Library 2nd floor.

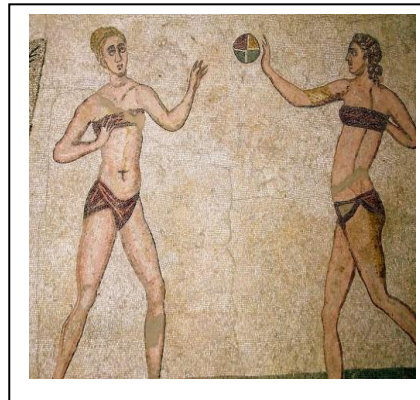
General Business meeting

Visit our new Web Site uniontownartclub.org

Mosaic Art



A detail showing the tiger from the **Dionysos Mosaic** emblemata which depicts the god riding the animal. From the House of Dionysos, **Delos**. (**Hellenistic** Period).



3rd Century mosaic of Bikini Girls at the Villa Romana at Piazza Armerina in Sicily.

(Really! Bikini beach ball in the 3rd Century. I just had to add this image? PMP)



A **Roman** floor **mosaic** dating to the 1st century BCE and depicting **Nike**. From a Roman villa near via Ruffinella, **Rome**. (Palazzo Massimo, Rome).

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 2014

As you read this month's newsletter you may notice a couple of changes. You may have thought something was different about the last page in the March newsletter and you were right. Instead of current events in that area, I have changed it to what topics we may be discussing at the upcoming meetings. I know some of you have a hard time fitting a meeting into your schedules for various reasons and this is understandable. I feel however that you still can be a part of the decision making or at least offer some input into your club. We are doing two things different to help achieve that goal

- 1) We are now sending out the minutes after the meetings, these are not the approved but submitted minutes. The advantage is, those who were unable to attend will have an opportunity to see what took place. It may also reduce a little time at the meeting since members will have already read the minutes at their leisure. We may then only need to scan the minutes before voting to accept them. This is not to say we will not wait for someone to read the minutes but if it isn't necessary to slow down the meeting we can move forward.
- 2) On the last page I am listing some possible topics for the upcoming meeting and future meetings. Not everything listed will necessarily be discussed at the next meeting but has been brought up at some point in discussion and is worth noting for future consideration. Again you may see something that is of interest that will just be that little incentive to attend.

The artist of the month Bio is taking on a change as well. I had mention in last month's newsletter that your input would be welcomed. That was a forerunner to the page change. What would you like to read about? Beverly is willing to do the research and write the article, in fact that is the reason also for the name change to **The ARTicle by Beverly DeMotte**. For an example: I suggested last month that I was curious about the origin of Mosaic art, Beverly took that lead and the results I think you will find interesting even if you were not interested in Mosaic Art.

The changes to the newsletter are straight forward, keeping members up to date on what happened and invoking interest to attend future meetings. We are also keeping our motto of (promoting an interest in art) through Beverly's ARTicle's. Speaking of change, I would like to welcome Heleen as our new Treasurer.

A club is an organization of people who come together to enjoy a common interest. Our membership is increasing and the attendees of our meetings are more active in pursuing projects and activities. Hopefully this "can do" attitude and cooperative spirit will continue and encourage a welcoming feeling to participate by newer members.

We all seem to be heading in the same direction, which is important if we are to progress and grow as a club. I said that in the last letter and I think it deserves repeating.

Looking forward to seeing you at the April 15th meeting and maybe some new faces

Peter Pasqua

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The ARTicle

by Beverly DeMotte

ART HISTORY NOT MYSTERY: MOSAIC ART

Thanks to Pete Pasqua for his response to the March newsletter member request, the topic of this month's article is Mosaic Art. Mosaics is the careful placement of bits and pieces of stone, ceramic, glass beads and generally any small found object fastened to surface to create a wide range of designs and images. Grout, the filler of cracks between is not required if the pieces are closely set. The style of mosaics widely varies.

Some of the earliest mosaics were found in temples in Mesopotamia in 3000BCE. of colored stone, shells and ivory. 1500BCE marked the appearance of glazed tiles and by 800-400BCE we see the introduction of intricate pebble designs. The Greeks are credited with raising mosaic work to highly refined art incorporating people, animals and complex geometric patterns in mythological stories.

200BCE marked the introduction of tesserae (tiny ceramic, stone and shell pieces) specifically made for mosaic work provided a range of specific colors making it easier to imitate paintings. Glass was popularly used in early wall mosaics but not for use in floor surfaces as glass easily cracks and loses its luster underfoot.

The Roman Empire really pushed the creative mosaic envelope but as the empire moved northward into what is now Britain it is clear that the Italians were far more skilled in this fine craft than the Brits as evidenced in the latter's lackluster mosaic work.

The early AD centuries saw the spread of mosaics to the rising Byzantine Empire and into the Middle East, called Islamic mosaics. In both areas the subject matter was religious in nature. The Islamic mosaics were highly mathematical in nature. While floral and some fauna motifs can be found in Islamic mosaics you will never find "graven images" of mankind in strict adherence to the Old Testament Ten Commandments. If you are familiar with Byzantine illuminations, then their mosaics will be easily recognizable because of the iconography. The Byzantines did not grout their tesserae and set the small tiles on edge so that the light would catch and reflect from the image surfaces. They also were among the first to cover the walls and ceilings resulting in gloriously illuminated early Christian imagery.

Mosaic art has survived the test of time. Industrialized mass production of an array of materials acquisition easier but in my opinion the more personally the materials are produced and crafted, the more intimate, creative and expressive the end result will be. Leaded stained glass is a specialized form of mosaic art.

Artisan Nancy McChesney is our local expert in mosaic art. Her home in Markeysburg is a grand example of personal expression in hand-crafted

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mosaics, from the grand fireplace surround of a dancing tree motif to the work in her kitchen and sunroom to the kissing fish "swimming around" the shower stall walls. She created an abstract cityscape in the kitchen of one of her apartments and is currently creating a personal story on the facade of her S. Gallatin residence.

Mosaic education is readily available in Fayette County. McChesney will teach an evening wet-cut mosaic class during the Uniontown Arts Fellowship Phoenix spring program at Uniontown High School and Touchstone Center for Crafts is offering several mosaic classes in the 2014 workshop season.

Resources:

<http://www.ancient.eu.com/Mosaic/>

<http://www.thejoyofshards.co.uk/history/>

Visit our web site www.uniontownartclub.org for latest event listings and the art quote of the day. The site is updated as information arrives. Look at **CURRENT EVENTS** and **YOUR UAC** for what's new. You can now check the latest **news and weather** info, plus 2 art tutorials have been added.

2014 UAC Meeting :

April 15 th, Uniontown Library 6-6:30PM sign-in with a 6:30 Call to Order.

May 20 th, Uniontown Library 6-6:30PM sign-in with a 6:30 Call to Order.

June 17 th, Uniontown Library 6-6:30PM sign-in with a 6:30 Call to Order.

July 5th – 29th Uniontown Art Club Gallery Exhibition and Sale hosted at Touchstone Center for Crafts.

Some possible highlights of this Months meeting

These topics may or may not be discussed at this meeting but have been brought up in conversation.

- Our Holiday Show and Sale; we had some good ideas come up at the last show, we need to start planning now to implement the ideas. A committee will be formed.
- A place has been looked at where we can work with very little restrictions. Would you like to know more. Here the committee report first hand.
- An old project that was started in the past and not finished has resurfaced, some of you may want to revive this project. Join the resurrection committee.
- A Committee report on the Touchstone Exhibition progress.
- Arts and Craft show participation, who, how, when
- Possible new innovative ways to raise revenue, may even benefit the members involved.
- Several other ideas are in the discussion stages, Let's talk, of course we cannot do that without you.