



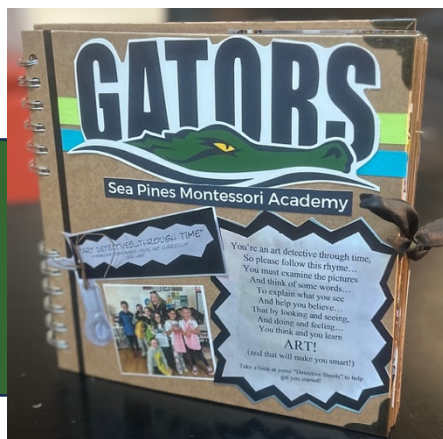
Happy Summer 2025 Friends!!

I hope this season brings you peace, inspiration, and time for meaningful reflection. Whether you're traveling, creating, mentoring, or simply taking a well-deserved rest, know that your presence in the world of art education continues to matter, deeply.

As retired art educators, we carry with us a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion. That's why our role in the Retired Art Educators Alliance is more important than ever. We may be "retired," but we are not finished. Art education still needs our voices, our stories, and our guidance. So, let's brainstorm what this can look like!

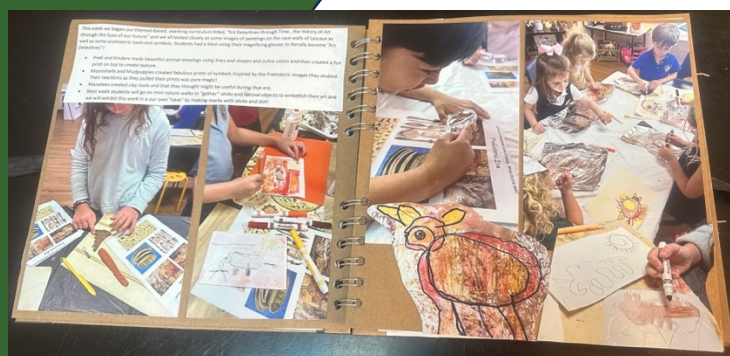
Speaking of retiring, I just did it for the 2nd time! I have been blessed to teach very part-time at a local Montessori School (preK to 6th grade) for the past 2 years. I was teaching about 8 hours a week and absolutely loved it, but alas, they now need a full-time art teacher, and I really like the title of "retired" so I just cleaned out my art room and it was quite bittersweet. I have put together a scrapbook from every year that I taught, and this year was no different. Documenting a year of learning with photos, notes from students, images of their art, community events, etc...is a great way to reflect and I highly recommend it. I was fortunate to have 26 student teachers throughout my career, and I encouraged each one to make a scrapbook of their time as a student teacher...and every one of them thanked me!

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Let's make it a goal to mentor and encourage the next generation of educators. If you're attending your state fall conference, I challenge you to get involved by presenting, and sharing your insights, and be sure to engage with younger teachers. I just put in my RAEA proposal for the GAEA fall conference and look forward to sharing my curriculum from this past year and the importance of documenting the year via a scrapbook. Then consider expanding that idea for the national convention! Although our proposal window just ended, we're going to be having several events where we'll need you to lead a round table discussion and join us for a "speed dating" mentoring event! Your wisdom is invaluable, and we want to see you and celebrate your continued contributions. Please reach out to me if you're interested in joining in on the fun!

I also want to charge each of you with a special mission: bring in new RAEA members. Invite former colleagues, friends, and fellow retirees to join our community. Let's grow stronger together and remind everyone that retirement simply means a new chapter in art education and not the end. And the NAEA has made this so much easier for us, once you sign up to be a RAEA Interest Group member, you're signed up for LIFE! This is exciting as we're going to watch our membership grow!



**Finally, I'd love to hear from you.
Please share what's happening with
RAEA members in your state! What
events, exhibits, gatherings, or
inspiring moments do you have
planned?**

**I'd love to feature your stories because
as you know,**

**I truly believe that
#togetherweARTbetter.**

**Wishing you a summer full of beauty, joy,
and continued creativity.
So Sincerely,**

Debi West

dewestudio@gmail.com



Scrapbook pages by Debi West

Trivia

July Answer:

Which Flemish Baroque artist was also a diplomat and was knighted by both Philip IV of Spain and Charles I of England?

Peter Paul Ruebens

He was a renowned painter, known for his Baroque style, and also a skilled diplomat who played a role in negotiating peace between Spain and England

Melissa Gallagher is the trivia winner!



Detail - Venus at a Mirror, c1615, Peter Paul Ruebens

September Question

Speaking of scrapbooks, in the late 1800s, with the rising interest in scrapbooks, companies began selling blank scrapbook albums and glue.

Who created and patented a self-pasting scrapbook in 1872?

The book contained adhesive in a grid pattern that was already on each page.

Send answers to Debi West, dewestudio@gmail.com

Congratulations to our President Debi West!

The Art of Education University - Faculty Member of the Year!



"The individual exhibits a high degree of professionalism in interaction with peers in faculty meetings, Slack,* and when representing AOEUE at events. They can be found sharing ideas, helping answer questions to their peers within Slack, * and demonstrating commitment to the mission of AOEUE inside and outside of AOEUE. This individual actively participates in our faculty meetings and exhibits a growth mindset and passion for lifelong learning. We have our areas of expertise but always seek new depth and breadth of knowledge. Learning is shared openly with the team for all to benefit."

(*Slack is a business app that connects employees)



Nan Williams

In The Spotlight

Mac Arthur Goodwin Award, NAEA, 2025

Lifetime Achievement Award, FAEA, 2016

National Emeritus Art Educator, NAEA, 2015

University of Central Florida Appreciation Award / Luminary Society, 2009

Southeastern Art Educator of the Year, NAEA, 2009

It is an absolute honor to introduce my dear friend and art education hero, Nan Williams, the 2025 recipient of the NAEA MacArthur Goodwin Lifetime Achievement Award. With an extraordinary teaching career that spanned an awe-inspiring 75 years, Nan has impacted generations of students and educators with her boundless passion, wisdom, and heart. I had the privilege of working closely with Nan in the mid-1990s, when she served as the NAEA Elementary Division Director and I was lucky enough to be her Southeastern Regional Director. From the very beginning, Nan led with grace, humility, and a deep-rooted kindness that made every one of us feel valued and inspired. Her legacy is one of love, mentorship, and unwavering dedication to the power of art education. -- Debi West

What an honor to share my journey with colleagues whose light I cherish! After many decades and a kaleidoscope of 22k students in music, theatre, humanities, art and education, I'm grateful for every pinched penny, all-nighter and setback - challenges that became opportunities. We've all been there! Arts folks are resourceful, persistent and visionary. It's hard work, and rewards are sweet surprises. Memories flow: "Well, our batiks are waxed, so we're ready to dye today." Second graders dramatically "died" splayed all over tables and chairs. The echoes reverberate.

In the school of a visionary musician, I began at age 4 to learn piano and perfect pitch. We danced, sang, enjoyed art and an academic program that knew no limits. Results? Curiosity, perfection, skill-building, awareness, persistence, problem-solving - all things we cherish in education. The arts transcend academic excellence. Performing any art requires courage, critical thinking, discipline; studying the arts fine-tunes our senses, develops discriminating judgment, enriches our lives. The arts help us know and respond to others; they nurture our intuition; they stretch our outlook; they feed our souls. The arts strengthen our productivity and sense of workmanship. They are the essence of civilization.

After graduate work in music, theatre and art (Eastman School of Music and U Iowa, MFA Theatre), adventures continued in NYC, like the Art Students League request to pose for portrait classes. I was paid to listen to famous artists share insights, and I shyly hoped for a sketchbook critique after class.

I was asked to visit Jacksonville University where they needed a theatre/art person, and the youngest faculty member was hired! Scene design and rehearsals meant long hours, on top of prep for five theatre and art courses each semester. I developed stamina.

After a family transfer to Miami, I agreed to sub in an art program. With no prior inkling of teaching kids, I dived in, studying the great gods of NAEA in the evenings. I took required general education classes, but never interned. So, I figured things out on my own, and that on-the-job training was priceless.

A transfer to Orlando led to starting an art program in an inner-city school, with a yearly budget of 18 cents per student. I enjoyed the challenge of finding inventive solutions. "Found materials" projects made the cover of *Arts & Activities*. We used squirt bottles for water, phone books for paper towels, printmaking, ironing batiks, and more. I still treasure the lessons I learned.



1st Grade Clown Painting

One year I had to teach in a room with "nothing wet or messy." So, we explored fiber arts, related sciences, math, writing, and rich cultural/historical diversity revealed by attire. Students thrived. The end of the year's study? A big "Fibers Festival" and *Ties That Bind* received an \$8,000 grant (felt like a mil).

We loved our inner-city school – the challenges, the triumphs. We provided clothing, food, even showers, but mostly we provided gifts of self-reliance, resilience, respect, and inventive thinking. We didn't call it social justice; we called it love. It was normal. Our "GoFundMe" came out of our pockets. And there was always fun. "My mommy had to stay home today because she had her boobs tied." Or "Art helps me grow." And a favorite: "Mrs. Williams, are you a real teacher?"

I was asked to join the University of Central Florida (U.S. largest), and students seemed to appreciate my real-world stories. "I loved this class – it was an awakening for me." Seeing both seasoned teachers and interns finding the joy and passion of helping others is magical. (And a former student endowed a UCF scholarship in my name!)

There were endless opportunities to serve NAEAE, FAEA, state and local orgs, especially as a charter member of the Florida League of Teachers (of the Year), with its intense training and state-wide service.

I am in awe of the learning I've experienced from every encounter with diverse glimpses of humanity – all through the lens and power of the arts.



Set design "The Madwoman of Chaillot"



"Masque" - ink dropper on burlap

40 YEARS

NATIONAL ART EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Investing in Leadership, Innovation & Learning



Investing in Leadership, Innovation & Learning



WITH YOU, WE CAN DO MORE.

OUR MISSION

The National Art Education Foundation (NAEF) invests in innovative initiatives to support instructional practice, research, and leadership in visual arts education.

OUR VISION

As an independent, philanthropic organization, NAEF supports a wide variety of professional activities, including:

- Supporting visual art educators participation in professional development programs.
- Promoting visual arts education as an integral part of the curriculum.
- Exploring new models of visual arts instruction.
- Promoting the teaching of art through activities related to instructional process, curriculum, student learning, student assessment, management or discipline.
- Purchasing equipment and/or instructional resources.
- Conducting research in visual arts education.

HOW THE MONEY IS USED

NAEF is a sister organization to the National Art Education Association (NAEA) and provides support for a variety of visual arts education programs for the Association and its members.

- NAEF has supported over 356 projects since its inception in 1985.
- Approximately \$50,000 is allocated to NAEF grant recipients annually in five grant categories. Requests total approximately \$200,000 per year.
- NAEF supports NAEA Leadership Initiatives including the 1st National Leadership Conference, the NAEA School for Art Leaders, the NAEA Research Commission, and the NAEA Research Pre-Conference, totaling over \$630,000 since 2011.
- NAEF grants are awarded to NAEA members, including student and retired members, state/province associations and recognized affiliates.

**100% of gifts are allocated to Grants and Leadership Initiatives.
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING NAEF!**

NAEF IS CELEBRATING ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR!

NAEF: A Nonprofit Worth Knowing – Here's Why

Founded 40 years ago in 1985 by visionary NAEA members, the National Art Education Foundation (NAEF) continues to support the professional growth of NAEA members as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary during 2025. The NAEF Board of Trustees, made up entirely of NAEA members from diverse backgrounds and experiences in art education, oversees its impactful initiatives. NAEF offers five unique grant opportunities to NAEA members, with donations coming from members like you. We invite you to consider contributing to NAEF, particularly during this milestone anniversary year.

NAEF 40 for 40 Campaign: Celebrating 40 Years of Support for NAEA Members

Donate to NAEF

To celebrate its 40th Anniversary, the National Art Education Foundation (NAEF) aims to raise \$40,000 by December 31, 2025 for grants and services. If you can donate \$40 to help us celebrate the 40 years of support for NAEA members that would be wonderful. If you can donate \$4 to support the work of your NAEA peers, great! If you can donate \$400 or more to help us do more to support NAEA members, fantastic! Any donation amount is welcome, especially during our anniversary year. **Donations are tax-deductible and will be recognized on the NAEF website (unless you prefer anonymity) and in the 2026 NAEA National Convention Program.**

And, you can even donate in honor or in memory of someone if you wish. To do so, make your donation online as you would and then fill out our writeable pdf, [NAEF Donor Commemoration Form](#) and email it to naef@naea.arteducators.org.

**Thank you Cris Guenter, Current Board Chair
and Dean Johns, Former Board Chair
for letting us know about the
NAEF 40 for 40 Campaign!**

(Editor's note: This newsletter goes out to over 900 retired NAEA members, if we each donate \$40, they will easily reach their goal!)

Lucky Me!

by Donna Anderson

Sometimes, I'm amazed at the opportunities that come my way. I say opportunities when some people might just say it's luck. Either way, it can be good fortune. Here are some examples.

One year right before NAEA, I had spoken to **Marilyn Stewart** about a Knoxville Museum of Art booklet about Red Grooms. The museum had an exhibit several years earlier and I had obtained several booklets to give to her. I hadn't touched base with her since I'd gotten to the conference but had the booklets in my hand wondering when I could give them to her. I looked up and she was standing right in front of me. I laughed and handed her the booklets; we chatted and then we both hurried to our next event. **Marilyn** was also very supportive when I wrote my book, introducing me to some of the people at **Davis Publications**.

When I proposed my book, *Experience Printmaking*, to **Davis Publications**, I had talked with members of the staff who said they were interested. Since it was part of a studio series, I thought they would send me some guidelines to follow so that the book would match the other books. Since I hadn't heard anything from them since the last NAEA conference, I believed they were just being nice and weren't really interested. I was standing in line in Chicago waiting for a taxi to go see the musical *Wicked*, I thought the man in front of me looked familiar, but wasn't sure. Tapping him on the shoulder, I asked if he was with **Davis**. It was **Wyatt Wade**, then President. He looked at me and said "Where is my printmaking book?" I said, "You really want it? I didn't get any information on the format and layout of the book." He laughed and said, "Donna, just write it. We'll take care of the rest." The next year, in New York, I met with an editor and showed him a full color mockup in a presentation booklet. (I didn't know that I didn't have to lay it out.) We went from there with contracts and actually writing the book.

Presently, I'm trying to finish the second edition. I seem to run into the people I need to see. Happens quite often!

So, you ask, what is the purpose of this article? Right place, right time. In the elevator leaving the RAEA Silent Auction in Louisville, bumped into our new Awards Chair, **Thom Knab**. Congratulating each other on the awards we received this year, I noticed he had a package in his hands. His flight had been late and he missed getting his work to the auction. Another opportunity, I bought the beautiful shadowbox assemblage on the spot. Evidently, it was meant to be mine. Our members are very talented and there are beautiful artworks available at the silent auction which is the RAEA Fundraiser.



Secret Love by Thom Knab, Assemblage

You'll get more information as the year continues, but if you have some time during these summer months, create some art that can be donated to the RAEA Silent Auction. We have two new Co-Chairs, **Kathryn Hillyer** and **Diane Scully**. I'm sure you'll hear from them soon.

Remember, accept those opportunities that occur when you least expect them!

2026 NAEA NATIONAL CONVENTION | MARCH 5-7



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The **Mission of RAEA** is to conduct programs of professional activities for state and national events; to encourage continued personal involvement and development in art education; to inform State Associations and NAEA of concerns relevant to members of long-standing; to encourage and support, as well as provide mentorship for student members of the NAEA.