

NEMS

Celebrates a Busy First Five Years

The New England Mosaic Society was founded in 2015

with the mission to promote and support mosaics as a fine art and encourage our members to grow through education, sharing of information, and involvement in exhibitions and community events. As a young organization, New England Mosaic Society (NEMS) had grown both in membership and as an organization very quickly. With our current membership hovering around 140 members from across New England, we are continuing to grow and provide quality programs and events. Our focus is not only on gaining members but retaining our members by providing worthwhile experiences.

NEMS is made up of four committees: Exhibition, Membership, Programming, and Marketing. All of these committees, as well as our Executive Board,

are volunteer positions. Our organization is strictly a volunteer organization. Over the years it has been obvious that many hands make light work. Our volunteers, also called "worker bees," work on every aspect from mailings, designing our exhibit catalogs, providing exhibit refreshments, running our social media platforms, and planning all our events. Without our volunteers our organization would not be as successful as it has been in such a short amount of time.



I became President of NEMS in 2018 and had large shoes to fill as my predecessor, Amy Marks, was one of our Founding Members. NEMS has grown not only in numbers but we have made it our goal to expand our events as well. We strive to have at least two exhibits per year, one being an all-member exhibit and the other, a juried exhibit. The event that we have expanded upon the most is our Annual Meeting. Within the past two years, NEMS has aimed to make our this meeting more of a conference-style gathering. They now include demonstrations as well as presentations, supply swaps, and

networking opportunities. Because of the switch in style of these meetings, we have seen an increase in member participation as well as phenomenal reviews. We have offered demonstrations on the use of working with different materials and tools and suggesting different techniques, and have held various discussions on andamento, history of

art activism, implementing a mosaic-a-week project, and other topics that relate to mosaics and art in general.

Being strictly a volunteer organization can bring many challenges. We try to focus on tapping into our members' strengths and ability to help without them feeling burnt out. We have found that it can be difficult to find people to take on roles within the organization, especially roles of leadership such as Committee Chairs or roles on the Executive Board. In



ABOVE: Detail of some of the many mosaic heart sculptures created for the Field of Hearts/Art in the Orchard in 2019 by 20 NEMS members who collaborated by sharing resources and knowledge. [See link to video here.](#)

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2019, the Executive Board agreed to stay in their positions for an additional year as we spend more time recruiting people for these leadership positions. As a young, quickly expanding organization, these challenges are expected and part of the learning and growing process.

2020 will be my last year as President of the New England Mosaic Society. I became President in 2018 at the age of 28 with about a decade of mosaic art experience under my belt. I have enjoyed my time as President, not only working toward our mission as an organization but working with such passionate members of the mosaic community. I have benefitted by being part of the NEMS learning and growing



Cathleen Newsham's tour group of members and guests pose with Stationary Figures by William Wegman, at the NYC Transit 23rd Street Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design

process and making connections with our members who have become a community by participating in our programs as well as creating and implementing their own ideas for programs, collaborating on community projects, and sharing resources.

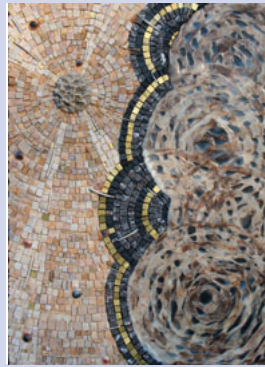
I am looking forward to seeing the future expansion of the New England Mosaic Society and where the next Executive Board leads us in the years to come.



Michael J. Ferreira
President
New England Mosaic Society

Michael and his mosaic installation on the campus chapel at Thomas Aquinas College, Northfield, MA

Recent NEMS Member Achievements



Pam Stratton was juried into 2019 MAI Nashville with **Concentric H** 24" W 18" D 1.75" Marble, fossils, pebbles, coral, shell fragments, gold smalti, gold leaf, handmade bark paper, encaustic medium



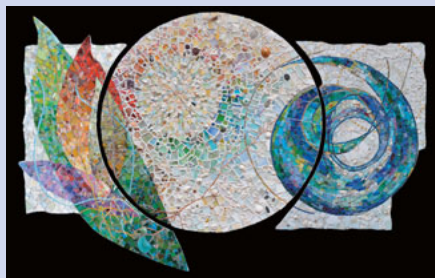
Annabella Wewer received the 2019 Technical Achievement Award at MAI Nashville for **Vino Versato** H 18" W 18" D 11" Marble, Litovi glass, porcelain



Cathleen Newsham was juried into 2018 MAI Boston with **SOHO** **Penthouse Inlaid Mosaic Floor** H 15' W 5'. White marble, 14-karat-gold backed mosaic glass tile



Carol Krentzman (left) with artist, Amy Robinson Steinmetz (right), stand by **Smiling Faces**, 12'H x 53"W, fired fused glass & recycled glass tiles. Installed at Fair & Yeager Insurance, Natick, MA, in 2019.



Cynthia Fisher was juried into 2019 MAI Nashville with **Collective Sanctuary, Piece by Piece** H 55" W 85" D 1"

Smalti, stained glass, Pate de Verre, vitreous glass, ceramic and pottery shards, mirror, buttons, coins, stones, shells. Many unique, donated mementos from parishioners

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Highlights from our first five years

NEMS Online Webinar Series

Topics include: Best Adhesives for Mosaic Projects; Skills Needed for Public, Community Projects and School Residencies; Tiffany Mosaics at Ayer Mansion; New Mosaics in the NYC Subway.

In *How I Made a 3-D Sculptural Mosaic Garden Bed*, Carol Krentzman described the process used to make her three-dimensional garden sculpture. **A**

Community Service Projects

NEMS launched its first community project in January 2018. Over 30 members made mosaic leaves from templates provided by Amanda Edwards and installed them on a mural at the *Ronald McDonald House B* in Portland, ME.

Exhibitions

NEMS Member Exhibition at the Somerville Museum in Spring, 2018, ran concurrently with the SAMA American Mosaic Summit in Boston. **C**

Workshops

A wide variety of subjects offer art coaching, color theory, picasette portraiture, usage of natural materials, and more, given at members' studios.

Heart Sculpture Workshop and Exhibit D

In June 2019, Cassie Doyon taught an informal workshop on mosaic sculpture to NEMS members participating in the Field of Hearts / Art in the Orchard Exhibit, organized by Laurie Frazer and taking place in the Park Hill Orchard in Easthampton, MA.

Field Trips

New York Subway Mosaic Tour E

In December 2018, Cathleen Newsham, (a founding member of NEMS), led a private tour for members and their guests to some of the more than 400 New York City subway mosaics. Here, Newsham joins some of the cast of characters.

Transfiguration of the Saviour Greek Orthodox Church F

In Oct 2018, over 20 NEMS members and guests learned about the mosaic icons that cover the interior. The mosaic work at Transfiguration in Lowell, MA, began in 1963 and continued for 50 years until 2004.

Craft Market G

In Decemeber 2019, Lisa Houck and Amy Marks co-produced a holiday craft market which included mosaic art and other unique handmade gifts.

NEMS Annual Meeting H

The meeting was designed to offer many features—business news, followed by presentations, demonstrations, videos, material swaps, and a raffle!



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H

RIGHT: **2018 SAMA American Mosaic Summit Boston**
Co-Chairs Deb Aldo and Glynda Benham

