

Avant Garden Gallery
by Doni Langlois
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Almost four years ago, the vision of having a gallery space was realized. The founding members were Mary Chimarusti, Sue Ridgway, Susan Hammond, Kate Rhoad and myself. I became chair since my plate was significantly less filled than these other very involved and busy women.

We envisioned a space that inspired and showcased the many visually creative people that are part of our congregation. We wanted a place that brought people together, that challenged thought, that added beauty and that could possibly create some income for Northwoods. Those things have all been realized and more! Today we also bring people in from other communities to view and take part in our gallery. And to date have had a fundraiser for the UUA Refugee fund with the Mail Art special event, highlighted our own Marti Corn's photography with the refugees in Houston AND made Northwoods over \$8000 in income. When we were really struggling financially our artists' sales helped amazingly with our "fill the gap" fundraising efforts – some artists even donated their art 100% to the NW cause. We work hard to have fun and eventful receptions that coincide with Millbend Coffeehouse. Our Holiday Market is a major event in December that included 22 artists last year! We look forward to making all of these events even better as we go along.

I'm so proud to have been part of this great team of people that continue to meet and envision "what's next".