



December 18, 2020

Dear friends of the Ellene “Brit” Christiansen Memorial,

2020 has been a year of loss, isolation, and change. Our board’s Past President and dedicated disability rights advocate, Charles Dave Ward, died on May 8, 2020. The loss is immeasurable, but in times of sadness we must carry on, continue the good work together, and look for hope.

Our board members have shifted roles. We’ve updated our website with new contact information. Our Facebook page has been tweaked and we have a new e-mail address. We continue to meet to discuss outreach possibilities.

From our website (britmemorial.com):

“Ellene loved children and loved sharing her enthusiasm and artistic abilities especially with children with disabilities. She felt it important for all children to create their own works of art and become inspired to think freely. The goal of this memorial is to continue Ellene’s dream of enabling young people with disabilities to think creatively and recognize their abilities—not their limitations.”

In our discussions as a board, we have been searching for ways to provide resources to artists of all ages with disabilities in Maryland during the pandemic.

We are very excited to announce our first **Juried Art Contest for Artists with Disabilities-Art Created During the Pandemic-“OPTIMISM, RESILIENCE, HOPE,” in the Spirit of Ellene “Brit” Christiansen** for artists age 5 and up. A flyer and entry form are attached. Please share and spread the word for us!

Happy New Year from the Brit Board! Please visit our website, like our Facebook page, and email us with any questions and/or requests for funding for artistic endeavors within your community, school, or organization.

Sincerely,

Tricia Lane-Forster

President, Brit Board

britmemorial@gmail.com