

PERSPECTIVES

VOLUME 48 ISSUE 1

January and February 2021

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THE ART OF GRATITUDE

W E L C O M E 2021

The new year is underway, carrying with it the hopes of renewal and better times ahead. No one expected 2020 to present such challenges not only locally, but around the globe. Most people seem to agree that it's a relief to have last year "in the rearview mirror," as it were. And yet, despite the challenges, or perhaps because of them, there were moments of grace and supportive actions from small to large that should not be overshadowed by the tsunami of trials we faced throughout the year. It is worthwhile to take a bit of time to appreciate those bright lights in what often felt like a sea of gloom.

At the Arts Center, we were particularly grateful to hear how our many artists fought against isolation, fear, and gloom with renewed creativity and often wildly whimsical creations. Our volunteer coordinator, Lynn Blumenau, spent countless hours creating "fine art face masks" so visitors could fashionably display their support for the arts (and the Arts Center) with the year's new "fashion accessory." Many of our artists and instructors shared ideas for simple projects that could be done at home with a minimum of equipment or experience — and, as a result, a number of people in the area discovered an unanticipated interest in artistic activities. A number of artists donated work to help off-set the loss of income from workshops, sales, and fundraising activities. Funders around the area found extra money to offer special "COVID relief" grants to help support nonprofits like the Arts Center through these difficult times. Local businesses and organizations looked for new ways to partner and serve the community. Arts

Center members continued their financial support of the Center even when they couldn't be on hand physically. Volunteers found virtual ways to meet, plan, and move the organization forward. We met new artists, brought in new work, celebrated victories, and challenged setbacks. At times, in the words of Tennessee William's heroine Blanche DuBois in the classic *A Streetcar Named Desire*, [we] "depended on the kindness of strangers."

So, THANKS to everyone who so generously supported the Arts Center through the "thick and thin" of 2020. You are GREATLY appreciated!

Special thanks to: New York State Council of the Arts (with support from Governor Cuomo and the NYS Legislature), The Yates Endowment at the Rochester Area Community Foundation, The Yates County Legislature, Yates County Tourism Advisory Committee, James P. Gordon Trust, US Congress – Covid Cares Act, Oak Hill Bulk Foods, Seneca Farms, Ice Cream Social Potters: Eric & Barb Havill, Kim Cutler, Monica Sommerville, Laura Wallace, Stephanie Marshall, Faith Benedict, Hannah Graeper, Debbie Koop, Rachel Yang Gu, Annie Schleffer, Sale Painting/Ornament Painters: Kevin Feary, George Van Hook, Connie Berberian, and the members of the Penn Yan Art Guild, Mask Sewers: Lynn Blumenau, Kathy Ring, Betty Brigham, Kathy Wheat, Carleen Wilson, Becky Pearson, and Holiday Card artists: Kathy Armstrong, Brande Arno, Ellen Bradshaw, Sandy Cook, Mary Freida, Phyllis Maciag, Helga Poreda and Karlene VanDeusen.

—Kris Pearson

Arts Center Board Members

Class of 2020

Anita Maroscher
Dick Murphy
Sandra Murrin
Kathy Ring
Deb Scharf

Class of 2021

Lynn Blumenau
Marsha Devine
George Dornberger
Caryl Flickinger
Howard LeVant
Dixon Zorovich

Class of 2022

Faith Benedict
John Christensen
Daryl Davis
Kristi Hoag
Karen Morris
Mike Smith
Bethany Snyder

Officers

Dixon Zorovich, Pres.
Kathy Ring, VP
Anita Maroscher, Treas.
Daryl Davis, Sec.

Executive Director

Kris Pearson

Mission

The Arts Center's mission is to enrich the quality of life of Finger Lakes residents, artists, and visitors by providing opportunities for active participation in the arts. To this end, we plan, promote, and develop art programs and projects; coordinate, schedule, and publicize events; develop and maintain physical facilities.

Volunteer Opportunities

Interested in volunteering at the Arts Center? Contact volunteer coordinator Lynn Blumenau at Lynnblumenau@gmail.com. Volunteers serve as docents in the Flick Gallery, help hang artwork for shows, prepare food for exhibit openings, help in various capacities with fundraising events throughout the year and serve on a variety of committees. We welcome your help with any of the Arts Center's activities!

From the Executive Director

I find I am loathe to take down my holiday decorations this year, although my rather Charlie-Brownish tree has been shedding needles since the day I put it up and will soon resemble a mere caricature of a fir tree. (In an abundance of superstitious caution, I won't mention its potential as a fire hazard!) But I have to say that the tree lights, along with the electric candles in the windows, give me a real sense of peace on dark and cold early mornings and evenings. In those moments, I understand why light is so often linked with a sense of hope.

Most of us have come through a year we'd rather forget. It certainly didn't feel particularly enlightening or hopeful. But with the dawn of a new year, hope springs anew. As the poet Emily Dickinson says, "Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without words and never stops at all." (Probably safer if it doesn't perch on my tree...)



The hope of better days captures the imaginations of many of our artists. These artists often embody the sentiments of Woodrow Wilson, who exhorted all people to consider that "you are not here merely to make a living, you are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world..."

So perhaps I can (finally!) vacuum up the remains of my tree, take down my holiday decorations, and, instead, substitute spending time enjoying and appreciating the work of our local artists to renew my sense of hope in what the new year brings. Their talent certainly does enrich our community. We all hope you can stop by and check out their achievements often in the new year. You're always welcome here—even when needs dictate wearing a masking and staying "socially distanced."

—Kris Pearson

Browse original creations from our member artists from the comfort of your home through our online shop! When you see a work that you'd like to own, add it to your cart, and then contact the Arts Center to arrange for pick-up.
Visit artscenteryatescounty.org/shop to start browsing!



**Art-inspired masks are
available for a donation
at the Arts Center!**

Highlights from the Annual Meeting

In keeping with “the new normal,” the Arts Center’s 2020 annual meeting was held virtually on Thursday, December 14. With members from around the country signing on, Board President Dixon Zorovich talked about the dedication and resilience of the many volunteers who stepped up to ensure the Arts Center could not just survive the pandemic, but thrive as well. For that reason, the 2020 “Volunteer of the Year” award was given to everyone who volunteers (check out [the award video](#) on our website).

The Board of Directors named painter Daryl Davis as “Artist of the Year.” That award is given to an artist who has actively promoted and supported the Arts Center throughout the year. Daryl was one of the primary architects of the Arts Center’s [online shop](#), which gives art patrons the opportunity to peruse and purchase art by local artists from the comfort of their own homes.

Executive Director Kris Pearson gave the annual report, which focused on how the Arts Center has worked to “make lemonade from lemons.” Despite a precipitate drop in annual visitors, sales, and workshop participants, as well as the cancellation of most of the Center’s fundraising activities (and the Keuka Arts Festival) for the year, there were reasons for celebration. Among the successes of the year were the establishment of virtual learning opportunities, greatly expanded online outreach, an on-

going and quite popular “fine art face mask” fundraising effort, and the support of many generous funders and volunteers who helped keep art on the walls when the gallery doors reopened.



Board President Dixon Zorovich presents the Artist of the Year Award to Daryl Davis.

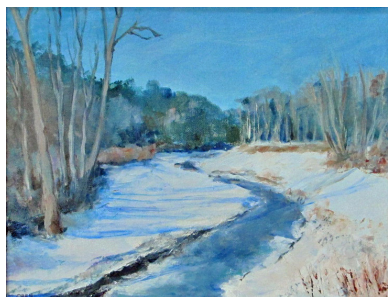
Everyone at the Arts Center looks forward to the opportunity to again be together in person at exhibit openings, the Keuka Arts Festival, Sunny Point activities, workshops, and fundraisers in 2021. In the meantime, we will continue to reach out to Yates County residents, artists, and visitors with opportunities to actively engage with the arts, in support of both the mental and physical health benefits of artistic activity.

Experience a Peaceful Interlude

Stop by and celebrate the new year surrounded by art created by some of the Arts Center's most talented local artists!

For several years, the first show of the year features the work of some of our most familiar exhibiting artists. This year we're proud to highlight the work of painters Beverly Oben, Lana Grauer, and Eric Happ, and potter Faith Benedict.

Beverly Oben lives in Bluff Point and has been making art since she was a child. As an elementary school teacher, she delighted in incorporating art into her curriculum, but it was after retiring that she really began pursuing her own artistic desires. After "dabbling in watercolor," she took some lessons in palette knife oil painting, which became her favorite medium. A member of the Penn Yan Art Guild, Bev also taught children's art classes at the Arts Center for many years.



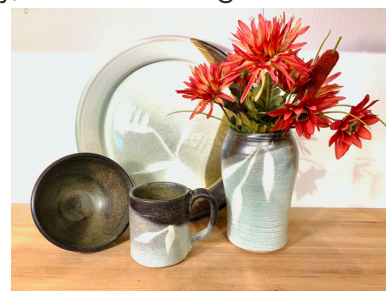
Lana Grauer lived for many years in California, but spent summers on Keuka Lake and eventually moved to the area after her husband retired. She says, "As a landscape painter, I am amazed and in awe of nature in the Finger Lakes Region of Upstate New York. The changing seasons and rapidly evolving weather patterns provide an immense palette of hues and values." Lana paints exclusively with pastel, although she often starts her piece with a watercolor or pure pigment underpainting. She loves painting "en plein air" (outside).



Eric Happ grew up outside of Rochester and has lived on the shores of Seneca Lake for more than 20 years. Like Bev Oben, Eric began his artistic career after retiring, in his case from the NYS Health Department. He prefers to work in watercolors and acrylics. Eric says, "I enjoy putting as much depth into a painting as I can with the use of perspective, lights and darks, and paying close attention to shadows." Eric seems to be most drawn to nautical subjects due to a lifelong attraction to water, sailing, and scuba diving.



More than four decades ago, **Faith Benedict** "retired" as a professional potter and began a new career as a local art teacher, working in the Penn Yan elementary, middle and high schools for more than 30 years. Upon her second retirement (from teaching), she turned back to her pottery and is once again producing graceful bowls, vases, teapots, and more, often adorned with gently curving leafy shapes in the glaze. Still a popular ceramics teacher, Faith also serves on the Arts Center's Board of Directors.



A selection of work from each of these local featured artists, along with work from many of the Arts Center's other exhibiting artists, can be seen at the Arts Center starting on Wednesday, January 6. Stop by and enjoy a moment of artistic Zen!

The "Eye of the Beholder" Celebrated in New Exhibit

Beauty, it is said, is in the eye of the beholder. A new exhibit at the Arts Center of Yates County, featuring the work of photographer Howard LeVant and painter Cherry Rahn, explores how artists are Making the Look Beautiful in a myriad of styles and mediums.



Howard LeVant has been making photographs for most of his life. A graduate of Chicago's Institute of Design, he studied under some of the top art photographers of the era, although his desire to earn a living in photography did not mesh with the school's philosophy. After a number of years running his own photography studio in Chicago, Howard was enticed to RIT to teach photography, and also ran an in-house photography studio for Wegman's Foods. Now retired and a professor emeritus at RIT with some of his life's work archived at IIT/Institute of Design, he splits his time between Rochester and Penn Yan.



Cherry Rahn spent decades working in a variety of fields, including modern dance, publishing, and sculpture before reaching her ultimate goal as a painter. Starting with acrylics and gouaches, she worked on landscapes and café scenes before morphing into more abstract images. Her current works, a series entitled "Through Two Inches of Seneca Lake," focuses on underwater scenes and are "abstract by nature"—interpreting and editing the visual elements while retaining their organic origins. Cherry lives in Geneva and paints everywhere.

Docent/Volunteer Report

The pandemic continues to govern our docent coverage. I recently asked the docents how they felt about being at the Center as the pandemic escalates. A few people were hesitant to work, but the eight people who have been holding down the fort continue to be willing to work. Fortunately, a couple of Board members have agreed to help fill in open spots, and I thank them for their efforts.

No one knows how long this will last or the impact of a vaccine, so we will just take one month at a time. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know.

A huge thank you to all who help to keep ACYC open, especially during the holidays.

—Lynn Blumenau

The Making the Look Beautiful exhibit opens February 23rd at the Arts Center of Yates County. Take some time to come by and enjoy the beauty of Howard's and Cherry's work. Admission is free. The Arts Center is open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 4 pm and on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm.

2021 Exhibits @ the Flick Gallery

INTERLUDE

DROP OFF MONDAY, JANUARY 4

Featured artists: Bev Oben, Lana Grauer, Kathy Morris, Eric Happ & Faith Benedict
Show opens Wednesday, January 6

MAKING THE LOOK BEAUTIFUL

DROP OFF SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Featured artists: Howard LeVant & Cherry Rahn
Show Opens Tuesday, February 23

COLOR MY WORLD

DROP OFF SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Featured artists: Linda Ludwig & Kathleen Connor
Show Opens Tuesday, April 6

ART IN THE FINGER LAKES

DROP OFF SATURDAY, JULY 10

Featured artists: 2019 Artist of the Year Fran Bliek, 2020 Artist of the Year Daryl Davis & Kari Ganoung Ruiz
Exhibiting Opening Friday July 16*

JURIED SHOW

DROP OFF SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

Open to any artist – check website for details on entry
Exhibit Opening Friday August 27*



YATES COUNTY STUDENT SHOW

DROP OFF SATURDAY, MAY 8

Featured artists: Middle & High School students from Penn Yan Academy, Dundee, & Marcus Whitman
Show Opens Monday, May 10

A NEW YORK SUMMER

DROP OFF SATURDAY, MAY 22

Featured artists: Dennis Revitsky & Catherine O'Neill
Exhibit opening Friday May 28*

MINI MASTERPIECES: SMALL ART – BIG CAUSE!

DROP OFF SATURDAY, JUNE 26

A biennial fundraiser featuring art donated by local and regional artists
Exhibit Opening Monday, June 28*

PENN YAN ART GUILD

DROP OFF SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

Featuring the work of the members of the Penn Yan Art Guild
Exhibit Opening Friday, October 8*

CELEBRATION

DROP OFF SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Featuring a wide assortment of art to satisfy all your holiday gift-giving needs
Exhibit Opening Friday, November 12*

* Formal exhibit openings are planned in the event that COVID-related restrictions are lifted by these dates. The Arts Center will continue to comply with all local and state gathering restrictions as long as they are in force.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

EXPERIENCING CLAY

Sat., Jan. 16 & Feb. 6, 10am-noon, with Faith Benedict
Work on hand-building and wheel skills with one of the area's foremost potters. Enrollment is limited. **\$40 for members, \$48 for not-yet-members plus \$20 materials fee to instructor**

PAINTING AND COLLAGE (via Zoom)

Wed., Jan. 20, 2-5pm, with Lisa Bebi
Learn how to seamlessly introduce collaged images into your acrylic paintings. **\$30 members, \$36 not-yet members**

PAINTING WITH GRANT (via Zoom, enrollment limited)

Tues., Jan. 19, 10am-1pm, with Grant Lounsbury

Working on composition, perspective, and color to begin a painting you can finish on your own!
\$30 members, \$36 not-yet members



ABSTRACT PAINTING (via Zoom)

Fri., Jan. 22, 2-5pm, with Lisa Bebi
Learn effective composition and tricks to create compelling abstract paintings. **\$30 members, \$36 not-yet members**

EXPERIENCING CLAY WITH YOUR CHILD

Mon., Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, 4-5:30pm, with Faith Benedict
Children 5 and up and a favorite adult can beat winter blues by sparking some truly creative play. Have fun playing in clay with your favorite child—creating functional or fantastical objects. 6 places at the table. **\$60 for child & adult pair plus \$20 materials fee to instructor**

WATERCOLOR PAINTING ON TEA BAGS (via Zoom)

Tues., Feb. 2, Mar. 2, Apr. 6, May 4, 10am-noon with Fran Bliet
What is it about a tea bag that compels an artist to want to use it as a media? Tea bags provide an interesting surface and texture. Just have fun with it! Come create a 5x7 watercolor painting using a tea bag on watercolor paper as your painting surface. Paintings can be abstract or representational. Create a piece of art that can be framed or used as a special greeting card. **\$80 members, \$96 not-yet-members**



PORTRAITS AND FIGURE DRAWING

Sat., Feb. 20, 10am-5pm, with Kevin Feary
Explore portraiture and figure painting with Kevin Feary. Known for his arresting likenesses and approachable teaching style, painter Kevin Feary will work with painters at all levels of experience on the steps needed to create recognizable likenesses. **\$70 members, \$84 not-yet-members**

GLASS COLLAGE

Sat., Feb. 27, 2-6pm & Sun., Feb. 28, 1-3pm with Crissy McGuinness
Using bits and pieces of stained glass and other "found" objects, create a unique, multidimensional mosaic "painting." **\$60 members, \$72 not-yet-members**

EXPERIENCING CLAY – WINTER, 2ND-5TH GRADE STUDENTS

Mon., March 1, 8, 15, & 22, 4-5:30pm, with Faith Benedict

Use your imagination to think of something to build with simple forms then use your hands and some simple tools to create your imagined object out of clay. Shapes grow out of pinch pot, coil and slabs. This is a great workshop to create the best gift ever for family members or to just have fun making something you imagine become something real! **\$40/student plus \$20 materials fee to instructor**



EXPERIENCING CLAY – SPRING 2ND-5TH GRADE STUDENTS

Mon., May 3, 10, 17, & 24, 4-5:30pm, with Faith Benedict
Use your imagination to think of something to build with simple forms then use your hands and some simple tools to create your imagined object out of clay. Shapes grow out of pinch pot, coil and slabs. This is a great workshop to create the best gift ever for family members or to just have fun making something you imagine become something real! Classes will be held at Fire Works Pottery Studio on Baker Road. **\$40/student plus \$20 materials fee to instructor**

SPRING PLEIN AIR

Fri., May 21 – Sat., May 22, 9:30am-4pm with Kevin Feary

Celebrate spring in the Finger Lakes with two days of landscape painting in one of the area's most scenic venues. Painters in any medium welcome. Enrollment is limited.

\$150 members, \$175 not-yet-members



Save the Dates! Upcoming Classes & Workshops

PEN AND INK WATERCOLORS

Tues., June 15 – Thurs., June 17, 10:30am-4pm,
with Karen Rosasco

\$160 members, \$198 not-yet-members

PAINTING WITH PAPER A LA CARTE

Sun., June 27 – Thurs., July 1, 9am-4pm
with Elizabeth St. Hilaire

Five days of "painting with paper" working with Elizabeth St. Hilaire. Take one day or multiple days! Sunday, June 27 is Painting Collage paper; Monday, June 28 is Small Format Floral Collage (working from a photo reference); Tuesday, June 29 is Small Format Bird Collage (working from a photo reference); Wednesday, June 30 is Medium/Large Format Open Studio work as is Thursday, July 1. **Cost is \$100/day for members, \$125/day for not-yet-members, call the Arts Center for information on multi-day discounts.**

SUMMER PLEIN AIR

Mon., Aug. 2 – Wed., Aug. 4, 9:30am-4pm
with Kevin Feary

\$250 members, \$280 not-yet-members



KEUKA LAKE ARTS FESTIVAL 2021

With an abundance of optimism, the Keuka Arts Festival committee is looking forward to preliminary festival planning. So far, the festival date has been changed from the second weekend to the last weekend in June, and the Village of Penn Yan has approved that change. But in agreement with the Village, we will wait until March/April for definite approval due to COVID concerns. Stay tuned!



Art Around the Area



Penn Yan Art Guild members have been sharing photos of their art work via email every week to stay connected and to inspire one another during this "time of COVID."

Check out "About Us" on our website at pennyanartguild.com to view our Photo Sharing Project. Recently, members shared photos of their recent paintings.

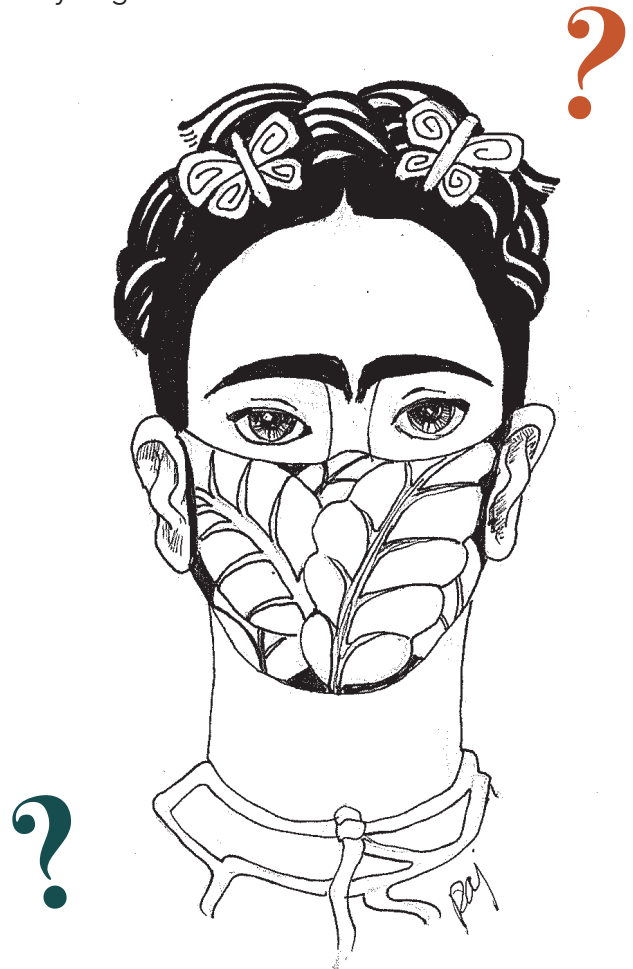


PYAG meetings have been cancelled for the remainder of the year due to the inability to meet safely in large groups. We hopefully will resume our meetings and group activities in April 2021.

To become a member of PYAG, check out our website at pennyanartguild.org and click Contact Us. Submit completed membership form.

? Who Is That Masked Artist? ?

No one made the mistake of thinking the last masked artist was our own Phiddy Webb! It was, of course, Salvatore Dali (Pat couldn't resist letting his iconic mustachios have free rein in the picture). Can you guess who this masked artist is?



If you think you recognize this masked artist, email us at artscenteryates@gmail.com with your guess and you'll be entered into a drawing to win a free fine art face mask! And once again, thanks to Pat Jackson for her whimsical perspective on pandemic art.



Arts Center of Yates County
127 Main Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm, Sat 10am - 2pm
315-536-8226
email: artscenteryates@gmail.com
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**Council on
the Arts**

Arts Center of Yates County programs are made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

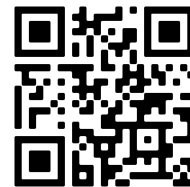
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Havill Pottery
Howard Hanna Real Estate
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