



WINDHAM REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL ARTSPECTRUM

Volume #68 Issue #1 Winter 2025

Promoting the arts in Windham and surrounding regions.

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	Pg 1
Call for Entries & Upcoming Events	Pgs 2 & 3
2025 Youth Music Competition Winners	Pgs 4 & 5
Hospital Gallery Exhibits	Pg 6
Windham Theatre Guild	Pg 7
Donate Band Instruments	Pg 7
Willimantic Orchestra	Pg 7
"Take Note!" Benefit Concert	Pg 7
In Memoriam	Pg 8

WRAC Board Members

- Cathy Shires*
President
- Carol Twardowski-Heap*
Vice President
- Sara Rogers*
Secretary
- Joanne Sibicky*
Treasurer - pro tem
- Sheila Clark*
- Trish Fabish / Janet Gaylor*
- Greg Grzywacz / Tom Hurlbut*
- Lorraine McDevitt*
- Melanie Noble*
- Priyeshni Perera*
- Scott Rhoades*
- Linda Tracy*
- Michelle Welles*
- Lorraine Williams*

Message from the President



Happy New Year to all! I hope that 2025 has been good to everyone so far, and if you are into the tradition of making resolutions, that you are making good progress. I keep my resolutions simple: try to do more art, keep a regular regimen of musical practice, and be kind. Practicing the first two (art and music) usually helps with the kindness part.

Speaking of kindness, WRAC is hosting a group exhibit at Windham Hospital during the month of April, and the theme is "Bee Kind". I envision many beautiful works that will put us in the mood for spring. I'm also looking forward to the Equinox Art Show at the Jonathan Trumbull Library in Lebanon. We are grateful for the Friends of the Jonathan Trumbull Library, who have put their faith in WRAC to manage and install the show. Please consider attending the very popular opening reception on Friday, March 21. The show will run through April 11.

In this issue of Art Spectrum, you will see the results of our Young Artist Music Competition. I was truly amazed at the level of talent and skills of these young performers. I noticed quite a few WRAC members who were in attendance, and I thank you for your support. Many thanks to Carol Twardowski-Heap and the entire competition committee for their hard work in putting together this successful event.

I would also like to thank all of you, our members, for your steadfast support. Without you, we would not be able to achieve our "resolutions" over these past 42 years! Please reach out to us with your ideas or news of projects you are working on. We would love to hear from you!

Cathy Shires, WRAC President

"You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."— Martin Luther King Jr.

Call for Entries & Upcoming Exhibits



SLATER MEMORIAL MUSEUM
OF NORWICH FREE ACADEMY

Annual CT Artists Juried
Exhibition
Jan. 25th - Feb. 28th
2025

West Hartford Art League

Join us!

Opening reception:
Sunday, February 9th, 2-4 pm

Cut & Paste

A Juried Collage Exhibit

February 9 - March 2, 2025 | Saltbox Gallery



Members Show at
The Booth & Dimock Library
Submission date Feb. 28th 4-6pm
coventryartsguild.org

**Art & Garden Tour
of Northeastern CT**

Creativity on Display!
Second Weekend of June
10am — 5pm

www.ArtGardenCT.com

facebook.com/ArtandGardenTourofNortheasternCT

*A regional juried exhibit open to artists
in CT, New York and New England*

April 27 - June 1, 2025 | Clubhouse and Saltbox Galleries
Juror: Erin Monroe, Kriebble Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture
Wadsworth Atheneum



Visit lymeartassociation.org
for all upcoming 2025 "Call for Entries"



The National Baseball Poetry Festival Pitches its 3rd Season

The National Baseball Poetry Festival kicks off its 3rd season in February with two national poetry contests, the first for grades 4-12, and the second for adults 18+. The adult contest deadline is March 28th and the youth contest deadline is April 16th. The Festival culminates May 2-4 in Worcester, MA with a welcome reception, a youth poetry event, an open mic night, two Triple-A baseball games, a fireworks display, and other activities. Prizes will be awarded to 80 poets, 20 in each of the following categories: elementary school, middle school, high school, and adult.

Teachers interested in involving their students can visit www.BaseballPoetryFest.org, where a complete lesson plan and contest form can be found. The Festival website also features a schedule of activities, videos, and a list of poets expected to attend and perform at the Festival's open mic night.

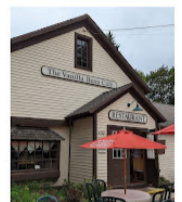


Saturday Night Poetry
at
The Vanilla Bean Cafe
450 Deerfield Rd
Pomfret, CT

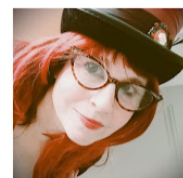
Readings & Open Mic 7-9 PM
Admission \$15.00
includes raffle



Miriam O'Neal and Carol Hobbs
March 29th



Sandy Yanonne
April 26th



Meg Smith
May 31st

Open mic, 5-min limit
as time allows
email karen.warinsky@gmail.com
Recommended ages 14 and up
A sponsored project of Windham Arts/ADA compliant



Equinox and the Arts XXV Returns to the Jonathan Trumbull Library

After a four-year hiatus triggered by the Covid pandemic in 2020, the Friends of the Jonathan Trumbull Library in Lebanon, in conjunction with the Windham Regional Arts Council (WRAC), is excited to announce the return of the Equinox and the Arts exhibition! This will be the 25th year of this popular art show to celebrate the arrival of spring and showcase the works of local adult artists. WRAC reached out to the library to see if they could assist in reviving this much-loved community event.

Artwork in all media (oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, pen and ink, pencil, sculpture, and photography) will be accepted. The library has wall space for work to be hung. Work must be framed or gallery wrapped and wired, ready to hang. The library also has easels available for unwired work to be displayed on top of bookshelves. There is a limit of one entry per artist.

Artwork will be accepted at the library only at the following drop-off times:

Thursday, March 13 from 6-7:30 pm
Friday, March 14 from 4-5:30 pm
Saturday, March 15 from 12-1:30 pm
No work will be accepted at any other time.

The art show will open on **Friday, March 21** with a reception hosted by the Friends of JTL in the community room for artists and their guests from 7-9 pm. The show will run until Friday, April 11.

All artwork must be retrieved on Saturday, April 12 between 9 am and 1 pm.

Registration forms are available at www.windhamrac.org and www.lebanonctlibrary.org and at the JTL information desk.

2025 Trail Wood Artist-In-Residence Program



The Connecticut Audubon Society invites writers and visual artists to connect with nature and spend a week of creative solitude in residence at Trail Wood in Hampton, Connecticut, in the historic home of Pulitzer Prize-winning naturalist writer and photographer Edwin Way Teale. Residencies are offered for six weeks in July and August to three writers and three visual artists.

Applications are accepted from January-March 1 for the upcoming summer's residencies. Finalists are chosen through a juried process. All applicants are notified by the mid-April.

Read about the program at <https://www.ctaudubon.org/trail-wood-artist-in-residence/> Download application directly at: https://www.ctaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Artistin-Residence-Application_2025_FINAL.pdf



20th Open Juried Art Show
March 30th - April 27th
Visit artsoftolland.org for more information.



6th Annual Ekphrastic Extravaganza
June 7th - July 5th
(submission deadline has past)

Please visit artscentereast.org for more exhibits.

Monson Arts Council presents

Funky IS Good

31ST ANNUAL SPRING ART SHOW

CALL FOR ARTISTS!

MAY
10-11, 17-18,
24-25

NOON TO 5PM

\$4,500 AWARDED IN PRIZES!

HOUSE OF ART & MEMORIAL HALL
200 MAIN STREET, MONSON MA

WWW.MONSONARTSCOUNCIL.ORG



Kate's Corner
Robert Blinn

Young Talent Celebrated at the 38th Annual Young Artist Music Competition

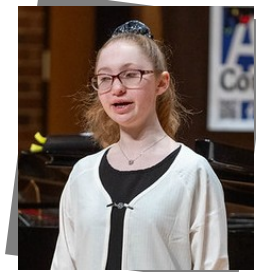
The 38th annual Young Artist Music Competition took place on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at von der Mehden Recital Hall on University of Connecticut campus. Twenty-five talented and dedicated students performed works from many notable composers including Mozart, Grieg, Rachmaninoff, Schumann and Mendelssohn. Nine students competed in the concerto competition



Marika Solomon Marcy was awarded **first place in the concerto competition**. As the winner of the concerto competition, she has been invited to perform with the Willimantic Orchestra on Sunday, May 4, 2025. Her competition piece was the Cello Concerto No. 9 in B flat, G482, 1st Movement, Allegro Moderato, composed by Luigi Boccherini. Marika is a senior at EO Smith High School in Storrs.



Our vocalists performed a variety of pieces across different genres. For the first time, the vocal competition included a **grade 7-9 division**. **Ruthie Marquez** was awarded **first place** in this division for her performance of "Shy" from the musical "Once Upon a Mattress". Ruthie is an eighth grade student at the Captain Nathan Hale Middle School in Coventry.



Vocalists in the **grade 10-12 division** performed classical works, including selections by Antonio Scarlatti, Franz Schubert, and Antonio Caldara. **First place** in this division was awarded to the duet team of **Shane Gilluly and Arianna Taylor**, students at the Arts at the Capitol Theatre Magnet School in Willimantic. They sang the Papageno & Papagena Duet from the opera The Magic Flute, composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.



The McDevitt Voice Award was presented to **Andrew Gryzwacz**, a senior at the Arts at the Capitol Theatre in Willimantic, for his performance of Vertilge Sie, Herr Zebaoth, composed by Felix Mendelssohn.



Andrew Gryzwacz &
Lorraine McDevitt



Highlights from our instrumentalist divisions included the Piano Concerto in A minor Opus 54, Allegro Affetuoso, composed by Robert Schumann, performed by **Chloe Song**, a ninth-grade student at EO Smith High School. Chloe was also awarded the **Bellingham Piano Award for Excellence in Piano**.



Senior **Eli Gold** from Simsbury High School **placed second** in the **grade 10-12 division** with his concerto performance piece, Concerto for Marimba and String Orchestra Movement 2, Tempo Souple, composed by Emmanuel Sejourne.



Special awards in the wind and string categories were also presented. The **Edward D. Gerry & Catherine Wade String Award** was presented to **Anna Gilchenok**, a ninth grade student at EO Smith High School, for her concerto performance of the Viola Concerto in D, Opus 1, Movement 1, Risoluto, composed by Carl Stamitz.



The 2025 **Edward D Gerry and Catherine Wade Wind Award** was presented to **Raha Esmaili Zaghi**, a ninth grade student at EO Smith High School, for her concerto performance of Czardas in D minor, composed by Vittorio Monti.



The Mr D. Scholarship for excellence on a band instrument or piano was awarded to **Avin Perera**, a ninth grade student at EO Smith High School, for his performance of the Piano Concerto in A minor, Opus 16, Movement 1, composed by Edward Grieg. Avin was also presented with the **Feather Spearman Honor**, an award given annually to a student who uses their musical talent to serve the community. Avin is very active in his church and with the Consonare Choral Community Choir as both a vocalist and music accompanist on piano, violin and guitar.



The entire board and the music competition committee are incredibly proud of each student who participated in this year's competition. We wish to thank everyone who was a part of making the competition a huge success.

It is not too early to begin to prepare for next year's competition. Our 39th annual Young Artist Music Competition will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2026 (snow date: January 24, 2026) at von der Mehden Recital Hall at the University of Connecticut. Visit our website for complete details and guidelines for the competition.

Upcoming Windham Hospital Exhibits

Artists featured at the Windham Hospital Gallery:

February: The Quiet Corner Camera Club - *photography*

March: Charles McCaughtry - *watercolors*
Scott Rhoades - *acrylics*

April: WRAC Group Show -  "BEE Kind"

May: Lorraine DuBois - *photography*

June: **OPEN** (Please sign up - solo, duo or group)

July: **OPEN** (Please sign up - solo, duo or group)

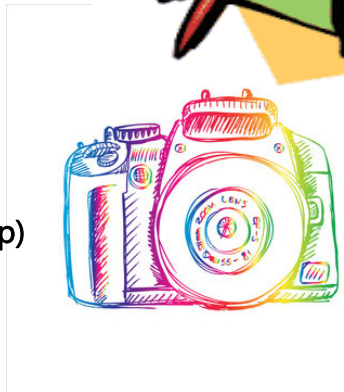
August: WRAC Group Show - "Dog Days of Summer"

September: **OPEN** (Please sign up - solo, duo or group)

October: Tom Potter - *photography*
Jane Horsman Potter - *mixed media*

November: Nancy Bergeron - *watercolors*
Cindy Carey - *metal art*

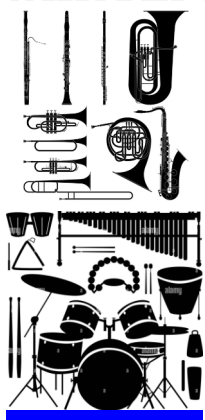
December: WRAC Group Show - "Small (9x12 or smaller) & Affordable"



Any artist, artists or group who would like to exhibit their work (solo or shared) should contact Trish Fabish at (860) 617-5326 or text.

NOTE: A new procedure has been implemented whereby the artist will be notified when a piece of art has been sold, giving the artist the option to replace the sold art with another for the duration of their exhibit.

WANTED: Your Unused Band Instrument



We wish to thank the following citizens of the WRAC community for their generous donations of band instruments. The instruments will be donated to local schools for distribution to dedicated students who need them:

- Laura Jean Holdaway: Clarinet
- Peter Leeds: Trumpet
- Wallace Gagnon: Trumpet
- Melanie Noble : Flute

If you have an unused band instrument (brass or woodwind) that you can donate for use by a needy student, please email us: contactus@windhamrac.org
Instruments that are in need of minor repairs will be gladly accepted.



Auditions will be held for **Beetlejuice JR**

Sunday, Feb. 23 &
Monday, Feb. 24
from 5-7pm

Show dates: May 9,10,16,17,18

Please visit website for more information.

WRAC invites you to join or renew your membership and receive the ArtSpectrum

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (H/C) _____ Email: _____

Membership Categories (circle one): *New / Renewal*

(check one) \$15 (individual) ___ \$20 (Family) ___ \$100 (Group) ___ Date _____

Your area of artistic skill (circle all that apply): *Visual Art / Music / Writing / Drama / Dance*

Your Donation helps WRAC continue to promote the ARTS in the Windham and surrounding regions. If you wish to help promote the ARTS further, please consider enhancing your membership to one of the following levels:

(check one) Benefactor \$100 ___ Patron \$50 ___ Donor \$30 ___

Please make checks payable to the Windham Regional Arts Council (WRAC) and mail to
P.O.Box 847, Willimantic, CT 06226

WILLIMANTIC ORCHESTRA

Scott Chaurette, Music Director and Conductor

presents

Winter Concert

Sunday, March 2, 2025 at 4:00 PM

at the Fine Arts Instructional Center (FAIC)
on the campus of Eastern CT State University,
Willimantic.



Symphony No. 45 "Farewell"

by Haydn

The Bamboula

by Coleridge-Taylor

Capriccio Espagnol

by Rimsky-Korsakov

Spring Concert

Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 3:00 PM

venue TBD



**Cello Concerto No 9 in B flat, G482,
1st Movement, Allegro Moderato**

by Luigi Boccherini

Marika Solomon Marcy, Concerto
Competition winner at the WRAC 2025
YAMC, will perform with the orchestra.

Information on the full program was not available at the time of printing. Please visit the website for an update on venue and program.

CONCERT

to benefit the

Storrs Congregational Church Food Pantry

Sunday, March 16, 2025 – 3:00 p.m.

Storrs Congregational Church
2 North Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT



Donations to the Food Pantry
will be gratefully accepted at the door

Take Note!

a cappella ensemble
www.take-note.org



Has your membership expired?



Any member who would like to receive the ArtSpectrum (in color) via email please send your request to Contactus@windhamrac.org



IN MEMORIAM

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Maggie Kendis in November 2024. Maggie had been a WRAC member for over 30 years, serving as co-president with Fred Fredette in 1994 – 1995. In addition to her participation in many arts groups in the area, Maggie was a member of the Swift Waters Artisans Cooperative at 866 Main Street, Willimantic. Excerpts from Maggie’s own biography on the Swift Waters website reveals that she was born in Los Angeles and studied art at San Francisco State and the University of California / Irvine.



Maggie wrote, “I became enthralled with intaglio and the element of surprise that always existed between the process of etching and pulling a print. You never knew exactly how it would come out.”

She studied Batik and other print making methods in Mexico. She moved to Connecticut in 1980 and established her love for making linoleum-cut prints, with watercolor, wood and mixed media.

Maggie was a frequent participant in WRAC art shows over the years. It was always a joy to see her arrive at the drop off locations and pull her cheerful, colorful prints from her bag. She will be greatly missed. The Swift Waters Cooperative store still has Maggie’s art for sale. Please visit the store to see and purchase her work.

