



WINDHAM REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL ARTSPECTRUM

Volume #60 Issue #2 Spring 2022

Promoting the arts in Windham and surrounding regions.

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Message from the President



Warm greetings to our members and friends. It's hard to believe, we are about to put another program year "in the books". However, we don't get too accustomed to rest and relaxation, as there are many exciting events coming in the near future. This issue of Art Spectrum announces some of these events that our officers and board members are working to bring to you. We hope you will join in the fun.

I wish to thank our hard-working board of directors for their resilience in these past two years. We have been meeting almost entirely on "Zoom", which can be convenient on a snowy evening, but can also cause a feeling of absence. I look forward to the days we will resume our in-person meetings.

I wish to thank our members for their loyalty and support to us during the challenging days of the pandemic. Please join us for a free concert performed by the Windham Concert Band on Friday, June 24 at 6:30 PM at the Shaboo Stage, 1 Jillson Square, Willimantic. This promises to be a fun start to the summer season. We will then end the summer with another outdoor event, an Art Show & Sale on Saturday September 3, at the Jillson Square. We hope you will join us, either as a guest or an exhibitor. More information on both events appears in this issue.

I wish all of you a safe and happy summer, and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Cathy Shires, WRAC President

WRAC Board Members

Cathy Shires
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Carol Twardowski-Heap
Vice President

Sheila Clark
Secretary

Joanne Sibicky
Treasurer

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Trish Fabish / Janet Gaylor

Tom Hurlbut / Lorraine McDevitt

Maria Chaparro-Morales

Karen Olson / Geeta Pfau

Scott Rhoades

Sara Rogers

Michelle Welles

Lorraine Williams

Parish Hill Students Visit the State Capitol

On March 29, a group of Parish Hill High School art students had the unique experience of visiting the state capitol. Thanks to funding by the Windham Regional Arts Council and the efforts of Brian Cohen of Positive Expression, the students were honored for the creation and placement of their artwork at the Buckland Hills Mall. State Representative Doug Dubitsky arranged for distribution of official citations for each student. WRAC member artist Bill Dougal was on hand to do caricatures of each student. Chaplin



First Selectman Juan Roman was also present, and generously provided lunch. After lunch, the students assembled for a tour of the capitol building by volunteers of the League of Women Voters. Three notable statues depict heroic figures from Eastern Connecticut. The students were gratified to see the statue of Coventry native Nathan Hale, Ashford resident Col. Thomas Knowlton, and most poignantly, the statue of Canterbury's famous heroine, Prudence Crandall. The Crandall statue, created by Gabriel Koren in 2009, depicts the famous teacher with one of her African American female students. Along with their art teacher Genevieve Govanni, the students all had an enjoyable experience and were most appreciative of the efforts of all who made this such a special day. WRAC maintains a special fund that is dedicated to arts related trips for school groups. Teachers or administrators are encouraged to contact us for more information about such opportunities.

Windham Hospital Corridor Gallery



Upcoming Solo Shows

May – Laura Jean Holdaway (*photography*)

June – Pat Donahue (*oils*) and
Irene Glynn (*oils*)

July – Suzanne Serreti (*oils*)

August – W.R.A.C. theme show –

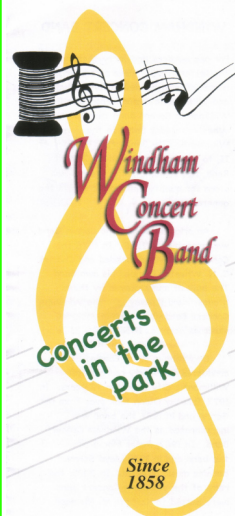
"Imagine That!"

Use your creativity and imagination to inspire your work - anything goes! Watch for 'Call to Artist' registration in the mail

Any artist or artists who would like to exhibit their work please contact Karen Olson at (860) 423-1287

The Windham Concert Band Returns

WRAC is very pleased to again host the



Windham Concert Band
Friday, June 24 at 6:30pm
at the Shaboo Stage,
Jillson Square in Willimantic

Under the direction of
Dan D'Addio

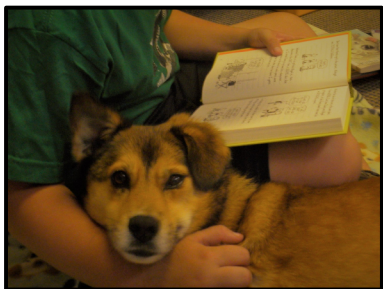
The Concert Band will play
patriotic favorites,
Broadway tunes and
international compositions.

The concert is **free** and
open to the public. Guests
are asked to bring a lawn
chair or blanket for an evening of family-
friendly music and good cheer.

On the Masthead-Devon Conover

Among the many books in the Children's Department of the Willimantic Public Library, there is a special one titled, Rosie the Library Dog by WRAC member Devon Conover. The cover of the book features a photo of Rosie, obviously stretched out on the floor of a library, with children's books on the shelves behind her. The book is written at the primary grade level, and the story is irresistible. We reached out to Devon to find out more about Rosie's story:

"Rosie was a Corgi mix rescue dog from a high kill shelter in Alabama. I saw her picture and the story about her on Petfinder.com. We had her transported to Connecticut when she was a young adult. Right from the beginning, we knew Rosie was special. She had a huge smile and loved being with people. I started training her at Tails U Win in Manchester where she earned her AKC Canine Good Citizen certificate. Pretty good for a little mixed breed shelter dog! We then started her training with Pet Partners to become a registered therapy dog which she passed with flying colors. We were members of Tail of Joy, an organization that supports therapy dog teams in Eastern and Central Connecticut.



Rosie was a much beloved therapy dog for many years both here in Connecticut and on Prince Edward Island, Canada where we spend our summers. She became a Reading Education Assistance Dog (R.E.A.D.) and listened to many children practice their reading in English, Spanish, French and Chinese in libraries here and in Canada. I wrote "Rosie the Library Dog" because I thought the children would love to read about a dog they actually knew! I made it an easy reader so that they

would have fun reading Rosie's book to her at the library. There is a copy in the Willimantic Public Library. The library in Summerside, Prince Edward Island also has a copy. She spent many hours comforting residents in skilled nursing facilities, especially at Douglas Manor and at Somerset Manor on PEI. She was part of the Connecticut Canine Crisis Response Team and was much loved by the students at UCONN during Paws to Relax during exams. When Rosie was about 10 years old, she retired and spent her last few years with her family and running free on the beach on Prince Edward Island. She passed away in my arms in January 2022. Rosie gave love to so many people, the perfect example of what a dog from a high kill shelter can be and why rescue is so important."

We wish to thank Devon for sharing Rosie's story, and for her tireless work with therapy pets. These animals provide so much comfort to their human friends, especially in these challenging times!

Rosie, the Library Dog



Devon Conover

"Rosie was truly an angel in fur!"



SAVE THE DATE

Young Artists Music Competition

Now in its 36th Year!

DECEMBER 4, 2022
OPEN TO STUDENTS IN
GRADES 7 – 12

Grades 7–9:

Wind, Strings, Piano

Grades 10–12:

Wind, Strings, Piano

Vocal and ENSEMBLES
of 2– 5 players of
any combination.

Sponsored by the



Bringing Arts to the Community since 1983

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 one): *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**

Jillison Square Art Show

Calling all Artists, Artisans, Crafters and Makers

Join us for this special opportunity to showcase and sell your work



Saturday, September 3, 2022

10:00 – 4:00

(setup begins at 8:00 AM)

Jillison Park, Willimantic

For prospectus and registration information,

Email us at contactus@windhamrac.org

Or call Micky Welles at (860) 456-1972 or

Karen Olson at (860) 423-1287



Entry Fee: WRAC member \$10.00 Non-Member \$25.00 (\$10. fee + \$15. membership)

Plein Aire painters are welcome to set up an easel (no fee!)

We would like a response as soon as possible in order to plan the logistics of this special event.

*In partnership with Windham Arts as part of the ongoing "Living History Events"
in the Windham Region.*



P.O. Box 847
Willimantic, CT 06226

Has your membership expired? ▼

Find us on **facebook** 

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

Join us for our Annual Membership Meeting

Monday June 6, 2022 at 6:00 PM

We invite all active members to join us for WRAC's annual membership meeting.

The meeting will take place via Zoom. Active members will receive an email prior to the date of the meeting which will contain the Zoom link. If you do not have access to this technology and would like to listen to the meeting on the telephone, please call **Cathy at (860) 423-1728 prior** to the meeting date. You will be furnished with the number to call and meeting ID number.

The major agenda item will be the voting for the slate of officers:

President:	Catherine Shires
Vice President:	Carol Twardowski-Heap
Treasurer:	Joanne Sibicky
Recording Secretary:	Sheila Quinn Clark

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!



The Windham Regional Arts Council (WRAC) was founded in 1983 to help organize community arts activities for the 50th birthday of the city of Willimantic. The Council is a non-profit volunteer organization with over 250 members. The ArtSpectrum is published three times a year and highlights events and people actively involved in the arts community.

The organization that financially supports the Willimantic Orchestra and the Burton Levitt Theater. It sponsors an annual art show for member artists. April, August and December feature a group show at the Windham Hospital Corridor Gallery. Members have the opportunity to exhibit their work at the Windham Hospital Corridor Gallery. Each year the WRAC holds a juried music competition for students aged twelve to eighteen and the overall winner performs a solo at the Willimantic Orchestra's spring concert.

We welcome new member and creative ideas to promote the arts in Windham and surrounding regions.

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