

WINDHAM REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL ARTSPECTRUM

Vol. #52 / Issue #2/ Spring 2019

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A Message from Cathy Shires, WRAC President



Spring greetings to our members and friends. It's hard to believe that the end of our program year is drawing near. We have many accomplishments to look back on, and I am very proud and thankful for the many contributions of our members and our board. We started off with our annual Autumn Artisan Fair in October. A gray and chilly day did nothing to dampen our good spirits.

We carried that positive energy into the winter, starting with the 32nd annual Young Artists Music Competition in December. Twenty-one young talented musicians wowed the spectators and judges. In January, we had the pleasure of exhibiting in the gallery at the East Brook Mall, followed by our sponsorship of the Coventry High School art students in their exhibit at the state capitol. Representative Tim Ackert and Senator Dan Champagne took the time to speak to the students. WRAC provided funding for transportation to the capitol and a visit to the Wadsworth Athenaeum.

The After-School Ballroom Dance program continued at Sweeney School in Willimantic for the months of January – April. We were very pleased to distribute tee shirts to the students at an evening celebration, where their families enjoyed a dance demonstration. Many thanks to the dance instructor, Kelly Madenjian and the Sweeney BASP staff for their important work.

Our art shows at Windham Hospital continued with great success. Many thanks to all the artists who took part. A special thanks goes to Karen Olson and Micky Welles for their dedication in coordinating the hospital exhibits.

On March 27, we made it possible for 3rd graders from four Windham schools to see a fabulous and energetic concert by the New Haven Symphony. Then on April 24th, we sponsored the transport of 5th grade students from four Windham schools to see Mozart's "The Magic Flute" performed by the Salt Marsh Opera Company.



Students from St Mary-St Joseph School arrived at the Woodstock Center for Performing Arts to see the opera "The Magic Flute."

Please look in this issue for news of our upcoming Member's Art Show and public reception, as well as our sponsorship of the Windham Concert Band in its first ever performance at the new Shaboo Stage. I look forward to seeing you at these events. I also want to wish all of you a safe and happy summer!



Windham Hospital Corridor Gallery

ArtSpace Members Show-

Opening
Reception
Fri., May 31

Autumn Artisan Fair Sat., Oct. 5th

WRAC Sponsors Shaboo Stage Concert



Upcoming art exhibits at the Windham Hospital Gallery include:

May – Lorraine DuBois – *Photography*

June - Nancy Bergeron – *Watercolors*

July – Coventry Arts Association – *Varied Media*

Aug. – WRAC theme show: “*Nature’s Bounty*”

Sept. – Kevin Emmons – *Acrylics and Spray paints*

Members who schedule a solo or group show are now asked to submit a short bio or artist’s statement one month before their show’s opening to allow time to get publicity in place. The hospital will give the artist’s show publicity in the Chronicle, online, and in their newsletter: Hospital, hoping to reach a wider public. These bios should be sent to contactus@windhamrac.org.

Don’t forget our huge ArtSpace member’s show in June. You should have received a bright pink registration form in the mail by now. If not, call Karen Olson @ (860)423-1287.

There is still room for artists to take part in our annual Autumn Artisan Fair on Saturday, October 5 at the Buchanan Center at the Mansfield library. Contact Cathy Shires (860)423-1728 or Mickey Welles (860)456-1972 for a registration form. Space is limited and tables will be assigned on a first come/first serve basis.

The Windham Regional Arts Council is proud to partner with the Town of Windham and Willimantic Renaissance to bring one of a series of summer concerts to the Shaboo Stage at the Jillson Parcel in Willimantic.

On June 28, 2019, the Windham Concert Band will perform at 6:30 PM at the stage. The concert is free and open to all. WCB has a 150+ year history in the area and is well known for excellent performances of American favorites, such as show tunes, marches, and a sprinkling of contemporary compositions. The band consists of 60 wind and percussion musicians under the direction of Dr. Dan D’Addio.

Concert attendees are advised to bring a lawn chair or blanket, as well as soft drinks or water and snacks if desired.

Please take note of these additional concerts that are set for the Shaboo Stage:

Sat., June 15 @ 6:00: Guardians Big Band

Wed., July 3 @ 6:00: Coast Guard Band

Sat., August 3 (time TBA): Benetu

Sat., September 21 @ 3:00: Willimantic Orchestra

2018 Youth Competition Winner

Caroline Duers, grand prize winner of the 2018 Young Artists Music Competition, performed as guest vocalist with the Willimantic Orchestra for their concert on May 11, 2019 at the ECSU Fine Arts Center concert hall. She performed Handel’s Ch’io mai vi possa and Richard Straub’s Zueignung before an appreciative audience.

WRAC board member Carol Twardowski-Heap and president Cathy Shires presented flowers and a certificate after the performance.

An 11th grade student at E.O. Smith High School, Caroline will continue her studies this summer at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. An audio recording of her performance can be heard on our website, www.windhamrac.org



We invite you to join or renew your membership to the WRAC and receive
the *ArtSpectrum*

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (H/C) _____ Email _____

Membership Category: New Renewal Date _____

\$15 (Individual) \$20 (Family) \$30 (Donor) \$50 (Patron) \$100 (Benefactor)

Do you have an area of artist skill? Visual Art Music Writing Drama Dance

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



Congratulations to Bill Dougal of Lebanon, who was recently recognized by the State of Connecticut Office of Arts as an Arts Hero. The agency discovered what we knew about Bill all along.

Known for his amusing caricature art and cheerful music for children, Bill contributes his work regularly in WRAC art shows. He most recently participated in the “Food for Thought” show at Windham Hospital, as well as the East Brook Mall show and state capitol last winter.

The Office of the Arts named 9 arts heroes from across Connecticut in April. A reception

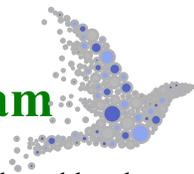
took place to honor the heroes was held on May 1, 2019 at Infinity Hall in Hartford. In its press release, the agency posted this description of Bill:

Bill provides laughter, creativity and smiles from ear-to-ear to children at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC). His talent for creating a caricature at lightning speed has children in awe and helps them forget why they are in the hospital for a little while; and that means to world to the children and the parents. Bill is an Arts Hero at CCMC!

A sincere congratulations to Bill from WRAC. You are a true Arts Hero!

**WRAC
Member
Bill
Dougal
named
Arts Hero**

In Memoriam



We are very saddened by the passing of Jean Henderson on April 23, 2019. Jean was a devoted photographer of local scenes and nature. She most recently participated in the 2017 Autumn Artisan Fair and the 2018 Members Art Show at ArtSpace.

Among her survivors are her daughter Reva and her granddaughter, Justice. Jean will be greatly missed by her many friends in the community.



Jean Henderson

WINDHAM REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

P.O. Box 847

Willimantic, CT 06226

Find us on **facebook** 

Please check membership expiration 

Any member who would like to receive WRAC info by email should send your request to Contactus@windhamrac.com



Burton Leavitt Theatre
779 Main Street, Willimantic, CT
860-423-2245

May 31
June 1,2,6,7,8 & 9



July 19-21, 26-28
August 1-3



**Please visit: info@windhamtheatreguild.org
for performance times and ticket information.**

CAD Marshall Framing

34 North Street - Willimantic, CT
(in BLISS Marketplace formerly The LilyPad)

Offers custom picture framing, readymade frames and a selection of pencils, pastels, paint, palettes, ink, assorted pads and sheet paper, linoleum, carving tools, tape, portfolios and more.

WRAC members receive 10% off their purchases except special orders, and custom framing.

Please come in, also, to purchase a wide array of cards and prints by Jean Henderson. All proceeds from sales of her work will go to her family.

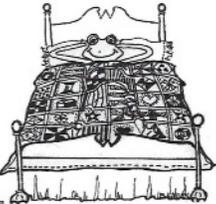


860-942-8589 - cell 860-617-5422
Tues. - Fri. 10:00 - 5:00 pm
Sat.: 10:00 - 4:00 pm

Under Cover Stories

May 10 - July 28, 2019 

Windham Textile and History Museum



Antique Quilts, Area Historic Society Quilts
Rug Hooking, Embroidery, Knitting, Felting

Demos and lectures on specific dates
Museum admission fee \$10.00 or membership
860-456-2178 • www.themillmuseum.org



In cooperation with the Jillson House Museum



The Windham Regional Arts Council

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 art events and people actively involved in the arts community.

The organization financially supports the Willimantic Orchestra and the Burton Leavitt Theater. It sponsors an annual art show for member artists. April, Aug., and Dec. feature a group show at the Windham Hospital Corridor Gallery. Each month a different member artist exhibits at the Windham Hospital Corridor Gallery. Each year the Council 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 members and creative ideas to promote the arts in Willimantic and surrounding regions.