



# WINDHAM REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL ARTSPECTRUM

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## A Message from Cathy Shires, WRAC President

I hope everyone is enjoying the long awaited Spring weather. Unquestionably, the month of April was a tough one. It seemed as though Winter would not loosen its grip, but finally, we were able to enjoy warm weather and blue skies by the last weekend of the month, when we celebrated WRAC's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Willimantic Elks banquet hall.

Approximately 80 guests joined us for the event, and a great time was had by all. I wish to thank the dedicated members of the planning committee and the board of directors for all of their hard work in putting the event together. Special thanks also go to the many artists and members who donated items for the silent auction. Thanks to Jim Baran and Steve Kaminski for their great entertainment, Ruth Hartunian-Alumbaugh for her piano music, and Kelly Madenjian and her dance partner Steve for the wonderful dance



demonstration. I also wish to thank three board members, Tom Hurlbut for taking the photos through the evening, and Carol Twardowski-Heap for designing the beautiful table centerpieces, and Trish Fabish for the creative design of the invitations. Special gratitude goes to the Silverback Wrestling Club for the great job they did serving the food.

We are looking forward to our annual membership meeting and art show, which will take place on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Art Space gallery. The membership meeting begins at 6:30 and the reception will run from 7:00 – 9:00. Please join us for a fun evening, or during weekend gallery hours or during the Third Thursday event.

I wish all of you a safe and happy summer!



## A Big Thank You

We wish to extend our thanks to the following donors for their generosity  
(as of April 27, 2018)

Harry & Honey Birkenruth  
Georgianna Rivard-Bravo  
Richard & Irene Brown  
Doris Cottrell  
Michael & Carlee Drummer  
Susan & Allen Horn  
Kathy James-Stebbins

Jane Knox  
Gerald & Zoe Liebowitz  
Shawn Maynard  
Malia Peres  
Patricia Shannon  
Laura Sinsigallo  
Barbara Williams

# Young Artists Music Competition Award Winners

We again congratulate all who participated in this year's Young Artists' Music Competition for their accomplishments, their bravery in taking part and their excellent performances!

Let's get to know the first place winner's in their division:

## Grades 10-12 - Strings

Percy Chen, an 11th grade student at South Windsor High School, is this year's overall winner of the Young Artists' Music Competition and soloed with the Willimantic Orchestra at the Spring Concert.



Percy studies violin with Solomiya Ivakhiv. She sees participation in music as an important means through which to express ones' emotions and to communicate with others, as well as providing a "chance to give back", such as when she performs at Assisted Living facilities with the Opus 4 String Quartet, a group which also has performed at the Governor's mansion and the CT State Legislature, and with the SolSolis Community Orchestra in which adults and teens sit among the children to assist them. Percy takes part in her high school orchestra, Festivals at All-State, Regional and National levels as well. Her other activities include swimming, life guarding and karate Kempo where she will be testing for her Black Belt soon.

## Grades 7-9 Winds/Piano

Bernie Odoy studies trumpet with Andrew Studenski. When asked how he became interested in this particular instrument, he explained that he always enjoyed watching his sister perform in her school concert and marching band and she helped him try parts of her trumpet; adding to his interest in learning how to play it! Bernie is a member of both the concert band and jazz band at Rham High School as well as the Philhomena Winds. He also plays the bassoon, organ, piano, accordion, trombone and enjoys computer programming and collecting instruments.



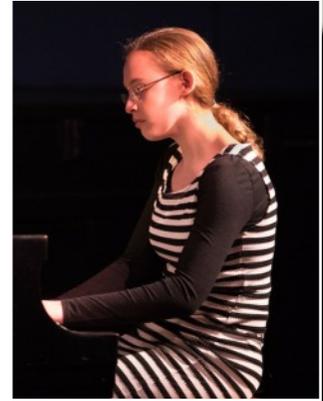
## Grades 7-9 Strings

Grace Nieh is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Mansfield Middle School. When asked how she came to play the violin, she explained that she started her music study on the piano, which she still plays. Her mother suggested that Grace learn a second instrument as well. The result is her studying the violin. She is a student of Maggie Francis and takes part in various community ensembles including the Chamber group, Opus 89. Grace also loves to sing and enjoys reading.



## Grades 10-12 Piano

Abigail Edelman, a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student at E.O.Smith High School, studies piano with Khurshed Rastamji. When asked how she became interested in the piano, she stated that she was inspired both by observing her older sister's progress on it and by frequent opportunities to try the piano at her grandparents' home. She explains that "I like the complexity of it ...it has a presence..." and points out that one can solo, perform with others and you can also enjoy playing music of so many varied styles. Abigail's musical activities also include performing with the E.O.Smith Chorus and taking part in the JOY program. She also enjoys math, her school's crew team and science club, running and volunteering at the Windham Theatre Guild.



The Windham Concert Band is preparing for another summer of free outdoor concerts. The band, under the direction of David Vaughan, is an assembly of wind and percussion players. Members of the band range from high school and college students to players who have participated for many decades. This season's play list includes favorites by George Gershwin, Richard Rodgers, Leonard Bernstein, and of course, John Philip Sousa.

According to the WCB web page, "For one hundred and forty-three years the letters "WCB" have stood for the names of wind bands in the Windham and Willimantic region. From the first Willimantic Cornet Band through Wheeler's Cadet Band, to the Willimantic City Band after World War II, to the present Windham Concert Band, this combination of letters has stood for quality band music across the generations.

An original Willimantic Cornet Band was organized in 1858. In 1878 the Cornet Band was disbanded and Charles C. N. Wheeler founded his own band. The bulk of music played by these groups found its way into the Windham Concert Band library which includes music as early as 1838. Beginning in 1945, Edward Gerry conducted the newly reorganized Willimantic City Band for 32 years.

Timothy Quinn took over in 1977 and in 1984 the band was incorporated as the Windham Concert Band. The band has since been led by Peter Morse (1987-88), Lloyd Schmidt (1989-2004), Kathryn Niemasik (2005-2008), and Peter Lillpopp (2009-2011). The current music director is David Vaughan.

Mark your calendars for this year's schedule. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the pleasure of listening to great band music on a summer evening.

**July 1, 6:00 Hyde Park, Stafford**

July 5, 6:30 Battle Street Park, Somers (next to Senior Center)

**July 13, 6:00 Windham Center Green (Rain date July 20)**

July 18, 6:30 Herrick Park, Bolton (Rain date July 25)

**Windham  
Concert  
Band  
Opens  
2018  
Season**

# Artist in the Spotlight

A recent visit to Charley McCaughtry's Ashford studio gave clear explanation of why his works can be found in homes, offices and galleries throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

Born in Ohio, Charley came to Connecticut in 1970 and is now observing his 50th year as a working artist. It is clear that the natural world is his favorite subject. Images from Maine to Alaska, including scenes from our local area fill the walls of his home, mostly in ash wood frames. While most of the works are in watercolor, he also creates vibrant scenes in acrylic.



## Charley McCaughtry

Charley's love of fly fishing is evident in his paintings, many of which depict distant figures in hip-high water, bracing against the current as they gracefully whip their lines above the rushing water. Other paintings show close up images of trout and other fresh-water fish.

I asked Charley how he achieves in creating "atmosphere" in his paintings. "I start with observation" he replied. This means visiting the place he plans to paint. Instead of immediately setting up his easel, he sits and observes. This takes at least one hour. No working, just looking, to get the "feel" of the place. "I take sketches, and yes, I do take the camera, and I photograph the entire area, in a 365° format. After my observation, I actually turn around and create from memory."

Charley pointed to some smaller works that were resting on a table that he created on site. These are about 5x7 in size. Larger paintings are finished in his studio.

The appeal of Charley's paintings go well beyond those who are avid anglers and sportsmen. He has done commissioned works for Liberty Bank, the Hartford Insurance Company, and many private collectors. A gallery of his work can be seen on his website, [mccaughtryart.com](http://mccaughtryart.com)



We are pleased that Charley has exhibited his work in many WRAC shows, including the annual member's show and in the Windham Hospital gallery. We look forward to seeing more of his work in the future.

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

## Windham Hospital Corridor Gallery

Upcoming Windham Hospital Gallery shows include:

**May:** Arts and Garden of NE CT group show - *varied media*

**June:** TBD

**July:** Tom Hurlbut - *photography*

**August:** WRAC members group show theme:  
"Travels Around the World"

Our April theme show, "Around the Garden", was very well exhibited by 24 members, showing 73 pieces in the hospital corridor gallery. Once we got the "hang of it" (pun intended), we found that the newly installed hanging system provided an easier way to display art in terms of effort and timing. Please contact Karen Olson - 860-423-2871 or Micky Welles 860-456-9721 if interested in displaying your work at the hospital at a future date."

Our upcoming annual WRAC Member Show at ArtSpace is scheduled to open with a reception on Friday, June 1 from 7:00 - 9:00, following our board meeting at 5:30 to which all WRAC members are invited.



## To Kill A Mockingbird

June 1, 2, 3 (matinee)  
7, 8, 9, 10 (matinee)

Burton Leavitt Theatre  
779 Main Street, Willimantic, CT

### Evening Performances:

Doors open at 7:30 pm / Shows begin at 8 pm

### Matinees:

Doors open at 1:30 pm / Shows begin at 2 pm

### Thursday performances:

Doors open at 7 pm / Shows begin at 7:30 pm



WRAC made it possible to transport 5th grade students from three schools to see the children's opera, Jack & Jill and the Happening Hill, by the Salt Marsh Opera Company. Pictured here are students from North Windham School on board the bus after the event. They enthusiastically gave their approval and appreciation!

# 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](mailto:Contactus@windhamrac.com)

## Attention WRAC Members

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Do you have an upcoming exhibit, an art related article, a show that is looking for exhibitors or anything that you think the membership would be interested in supporting?

Email your submission to Trish Fabish  
[ftwart@gmail.com](mailto:ftwart@gmail.com)

The newsletter is mailed 3 times a year  
February - deadline middle of January (Winter issue)  
May - deadline middle of April (Spring issue)  
Oct - deadline middle of Sept.(Fall issue)

The WRAC Board of Directors meet the first Monday of each month except in June. This meeting is held before the opening of the WRAC Members Show at ArtSpace in Willimantic. There are no meetings in July, August or December.



## 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.