



The Palette

October 2026

The Newsletter of
The Williamsville Art Society

President's Letter

Holiday show time is almost here! Here are some reminders and updates. If you entered the holiday show, remember to submit a picture of each of your works to Gerry Genson, ggenson@eastamherst.net. These are necessary to assist the production of the slide show that runs during the award ceremony. Roger Malcolm has graciously agreed to sponsor this upcoming holiday show with a \$750 donation to cover the cost of our contract with the senior center for the use of their facilities. If you should ever be in the need of any type of financial services, please contact Roger and thank him for his support. There will be no sign on the corner advertising our show; this comes directly from the powers to be at the Senior center. Be sure to spread the word and share that digital postcard that you all received with your latest issue of The Palette. It has all the information anyone would need to find us. Asbury Pointe Retirement Community will continue providing the refreshments and water, and coffee will be provided by the Amherst Senior Center for a nominal fee.

We are still barred from having an auction, so in order to continue with the programs, entertainment, and number of awards, etc....we will continue being creative to raise funds for the organization. This holiday show we will be selling the candy bars (as requested we will have a variety of flavors), the 5x7 pieces of artwork (unframed), cards done by our artists and since it is a holiday show, we are adding original Christmas ornaments hand painted or decorated by our own artistic members. In lieu of donating something for our auction, I am requesting that each member donate at least one or more of the above mentioned items. Blank Christmas ornaments can be provided to you by contacting JoAnn Jarmusz @ [716-983-2193](tel:716-983-2193) or you can pick one up at the October meeting. You can also donate one of your own or on your own material. Donations will be accepted at the October meeting and on the drop off date at the Senior Center.

Now for the bad news....our treasurer is experiencing some health issues that prohibit her from continuing on as treasurer, membership, and accepting the entries for the show. I have taken on these jobs to get us through the new membership drive and this holiday show. However, we cannot continue on as an organization without a treasurer. The president and treasurer together are on the bank accounts. The treasurer maintains the checks and balances of the account, and provides the president and the membership with a financial report monthly. I need someone to step in for Beverly, and continue on as treasurer. I ask you to seriously consider this opportunity for the good of the organization. Food for thought....how many of you have attended a Cheektowaga Art Society show within the last four years? Bring your answers to the October meeting!

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

Officers for 2026 - 2027

President	Cathy Eckman	(716) 433-7825	pypers2@msn.com
First Vice President	Joann Jarmusz	(716) 983-2193	jajarmusz31@gmail.com
Second Vice President	Michael Todd Taylor	(716) 906-1793	miketaylor425@gmail.com
Secretary	Mary Schohn	(716) 228-8511	mschohn@gmail.com
Treasurer	Open position		

Board Members

Term ending September 2027			
Judie Pufpaff	(716) 689-2485		judiepufpaff@gmail.com
Elaine LaVigne	(716) 713-7907		marth88679@aol.com
Sharon Dzierba	(716) 428-3018		sharondz2397@gmail.com
Term ending September 2028			
Paulette Crooke	(716) 225-4737		paulette.m.crooke@gmail.com
Marilyn Drnevich	(716) 741-3886		marilyndrnevich@verizon.net
Barbara Deren	(716) 984-3569		bderen98@gmail.com
Term ending September 2029			
Marie Prince	(716) 634-7015		artmprince@yahoo.com
Mary Beth Orrange	(716) 868-5534		orrangembo@gmail.com
Deb Meier	(716) 316-1029		pleinpaletteart@gmail.com

Committee Chairs*

Publicity: This committee seeks out and follows through on advertising for our Spring and Holiday shows. For example, community news on local TV and radio stations, free publications, etc.

Mary Schohn	(716) 228-8511	mschohn@gmail.com
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Community Outreach: This committee reaches out to schools, classes, and art stores to inform and invite others into our group, sharing upcoming demonstrations and place and date of upcoming meetings.

Committee Chairs*

Vacated by Bev Amborski

Exhibits: This committee seeks out places such as town halls, hospitals, restaurants, medical offices, etc. that are accepting artists to display their work

Sharon Dzierba

(716) 428-3018

sharondz2397@gmail.com

Hospitality: This committee provides snacks for each meeting of the Williamsville Art Society

Mary Beth Orrange

(716) 868-5534

orranembob@gmail.com

* If you are interested in an opportunity to serve on any of these committees, please contact the chairperson of the committee that you're interested in. More hands make lighter work.

Publicity Committee

At the September meeting, Publicity Committee Chair Mary Schohn asked for help in publicizing the 2026 Holiday Show. She has identified 17 different community news outlets. She is looking for volunteers to fill out forms on the websites for those news outlets. She has prepared the information that you'll need to fill out the forms and will share it with anyone who volunteers to help out. Please consider volunteering a few minutes of your time to help publicize our show and make it a success. Contact Mary at (716) 228-8511 or mschohn@gmail.com to let her know you want to help and to get the information that you'll need for the forms.

October Demonstration



Laura Kemler will demonstrate a mixed media, vintage style illustration, using bleeding pens, ink, watercolor, gouache and colored pencil. She'll bring multiple stages of the process with her to show how the art comes together. All her references are black and white photos, and she will demonstrate how to convert b & w values into color.

Laura is a professional illustrator, fiber and mixed media artist as well as a published children's book illustrator. With a primary focus on the human figure along with an Americana style, everyday moments captured from

decades past are her inspiration.

She has been teaching multi discipline art for over 35 years to children and adults, beginners as well as advanced students. She has taught at retreats, special groups, art schools, private and group lessons.

Laura has also served as an exhibition judge and served on artist panels. She earned a full scholarship to Genesee Community College for Commercial Art then went onto The Art Institute of Pittsburgh to earn her AAS in Illustration and Graphic Design.



From the Show Chair

Greetings, WAS artists! By now, your membership forms and show entry prospectus forms should have been submitted. It is still not too late to volunteer to help with our Fall Show, either at Drop Off, Reception, or Pick Up. We especially need help with Art Sales, Chocolate Bar Sales, and Square Sales the afternoon of the reception. Just a half hour of your time would make a world of difference for the "big event". Simply drop me a line at pleinpaletteart@gmail.com.

Also, pay particular attention to prepping your artwork for Drop Off, which is Tuesday, November 3rd, from 3pm until 5:30pm. Add together the horizontal width of your two pieces; the sum total should not exceed 52 inches. Also, follow the wiring instructions that are attached to this month's Palette. We don't have time to "fix things" at drop off, so please bring them to us ready to hang.

Thanks,
Deb

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings are at the Honorable Shirley Chisholm Library, located at 350 John James Audubon Parkway, Amherst, NY, with a start time of 6:30pm.

Friday, October 9: Laura Kemler, an art educator and children's book illustrator, will be demonstrating water media.

Friday, November 20: Teresa Mandifrida will show us her acrylic pouring techniques.

December: No meeting

Important Dates

Drop off artwork: Tuesday, November 3, 2026, 3:00–5:30 PM

Show Reception: Sunday, November 8, 2026, 2:00–4:00 PM

Pick up artwork: Tuesday, December 15, 2026, 3:00–5:30 PM

WAS Artists in the Wild

The current Niagara Frontier Watercolor Society's Fall Exhibition, beginning October 7th at the Western New York Artist Group Gallery, [1 Linwood Avenue](#) in Buffalo, has several contributing artists from our WAS membership. They are Paula Borkowski, Gerald Genson, Jeanne Gugino, Patty Harmsen, Susan Liddell, Deb Meier, and Deborah Wixson.

Besties

Submitted by Michael Todd Taylor

It came up in conversation with one of my fellow members in the Williamsville Art Society that I would not be able to exhibit my most recent work at the upcoming fall show. The reason was because it was already sold as a commissioned piece, and I had a deadline to turn it over to its owners. A friend from my church paid me to paint a portrait of their two granddaughters. It was an honor that they thought enough of me to ask.

When I started the work, it never crossed my mind that I might want to exhibit it in the art show. That was mainly because I was not even sure I could do it. It is one thing to paint a rock or a tree – in the end, who cares what it looks like. It is a whole different thing to paint a portrait of someone's family member. Those viewers tend to be more critical.



With that in mind, I drove myself crazy as I worked the likeness, trying to get it exactly right. How was the shape of the head? Was it too wide or too thin; too long or too short? How about the nose and the lips? Were they too big or too small? And what about the color blends, the yellows, the reds, and the greens? The questions never ceased. Finally, after days of intense hours – don't get me wrong, I love the process; I really do – a portrait, with

which I was finally satisfied, started to emerge. And honestly, I was amazed. I could not believe I did it. Like a kid, I wanted to run with it to the Williamsville art show and enjoy it with all my friends.

But alas, I could not. It was already spoken for. Somebody bought it. I'll never get to share it. I must turn it over to somebody else. Which is really not a bad thing, I suppose. Not to mention the money. Besides, my basement was already overrun with paintings, which did nothing but lean against the walls.

Take a photograph of it and put it in the Palette, the member with whom I was talking suggested. Now why didn't I think of that? What a great idea. At least that way I get to enjoy it for a moment with all my fellow artists. I call the portrait, "Besties."

Buffalo Toronto Public Media Seasonal Art Contest

This initiative celebrates the creativity of artists across Western New York and Southern Ontario, with entries inspired by the changing seasons in our region. On-line entries can be submitted starting October 5, 2026, with an entry fee of \$5 per entry. Multiple entries are accepted. A prize package worth \$550 plus bragging rights will be awarded. For a list of all rules and entry information, go to <https://www.btpm.org/seasonal-impressions-contest>

2026 Holiday Show Sponsor

Shout out to Roger Malcolm of KDM Wealth Consultants, LLC, who is sponsoring our Holiday Show. Roger graciously paid the \$750 facility fee for our use of the Amherst Center for Seniors. A big thanks to Roger Malcolm! Whenever you have need of financial services, please consider reaching out to Roger.



Roger Malcolm

*President/CEO
KDM Wealth Consultants LLC.*

*Financial Planner**



FUTURITY FIRST.

Futurity First Insurance Group

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Buffalo, NY 14221

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From the Editor

Thank you to all the officers, board members, and committee chairs who furnished information to me for this month's Palette. All members are welcome to submit information or articles to include in the Palette. Items are generally due the 25th of the month preceding the month in which they will be published. Send items to dianelorenzi@gmail.com

WAS Website

Webmaster Gerry Genson needs news and interesting tidbits from you, our members, for our website, <https://williamsvilleartsociety.org>. You may send Gerry information about classes you are teaching, shows in which you are exhibiting, awards you've won, or any other tidbits that may be of interest to your fellow artists. Send news items to him at GGENSON@eastamherst.net

