



Bethlehem Art Association

Mar./Apr. 2026
Newsletter



Greetings Members:

I expect everyone is anticipating Spring after this long, hard winter. Having been inside for so long, I managed to clean up my studio more than once. If you did the same, please bring any of unused supplies to our March meeting – perhaps others may need them.

Our March meeting featuring Maria DeAngelo, a mixed media artist, should be interesting as she employs fabric in her paintings. Maria will also conduct our workshop on April 11. You can begin signing up for that at the March meeting.

April will be busy. In addition to the workshop, we will hold our Annual Planning meeting via Zoom on Thursday, April 9, starting at 5:00 p.m. This is an open meeting, but you must advise me beforehand if you plan to attend. As usual, we focus on planning our budget and programs for next year. Any suggestions for demo artists and programs are appreciated, even if you cannot attend the planning meeting. There are increasing numbers of established artists in the Capital District. It seems to me it would be good to invite fresh faces and new artistic expressions to our programs.

April is also our annual meeting, which includes any elections. I was elected last year for a single year term, after having already served five. I am giving thought to not continuing, however. So, if anyone is interested in the position, please let me know. I would remain available to assist in a transition to a new President.

Lynda

BAA Mission Statement

The BAA is a focal point for all kinds of visual art activities in Bethlehem.
We promote art, art activities, and artists in Bethlehem.

www.bethlehemartassociation.com

*Please welcome new members:
Marlene Omlor and Vivian Venezuela*

President

Lynda Spielman
718-463-5679
lyndaspelman@aol.com

1st Vice President

Peter Keitel
pjkeitel@gmail.com

2nd Vice President

Ann Madeo

Treasurer

David Chapin

Recording Secretary

Laurel Petersen

Exhibitions/Shows

Ellie Prakken

Membership Chair

Gary Mehlum: 482-8606
gmehlum@gmail.com

Publicity

Anne Levitt

Community Spaces

Jacqueline Smith
TShock1882@aol.com

Newsletter

Ellie Prakken: 439-7559
ellieprakken@gmail.com

Refreshments

Sue Nye

Student Scholarships

Lynda Spielman

Webmaster

Peter Keitel
Susan Trottier

Workshops

Denise Crisafulli



Meetings

Wednesday,
March 18, 6:45 p.m.

Mixed Media with Maria DeAngelo



Maria DeAngelo, <https://www.artyladymd.com>, is an artist and educator who was born and raised in Schenectady, NY. After living 30 years in the Adirondack Mountains, she and her husband have relocated and

established their studio in Altamont, New York.

Her explorations in art making are varied. Ms. DeAngelo studied Fine Art at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. Her concentrations were in Painting and Printmaking. She graduated with a BFA and went on to earn her MSED from Potsdam College. Working with children has been a passion and inspiration for Ms. DeAngelo. Having taught hundreds of young artists over her career,

Ms. DeAngelo shares their love of exploration and discovery.

In addition to teaching art in the classroom setting, Ms. DeAngelo has facilitated murals, art clubs, and community art enrichment programs. Ms. DeAngelo has worked in large scale installation, mural painting, studio painting, sculpture, printmaking, fabric arts and jewelry creation. She is a member of the Schenectady Art Society, Albany Artists Group, Firehouse Painters and ArtWorks. As a studio artist, she was an Artist in Residence at Arlene's Artist Materials for two years, where she teaches groups and private lessons for artists. She continues her explorations of the intersections between personal history and plant forms using printmaking, painting and stitching.



Wednesday, April 15, 6:45 p.m. Menagerie of Acrylic Painting Techniques with Jill Evans

Jill Evans' art is a celebration of nature's enduring beauty and its capacity to inspire awe. By infusing her

painting with color, she seeks to honor not only the physical world but also the intangible emotions and sensations that nature stirs within us. It is her hope that through this process, the viewer is reminded of the profound connection between

www.jillevans.art

humanity and the natural world—a connection that is as much felt as it is seen.



Recently she studied classic techniques in tempera painting at the DaVinci School of Art in Florence, Italy. This experience has infused new techniques in both her watercolor and acrylic painting.

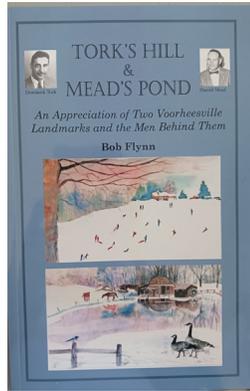
She holds a B.S. from the State University of New York at Geneseo, and an M.S. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.





News of Our Members

Diane Wozniak's paintings, **Tork's Hill** and **Coach Mead's Pond** inspired author Bob Flynn to create a booklet documenting the memories of these Voorheesville locales and the folks who owned them. Diane was thrilled to be a part of Bob's project.



Many of our Members are showing in the **2026 Annual Nature Art Show at Thacher Park Visitor's Center** from March 7 through the end of March with an opening reception on March 7 from 1 to 3 pm.



Kristine Kelly's mixed media abstract "Snow Shadow"



Lynda Spielman's watercolor "Coneflowers"



Jing Wang will be showing at the Bethlehem Public Library during the month of March. The title of her show is "On the Way Home".

Where Time Stands Still



Deb Shaw's oil "Distant Hills"

Barb Lennox is having a show of 30 of her alcohol ink pieces in the Atrium at the First Reformed Church in the Schenectady Stockade, at 8 North Church St., corner of Front St. Ring the bell if you go to the church on off hours. Her show will be up through March 20. There will be a reception at Art Night Schenectady on Friday, Mar. 20 from 5:00-8:30pm.



Barb Duclos's watercolor and ink piece titled "Woodland Lace"



Barbara Via's watercolor "Winter Light"



Barb also has a selection of her abstracts at Whitney Bookstore at 105 Clinton St., Schenectady through the month of March.

Deb Shaw has two paintings featured in the **Winter Stillness** exhibition at Bennington's Monument Arts and Cultural Center in Bennington, VT on view through April 19.



Shades of Winter



Meeting Recaps and More

January Zoom Meeting with CAL Expressive Watercolorist Eric Wiegardt



Eric gave a very interesting and thorough Zoom presentation to the BAA and CAL art groups. He has an engineering background but switched to his love

of art at the age of 25. He and his wife Ann own and operate Wiegardt Studio Gallery in a home his great grandfather owned in Ocean Park, WA.

Eric started out describing the materials he uses. His paints are Sennelier Watercolors and he likes fresh pigment on his palette that has a creamy texture, not sticky. He doesn't like dried pigment. He uses Arches 140 cold press watercolor paper and he likes big brushes with natural bristles that will hold a lot of water. All these things are shown and available on his website.

Eric starts with a photo and does a value study to get into the zone. He finds interesting shapes and gives them a light, midtone or dark value. He says patterns and values are more important than

reality. "Color gets all the glory, but value does all the work". Good composition captures the viewer's eye at a distance, keeps the eye traveling through the painting, and captures the viewer in a dominant place. He clips his paper to a board and has the board at an angle so the paints can drip down the paper. He starts with the midtones, uses lots of color and a large mop brush, mixing the colors on the paper. He also uses a flat brush, a sword striper, and the chisel end of a brush to scrape into the paint. He has big brushes that hold lots of water. He advises keeping some whites, white, and that you don't have to use true colors. Also, don't overwork the painting and keep the foreground simple. He likes soft edges and at the end puts in some hard edges in the area of dominance. He calls himself an "Expressionist". He turned a very ho hum photograph into a beautiful painting!



www.ericwiegardt.com

February Member Critique with Gary Shankman



Twenty members brought pictures to the Annual Critique at the February monthly meeting to be reviewed by Professor Gary Shankman. Gary had a long career as a Professor of Fine Arts at Sage College. Has a BFA in Painting from Boston University, and an MFA in Painting from American University. His paintings have been displayed in many exhibits in the U.S. as well as in Europe.



Gary has a wonderful way of providing supportive comments and offering gentle suggestions on how a piece might be enhanced. His suggestions on the individual works being evaluated could often be broadly used as lessons for the entire group. Be aware of the light source. How to use contrast to create depth and bring greater focus to the center of attention. Using hints or dabs of color to create greater interest. Gary's skills as an art professor were very much evident and enjoyable.



News and Artist Opportunities

Area Galleries and Shows that are available to Members and Others

SPENCERTOWN ACADEMY  ARTS CENTER

 THE GALLERY



Join the Spencertown Academy recommends BAA member Catherine Herman who has sold pieces there.

www.spencertownacademy.org



Information for this show is on Eden Compton's facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/share/18BsqaNaFZZ/>

Do you love the Rail Trail?

Want to see more art and creativity in our community? The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy's Art on the Rail Trail (ART) Committee is creating a Public Art Plan for the Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail this spring. The plan will guide future art investments along the trail.

We want to hear from you! Share your ideas for public art that reflects our community and enhances the trail experience.

Take a quick survey by scanning the QR code or visiting MohawkHudson.org/ART.

Public meetings and trail tours will be held this spring. Stay tuned for details!



Volunteer your time and talents!

The BAA Officers have been volunteering for many years and we need some new talent! Lynda Spielman is looking to retire as President and Jacqueline Smith would like to retire as Community Spaces coordinator. Please speak to either of them and get an idea of what the job entails.



Artist Opportunities

Spring Art Challenge



The BAA Art Challenge provides an incentive for you to create and share your work. Buried in snow right now it's hard to believe that spring will come. Use this cheerful reference photo as a starting point for the Challenge. Copy it, crop it, pick other flowers or anything else that represents spring to you. Go to www.bethlehemartassociation.com/baa-art-challenge for instructions on how to participate in the Challenge, or just to see how different artists have interpreted a given subject. Here's the Spring Challenge photo thanks to Fidel Fernando of Unsplash:

Chamber of Commerce

Laurel Petersen is currently showing her paintings at the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce for the month of March and April. The exhibit space is May for anyone interested in hanging their art. Jing Wang will be there in June. Please contact Diane Wozniak at dcwozniak@gmail.com to get on the schedule.

Spring Workshop

Mixed Media/Fabric Workshop with Maria DeAngelo

Saturday, April 11

9am to 4pm

**Delmar Presbyterian Church
585 Delaware Ave., Delmar**

\$35 ~ Members only

Register online via the BAA website under News or contact Denise Crisafulli at 518-339-6170 or denisecrisafulli25@gmail.com

A Materials List will be posted on the website

Fabrics are art we live our lives in and the inspiration for this mixed media workshop. We will spend the day using the colors, patterns, and textures of fabrics as elements in mixed media paintings. During the workshop, Maria will guide you in applying fabric to a birch panel and how to use this as a jumping off point for your work. Each artist will also be provided with a prepped fabric panel to explore during the morning demo and work time. We will be working in layers, and artists are encouraged to create in a style they love (realism, abstraction, portraiture, intuitive, etc.)



If you have art supplies that you don't need anymore, bring them to the March meeting and donate them to others. If they aren't taken, you must take them home.



Venues

BAA Community Exhibit Schedule March 2026 through June 2026

Please sign up!

Sign up at a monthly meeting to schedule a showing of your work
or contact Jacqueline Smith at 518-489-1882 or TShock1882@aol.com

VENUES RESERVED FOR BAA MEMBERS

	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
BANK OF COXSACKIE Rte. 9W, Glenmont - 10-13 spaces	OPEN		OPEN	
MOHAWK HUDSON LAND CONSERVANCY 195 New Karner Rd., Albany Landscapes/Nature 6-10 hangers	OPEN		OPEN	
BETHLEHEM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 3 small 3 large paintings Main Square, Suite 27 318 Delaware Ave. Delmar Contact Diane Wozniak dcwozniak@gmail.com or 518-698-1819	LAUREL PETERSEN	LAUREL PETERSEN	OPEN	JING WANG

VENUES FREQUENTLY AVAILABLE FOR BAA MEMBERS

Berne Public Library, 1763 Helderberg Trail, Berne, NY

Contact Ann Hein at 914-953-0804 or ahein6711@yahoo.com

The Massry Residence at the Daughters of Sarah Senior Community:

Contact Bridgit Rockwell at 518-724-3406. Space for 15 pictures

Merriman and Pfister, An Artisan's Marketplace. 340 Delaware Ave., Delmar

Contact Kathy Agneta at 518-588-7268

Big Eye Gallery Fine Arts and Crafts, 270 County Route 405, South Westerlo, NY

Contact Hope Konecny at 518-66-5833

Bethlehem Public Library, Delaware Ave., Delmar:

Please use the Library website at "Book a Space" to reserve a date to hang paintings.

The system will send a confirmation.

Beverwyck Independent Retirement & Assisted Living:

Contact Jessica Steber, 518-451-2111 or Jessica.Steber@SPHP.com

Beverwyck Lane/Autumn Drive, Slingerlands, 15 spaces, availability.

Uncommon Grounds Coffee & Bagels, All Locations

Contact Saratoga-Arts.org for more information, but you must be a member of their group to show your paintings at any Uncommon Grounds location.

Voorheesville Public Library: 51 School Rd., Voorheesville

Contact Lynn Kohler at 518-765-2791 to schedule a show and reception.



CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO REVISION

This Year's Main Events

*All Monthly Meetings gather at 6:45PM & begin at 7PM
in the Bethlehem Public Library Community Room unless otherwise noted*

Pay close attention to DAYS, DATES, and LIBRARY or ZOOM

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| Tuesday, September 23 ~ | Megan Kinney ~ Power of Value |
| Thursday, October 23 ~ | Megan Kinney ~ Figurative Demonstration |
| Monday, November 3 ~ | Fall Member Show Submissions Drop-off at
Bethlehem Public Library ~ 4:00pm - 6:00pm |
| Saturday, November 8 ~ | One-Day Show and Sale ~ contact Dee Foley |
| Saturday, November 15 ~ | Workshop ~ with Megan Kinney |
| Thursday, November 20 ~ | Fall Member Show Reception ~
Judge's Comments by Theresa Somaio |
| Sunday, November 30 ~ | Fall Show Removal by 5:00pm (No Exceptions) |
| Thursday, December 18 ~ | Member Presentation ~
with Anne Levitt |
| Tuesday, January 6 ~ | Eric Wiegardt ~ Expressive Watercolorist
ZOOM ~ Joint with Colonie Art League |
| Thursday, February 19 ~ | Member Critique ~ Gary Shankman |
| Wednesday, March 18 ~ | Mixed Media with Maria DeAngelo |
| Thursday, April 9 ~ | Annual Planning Meeting ~ ZOOM |
| Saturday, April 11 ~ | Workshop ~ Mixed Media with Maria DeAngelo |
| Wednesday, April 15 ~ | Annual Meeting and Abstract Demo with Jill Evans |
| Monday, May 4 ~ | Spring Member Show Submissions Drop-off at
Bethlehem Public Library ~ 4:00pm - 6:00pm |
| Tuesday, May 19 ~ | Spring Member Show Reception with Scholarship Awards
Judge's comments by Emily Prosper |
| Sunday, May 31 ~ | Spring Show Removal by 5:00pm (No exceptions) |
| Thursday, June 18 ~ | Picnic ~ Five Rivers Environmental Center |