

# Perspectives



grandvalleyartists.com

August 2020

## Meet the Board

Submitted by Joanne Swann

Even though the GVA studios doors are closed due to the pandemic, our board members have been working behind the scenes, so to speak, actually over the internet and on Zoom, to keep our organization running. Most of you know Mary Marin, who's kept our Facebook site active as well as publishing our monthly newsletter. And you probably know Jim Johnson, who started up the Plein Air paintouts again. But while Mary and Jim are very visible, some of the work of our other board members may not be as visible to you, so I've asked Lloyd Wheeler, our Financial Chairperson, and Mary Baine, our Membership Chairperson, to write something about what they do for you. In the coming months, I'll have more of the board members write about what they do as well.



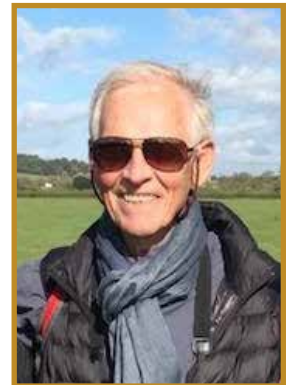
Thursday, 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.! Bring your own food and drinks and a chair! See you at GVA!

## Meet Lloyd

Submitted by Lloyd Wheeler

The GVA Constitution and Bylaws provide an overview of the general duties of each board member. However, everyone who volunteers goes well beyond the formal descriptions.

Our board interacts not only with GVA members but also with local businesses and organizations in the community and beyond. In my short time as treasurer, I have found that your current board has a wealth of knowledge and a variety of interests.



My position as treasurer is one that supports GVA activities by maintaining financial records, paying bills, and receiving money for dues, fees, and donations. I report our monthly financial status to the Board to ensure we carefully monitor the funds entrusted to us. I also provide information and assistance to those who do the work necessary for activities offered to members and any fundraising activity sponsored by GVA. As treasurer, I have been brought into closer contact with others who volunteer their time and efforts to improve our organization. During this unpredictable time, I have been impressed by the board members who connect with city officials and other art organizations, working together on ideas to keep interest alive for GVA members. In addition they have worked to supplement membership funds through the solicitation of donations and grants to keep GVA ready to fully restart when the time comes. It is a pleasure to work with these dedicated individuals who contribute their time and energy to keep GVA a very special organization that helps support the arts in Michigan.

# Meet Mary

Submitted by Mary Baine

My name is Mary Baine.

Some of you may know me as the Crazy Cat Lady of ArtPrize 2018. Others may recognize me as an occasional contributor to our monthly gallery shows on Service Road, a sometime model on Monday mornings, the big redhead who regularly attended Monday portrait and Saturday figure sketch sessions, or the person who brought the (usually store-bought) cookies. I am also celebrating my two-year anniversary as your Membership Chair. In case you wonder what that position involves (and whom to contact or blame if things don't happen as one might expect), I'm here to tell you.



It's my job to collect the dues that are the lifeblood of any organization and maintain accurate records. To that end, I make sure that up-to-date membership forms are available and issue reminders to those whose memberships are about to lapse; I process payments in all their forms (cash, check, money order, dues charged to PayPal); and I provide receipts for 501(c)(3) donations received via Membership. I design, customize, and sign the membership cards you find in your name badges; I also generate name badges as needed and replace missing ones. In addition, I make sure that your email address, assuming you have supplied one, is on our mass email list; if you accidentally unsubscribe, I'm the person most likely to catch it and send you a confirmation link to resubscribe. I do most of my business via email, but we have a very few members with no email address; I have mailed renewal confirmations at my own expense. Phone calls are rarer still, but I sometimes make them; if the area code says 937, please don't assume it's a telemarketer, because I still have my original cell phone number since moving here from Ohio in 2016. I work alone, using an Excel/Numbers spreadsheet backed by a binder of paper forms. (If you have ever renewed by just sending me a check, I filled out a form on your behalf.) Unlike our local museums — or Meijer Gardens — I don't offer anniversary billing. If you joined as a new member mid-year, that's not your renewal date; everyone renews in the fall.

Even though Grand Valley Artists allows guests at some functions, membership must have its privileges. For example: Guests or lapsed members are expected to pay extra for access to sketch sessions featuring models; special rates have traditionally been offered to members in good standing for space at Reeds Lake Art Festival; the gallery on our webpage is for members only, as are various competitions or juried shows sponsored by GVA; access to our Facebook sharing page "GVA Artists Hunkering DOWN and MAKING ART!" is restricted, and active participation in other areas (such as voting in our elections) is limited to members as well. It's my job to maintain a trustworthy list so that I (as an admin on the aforementioned page) and others can make sure that members receive their money's worth. It's my responsibility to confirm your renewal, certify your membership, and inform both board and newsletter editor of any new members or old members rejoining.

Without the dues and donations of members, especially now, we cannot continue to exist and offer all the opportunities members (and guests) have come to expect from us. Without having dues-paying members such as myself volunteer to work free of charge, we also could not afford to go on. That said, several positions are currently open, and we wholeheartedly welcome your involvement. In the meantime, I'm pleased to ensure the survival of Grand Valley Artists by serving in this capacity, and I appreciate members' patience in the event of confusion or errors on my part. I am more than willing to address any questions or concerns members might have, especially if they are not sure how else to direct their inquiries, so please feel free to contact me: [marymbaine@gmail.com](mailto:marymbaine@gmail.com).

# The Forger's Masterclass on YouTube

Submitted by Steve Scarborough

Looking for good instructional art videos this week, Linda and I came across a very interesting series on YouTube. There's an artist, John Myatt, who has a series called "The Forger's Masterclass" where he teaches three artists (a mix of professional and amateur artists) how to paint in the style of a master painter such as Renoir or John Singer Sargent. As you can guess, this is not an easy task!

What struck me right off was how he quickly explains what special characteristics make each artist's work so special. For example, he summarizes Edward Hopper's works as "simple to copy, but the biggest challenge for the students is to bring a soulless landscape to life." I have looked at quite a few of Edward Hopper's paintings over the years, but I never really understood what made his work stand out. Hearing John talk about how Hopper's work has an odd isolated quality to it hit home for me and I see his paintings in a very different light now.

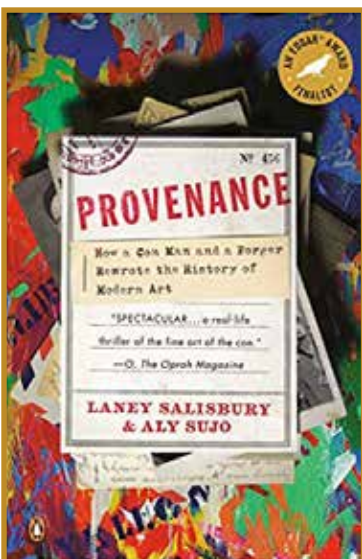
How did John Myatt get started teaching how to paint like a master? He was jailed for selling some 200 forgeries, using emulsion paints mixed with petroleum jelly to fool the experts. These were sold through auction houses and dealers in London, including Christie's and Sotheby's, generating about 25 million in revenue. Only 60 forged pieces were safely recovered and removed from exhibit, leaving quite a few still out there. He currently helps authorities and institutions to identify forgeries. He also still paints



copies, but clearly identifies them as such and, surprisingly, gets up to \$50,000 per painting anyway!

John says this about his current art work: "When I paint in the style of one of the greats... Monet, Picasso, Van Gogh... I am not simply creating a copy or pale imitation of the original. Just as an actor immerses himself into a character, I climb into the minds and lives of each artist. I adopt their techniques and search for the inspiration behind each great artist's view of the world. Then, and only then, do I start to paint a Legitimate Fake."

His instructions in this class are quite entertaining as he tries to get some of them to step away from their own style to try something new! I thought he was going to explode a few times. Check it out. I'm sure you'll learn from it as Linda and I have.



## Provenance

To learn more about how a very clever con man led John Myatt down the well-conceived path into a life of art forgery, you'll enjoy reading *Provenance: How a Con Man and a Forger Rewrote the History of Modern Art*, by Laney Salisbury and Aly Sujo. It is a fascinating story!

Welcome Rochelle Roskam and Christopher Brush! Our newest members of GVA!



# A Letter from Our President

Submitted by Joanne Swann

First of all, I'd like to thank the members who sent donations to help keep GVA going. So far, we've raised \$5,000 toward our goal of \$14,000. We aren't quite halfway, but we still have time. We are beginning membership renewal season earlier this year, so new members will get two extra months. I hope you will rejoin early and that you will consider sending something extra to the fundraiser.

Whew, that part's over. Now on to some fun news. Plans are going forward to hold the first ever GVA Tailgate Party on Thursday, July 23rd, 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. It will be held outside our studio in the parking lot at 1695 Service Road. We are still in the planning stages, so we will keep you updated. Steve and Linda Scarborough have agreed to perform. We will figure out a way for members to show current artwork while maintaining the 6' apart rule. Your job is to bring your own drinks and snacks. No sharing of drinks or food please, but do bring lawn chairs for your comfort if sitting on the tailgate of your automobile doesn't sound comfortable. The plans are weather dependent, so if it looks like rain or extreme humidity, we'll postpone the event until a later date. We want to get together safely and comfortably, so keep fingers crossed.

Plans to begin holding sketch sessions beginning the week of July 14th are also in the works. As of this date we hope to start with the Tuesday and Saturday model sketch sessions. Holding the sessions depends on availability of models and participants. However, there are some rules we're asking you to follow if you plan to attend.

We will have some sort of a sign-up site set up for you to sign up for a sketch session. Additional information will be sent via Mail Chimp on how to access it. Sessions will be limited to 10 artists plus the model. When that limit is reached, no one else will be allowed into the session. I would hate to have someone drive to the studio only to be told they can't come in. If we find that a specific session is very popular, we will consider adding sessions. Please be considerate of your fellow members, if you sign up for a session and then realize you can't make it, please take your name off the list.

Below are procedures that will need to be followed:

The GVA board wants to ensure that the studio remains a safe and clean environment for our members upon reopening. Our current plans include, but are not limited to:

We will have regular deep cleaning of the space, but we request your help in sanitizing the areas you come in contact with: door handles, light switches, easels, tables, counter tops, equipment, restrooms, etc. Disinfectant wipes are provided around the studio.

Before and after using the space, wipe down all frequently touched surfaces. See above.

A disinfectant spray is in the bathroom. Please use it on all surfaces before and after using the room.

Wash your hands frequently and/or use hand sanitizer. There are several bottles provided around the studio.

If you have some sort of gloves, e.g., latex, wear them.

We will limit the number of artists in sketch sessions to provide proper distancing - 6' between easels.

A mask is weird and hard to wear, but it is required.

Don't share tools or supplies.

Don't use the coffee makers or tea kettles. Bring your own coffee, tea, or water in its own container.

Don't bring food to be shared.

Books and magazines in our library should not be used or shared at this time.

If you're sick, stay home.

Be respectful of your fellow members. We are all in this together. Thank you for understanding.

# Beautiful Gardens!



Bob DeBoer has been creating beautiful gardens! Thanks, Lois DeBoer, for sending these to us.

## Donations Via Facebook!

Submitted by Doug Schwentor

I got a message from Facebook asking me if I was interested in soliciting donations from my friends and family for my favorite nonprofit or charity. So I decided to select Grand Valley Artists as my favorite nonprofit. I've gotten some donations so far and hope to raise at least \$200 for our group. I am passing this along so that others may consider it. I know GVA is looking for fundraising ideas and this seems to be an easy one.

## Ottawa County Art Show

Submitted by Alix Bartnick

I have two pieces in the Ottawa County Art Trust Exhibition, which opened Tuesday, July 13. All are welcome. Because of COVID-19 there will not be a reception.



Location is in the Ottawa County Fillmore Street Complex, 12220 Fillmore, West Olive, MI, Building "C." The show ends September 11th.



*Sheep at Nutcombe*, 36x48 oil by Doug Klemm

## GVA Gallery

Artwork Created During the Quarantine  
Submitted by Jim Johnson

Some of our artists are already sharing current artwork on social media, of course, and that's great. But whenever we get the ALL CLEAR, let's put this work up on the wall. One of the wonderful things about creating original art is that the artist always remembers what he/she was thinking and feeling during the creation of the art. I think for this period of time it will be that to the tenth power. Be well, fellow artists. I look forward to seeing you all at our tailgate party.

# Bob and Lois Bike Ireland!

Submitted by Lois DeBoer

Bob and Lois DeBoer didn't start biking until after retirement. Since then, they have taken about 30 bike tours, and they claim their recent trip to Ireland was the best yet. According



*Always a Rainbow*

to Lois, “The food was great, lots of seafood, fancy breads and desserts, NO corn beef cabbage or potatoes. Some rain, but always a rainbow!” Bob painted a few of the scenes, so we can enjoy the trip through his eyes and delicate touch. Here's a little of the back story from Lois: Our four children chipped in and gave us a bicycle



*Kylemoor Castle*



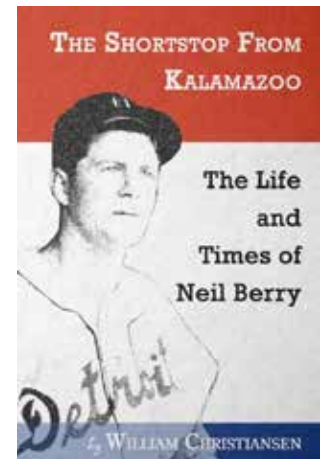
trip in Vermont when he retired at age 63. He is now 91, so that makes it about 28 years. It was a hard trip for us with lots of hills, but by the time we finished we felt very strong and fit and we said to each other, “I think this is the way we would like to see the world. It’s been a fabulous ride!!!” We have even biked Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, where we rode our bikes in the sand along the Baltic Sea and the Lofoten islands in the Arctic Circle above Norway, where we saw snowcapped mountains on one side and the Arctic Ocean on the other!

*Street Scene in Dublin*

# So He Wrote a Book!

Submitted by Bill Christiansen

I didn't read a good book; I finished writing one. *The Shortstop from Kalamazoo* as has been my winter project for four years, but with the stay-at-home order I had no excuse for not finishing it. You may think you know who it's about but you're probably wrong. The subtitle is *The Life and Times of Neil Berry*. Berry debuted at shortstop for the Detroit Tigers on opening day 1948. I met Neil in 2013. At 91-years-old he was the oldest living Detroit Tiger. We met almost every week until his death in 2016. With his permission, I recorded his stories for this book. My wife Deb edited the book, designed the cover, and is taking care of all the self-publishing details. The book should be available on Amazon by the end of August.



# Join or Re-Join GVA Today!

Submitted by Mary Baine, Membership Chair

Grand Valley Artists, like many other arts organizations, is coping with the effects of the global pandemic. Out of an abundance of caution and concern for our members, we have had to cancel events and restructure our usual activities. GVA remains committed to providing support and services—in the form of virtual programs and critiques, a website gallery, members-only social media groups, and social-distanced encounters — so we may continue to connect, converse, and share our artwork safely until we are again able to gather together.

Our organization has thrived for decades. With your continued support, GVA will survive this pandemic and be able to reopen its studio and gallery. In the meantime, our community of artists is strengthened by your involvement and sustained by your dues and donations. The decision to join, rejoin, or renew now will be an investment in the future—and apply to the 2020-2021 membership year. Donations can be added to dues payments; monetary contributions of ANY amount will be greatly appreciated and gratefully accepted. Receipts will be mailed to all donors.





## Congratulations, Rose Ellis and Stone Peng

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center (BBAC) is proud to announce the winning works at the 39th Annual Michigan Fine Arts Competition. Rose Ellis was awarded a \$1000 prize for her 30"x72" canvas entitled "THE MAC." Rose has sailed under the Mackinac Bridge several times, and in this work she wanted to capture the freshness of the air and brightness of the water. "It's awe inspiring from that angle!" she says. "Stepping onto a sailboat is instant relaxation." Stone Peng has two photos, "Sailing alone" and "It's spring time." You can see Rose's and Stone's work as well as the other prize-winning submissions [HERE](#). The work is listed alphabetically by the artist's last name.



## "Blended of 2020"

Submitted by Anneke (Anne Crans)

I discover beauty in nature, as I canoe the marshes and follow the trails of footsteps placed by unseen creatures of wilderness. Beauty in color, beauty of blossom – the leaf, the bud, the flower, the tiny worms and insects I see. Viewing life morphing in sequence, blended in colors vivid, I am intrigued. Within the beauty, I listen; I hear the song – "a hymn springs forth in words of great depth" – a symphony in chorus. Flutes trill, trumpets sound, cellos call out from the wilds. Pathways of all creatures, I follow. Hidden within a pink flower petal I find another.



I absorb myself in nature, always amazed with the colors and design of beauty in creation. In a summer series "Blended of 2020," I track insects within their chosen habitat of colors in blend.



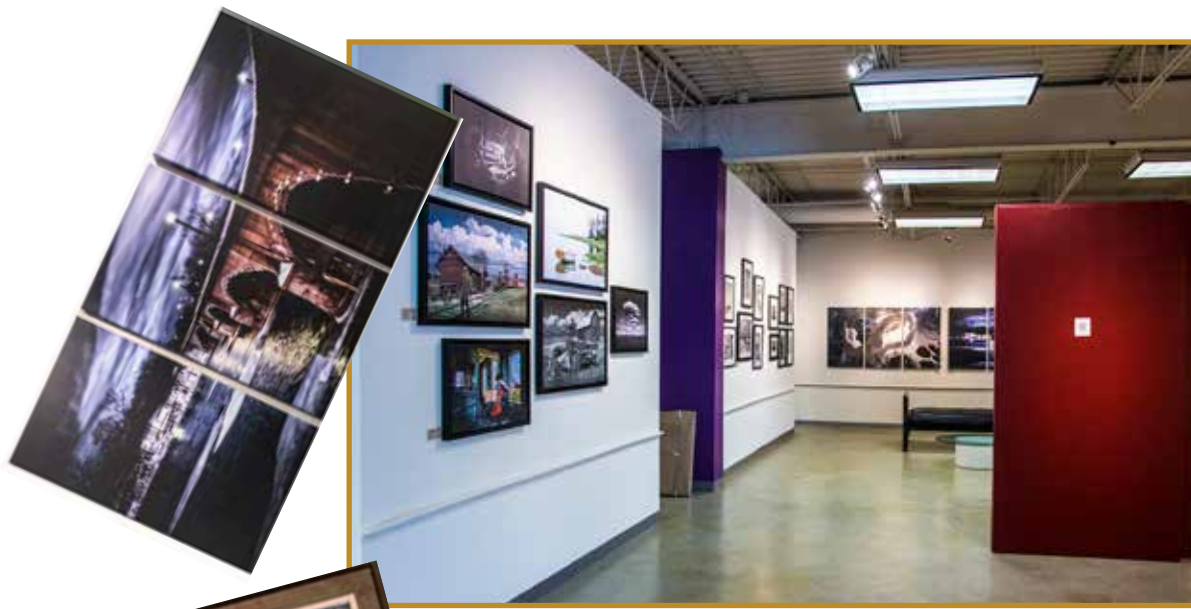
In 2015, I entered my first photography show, the Grand Rapids Arts Festival. My *Web on Web* received the Jollybrook Award and the Bill Pieri Photography Award. From 2015 to 2019, I have had entries accepted into ArtPrize and other local art shows. Much of my work might be called "spiritual," which has led to art shows and talks in local churches. I share my life journey through photography.



Anne Crans, with an M.A. in Flute Pedagogy/Performance and Music Education, is retired but is a renewed artist within the venue of photography. Anne received her first camera from her daughter in 2015 as a Christmas gift. Anne Crans has been a member of GVA, for two years; Anne enjoys the opportunities GVA has to offer artists and the exposure of art to the community thanks to GVA.







## Frames Unlimited Featuring Photography by GVA Members

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

*Distinct Visual Interpretations*, a photography show, is now up and running at Frames Unlimited on 28th Street. This is a showcase of 14 local photographers including 11 **GVA Members**. Check out this fine show from July 3 until August 30. There will not be any reception due to Covid-19. When visiting the gallery, Frames Unlimited requests that you wear a face mask.

Participating artists include **Anne Crans**, Bill Chardon, Dianne Carol Burdick, Don Ketchel, **Doug Schwentor**, **Evie Carrier**, **Henri Droski**, Linda Scarborough, Marty Klar, Michael Koole, Mike Mitchell, Randy Nyhof, Steve Scarborough, and Stone Peng.





# Oops!

Submitted by Sara Youngman



Forgot to vent rice packet... Burned 13 hard boiled eggs... And finally...this Octopus salad was not as tasty as I expected!

# Painting in the Woods

Submitted by Lynn Anderson

On these HOT summer days, I often paint in the deep woods by my condo. It is great to sit with the light filtering through the trees, listening to birds, and this deer often stops by to check out my progress!



# Biking, Anyone?

Like the DeBoers, Sue and Rick Ellison have enjoyed biking during this "downtime."



# A Second Look at Edward Hopper

Submitted by Jim Johnson

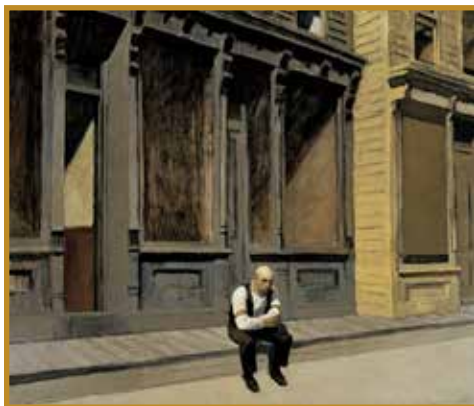
As a young artist I was drawn to the work of Edward Hopper (still am really) because he was so straight-forward. So honest. He painted exactly what he saw



and never glamorized the subject. Now I see something else. Today his paintings are reminding me of what it feels like to live in a

worldwide pandemic, now that I've experienced the pandemic myself. His street scenes are void of people but otherwise perfectly normal. Just no people. When he shows two or three people inside a room, they are

spaced far apart and seem to not even notice each other exists. His interior scenes, of a hotel room for example, will usually show a single person who seems to be permanently



confined to that space, somehow unable to escape the parameters of that composition. Hopper will sometimes show a man and woman together but they are not interacting. They seem to be together, only separate. Interesting how my age and world circumstances have changed the way I see, or rather how I interpret, Edward Hopper's work.

# Sketch...the Rules

The GVA board wants to ensure that the studio remains a safe and clean environment for our members upon reopening. Our current plans for sketch groups include but are not limited to the following:

- We will have regular deep cleaning of the space, but we request your help in sanitizing the areas you come in contact with; door handles, light switches, easels, tables, counter tops, equipment, restrooms, etc. Disinfectant wipes are provided around the studio.
- Before and after using the space, wipe down all frequently touched surfaces. See above.
- A disinfectant spray is in the bathroom. Please use it on all surfaces before and after using the room.
- Wash your hands frequently and/or use hand sanitizer. There are several bottles provided around the studio.
- If you have some sort of gloves, e.g., latex, wear them.
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- A mask is weird and hard to wear, but it is required.
- Don't share tools or supplies.
- Don't use the coffeemakers or tea kettles. Bring your own beverage in its own container.
- Don't bring food to be shared.
- Books and magazines in our library should not be used or shared at this time.
- If you're sick, stay home.
- Be respectful of your fellow members. We are all in this together.

Thank you for understanding.





# GRAND VALLEY ARTISTS

## Membership Application: Membership Year is September 1st through August 31st.

Note: All memberships expire on August 31st and require renewal on September 1st; the annual membership fee is due every September 1st and remains the same regardless of collection date.

The information on this form is used for contact purposes and member services; please provide as many details as you feel comfortable sharing.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address is used to distribute the monthly newsletter as well as important announcements and updates; regarding this service, every member is able to "unsubscribe". If you do not have a valid e-mail address, please check the GVA website for news—and newsletters. Printed copies of the newsletter are available at the studio as well.

Annual dues are \$45 for all new, renewing, or rejoining members except as otherwise noted; payment may be made as follows:

By PayPal—Log onto [grandvalleyartists.com](http://grandvalleyartists.com) and choose the link "Artists: Join here!", then follow the prompts until payment is complete.

By check—Make the check payable to GVA or Grand Valley Artists, then mail it to Grand Valley Artists  
% Mary M. Baine, Membership Chair  
2280 Leonard Street  
Marne, Michigan 49435

### Charitable contributions may be added to your dues.

>The William (Bill) Kubiak fund was established to offer assistance to artists coping with financial hardship.

>Grand Valley Artists is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations made to support GVA are tax-deductible; you will receive a receipt for your records.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please check one:

New member \_\_\_\_\_

Returning member \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal of current membership \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please select one:

>Lifetime membership (20 consecutive years in good standing): \$0

>Individual adult membership: \$45

>Student membership (age 18+): \$25

>Family membership: \$45 for the first adult; \$22.50 per spouse/partner/child (18+) Please list:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please confirm amounts:

Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Donation(s):

Kubiak Fund—\$ \_\_\_\_\_

GVA 501(c) (3)—\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please choose method of payment:

PayPal: \_\_\_\_\_

Check: # \_\_\_\_\_

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

# Thank You Larry!

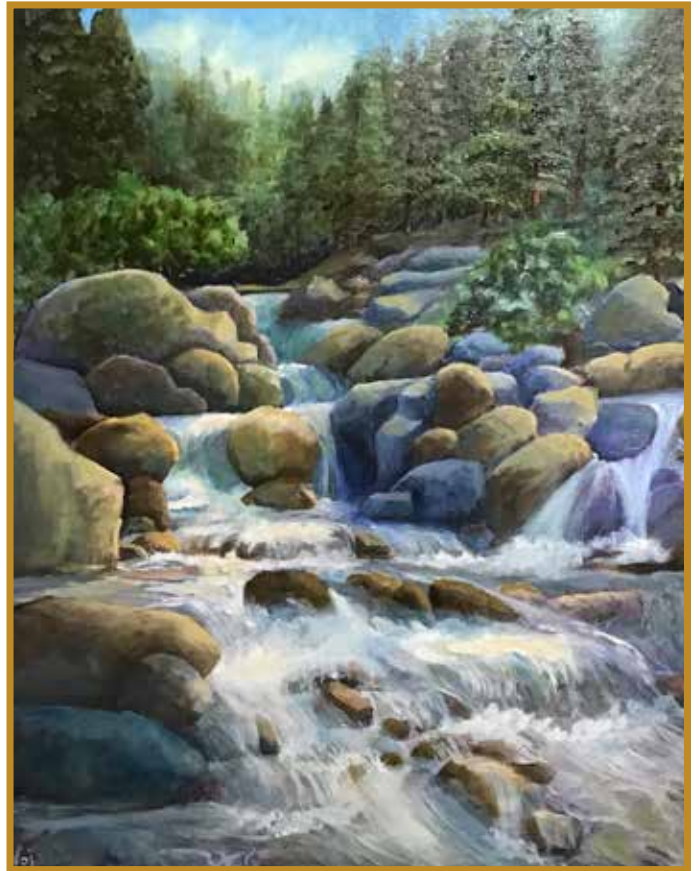
Submitted by **Cindy Wojciakowski**

Larry Blovits has been tutoring me over Zoom with two of my paintings. He is so thorough, patient, and knowledgeable. What a great service he has offered to any GVA member who needs help with their art. I just wanted to thank him for his kind offer.

After several PDF information pages and evaluations of my mistakes and improvements, here are the results.



*Help Wanted*, oil, by Cindy Wojciakowski



*Listen*, oil, by Cindy Wojciakowski



## Finding Silver Linings

Submitted by **Cindy Coleman**

While I was making masks and helping to usher in a new grandchild, my spouse was making a garden house (center). Looking for the silver linings and positive outcomes of 2020 every day. Grateful for retirement everyday, too!!





Chill



*Fenced Founder.*



*Droplets*



*Suspended.*

## Photo Group

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

The show that Randy Nyhof and Evie Carrier had re-scheduled for July at the Terryberry Gallery in St. Cecilia has been canceled. Our show may not take place until next year some time. Stay tuned.



## Bliss & Vinegar

We have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with B&V for a few years already, which has been a great opportunity for our artists to share their work. For the next month or so, Jim Johnson's beautiful watercolors will be gracing the wall. Be sure to swing by, grab a fantastic salad, and check them out!

If you want to show your work at Bliss & Vinegar, you will need to post it on our website, [www.grandvalleyartists.com](http://www.grandvalleyartists.com), so the owners of B&V can see what you do. They decide whose work they want to feature. Please don't contact them directly.

## Program Night

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

Any future programs are still in limbo as of now. Waiting to see how this virus situation plays out.

## Area Art News

Venues that we usually cover are closed due to COVID-19. We all hope that this situation changes in the near future. For now, please stay home, stay safe, and stay well!

# Officers, Board, and Committee Chairs of GVA

**President**

Joanne Swann  
joswann@sbcglobal.net

**Vice President**

Emily Green  
ww.emilyg@gmail.com

**Secretary**

Dana Donnell  
danaBdonnell@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Lloyd Wheeler  
lbwheeler518@gmail.com

**Membership**

Mary Baine  
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**Photography**

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**Program**

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**501(c)(3) Coordinator**

Open Position

**Reeds Lake Art Festival**

Open Position

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sallie.zigterman@yahoo.com

**GVA Library**

Wenxi Gu

**Note from the editor:** Until we are back in full swing, we will only be distributing the newsletter online. If you have any news to share, please always feel free to send it to marymarin1285@gmail.com for inclusion.