

Perspectives



grandvalleyartists.com

August 2021



Banner photo by Linda Scarborough

Don't just pay dues...JOIN GVA!

Submitted by Dana Donnell

For several years I paid to be a member of Grand Valley Artists without ever attending any classes, programs, sketch sessions or critiques. The truth of the matter was that I was afraid my artwork would not measure up to the standards of the organization. But when Ruth VanderMeulen personally invited me to attend a still life sketch session I was hooked. Yes, GVA has many, many talented professional artists whose work is outstanding. But those folks were happy to mentor me in an encouraging, nonjudgmental way so that I could learn and grow as an emerging artist.

Then Mary Marin asked if I would be interested in serving as secretary to the board. Saying **yes** to that invitation has been one of the best decisions I ever made! I have had the privilege of joining an amazingly committed group of volunteers navigating the ups and downs of the last several years. The work has been fulfilling and I have made real friends in the process.

Please take a look at all the **open board and committee positions below**. Give some real consideration to lending a hand by becoming part of the board. If I could I would invite each one of you personally, just as I was invited, to JOIN Grand Valley Artists as we embark on an exciting future. **GVA needs your time and talent** and I can guarantee you will feel it is time well spent! Thank you.

Current Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs

President

Joanne Swann
joswann@sbcglobal.net

Vice President/Facebook

Emily Green
www.emilyg@gmail.com

Secretary/ Interim Newsletter

Dana Donnell
danabdonnell@gmail.com

Treasurer

Lloyd Wheeler
lbwheeler518@gmail.com

Membership Chair

Interim Website
Mailchimp/Social Media
Mary Baine
marybaine@gmail.com

Photography Chair

Randy Nyhof
r.nyhof@comcast.net

Program Chair

Randy Nyhof
r.nyhof@comcast.net

Fundraising Chair

Open Position

Communications Chair

Open Position

Publicity Chair

Open Position

Sketch/Model Chair

Kathy Bechtel
kathleen.bechtelt@yahoo.com

Hospitality Chairs

DeLaine Klar/Evie Carrier
dklar@comcast.net
Evie.carrier@gmail.com

Facilities Chair

Marty Klar
martyklar@comcast.net

Legacy Chair

Robert Kraai
rkraai@ameritech.net

Outreach Chair

Doug Klemm
dougklemm@hotmail.com

GVA Gallery Shows

Jim Johnson
johnsontheartist@hotmail.com

Social Media

Daniel Gish
Gishdesigns@gmail.com

Library

Richard Schaf
srichardsally@yahoo.com

Art Festival Fund Raiser

5 Open Positions

Strategic Planning Task Force

5 Open Positions

Don't Forget the GVA Fundraising Pop-Up Market on Oct. 24th!

Rent a booth for \$40 and sell your wares from 11:00-5:00

Make it fun!
Decorate your space for the season!

Setup time 10:00 am at the Fulton Street Farmer's Market– October 24

Email joswann@sbcglobal.net for details and to secure your vendor space

Welcome to New Member
Jenny London

Mark Your Calendar

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	Closed
Monday	10-12 Portrait Sketch
Tuesday	
Wednesday	10-1 Open Studio 1-4 Plein Air
Thursday	
Friday	10-1 Still Life
Saturday	10-1 Figure Sketch

The Weekly Schedule will resume in the new Studio , 2661 29th SE, (behind Schuler Books) on August 2, 2021

It's a Great Time to Join GVA

Submitted by Mary Baine and Dana Donnell

Grand Valley Artists, one of the oldest art groups in the Midwest and the oldest in Michigan, continues to improve with age! GVA looks forward to a bright future in its new studios at 2661 29th St. SE. This exciting move guarantees all of our favorite activities and offers the potential to add more of what members seek.

Membership affords artists the opportunity to display work in GVA's virtual gallery (grandvalleyartists.com) and to participate in a restricted social media group (on Facebook) as well as free access to GVA's Fine Art America account.

Dues for 2021-22 are only \$60 per year per person (think just \$5 a month). For members added as part of a GVA household — and for students age 18 and over — dues are only \$30 per year! To continue to enjoy all GVA has to offer, please renew now; it's easy!

- Membership renewal online at www.grandvalleyartists.com (choose "Artists: Join here!"). Payment is made via PayPal
- Print membership form either from the website or from this newsletter and mail check/money order made out to GVA to:

Grand Valley Artists
% Mary M. Baine, Membership Chair
2280 Leonard Street
Marne, Michigan 49435

Not ready to visit the studio?

The form on our website can be completed and printed; the form included in this newsletter can be printed out as well!

No printer? No problem!

Established members can renew by mailing a check or money order with the member's name on it to Mary Baine, who will fill out a membership form using the information she has on file.

Please contact her with any questions you may have.

Prefer to pay your dues in cash?

Please email marymbaine@gmail.com for details!

The mission of Grand Valley Artists is to nurture excellence in the visual arts by providing opportunities for self-expression, education, and exhibition within West Michigan's dynamic cultural community.



GRAND VALLEY ARTISTS

Membership Application 2021 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 \$60 for all new, renewing, or rejoining members except as otherwise noted.

Payment may be made as follows:

- PayPal—Log onto grandvalleyartists.com; choose the link “Artists: Join here!”, then follow the prompts until payment is complete.
- Check—Make the check payable to GVA or Grand Valley Artists.
- Mail 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 _____ Renew current membership _____

Please check one:

- _____ Lifetime membership (20 consecutive years in good standing): \$0
- _____ Regular membership: \$60
- _____ Student membership (age 18+): \$30
- _____ Family membership: \$60 for the first adult; \$30 per spouse/partner/child (18+)

For Family Membership Please List All Members:

Name: _____ E-mail: _____
 Name: _____ E-mail: _____
 Name: _____ E-mail: _____
 Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Please confirm amounts: Dues: \$ _____ Donation(s): Kubiak Fund—\$ _____ GVA 501(c) (3)—\$ _____

Total: \$ _____

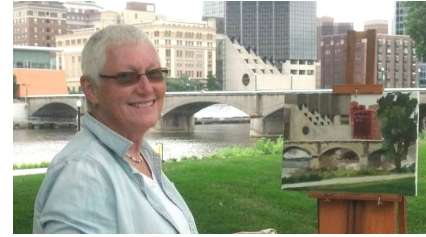
Method of payment: PayPal: _____ Check: # _____ Cash: _____

In Sadness and in Solidarity we Remember our Friends...

“May your rest be as sweet as your heart was kind.” —Valerie Perrin

Mary Marin

Submitted by Terri Hanna and Steve Scarborough



With a heavy heart, we say adios to our dear friend and active GVA member, Mary Marin. Mary passed away on July 27, 2021 after a recent diagnosis of glioblastoma. She was surrounded by the loves of her life—her children and grandchildren. Mary served on the board of GVA in many ways, most recently as the Chair of Communications and Portrait Sketch Facilitator. She created and managed the “Hunkering Down and Making Art” Facebook page and set up a GoFundMe page for GVA during the pandemic. Mary flourished as an oil painter because she practiced constantly in the GVA studio, en plein air, and in her home studio. ...And then there were scones! Her generosity was boundless.

Steve Scarborough writes, “Mary Marin was the first person I met at GVA. Actually, she was one of the first people I met in Grand Rapids. A few days after that first meeting (just by chance mind you), my wife Linda and I ended up at her home for a house concert, which was extra fun, because Mary was such a good hostess, introducing us to her friends and to the musicians.

Over the next several years Linda and I got to know Mary well, going to her house to see her puppies, or to see her new works of art. She was a fixture at GVA, standing at her easel, front and center in the sketch room, meticulously building her skills step by step, constantly improving her painting. She gave many of us hope that we too could improve our own art.

Mary just loved people, and it showed in the way she painted the models and friends that posed at GVA. Her canvases weren't just filled with shapes and colors - she captured the full range of human emotion and the beauty of nature in her landscapes as an extension of her deep and abiding love for both. Mary showed us all that while an artist can paint ocean waves while standing on an island alone, it isn't as much fun as it is when doing it with friends.

She will be missed, loved and admired for truly being herself, no matter what the obstacles or resistance. She has shown us all that art rises higher than our talent, it comes from where and how we love and experience it.”

Sandi Brogger

Submitted by Terri Hanna



It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to GVA member Sandi Brogger. Sandi passed on July 2, 2021, after a courageous battle with cancer. Sandi approached everything she did with an artistic eye, and in retirement, her art was her happy place. Her goal was to create something beautiful every day and she did just that. She found GVA through her very dear friend and former neighbor, Mary Marin, and embarked on her plein air journey. Many of her pieces were inspired by her love of vacationing in Mexico. She was willing to try any medium and practice any technique, and she loved learning from other artists. Her studio was her space to play. Before her illness progressed, she could be seen selling and showing her artistic pieces at art fairs, at ArtPrize, Bliss & Vinegar and many other venues. She loved repurposing other people's “junk” by finding new and artistic ways to create something new. Sandi will be sorely missed by her husband Ric, her daughter Lindsey, and all of us at GVA. Her positive smile and contagious energy will live on within us all.

Event Information

Submitted by Matthew Rothenberg, matthew@artrat.us

ArtRat Gallery Joins Heartside Neighborhood Opening Reception September 10th



ArtRat Gallery today announced an official opening September 10, 2021, that will add a new artistic presence to Grand Rapids' emerging Heartside Neighborhood. ArtRat's first show will be "Woods Walk," a collection of recent work by ArtRat owner and nationally recognized painter Nancy Tobin. Taking Tobin's longtime interest in organic forms in a new direction, the show features works on paper inspired by forest scenes of Western Michigan. "Since my return to Michigan, I've thought a lot about 'branching' as a process," Tobin writes. "Branches (tactile and natural, like forests, or conceptual, like family trees) grow by splitting into new configurations. And the space between those branches is full of magical light."

About ArtRat Gallery

Located at 46 Division Avenue South, ArtRat Gallery occupies a work space owned by Dwelling Place, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating affordable communities and revitalizing neighborhoods in Western Michigan. "Dwelling Place understands the power art plays in creating community," said Heather Ibrahim, Dwelling Place Director of Community Building and Engagement.

"Nearly 20 years ago, we developed over 60 spaces aimed at providing an affordable option for artists to live and create in the same space. We are thrilled to have ArtRat Gallery as a commercial tenant connecting neighbors to local artists along SoDiv." [ArtRat Gallery joining Heartside neighborhood this fall - Grand Rapids Magazine \(grmag.com\)](https://www.grmag.com)

Photography Group

Submitted by Randy Nyhof

We had a last in-person GVA Photo Group meeting at the Service Road location on Tuesday, July 6. We had 13 in attendance.



The GVA Photo Group will not have a regular meeting in August due to the move. Instead a photography meet-up was discussed with the possibility of going to the John Ball Zoo for an outing. Still to be determined.

Bliss & Vinegar showing the work of Dennis O'Mara

888 Forest Hills Ave. SE

If you want to show your work at Bliss & Vinegar, you will need to share some of it in the gallery on our website, www.grandvalleyartists.com, so the owners can see what you do. They decide whose work they want to feature. Please do not contact them directly. Marty Klar coordinates this venue.

Have questions? Call Marty at 616-813-7921.



Stop by for great food and great artwork!

GVA MEMBERS CARE ABOUT COMMUNITY

Submitted by Mary Helmic

Fine art photographer Wayne Pierce is one of many artists whose work will benefit The Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan. Their annual fall fundraiser this year, *Shining Through...Feeling Good*, takes place at the Goei Center on Thursday, October 21. Please visit benice.org for additional information.

Pierce feels especially proud to be chosen by such an important organization, whose work extends far beyond the local community. If you are also in the show, please let me know if you'd like to be featured in our GVA newsletter. Contact: maryhelic@gmail.com

This year's entry is a macro photograph of the side of an old abandoned train car. As a participating artist, a brief autobiography will accompany his photo. We're reprinting it here so you can get to know Wayne better:

My love of fine art photography dates back to 1963 when I discovered a small downtown residential building that had been converted into the Grand Rapids Art Gallery. Within those small rooms which held the city's permanent collection, I found the visual arts as a sanctuary of emotional and mental stability, a source of inspiration and a love of painting, drawing, sculpture and photography.

Since those early years of my life, I have been creating film based and digital fine art photography. My current master library contains over 10k images that I have created during my travels throughout North America. When I have been asked to capture in a single sentence what the essence of my art represents, I reply that my work portrays "a celebration of the wonders of our earth, the beauty of life, the forces of nature, and the creations of humankind."—Wayne Pierce



Abstraction in Reality
Photograph



Photographer Wayne Pierce

Study with Watercolorist Jim Johnson

Submitted by Jim Johnson

Jim Johnson Watercolor Workshop at the Franciscan Center

October 7/8/9, 2021

Every painter has been asked the question 'what are you thinking' when creating art? In this workshop I'll share with you exactly what I'm thinking and why. And it's not just a matter of letting the right brain do what it wants to do. I actually do a bunch of problem solving based on the principals of painting. I hope you can join me for three days of fun and discovery at the Franciscan Center. For details check the link below.



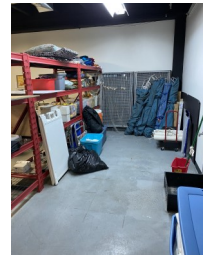
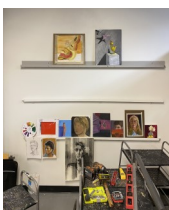
[Jim Johnson-WATERCOLOR-Stuff To Think About Tickets, Thu, Oct 28, 2021 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jim-johnson-watercolor-stuff-to-think-about-tickets-thu-oct-28-2021-at-9-00-am-tickets-15111111111)

WELCOME TO OUR BEAUTIFUL NEW HOME

I can't begin to express my gratitude to everyone who made GVA's move happen!

Special thanks to Marty Klar who organized and facilitated every aspect of moving into the new space. I also want to thank everyone who showed up to paint the entire space in record time and to Dave Bazen for helping to relocate and organize the lighting grid and electricity for the sketch and critique area. Kudos to all the people who showed up on moving day to do the physical work. Erik and J.J. of E & J Lawn Service worked rings around the rest of us. (Please see their contact information below and don't hesitate to hire them.) Special thanks to Spiro Gagrira who ordered and drove the rental truck and to all of the members who donated money to help defray the expenses of the move.

Sincerely, Joanne Swann



E & J Lawn Service
Owners Erik Grabow
JJ Niyonkuru
Email: EJLAWNSERVICE@gmail.com
Call (616) 378-6497
We also do snow removal!

