

OCAC Board President, Judi Cermak

It is energizing to be part of the art community. There are so many opportunities to explore. Creating art for the membership exhibits at OCHS has always stimulated my imagination. Plus seeing how others have interpreted the theme is to be admired. Visit OCAC Gallery 32 as we present a variety of exhibits involving the community starting with VA art in February. When spring arrives take a walk on the Ontario Pathways. See amazing art in nature as new work will be exchanged on three trails. Throughout the year there are many more events, most free. OCAC needs your support by attending, membership, volunteering, and donations. The arts are good for you. Get involved, cheer us on!

OCAC Members' Exhibit at the Historical Society Museum!

The theme is: **PURPLE!**

January 20th - April 16th

Opening reception will be Saturday, January 24th, 1:00 - 3:00

Please join us (and bring family & friends) on the 24th and enjoy creative pieces of art that include the color purple along with music provided by OCAC member Laurence Sugarman!

Purple means different things to different artists! What does **purple** mean to you?

Pablo
Picasso



The world needs more purple – more creativity, passion, and a sense of wonder.”

Vincent
Van Gogh



Purple is the soul's color, vibrant yet calm, passionate yet serene.

Let your imagination run wild in shades of purple.

Salvador
Dali



Purple skies remind me of the music of the stars.

Elton John



Sylvia Plath



Purple ink stains my fingers as I write the stories of my heart.

Artists use purple to speak to the soul, a color that transcends words.



Frida
Kahlo

I won't eat any cereal that doesn't turn the milk purple.



Bill
Watterson



OCAC's Gallery 32 News!

December 2025 found the gallery enjoying the beautifully decorated storefront windows by Meredith Myer. Meredith is a designer for Dicks' House of Sports, and also designed the windows for downtown's Resilience Bakery. Through a grant, ArtSpace36 was able to secure Meredith's expertise, and was able to weave all four windows into the Grinch theme. FLCC students and staff also contributed their time and talent!



Gallery 32 was quite busy with the **exhibit of Canandaigua and Victor high school students' artwork**. All visitors were impressed by the students' talent.

What a privilege it was to showcase these young artists!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

We are looking for people to be an Ambassadors for Gallery 32 for our community.

****If you are interested in volunteering at the gallery, please call OCAC's Volunteer Coordinator, Joyeeta Mukherje, the OCAC Volunteer Coordinator, at 510-309-6249 and let her know.**

Gallery 32 hours are the same as Finger Lakes Community College's ArtSpace36's hours.

FLCC will begin its 2nd semester on Tuesday, January 27.

Sunday: 12-4:00 p.m. If you volunteer for this day, the shifts are in 2 different blocks of time: 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Monday: Closed 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday – Saturday: 12-6:00 p.m. If you volunteer for any of these days, the shifts are in 2 different blocks of time:
12:30-3:00 p.m. 3:00-5:30 p.m.

****Gallery 32 provides art experiences for residents of Ferris Hills/Clark Meadows and Quail Summit residents.** If you are interested in helping from 12:30-3:30, please join us on the following Wednesdays:

January 14 Ferris Hills/Clark Meadows - January 28 Quail Summit

February 11 Ferris Hills/Clark Meadows - February 25 Quail Summit



Open Art has found its new home at Gallery 32! With artists working at their craft, the Gallery is brimming with creative energy. We are also pleased to be a work site for the Pastel Society of Western New York. Many thanks to OCAC board member Neal Allen for making this collaboration possible!

January Open Art Dates

Saturday, Jan. 10th 12:30—3:00

Saturday, Jan. 24th 12:30—3:00



Veterans' Art Exhibit

Gallery 32 is working closely with the Canandaigua VA and with other veteran groups to bring veterans' art to the gallery for an exhibit.

Opening reception will be on Saturday, February 14th from 12:30-3:00 p.m.

It is also an Open Art day.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Update on OCAC Artist Members' Happenings & Opportunities!

**Enjoy the talents of our OCAC Artists Members!
Grab your calendars and mark down events to attend.**



Deb Massey - I have an exhibit of my paintings at the Wood Library Jan. 11-Feb. 20th. **Opening reception is January 11th, 2:00 - 4:00pm.** "Painting is an inside-out adventure for me. What I see on the outside strikes a chord on my insides. Expressing this feeling back outside of myself onto canvas or paper gives me great joy. I hope that you can visit and experience this joy too!"

Cindy Harris - I will be on the faculty as a Field Painter for the 2026 Plein Air Convention & Expo! It will be held May 14 -18 in the Ozark Mountains, near Branson, Missouri. This is my 4th year attending this amazing event and I always learn so much as well as connect with well known artists from around the world. If you have any questions, email me at cindy@harrisstudios.com and we can arrange for a chat.

Joy Underhill - The work of the Finger Lakes Photography Guild is featured in the Jan/Feb issue of "Life in the Finger Lakes" magazine. I have two images in the photo essay.

Ellen Horovitz - I am in the annual XI teapot exhibition at Baltimore Clayworks:
<https://baltimoreclayworks.org/event/teapots-xi/>

Ron Boehner (Ronzy) - is the Artist at Sights & Shades for the next few months.
Opening reception is Jan. 9th, 5:30 -7pm.

Eileen Wegman - My daughter, Aimee Bills MacGregor and I will be showing our work at the Mother/Daughter-Expressions of Love Exhibit at the Country Lawyer Gallery of the Arts in Phelps **opening Jan. 23.**

Jan Romeiser - I'll have 3 paintings in the Yates County Art Center in PennYan show called "Interlude" from Jan. 6th - Feb. 28. **Opening reception is Sunday, Jan. 11th, 3:00 - 5:00pm.** I also have a number of paintings at Artizans in Naples.

Mike Nyerges - I just completed a major rebuild of my website at fallinginward.com. I also have a photographic winter abstract in Image City's The Magic of Light 2026 exhibition, Jan. 2 – Jan. 25, and a print of an abstract, ICM photographic image of the Eiffel Tower in Rochester Contemporary Art Center's 35th Annual Members Exhibition, December 5 - February 14, 2026.

Laurence Sugarman - All my music is now available at Band Camp via this link:
<http://laurenceirwinsugarman.bandcamp.com/>

Jerry Miller - I will be doing a slide show presentation titled "White Bears" on Jan. 14 at 7:30 PM at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. The presentation is about my trips to photograph Polar bears in Churchill Hill Manitoba and Spirit Bears in the Great Bear Rainforest in British Columbia.



Announcing!

**\$8,000
AWARD**

**THE NEW YORK STATE
ARTISTS**

Applications for the **2026 NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship** in Craft/Sculpture, Digital/Electronic Arts, Non-fiction Literature, Poetry, and Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts are now open. This \$8,000 unrestricted cash grant is available to artists living in New York State. The NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship is designed to give artists at all career stages the time, space, and resources they need to create. This is not a project grant, so applicants are encouraged to apply with work they have already completed that best represents their vision and voice.

Applications are open now until Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 5PM ET.

Meet the Artist!

Deb Massey



Tell something about your family, where you grew up, went to school, etc.

I grew up in Geneva, NY to a family of scientists. We spent summers in a cabin on Salmon Lake, Maine. Nature was very important to me and still is, especially the lake and the activities around our cabin. Later in life I traveled extensively, living in Seattle, Germany, and Japan.

What were your early childhood influences regarding art - family, teachers, etc.?

I have a strong memory of doing an oil painting when I was about ten years old, using my grandmother's tubes in her wooden art box. It was magic to me. In High School I took private art classes after school and did figure drawings in the converted stables at Hobart and William Smith college. (They kindly overlooked that I was not enrolled.)

Did you go to college? Where? Major? Any mentors?

I attended Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY, majoring in chemistry, a field that I was encouraged to pursue but was never particularly good at. For most of my adult life, I put away my brushes. Then, about eight years ago, after an almost-fatal car accident I picked them up again and have never looked back. Jane Webb, from Vancouver, Canada, mentored me in color theory and practice. The classes I have taken with Pat Rini Rohrer, Cindy Harris, and Cheryl Van Denburg for oils and Nancy Lane for watercolors have been transformative.

Which artists have you been most influenced by?

Definitely the impressionists, the simpler paintings by John Marin, and the landscapes by John Singer Sargent.



What type of art do you create? Has your style changed over time?

I paint in watercolors and oils. My paintings are spontaneous and loose, with nuanced colors. They are becoming more courageously simple and abstract over time.

What inspires you to create art? Are there real life situations that inspire you?

Landscapes, figures, abstractions, anything with a striking composition of values or combination of colors, I am gob-struck and need to express what it means to me in two dimensions.

What do you want to express through your art? Do you have certain themes that you pursue?

A feeling, it always starts with a feeling, which can later materialize as an idea that I didn't know I was thinking.

What is your favorite artist tool?

Hmm. Oddly, I'd say my camera. I use it to compose my inspirations.

How important are titles to your art?

Very important, after the work is created. Usually these pop up naturally.

What are the hardest and best parts of creating art?

For me, the hardest is revision. My best paintings are done quickly, joyfully, and then left alone. I struggle with portraits which take keen observation and detailed work.

Do you listen to music or podcasts when you create? What type and is it inspiring?

Not at home but I enjoy the music played at the classes I take, which sometimes gets me dancing while I paint, which enhances the joy.



Where can people go to see your art? Do you have a website or Facebook page for your work?

I often exhibit at OCAC, Gallery 32, Main Street Arts, and the Country Lawyer Gallery in the Finger Lakes and at River Arts in Maine. I will have a solo exhibit on the third floor of the Wood Library in January and February of 2026.

Do you accept commissions?

Yes, I do.

Do you have a piece of artwork that you're most proud of? Why?

An oil painting of myself rowing a shell on Salmon Lake because it expresses my feeling of freedom and motion and the beauty of nature.



Professionally, what's your goal?

To keep experimenting, pushing myself, growing in my practice. Mainly to be joyful and simple. I wish to sell just enough paintings that will cover my expenses.

Do you have a dream project that you'd like to create?

I have a very large, ornate frame that I would like to fill with a floral extravaganza when I am ready

OCAC Community Partners



Join Us for a First Friday Opening Art Reception

Friday, January 9th, 5:30 -7:00 pm
Sights & Shades 94 S. Main St. Canandaigua

The featured artists is OCAC member,
Ron Boehner!



Ontario County Historical Society

55 N. Main St. Canandaigua

Upcoming January Events

The Canandaigua Treaty, January 15th 12:00 noon

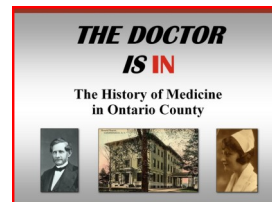
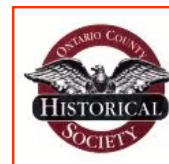
OCAC Purple Opening Reception, January 24th 1:00 - 3:00pm

Current Exhibits

History of Play through Feb. 21st

The Doctor Is In

For times, dates, and more information go to: <https://ochs.org/>



Art Space 36

Closed—reopens January 27th

More information can be found at: <https://www.artspace36.com/>

JUST a REMINDER!!

**If you would like more opportunities to display your art work,
contact our community libraries!!!**

These libraries would very much appreciate it if you would contact them to exhibit your art in the libraries:

Bloomfield Library Rachael Aycock, 585-657-6264, www.bloomfieldpubliclibrary.org

Victor Farmington Lib. Greta Selin-Love, Community Services Librarian, gselin@owwl.org
or 585 924-2637

Naples Lib. Allyson Makepeace, napleslibrarydirector@owwl.org or 585 374-2757

Bristol Library Paytan Mann, bristollibrarydirector@owwl.org 585 229-5862

Canandaigua Wood Library Peter Blackwood peter@blackwoodphoto.com

OCAC Rotating Art Exhibits

When visiting local businesses in Canandaigua, Victor, Geneva, and Clifton Springs that participate in **OCAC Rotating Artist Exhibits** please let them know how much you enjoy the art!

To see which artists are where in 2026 go to: <https://www.ocarts.org/rotating-exhibits>

If interested in finding out about becoming a rotating artist contact: prortlip@gmail.com

Check our website www.ocarts.org for information and updates!

If you are on Facebook/Instagram please LIKE "Ontario County Arts Council"



Shout out to all of our OCAC Existing Members!!

Thank you so much for your continuing support of the arts in our community!

Please consider sponsoring a new member for their first year. It's only \$20.00!

Memberships information can be found at: <https://www.ocarts.org/membership>



Experience the arts!

Ontario County Arts Council provides diverse opportunities for arts participation, understanding, and appreciation.