



## MAC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2026



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### Marlborough Arts Center

Fostering creativity,  
appreciation, and enjoyment  
of fine arts, performing arts,  
fine crafts and regional history  
since 2007

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## Welcome to the MAC Monthly Newsletter

Attend a Class | Enjoy a Performance | View Inspiring Gallery Art

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We value & appreciate your feedback. Please send your questions and suggestions to the editor, Jennifer Chaffee. Email: [jenniferchaffeeart@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferchaffeeart@gmail.com)

## 4th FRIDAY @ THE ARTS CAFÉ

John John Brown, March 27th, 2026

[John John Brown](#) will be performing at the Marlborough Arts Center at 231 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT on Friday, March 27 at 7:30 PM.

A Kerrville New Folk winner, Brown blends storytelling songs with visual art for a performance that feels part concert, part comic book brought to life. No Depression Roots Music and Cultural Journalism calls John John Brown's debut album *The Road* "a blend of astute Americana accompanied by a quiet, reflective glow". Americana UK said his newest release is "so well written that every song could be a short story". Post to Wire noted that "John Prine is a clear influence in the way Brown rolls astute observations and a humorous slant into his lyrics". In recent years, John John has been chosen as a Kerrville New Folk winner and an Emerging Artist at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival. Most notably, in concert, he is known for mixing storytelling songs with the visual arts creating "an imaginative musical performance woven into a unique visual experience."



Admission is usually \$15 but this month's program is no charge due to a generous grant from the Marlborough Greater Together Community Fund of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

**Doors open at 7:00 PM** and the concert begins at 7:30 PM. BYO beverage (wine, beer, etc) and nibbles to dine on. Other NA beverages are available. There is ample parking, and the Marlborough Arts Center is fully accessible.

**For a list of concerts scheduled at the MAC** and about the grant go to the [4th Friday @ the Arts Cafe](#) page on the MAC website.



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Lori Neumann

We're please to highlight one of our artist members and this year's new teacher at the MAC. Welcome Lori!

#### Artist Bio

I studied at the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts and continued my artistic education



through ongoing workshops and art retreats, believing that learning is a lifelong part of the creative process. My work focuses on the expressive use of color and texture, drawing inspiration from animals, local farms, and the surrounding landscapes.

I truly enjoy sharing creativity with others and believe that everyone is an artist with a unique voice and way of seeing the world. My workshops encourage exploration, confidence-building, and personal expression, welcoming students of all experience levels. In addition to fine arts, I am also a fiber artist and teacher through *Menagerie by Lori*, working with fiber from my own farm in Salem, CT, and other local farms, further connecting my teaching to place, material, and process.

My work is represented in shows and galleries throughout Connecticut and Kentucky, including the Lyme Art Association, Madison Art Society, Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts, Connecticut Pastel Society, Spectrum Art Gallery, the Marlborough Arts Center, and the East Hampton Art Association.

#### **What was your path to becoming an artist, were you exposed to art at an early age or have recently started out?**

I grew up in an artistic family, with my mom and grandfather avid painters. My grandfather, Edward Lent, a house painter by trade, was honored in a one-man show when in his late 80's where he was able to share his lifetime of work he

completed. As a child I spent many hours alongside him while he explained &



demonstrated the artistic process, deep in his cellar “studio” with a hanging lightbulb and cans of house paint which were his palette of colors. He would often make his own paintbrushes from large house brushes, dismantling them then winding the hair with string onto sticks. He was quite inspiring and certainly believed that art materials were all in plain sight, and not always necessary to obtain at the store! I took up oil painting very young via paint-by-number kits received as gifts, then designing on my own with the remaining

paint. After high school, I entered the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts, which was in its fragile beginning stages located at the Lyme Art Association ~ I was in a class of five full time students that fall. And so, formal studies began, and hopefully they will never end!

### **Where you do live?**

I live in Salem CT on a farm with horses, a donkey, sheep, angora goats, a pig,



turkey, and chicken or two ~ the horses are retired show horses, and all the others are hand-me-downs along the way. As I am also a fiber artist, I utilize wool from the sheep & goats in my fiber-based art. My “studio” is in the attic of the older farmhouse, with very steep roof lines that limit standing space. Every nook and cranny is full of art supplies, art books, canvases, brushes, and

paints galore. Downstairs are the bins and bins of sheep and goat fiber, sorted by every color and type. There is not much space left for Tony, my partner of almost 20 years, for his own things, but he is always out on his bicycle in good weather or the standing bike in the barn all winter where the animals watch him workout

and listen to blaring House Music! Our home also includes a cat and two dogs; hiking is always a priority for me when weather permits! I also travel to Kentucky, where my daughter Juli lives, we own a few show horses together and Juli shows on the competitive American Saddlebred circuit down there.

### **Can you describe your workspace/studio?**

I took over my daughter's attic bedroom (when she moved out as an adult) as my studio. It is cramped with low ceilings, but it contains every kind of paint and brush I can find! My dream is to have a house with a big "farm kitchen" where I could have a studio and be able to teach from it. Oh well!



### **What type of medium do you work in?**

I generally work in oil as I love the forgiving nature, rich hues, layering and texture that is so hallmark of oil painting. I have recently applied some of these techniques to acrylic painting to create my "impressions" of landscape subjects, in many similar ways as with oil paint. The acrylics are sometimes more accessible to students and easier

to manage in the classroom, with soap and water cleanup! I also have great interest in pastel painting, with the rich colors available and the variety of mark making to create various results ~ I am continuing to attend workshops to become more fluent with this medium. I utilize watercolors mainly for quick on-site "sketches" of plein air scenes. I truly enjoy plein air painting (especially with my sister-in-law, Cheryl Neumann) and visiting art museums & galleries to admire artwork.

I also work and teach as a Fiber artist, both needle felting and wet felting with animal and plant fiber, making anything from a life size English hare to a painting done completely with wool.

I have taught classes on a regular basis for many years sharing skills for students to also compete and sell their work.



### **What types of subjects do you enjoy painting?**

I live in a rural part of Connecticut and am inspired by farms and woodlands as I enjoy hiking as well. I grew up on a farm and spent many hours riding trails on horseback with my father where he would point out various trees, plants, and animal facts as well as CT history. I love the atmosphere and feeling of older homes and barns along with the animals often associated with them. Many great memories of standing with dad among the farmers chewing on hay as a kid! I love to paint cows, sheep, horses, and pigs but with an impressionistic style as I am too impatient to work in a more “realism style” although I greatly admire those who can and do paint that way. I also enjoy painting traditional still life painting, favoring flowers, fruit, and vegetables.



### **Do you have any mentors or favorite instructors?**

Having attended the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts, I have practiced from still life and anatomy drawing, art history, sculpture, watercolor and oil painting. My favorite instructors there were Deane G. Keller, Lou Bonamarte & Gerry Caron. I continue to attend workshops in oils and pastels whenever time allows throughout New England, spending much of my time at the Lyme Art Association studying with Lisa Miceli and Howard Park. In recent years I have become most interested in palette knife painting, learning as many skills as I can with Howard as my mentor.



### **Do you have any artistic goals?**

My current goals are to learn as much as I can to improve my art and my knowledge of art principles and techniques and to continue to teach and share what I have learned to others. I enjoy plein air painting and plan to expand where I go to paint to include the shoreline more this year as well as work on larger paintings. I hope to continue exhibiting in our local galleries so that I can keep meeting and spending time with more like-minded artists!

### **Where can people find out more about you and your art?**



My website is: <https://lorineumann.com/>

I have an active Instagram account:

[www.instagram.com/neumann\\_lori/](http://www.instagram.com/neumann_lori/)

and you can subscribe to my newsletter here:

<https://lorineumann.com/email-newsletter>

## 2026 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

### [Join or Renew Today!](#)



**Thank you to everyone** that has joined so far. The response has been great! If you have been thinking about supporting the MAC, **now is the perfect time** to help us reach our goals. You will be supporting artistic and cultural activities within Marlborough, throughout the surrounding towns and beyond. Funds collected for membership are a vital part of keeping the Arts Center operating, and are greatly appreciated!

Memberships are valid from January through December each year.

#### **Your support allows us to offer so much, including:**

- Monthly 4th Friday live musical performances
- Inspiring creative arts and crafts classes and workshops
- Fine art and photography shows
- Monthly email newsletter
- Annual Winter Tag Sale
- Hosting local school concerts and art shows
- Annual New Year's Eve gathering

#### **Your 2026 membership provides many benefits, including:**

- Advance notice/registration of our popular classes that often fill up quickly
- Discounted rates for rental of our beautiful building and spacious classroom
- A chance to have a solo show at our second gallery inside the Marlborough Town Hall
- Opportunity to display and sell your art at the Annual Member's Show
- Make new friends and network with other artists & art collectors
- Enjoy more benefits as they become available

👉 **[Click here to Join or renew your membership today!](#)**

Mail-in membership is also available by downloading the printable form to send in with your membership check. **[Download form here](#)**

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## ART SHOWS & EXHIBITIONS

## **Annual 2026 Student Art Show**

The Marlborough Art Center is hosting the annual student art show again this month. The show features artwork by students in Regional School District #8. This includes elementary schools in Marlborough, Hebron, Gilead and Middle and High school RHAM students. The show is open at the Marlborough Arts Center Saturdays and Sundays on March 14 & 15, 21 & 22 from 1-4 PM. Admission is free.

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## **Solo Show at the Marlborough Town Hall | MAC Gallery**



Charles McCaughtry Watercolors March - April 30, 2026

Charles McCaughtry paints what he knows - the land, and waters he explores. Drawn to wild areas and nature, quiet places and white water, light and atmosphere, he paints the poetry of a given moment. The relationships of earth, water, air, light and movement motivate his paintings as well as his love of small boats and fly fishing. He gets much of his inspiration while canoeing, kayaking and hiking. His watercolors have been exhibited widely in galleries, museums, and universities in the United States and Canada, and he has held over fifty one man exhibits. His watercolors have been exhibited widely in galleries, museums, and universities in the United States and Canada, and he has held over fifty one man exhibits.

Honors include commissions from the Liberty Bank, Middletown, Connecticut: The Dodd Center at the University of Connecticut, and the Hartford Life

Insurance Company, Hartford, Connecticut as well as many awards from numerous exhibitions.

His paintings can be found in many institutional, corporate, and private collections in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Charley was born in Niles, Ohio. He graduated from Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, and the Hartford Art School, The University of Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut.

He also studied at the Rangemark Masterclass, Birch Harbor, Maine with Barse Miller, Ed Betts, and Chen Chi. Charles' work can also be seen on his Website: <https://mccaughtryart.com/>

This exhibit will be open to the public during business hours at the Town Hall: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM, Tuesday 8 AM - 7 PM and Fridays from 8 AM to Noon.

For more information, feel free to call the Marlborough Arts Center at 860-467-6353 or the Marlborough Town Hall Tax Collector's Dept. at (860) 295-6205. The town hall is located at 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT.

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## **Members' Spring 2026 Art Show and Sale**

**April 25-May 31**

The annual spring MAC Members' show is coming soon!





Drop-off Artwork: **Sunday April 12, 2-4 PM** and **Monday, April 13, 5:30 - 6:30 PM**

Reception: **May 3, 1-4 PM**

Pick up Artwork: **Sunday, May 31, 4-5 PM** and **Monday, June 1, 5 - 6 PM**



To enter, you must be a 2026 MAC Member. Past and present work accepted and you may show up to 3 original pieces.

Prospectus and details coming soon!

Watch for email notifications coming your way in the next few weeks.



## CLASSES

### Intro to Watercolor

#### Marika Hahn - *March 2026 Session*



**Instructor:** Marika Hahn

**Level:** Beginner or Refresher for slightly more experienced

**When:** Saturday, March 28th, 2026, 2 PM – 5 PM

**Where:** Marlborough Arts Center, Lower Level Classroom

**Class Size:** 10 students

**Cost:** \$65 per class, \$10.25 for paintbrush (optional)

Intro to Watercolor is the perfect class for a beginner or as a refresher for a slightly more experienced painter. Participants will learn and practice mixing colors with \*Liquid Watercolors, supplied by the Marlborough Arts Center. The class approaches watercolor using graphic illustration with an emphasis on fun!

[More Info and Registration Link](#)

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### Watercolor + Illustration

## Marika Hahn - *March 2026 Session*



**Instructor:** Marika Hahn

**Level:** Intermediate skill

**When:** Saturday, March 28th, 2026, 10 AM – 1 PM

**Where:** Marlborough Arts Center, Lower Level

**Class Size:** 10 students

**Cost:** \$65 per class, \$10.25 for paintbrush (optional)

The Watercolor + Illustration

Workshop (for *INTERMEDIATE* skill level painters). ***This workshop is not intended for beginners.***

[More Info and Registration Link](#)

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## Watercolor Painting – Beginner

Rebecca Moran - *March 20th – May 1st*



**Instructor:** Rebecca Moran

**Level:** Adults, beginner to watercolors

**When:** Fridays, March 20th – May 1st, 10 AM – Noon  
(***No class on Friday, April 3rd***)

**Where:** Marlborough Arts Center, Lower Level Classroom

**Class Size:** 10 students

**Cost:** \$160

If you are new to the artistic journey of watercolor painting and would like to learn basic watercolor techniques, this class will cover the three properties of color, transparency, flat, gradient and variegated washes, wet-in-wet, dry brush, and color mixing. Simple abstract exercises and creative projects will be suggested.

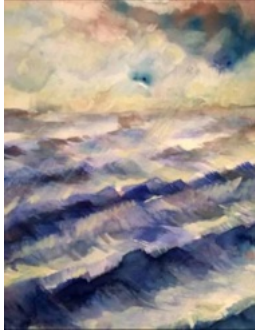
[More Info and Registration Link](#)

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## Watercolor Painting – Advanced

Rebecca Moran - *March 11<sup>th</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>*

**Instructor:** Rebecca Moran



**Level:** Adults, beginner to watercolors

**When:** Wednesdays, 10AM - Noon, March 11th – April 15th,  
10 AM – Noon

**Where:** Marlborough Arts Center, Lower Level Classroom

**Class Size:** 10 students

**Cost:** \$160

Join us for a deep dive into painting with Watercolors.

Composition and color, subject matter and skills will be the focus while we share painting techniques and color palettes. Bring your supplies and materials to class as there are no material fees.

[More Info and Registration link](#)

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## Capturing the Essence – Alan James Art Workshop

*Late Winter Session March 12 - April 16 , 2026*



**Instructor:** Alan James

**When:** Thursdays from 10:30 AM -1 PM, March 12 - April 16

**Where:** Marlborough Arts Center, Lower Level

**Level:** Beginner to Intermediate

**Cost:** \$360 for 6 classes

This workshop is designed to help you express yourself in watercolors in an impressionistic way, ala prima, that will enable you to complete a painting each day of the workshop. Alan James is a highly respected award-winning watercolor artist and teacher.

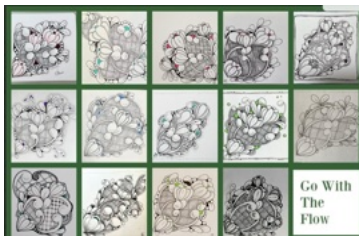
[More Info and Registration Link](#)

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## Zentangle Club - March 2026

**Go With the Flow – How to Compose a Balanced Tile:**

*Sunday, March 29*



**Instructor:** Laura Marks

**When:** Sundays from 1 PM -3 PM, March 29, 2026

**Where:** Marlborough Arts Center, Lower Level in  
March

**Level:** Anyone ages 14 and up!

**Cost:** \$40 per class

One of the trickiest things as a new tangler is knowing how to create a tile on your own – what tangles go best with another? In this class, you will learn a simple “formula” for creating your own tiles that are balanced, harmonious, easy, and creative. All materials will be provided to you for the class, but if you have a starter kit (black micron, graphite pencil and tortillon), please bring it with you.

[More Info and Registration Link](#)

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### **New! Expressive Landscapes in Acrylics - April 26**



**Instructor:** Lori Neumann

**When:** Sunday, April 26, 12:30 -4:00 AM

**Where:** Marlborough Arts Center, Lower Level Classroom

**Level:** Artists of all levels

**Cost:** \$75

This all-levels acrylic workshop focuses on developing loose landscape techniques using both brush and palette knife. Step by step demonstrations and guided practice provide a structured yet relaxed learning environment suitable for both beginners and experienced painters who want to “loosen up” and have fun! At least one 9×12 canvas will be completed as a group in class, using teacher’s reference ideas or bring your own if preferred.

[More Info and Registration Link](#)

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## **EVENT CALENDAR**

**Go to the Marlborough Arts Center website [Calendar of Events](#) to see more information on what MAC has in store.**

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## MAC NEWS & UPDATES



**Egg Decorating Workshop** - The last day of February brought many folks to the MAC to decorate eggs, Ukrainian style!!! The one day, 2 hour workshop was an instruction in the art of Pysanky. Pysanky is a Ukrainian word that refers to the ancient Slavic tradition of decorating eggs using a wax resist dye method.



The instructor, Sharon Leonard provided hollow eggs, beeswax candles, styluses and inks to create the artful patterns and decorations. Watch for announcements of another Ukrainian Egg Decorating workshop this year.



## VOLUNTEERING

Thank you to all the volunteers, past, present & future, that help keep the Marlborough Arts Center a vibrant community resource!

An **extra special thanks** to our dedicated snow removal contractor - Rusty, owner of Eastbury Landscaping and Home Improvement in Glastonbury. Text / Call 860-906-7825, [eastburyhomeimprovement@gmail.com](mailto:eastburyhomeimprovement@gmail.com)

**If you are interested** in knowing more about helping out at the MAC,


we'd love to hear what may fit your interests and available time. Whether it's an hour or two now and then, or investing more time, it all makes a difference!

Please email us at [info@marlborougharts.org](mailto:info@marlborougharts.org) or call (860) 467-6353 and leave a message. Thank you in advance!

## Volunteer Opportunities

1. **Gallery Sitting** – during our public exhibit hours, usually from 1:00 – 4:00pm on weekends: Greet and keep a count of guests; hand out brochures and membership forms; help set-up for any demos; assist with Gallery purchases.
2. **Exhibition Assistance** – prior to or after the event: help with receiving and installing exhibits or dismantling them; assist us with checking-in or logging-out submissions; coordinate labeling, payment, and processing.
3. **Hospitality** – during receptions and Arts Café events: help with food and beverage presentation; handing out membership forms, class brochures, and other event handouts; help with set-up, clean-up or parking.
4. **Building Maintenance** - to keep our building interior and exterior looking its best: help with general clean-up or refurbishing.
5. **Grounds Maintenance** – to keep our gardens & landscaping maintained: help with planting, weeding, or mulching, etc.
6. **Office and Clerical Help**– during flexible hours that don't require public interaction: help prepare mailings; distribute flyers; maintain supplies; oversee our library.
7. **Committees** – Help with or coordinate tasks required by our various committees: Publicity, Membership, Classes, Volunteers, Events, etc.
8. **Computer Assistance** – Provide computer expertise or assist with maintaining lists.
9. **Miscellaneous** – If you have a particular skill or specific knowledge let us know and we'll find an opportunity for you!

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 See you next month!

Marlborough Arts Center · 231 North Main Street · Marlborough, CT 06447 · USA