



MAC Monthly Newsletter

January 2026



The mission of the Marlborough Arts Center is to foster creativity, appreciation, and enjoyment of fine arts, performing arts, fine crafts and regional history through educational programs, exhibitions and performances.

Welcome to the MAC Monthly Newsletter.

This publication will help to keep you informed of the exciting events happening at the MAC and keep you involved. Be sure to check the MAC website for announcements and the **Calendar of Events** for information on all upcoming events.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, about the Newsletter please contact the editor, Jennifer Chaffee at: jenniferchaffeeart@gmail.com

Join or Renew Your Membership for 2026



As a **Regional Arts Center** your membership helps us promote and support artistic and cultural activities around Marlborough, many 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

Please [join us as a new or renewing member!](#)

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

4th Friday @ the Arts Cafe

Hierax Saxophone Quartet, January 23rd, 2026



Hierax Saxophone Quartet will be performing at the Marlborough Arts Center at 231 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT on Friday, January 23 at 7:30 PM.

The Hierax Quartet is a saxophone quartet formed in the Fall of 2024, composed of graduate students (Prescott Brown, Ben Levesque, Ashtyn Wolph, and Evan Blitzer) from The Hartt School in Hartford, Connecticut, under the direction of Professor Carrie Koffman.

The ensemble has actively engaged in outreach performances throughout the New England region, performing various programs for a variety of audience groups. Hierax Quartet has also engaged in performances beyond the New England region.

Recently, the group has participated in the Plowman Chamber Music Competition and received the Bronze Medal at the National Finals of the Music Teacher National Association Chamber Music Competition as well as First Prize in the Hartt School Chamber Music Competition.

Hierax Quartet is, “dedicated to redefining the role of the saxophone in the chamber music world. Through community engagement, the commissioning of new works, and the performance of bold, diverse programs, we aim to showcase the versatility and expressive power of the saxophone. We are committed to expanding the repertoire, both through original compositions and innovative arrangements, and to building inclusive spaces that welcome audiences of all backgrounds. By championing this relatively young ensemble format, we seek to legitimize the saxophone quartet as a vital and dynamic voice in contemporary music.”

They plan to play a collection of classical, contemporary, and popular songs; in other words, a little bit of everything!

Admission to this program is subsidized by a 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. BYOW 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 MAC website, marlborougharts.org and select 4thFriday @ the Arts Cafe.

If you have any questions, send us an email at info@marlborougharts.org, or call us at 860-467-6353. The MAC is a Non-profit Regional Center for the Arts.

Exhibitions & Art Shows

Marlborough Town Hall | MAC Gallery

The Marlborough Town Hall's MAC Gallery has a new exhibit in the hallway gallery.



Carol Simkim's enamel on copper paintings has long been internationally recognized around the world by many renowned collectors. Today her work is often sold at auctions and through online marketplaces such as Invaluable and Mutual Art.

The pieces in this collection are for sale by the collector and can be purchased through the Marlborough Town Hall in the Tax Collector's office. Please make checks to the Marlborough Arts Center.

We hope you enjoy these post war period timeless pieces of art.

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.

Classes

Capturing the Essence – Alan James Art Workshop:

January 14 - February 19, 2026

Instructor: Alan James

When: Thursdays from 10:30 AM - 1 PM, January 15 through February 19, 2026

Where: Marlborough Arts Center, Upper 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. Topics include the fundamentals of Composition, Values, Edges, Shapes, Color, Perspective, Proportions, and much more. A demonstration will be given each day where Alan will explain the composition and the techniques he is using for each painting, utilizing an impressionistic style. With Alan's guidance, students will then take this knowledge and create

the same painting with hands-on instruction and guidance. At the end of each day, students will have a completed painting!



Alan James is a highly respected award-winning watercolor artist and teacher. His art graces the walls of many private and corporate collectors worldwide. Alan is the East Coast America host of the internet TV show Colour in Your Life and currently teaches watercolors at his studio in Deep River, CT, and many art associations throughout New England.

For more information and registration go to the marlborougharts.org website, select “Classes”.

Zentangle Club

January, February & March 2026

Instructor: Laura Marks

When: Sundays from 1 PM -3 PM, January 18, February 15, and March 29, 2026

Where: Marlborough Arts Center, Upper Level in Jan & Feb, Lower Level in March

Level: Anyone ages 14 and up!

Cost: \$40 per class

The Marlborough Arts Center is very excited to announce Zentangle Club with instructor Laura Marks! We are looking forward to welcoming Laura back to MAC and know her students will love her new classes. All levels are welcome to sign up, and you may sign up for any or all the sessions. Please continue reading to learn more about each iteration and utilize the online signup form at the bottom of the page.

Bijou Mobile Class: Sunday January 18



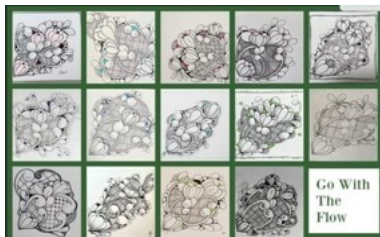
Let's manifest some good intentions this New Year with a wonderful Zentangle project that incorporates lots of color, tangling, and simple lettering techniques. The bijou mobile contains three small 2x2" tiles that we will string together to form the hanging mobile. All materials will be provided to you for the class, but if you have a starter kit (black micron, graphite pencil and tortillon), please bring it with you.

Dragonfly Class: Sunday February 15

Learn the magic of using a toned tile and a white gel pen with this Dragonfly Zentangle class. Simple tangles contained in a dragonfly string will compose this tile. 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.



Go With the Flow – How to Compose a Balanced Tile, Sunday, March 29



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.

About the Instructor: Laura Marks

Laura Marks is a certified Zentangle instructor and has been teaching the method in a variety of settings including universities, hospitals, art centers, places of worship and school systems. She has been teaching Zentangle for the Art for Healing Program of Hartford Hospital since 2016, helping cancer survivors and their caregivers. There are no mistakes in Zentangle as it is abstract, and any unintentional line you draw becomes an opportunity for something new, not a mistake. We are excited to offer this workshop at the Marlborough Arts Center and help us start a group who can “tangle” more on their own and together if they want to be part of a community.

For more information and registration go to the marlborougharts.org website, select “Classes”.

Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshop

Feb 28, 2026

Instructor: Sharon Leonard

When: Saturday, February 28th, 2026, 10 AM – 12:30 PM

Where: Marlborough Arts Center, Lower Level Classroom

Level: Adults, children ages 8 & up

Cost: \$40 per class



The Marlborough Arts Center is excited to offer a Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshop on Saturday, February 28th from 10 AM to 12:30 PM. The instructor, Sharon Leonard, is from Newington, CT, and has been making handwritten eggs for over 40 years. She was inspired by her Ukrainian grandmother as a child and started perfecting the art form herself when in college. She has taught this amazing folk art to Girl Scouts and privately at homes, libraries, churches, and clubs.

All supplies will be provided to class registrants, including the stylus (kista), beeswax, candle, and hollow eggs. Students work on a wax paper plate and placemat. There will also be jars of prepared colored dyes to share. Everyone will be able to take home a pysanky or decorated egg they have made. For those who want to do more, Sharon will let you know where you can get supplies and more information.

For more information and registration go to the marlborougharts.org website, select “Classes”.

Calendar of Events

Go to the Marlborough Arts Center website, www.marlborougharts.org and click on individual events to see more information on what MAC has in store.

Rent the Marlborough Arts Center

Did you know that we rent out the Marlborough Arts Center?

The beautiful Marlborough Arts Center is housed in a historic building on two levels surrounded by landscaped gardens and is available for rent for private parties, celebrations, meetings, seminars, get-togethers, etc.



The upper level Art Gallery is spacious and bright, with views of the gardens from all windows, and constantly changing artwork displayed on the gallery walls. The lower level has a large classroom space with very flexible uses. Folding chairs and tables are available for both levels. There is a kitchen and bathrooms on each level that caterers find very convenient. The ample parking, and the building are fully accessible.

Charles W. Hall Art Gallery, Upper Level

This light filled, spacious gallery is perfect for parties, art exhibitions, concerts, and almost any social event day and evenings. Parking and entry is accessible at upper level.



Classroom, Lower Level



This well-equipped studio space is an ideal choice for art classes and workshops. Parking and entry is accessible at lower level.



Both levels may be rented by the day from 10 AM – 10 PM or by the hour. For more information, visit our website at: www.marlbrougharts.org and click on **Rentals**.

If interested, please email info@marlbrougharts.org or call (860) 467-6353 and leave a message. You can either apply for a rental online, or you may view our hard copy Rental Application Form. Printed forms can be filled out and mailed to the Arts Center, 231 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT 06447. One of the members of the Board of Directors will be pleased to return your call, answer any questions, and arrange for a site visit.

Volunteers

We are so grateful for our amazing volunteers.

Thank you to all the volunteers that help at the Marlborough Arts Center. The MAC relies on our dedicated and talented volunteers to help with classes, art shows, concerts, and more. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering opportunities, please go to the MAC website's Volunteer page.

What keeps the MAC Running?

Your membership supports so much of what keeps the MAC running. Your contribution pays for commercial services like lawn mowing, snow removal, major repairs, utilities, etc. Behind the scenes, the MAC is organized and run by volunteers.

Thank you to the **MAC Board of Directors** who meet each month to keep the MAC on track. The Board of Directors include Fran Terase, Jennifer Chaffee, Ann Kilby, Marc Duisenberg, Megan Sanderson, Audrey Carroll Prucnal, Roy Wrenn, Neal Alderman, Joan Lester, and Bob Jeffries. If you are interested in attending a meeting or joining the board, please feel free to come to a meeting the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. Please check the **Calendar of Events** as some meeting dates may change.

The MAC encourages anyone interested in volunteering at the MAC. You don't have to be an artist to join or volunteer. We welcome everyone! Any skills or experience that you would like to contribute is valued. It is a wonderful way to get involved and meet others. If you are interested in volunteering, go to our website's **Volunteer** page.

You may also call the MAC (860) 467-6353 and leave a message or email us at **info@marlborougharts.org**.

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