



MAC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June-July 2026



Marlborough Arts Center

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

Welcome to the MAC 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

4th FRIDAY @ THE ARTS CAFÉ

Sperry Creek Blue Grass Band, July 24th, 2026

Join us **Friday, July 24th at 7:30 PM for the Sperry Creek Bluegrass Band** performing at the Marlborough Arts Center at 231 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT.



Sperry Creek is a five-piece acoustic bluegrass band based in central Connecticut. They are known for fresh harmonies and instrumentation, bringing a mix of traditional bluegrass, folk, and early country to the New England music scene.

The band features the musicians who all share a passion for bluegrass and alternate on lead and three-part vocal harmonies.

Doors open at 7:00 PM and the concert begins at 7:30 PM. Admission is \$15 per person. Sit where you like among the bistro tables and chairs. BYO beverage (wine, beer, etc) and nibbles to dine on. Other NA beverages and baked sweet treats are often available. There is ample parking, and the Marlborough Arts Center is fully accessible.

For a list of concerts scheduled at the MAC go to the [4th Friday @ the Arts Cafe](http://www.marlbrougharts.org) page on the MAC website at www.marlbrougharts.org

2026 MEMBERSHIP

[Join or Renew Today!](#)

Membership levels **start at only \$25.**

Funds collected for membership are a vital part of keeping the Arts Center operating, and are greatly appreciated!

👉 **[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](#)
www.marlborougharts.org



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Debbie Temple



We're pleased to highlight Debbie Temple in our June-July Member Spotlight.

From an early age, I loved to draw pictures. My mother recognized my passion even before I did, keeping me supplied with endless pads of paper and pencils. I spent countless hours alone in my room sketching horses and faces - they were my favorite subjects! Throughout my school years, several teachers encouraged my artistic interests, beginning as early as second grade when I created illustrations for our classroom newspaper.

In high school, my art teacher, Mrs. Moody, became a particularly important influence. She encouraged me to enter the statewide Scholastic Art competitions, and I still have a portfolio of work from that time, much of it in pen and ink.

During my senior year, I was elected Art Editor of the yearbook. Many study halls were spent in the student lounge designing layouts and selecting colors for the 1973 yearbook, where I contributed hand-drawn cartoon illustrations depicting classmates, sports, and student life.

I was also interested in the medical field, but my mother encouraged me to pursue art studies at Southern Connecticut State College instead. I attended for one year, majoring in Art Education with a minor in Fine Art. However, the economic recession of the early 1970s made building a career in fine art especially challenging.





Life eventually took me in other directions— marriage, raising four children, and building a real estate business with my husband after we settled in Hebron in 1980. Many years later, when I found the time to return to the art world, I joined Glastonbury Arts and began exploring watercolor painting before taking my first pastel workshop. Wanting to connect with other artists, I quickly became involved as a volunteer, eventually running the Got Art program and Co-Chair of the Member Tent at the annual “On The Green Show”.

My involvement in the arts community

continued to grow. I joined the Connecticut Pastel Society, where I serve as Co-Chair for four years of an annual national exhibition and later as Workshop Chair.



Over the years, I have also been an active member and volunteer with organizations including the Madison Art Society, Lyme Art Association, Wethersfield Academy of Arts, Manchester Art Association, Southwest Florida Pastel Society, and several plein air groups in both Connecticut and Florida.

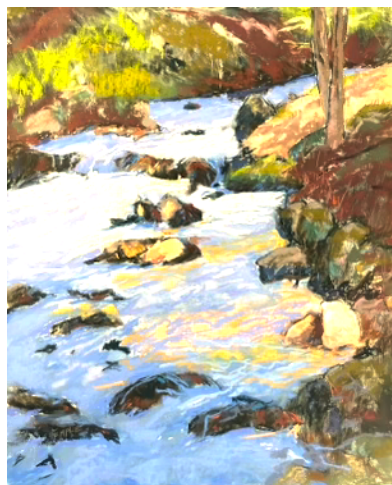
Volunteering has been both rewarding and enriching, and I believe it is an important part of an artist’s growth. I am currently the Workshop Co-Chair for the Southwest Florida Pastel Society and I Co-Chair an annual plein air show in Naples, Florida.



Although I have taken and monitored many workshops with accomplished instructors in various mediums, I consider myself largely self-taught. Today, my primary focus is pastel painting, plein air work, especially during winters in Florida, and an increasingly strong passion for oil painting. I also frame most of my own artwork, which is a different skill altogether!

I am always striving to grow as an artist by learning new techniques, visiting galleries and exhibitions, attending demonstrations, participating in figure drawing sessions, watching instructional videos on you tube, studying art books and magazines, and connecting with fellow artists. My artistic interests center primarily on landscape and portrait painting. I take hundreds of inspiring photographs of nature for references with my phone!

My first studio space was set up in the garage of one of our previous homes. Today, I work from a dedicated second-floor studio that includes areas for pastel painting, oil painting, framing, and storage for supplies and frames.



One of my next goals is to learn how to build my own floater frames for my oil paintings! I am currently setting up a workshop and shopping for a miter saw and other equipment.

The most rewarding part of my artistic journey has been the connections I've made with so many other - creating long lasting relationships with my art friends, and embracing the endless opportunity to learn, grow, and discover something new every day!

Debbie's list of awards, shows, and more [can be found here](#)

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ART SHOWS & EXHIBITIONS

MAC Teachers' Summer Exhibition

June - Sept 2026

Summer Gallery Hours: By Appointment

Phone (860) 467-6353 or info@marlborougharts.org

This exhibit highlights the creative and colorful artwork of some of our skilled MAC teachers. It offers students and visitors a chance to explore and appreciate their work in a variety of mediums including oil, pastel, watercolor and fiber.



Lori Neumann

Lori Neumann studied at the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts and continues her artistic education through ongoing workshops and art retreats, believing that learning is a lifelong part of the creative process. Her work focuses on the expressive use of color and texture, drawing inspiration from animals, local farms, and the surrounding landscapes.

Lori enjoys sharing creativity with others and believes that everyone is an artist, each with a unique voice and way of seeing the world.

Her workshops encourage exploration, confidence-building, and personal expression, welcoming students of all experience levels. In addition to fine arts, Lori is a fiber artist and teacher through Menagerie by Lori, working with fiber from her own farm in Salem, CT and other local farms, further connecting her teaching to place, material, and process.



Gabrielle Castle

Gabrielle Castle is a 25-year-old figurative and portrait painter from the western mountains of Maine. Her work blends traditional techniques with contemporary flair, marked by masterful use of color, intricate detailing, and striking composition. Early on, she was introduced to the works of Rembrandt, Da Vinci, Renoir, Sargent, and Degas

and found endless inspiration in their mastery. Her vision captures the interplay of light, shadow, color, and expression, crafting compelling narratives through the faces she paints. Gabrielle will be teaching an introduction to portrait painting in September. Watch for announcements for more details.



Alan James

Alan James is a highly respected award-winning watercolor artist, teacher and internet TV host. His art graces the walls of many private and corporate collectors worldwide.

Alan was the East Coast America host of the TV show Colour In Your Life and currently teaches watercolors at his studio in Deep River, CT, Jerry's Artarama, The Northeast

Connecticut Art Guild, and at the historic Marlborough Art Center. Additionally, his five-star rated online School called ‘Watercolor Secrets’ is now operational offering four dynamic courses.

Alan’s passion is impressionism and his methodology for teaching this genre is simple yet comprehensive.

Consider that finishing touch to a room in your home with a purchase of original & unique artwork created by our talented MAC teachers. You’ll be supporting both the artist & the MAC while acknowledging their incredible creativity.

Marlborough Arts Center Solo Arts Exhibition

Marlborough Town Hall MAC Gallery / On Exhibit May - July

Linda Gotta



Linda Gotta’s artistic journey has been significantly influenced by her upbringing in a creative family. Her mother was an artist, and her father was a builder. For the past two and a half decades, Linda has dedicated her life to the art of pastel painting, although she has also explored working in watercolor and acrylic.

Linda’s artistic endeavors are characterized by her unwavering pursuit of capturing the inherent beauty of the natural world. Her compositions often feature landscapes of farms, beaches, and woodlands, as well as intimate views of flowers, animals, and birds. Linda’s mastery of color and light is evident in her use of vibrant hues with soft, impressionistic edges. Light and shadow play a pivotal role in her compositions, adding depth and dimension to her work.

Throughout her artistic career, Linda has actively sought to enhance her skills and knowledge through workshops and classes. Her work has garnered recognition and accolades, including the prestigious “Best in Show” award from the Connecticut Pastel Society for her painting titled “On the Ridge.”

Additionally, she received the “Best Floral” award from the SCAA members’ show for her work titled “Meadow.”

Linda’s artistic achievements extend beyond individual recognition. She is particularly proud of being selected for the Spring 2020 Pastel Journal magazine’s “Pastel 100” list for her abstract painting titled “Timber.”

For information about Linda’s paintings please check with Barbara Lazzari in the Town Hall’s Tax Collector’s Office (860) 295-6205, or contact the **Marlborough Arts Center:**

860-467-6353 office

860-926-7500 text

email info@marlborougharts.org

Upcoming Solo Exhibitions at the Marlborough Town Hall:

Arlene Cavalieri

August - October, 2026

The solo exhibitions at the Marlborough Town Hall are open to the public Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM, Tuesday 8 AM - 7 PM and Fridays from 8 AM to Noon. The town hall is located at 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT.

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CLASSES

Sumi-E: Serenity in Japanese Painting

Saturday July 25th, 10:00 AM- 12:30 PM

Instructor: Christine Allison

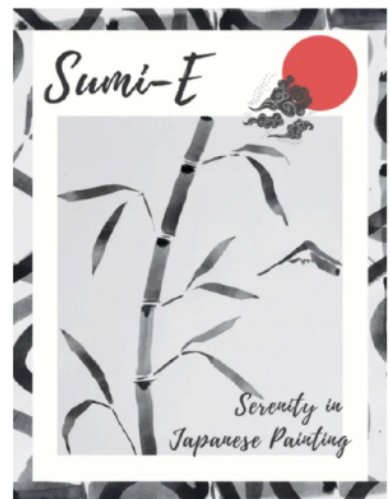
Level: Artists of all levels

When: Saturday, 10:00 AM- 12:30 PM

Where: Marlborough Arts Center, Lower Level Classroom

Cost: \$65 plus \$10 materials fee

[More Class & Registration Info](#)



Upcoming Classes

August:

- **Watercolor & Gouache** with Rebecca Moran

September:

- Introduction to **Portrait Painting** in Oils with Gabrielle Castle
- Learn to Play **American Mahjongg** with Barbara Hahn.

To receive advance notice and early registration of classes become a member - starting at only \$25. [More membership info here](#)



EVENT CALENDAR

Go to the Marlborough Arts Center website [Calendar of Events](#) to see details on our classes, performances, art shows and more.



MAC NEWS & UPDATES!

[On our News & Updates webpage](#) you can read about the latest class offerings, shows, performances, award winners, previous newsletters and more.



VOLUNTEERING

We appreciate and thank all our volunteers, past, present & future. You help keep the Marlborough Arts Center a vibrant community resource!

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 now and then, or investing more time, it all makes a meaningful difference!

Please email us at info@marlborougharts.org or call (860) 467-6353 and leave a message. **Or text us:** 860-926-7500. Thank you in advance!

Social media opportunity: We need to occasionally update our Facebook and Instagram posts. Can you help? Please contact Marc to find out more: info@marlborougharts.org or text to: 860-926-7500. Thank you!

Volunteer Opportunities

1. **Gallery Sitting** – during our public exhibit hours, usually from 1:00 – 4:00pm Sat. or Sun. 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 opportunities you can choose from.

🎨 In future editions look for more inspiring articles including;

- Spotlight featuring tours of members' art studios
- MAC On The Road - visits to art galleries & museums.
- If you enjoy writing please consider contributing to the MAC's newsletter.
Send your idea(s) to: info@marlborougharts.org

*"I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way
– things I had no words for." ~Georgia O'Keeffe*



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

860-467-5363 office | 860-926-7500 text

info@marlborougharts.org

www.marlborougharts.org