



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2026

WELCOME BACK

Last week I was reading an article titled *25 Reasons it is Great to be an Artist*. As I arrived at the last item, the #1 reason, I was in complete agreement with the choice. It was, “You get to be surrounded by a community of other artists- an artist community that is filled with artists of all ranges of progression of skills and styles.” It went on to explain that there is value in having a community with a common passion, which we certainly are fortunate to have here in the Saco Bay Artists. We all have varied skills, interests, and media, but what unites us is our love of art. I am always in awe of our guest artists and how we all connect to them and ask such interesting questions. Even when a guest uses a different medium than our chosen one, we find connection, learn and in turn bring fresh insight to our own work. As we head into a new year, my hope- for all of us- is that we work together to continue creating a safe place where we all can learn, be inquisitive and find support. Thank you for being a member of the Saco Bay Artists and helping us to become the vibrant, thriving art community that we are today. ~ Dr. Heather L. R. Fountain, Chair, SBA

SBA MEETINGS AND OPEN STUDIO “DROP-INS”

Saco Bay Artists meet from March through December on the second Monday of the month (except for holiday weeks). All are welcome so feel free to bring anyone who is interested. The meetings are held from 10:30 am -12:30 pm at the Saco Parks & Rec Center at 75 Franklin Street in Saco.

The next meeting will be on March 9. Make a note of it! And please let HeatherFountain know if you want to put anything on the meeting agenda.

We also host open-studio “drop ins” in Room 106 at the Rec Center on most non-meeting Mondays from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm for those who would like to get together to paint, create & chat. Ellen Pelletier coordinates these meet ups by sending around an email to interested members on Sunday or Monday mornings – please email Pastelpainter84@gmail.com if you'd like to be on that list. Everyone on this list should reply-all to Ellen's emails and if at least 3 people are coming, the session is on!

MEMBERSHIP

If you have not renewed your membership for 2026 please remember that **membership begins 1/1/26**, regardless of when a member joined the previous year—except for those joining in November or December. **Dues must be collected by the first meeting of the year, March 9**, The amount is \$45, with an additional \$10 charge if received after March 9th. If you have not renewed your membership, please bring it to Cathy Turpin at our meeting, or mail it to Saco Bay Artists C/O Vicki Lowe 47 Spruce Street, Foxboro, MA 02035 (Oct-April) and P. O. Box 7100, Ocean Park, ME 04063 (May-Sept).

HELP NEEDED

Although Art Morrissette agreed to serve as Newsletter Editor he will be undergoing complete shoulder replacement surgery in March and will be unavailable during his recovery to serve. If anyone feels called to serve *temporarily* for that period, Art assures them that his predecessor Christine Labaree has made the task surprisingly easy with a template. People provide information and you add it to the template. He would love to show someone how to do this before his surgery if possible. Please let Art know if you are willing to serve in this capacity. afmorris41@gmail.com



Spotlight: Mary Brunner by Faylinda Kodis

MARY GRETO-BRUNNER has been a painter her entire life. She divides her time between New York and Maine, having moved to the Pine Tree State three years ago. Mary joined Saco Bay Artists during her first year here and is grateful for the friendships she has formed through SBA. She especially enjoys attending the meetings.

After studying at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, Mary began her career as a fashion designer. Starting a family interrupted that path, and when she returned to the workforce, she found that self-employment offered the best balance. For 15 years, Mary and her sister ran a floral design company, Inspiration Floral Artistry, Inc. providing event floral arrangements. She remembers this work as being filled with laughter, collaboration, and creativity. Mary also owned a decorative-painting business, using trompe l'oeil techniques in clients' homes.

In 2016, Mary and her husband completed the Camino Francés, a 500-mile pilgrimage from France to Spain. The journey took 40 days and remains one of the most significant experiences of her life.

When Mary settled in Maine, she found herself dissatisfied with her figurative work and began focusing on abstraction. Political themes have also emerged in her recent art. She is currently developing a series about women, created in response to the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

To see more of Mary's work, visit her website: www.marygretobrunner.com

SACO BAY ARTISTS WEBSITE

For new or current members who have an online presence for their art—either a dedicated website, Instagram feed or Facebook page—you have the option to have the SBA website link to that page (see the Artists tab at the top here: <https://www.sacobayartists.org/>). If you'd like to have your page added, please contact Vicki Lowe, our membership chair, so she can provide our web manager, Stephen Beckett, any updated or new information he needs to add,

ART OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming art events of interest:

- Sylvia Orchard continues her **Painting & Sketching Studio at Libby Library in Old Orchard**, starting on Fri. Feb.6th to Fri. March 27th. for 8 weeks, from 11-2:00. This is no charge for this get together! Come create your paintings & drawings! This is open for beginners and advanced too! Call for more info 934-4351 or or Sylvia 934-2930. Hope to see you there!
- Anne Alexander shared the following info about **free artist workshops** being offered across our state.
 - **Lights Out and Maine Arts Commission** are traveling around Maine with the new Creative Career Lab. Visiting 8 towns to share resources, skills and offer folks an opportunity to network in their communities. Join us to strengthen connections with regional and statewide artist support networks. Learn about arts advocacy efforts through the Cultural Alliance of Maine. Registration required, information on poster
 - Build professional skills in a welcoming, informal setting
 - Create or update a CreativeGround artist directory profile to increase visibility
 - Learn about Assets for Artists, including free webinars and funding resources
 - Explore the Artists Thrive framework for sustainable creative careers
 - Connect with Maine Arts Commission tools, grants, and services

CREATIVE CAREER LAB
A MAINE ARTS COMMISSION + LIGHTS OUT PROJECT

FREE SKILL BUILDING
for artists, craftspeople + creative entrepreneurs

MAINE ARTS COMMISSION LIGHTS OUT

Registration Required
Learn more mainearts.maine.gov

The image shows a map of Maine with red location pins for Presque Isle, Farmington, Bangor, Augusta, Lewiston, Damariscotta, Portland, and Biddeford. The Creative Career Lab logo is in the top left, and the text 'FREE SKILL BUILDING for artists, craftspeople + creative entrepreneurs' is in the bottom right of the map area. At the bottom of the image are logos for the Maine Arts Commission and Lights Out, along with a QR code and registration information.

Farmington | Monday, February 23, 2026
5:00–7:00 PM Lincoln Auditorium, 270 Main Street

Bangor | Tuesday, February 24, 2026
5:00–7:00 PM Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow Street

Presque Isle | Wednesday, February 25, 2026
5:00–7:00 PM Isle Public Library, 39 Second Street

Lewiston | Tuesday, March 3, 2026
5:00–7:00 PM L/A Arts, 168 Lisbon Street

Augusta | Thursday, March 5, 2026
5:00–7:00 PM Lithgow Public Library, 45 Winthrop Street

Damariscotta | Monday, March 9, 2026
5:00–7:00 PM Skidompha Public Library, 184 Main Street

Portland | Tuesday, March 10, 2026
5:00–7:00 PM Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square

Biddeford | Wednesday, March 11, 2026
5:00–7:00 PM McArthur Library, 270 Main Street

Virtual Session | Thursday, March 19, 2026
5:00–7:00 PM Via Zoom

- Art shows with deadlines coming up.

South Portland - Art in the Park

Saturday Aug. 8, 2026. Mostly a painter show. They

allow just a small percentage of 3-D.

Anne has done it as a sculptor, for the past 2 years now and it has been my highest \$\$ one day show the last 2 years. That being said there are about 150 painters in this show, so a lot of competition, especially for realist landscape painters. I think one needs to advertise to one's own collectors, or to have work that is somewhat different to do well in at this show. Prizes are given to painters. (Not sure how many). They open up registration on 1/30/26

<https://www.artintheparkmaine.com/for-artists>

Last year's fee was \$125.

Brunswick Outdoor Arts Festival - Saturday Aug. 15th

A large show of about 100 artists and fine craftspeople. They give many awards in different categories. This has been a solid show for Anne the past 5 years. Kathy Angel Lee also did this show for some years. Excellent attendance. Insurance required.

<https://www.brunswickoutdoorartsfest.com/>

Fees: 2024 Award Winners: \$165 (jury fee waived) , 2024 Returning Artists: \$180 (jury fee waived)

All Other Artists: \$195.00 (includes jury fee of \$15)

Gallery 302 Art in the Park in Shorey Park Bridgton Saturday July 18th 9-4:45. Fine Artists and Craftspeople. Fee: \$90. <https://www.gallery302.com/art-in-the-park>. Although not the highest in sales, Anne enjoys doing this smaller sale. Nice location with a town beach to take a dip in before packing up on a usually hot day. A local church sells food and coffee. People with lake houses come to this sale.

Yarmouth Clam Festival. July 17,18,19th 2026 Anne has not done this sale due to long hours and higher fees. But my artist and craftspeople friends often tell me they make the most all year this show. I did visit this one last year. Booths were right up against each other, but came with electricity for fans and lighting. All artists said "you need a fan". Website says they open applications mid January, but not posted yet. Requires insurance.

<https://www.clamfestival.com/activities/arts-crafts/>

- Art can be used as an important ***form of protest***, especially in these turbulent times, and this LumenArtrt (Artists Rapid Response Team) group in Portland provides a forum for that kind of activity: <https://lumenarrt.org/> . I especially liked their tradable "villain cards".

2026 OFFICER SLATE

President/Chair - Heather Fountain

VP/Vice-Chair – Pam Chute

Treasurer - Cathy Turpin

Membership Coordinator - Vicki Lowe

Events Coordinator - Sylvia Orchard

Newsletter Chair/Clerk – Art Morrissette

Member Spotlight Coordinator – Faylinda Kodis

Program/Demo Coordinators – Wayne Turpin & Pat Nash

Scholarship Committee - Gail Caiazzo & Faylinda Kodis

Webmaster - Stephen Beckett

Facebook Coordinator - Kailleigh Archibald

Summer Shows Chair - Mary Brunner; Diane Fumia (assistant)

Outside Shows Coordinators – Robert Dunn

SBA Historian – NEW/OPEN