



Fall/Winter 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the Fall/Winter 2023 Newsletter of the Westfield Art Association (WAA). We had many member shows during 2023 and have a number of things planned for 2024.

2023 Fall Member Shows - Review

Lord Stirling Park Environmental Education Center - “Second Nature”

During the month of September 2023, the Westfield Art Association held its second annual art show at the Lord Stirling Park Environmental Education Center in Basking Ridge, NJ. The theme of the show was “Second Nature.” We had 19 artists displaying 52 pieces of art at the show.

The Lord Stirling Park Environmental Education Center is a wonderful place to show our members’ artwork because it is a large space, we do not have to have volunteers present to watch the artwork, and many people from the community visit the Center for classes and education. We spoke with visitors who had young children as well as senior citizens who enjoyed our show. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Center with another annual show during 2024.

If you want to learn more about the Center, please visit their website at <https://www.somersetcountyparks.org/environmental-education-center>.

Westfield Memorial Library – “After the Storm” and “Sweet”

We had two shows at the Westfield Memorial Library in October and November 2023

The “After the Storm” show had 18 of our member artists each displaying a piece. We had a wonderful reception for the show that our members Joy Ann Lara and Julius Carallo coordinated.

The “Sweet” show had 14 of our member artists displaying 17 pieces.

Some of our members sold their pieces in this show.

If you want to learn more about the library, please visit their website at <https://wmlnj.org/>.

Barronfest

We signed up for the Barronfest art festival in Woodbridge on the second Saturday in October. Barronfest is an annual arts and crafts show that allows artists to sell their artwork from booths set up in a local park. The Westfield Art Association was prepared to display and sell members’ artwork from a booth at the show. Unfortunately, bad weather (heavy rain and strong winds) prevented us from attending the show. We hope to attend the next Barronfest in October 2024.



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Upcoming shows in 2024

Center for Creativity – January 2024

We are scheduled to have a window show at the Center for Creativity in Westfield during the month of January 2024. The works that our members provide will be selected by the Center for Creativity Board and will be displayed in the large windows for view from the street. Unlike our show there in 2021, the Center will not be open for viewing of the show. Since the Center will be closed during the month, we will not have a reception for this show. The theme is “Westfield;” we sent out a call for art in mid-November.

Scholarship Benefit Sale

Every year Westfield Art Association gives a scholarship to a high school senior student, selected by the Westfield High School art department chair, who plans to study art after high school. Each year we ask our artists to prepare and donate artwork for an online benefit art sale with the proceeds going to the student selected. We expect to post the online artwork for sale in the spring, possibly in April. More details to come!

If you have any ideas for a theme for the scholarship sale, or any of our shows, please reach out to us by email, at westfieldartassociation@gmail.com.

Springfield Library's Donald B. Palmer Museum – May 2024

Board member Kay Bhasin worked with the director of the Springfield Library and the work of our members will be featured in their Donald B. Palmer museum during the month of May 2024. We will announce the theme and submissions requirements in February so you can create some new artwork for the show. We hope to have a show opening reception in early May. Watch your email for more details!

We are exploring additional shows at the Westfield town hall, Overlook hospital, the Summit Medical Group pavilions in Berkeley Heights, and libraries in the area. We plan to have another annual show at the Lord Stirling Environmental Center in Basking Ridge in September.

Please let us know if you have any ideas of places where our members can show their work or if you want to help us coordinate or find additional show places.

We also hope to continue the tradition of having a plein air event at Brightwood Park in the spring.



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What's next?

Collaboration with the Westfield Library

We are seeking to expand our relationship with the Westfield Memorial Library. We applied for a public grant to coordinate with the library so our members can teach art to senior citizens at the library in 2024. We will know whether we are approved for that shortly and will reach out to our members to see if anyone is interested in teaching a class. We are also hoping to provide an "Artist in Residence" to the library with special benefits for that artist and more opportunities to show artwork, present information and network with the library patrons and residents of Westfield and neighboring communities. More details to come!

Enhancing the WAA Website

We plan to expand the WAA website to show a member gallery for each artist who provides information about themselves and artwork to share online. We also hope to add online copies of artwork that is displayed at each of our member shows. This will allow people who cannot attend the shows in person to view the artwork and will allow us to share our artwork and shows over the internet.

Member Meetings

We will continue to have member meetings at the library where members can hear about the latest happenings in the Association, share their artwork with other artists, seek feedback on art processes and works in progress and learn from other artists. We plan to have a session about

framing options for artists, both do it yourself and professional opportunities, and a "how to wire your painting for hanging" session. We have a great community of artists who are willing to share their knowledge and expertise.

Grow the WAA! Renew your membership! Invite new artists and those who appreciate great art!

The fees for membership in the WAA remain very inexpensive compared to other associations and are a bargain given all the benefits of being a member. The annual fees are currently \$60 for a family (two adults in the same household), \$45 for an individual, \$35 for a senior (age 65 and up), and \$15 for a student in high school grades 9-12 or a full-time college student.

Membership benefits include no application fees for member shows, free member educational programs, free admission to plein air events, online promotion of artwork, and membership in a community of great artists. The WAA will remind you each year when your membership is up for renewal, or you can email and ask if you are curious.

We would love for our association to continue to grow. Invite other artists you meet, and feel free to invite anyone who is interested in art in general. We would love to expand our program offerings to include people who love art but who may not be motivated to produce their own artwork.



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The Westfield Art Association is a non-profit organization that has been supporting local artists since 1922. The Association is run totally by volunteers on the Board of Directors and the Officers of the Association. Here is a list of the current Board of Directors:

Board of Directors: Kay Bhasin, Maxine King, Sam Mooney, and Barbara Uhr.

Officers:

President: Darrin Owens

Vice President: Francesca Azzara

Secretary: Sharon Reed

Treasurer – Mariya Kavalov

Officers are also on the Board of Directors.

We are seeking more volunteers to help direct the Association for the future! There are many committees that need help and would love to have more members join and provide ideas and assistance.

Learn more about the Westfield Art Association on our website, www.westfieldartassociation.org

If you have any questions or are interested in helping out fellow artists, please send us an email at westfieldartassociation@gmail.com.

Happy holidays to you and your families. See you in 2024!