



Bedford Arts and Crafts Society Newsletter March 2023

Dear BACS friends,

As always, I hope you find some items of interest in this newsletter. Wishing you happy explorations and discoveries as spring takes root on the 20th. (I wrote that last sentence on Saturday as the snow drifted down outside my window.) Happy St. Patrick's Day too!

Sylvia



In Memoriam: Evelyn Rice

We begin this newsletter on a sad note. Longtime BACS member **Evelyn Rice** has passed away. A past BACS president and an honorary member, Evelyn also served the club in many other capacities. These include vice president; chair for Social, Publicity, Historian, and Newsletter; and more.

Evelyn enjoyed painting in watercolor and took art classes with **Margrit Mason** and **Valeria Lanza**. The construction of a handcrafted, fully furnished doll house by BACS members was a particular labor of love for Evelyn. And she also delighted in crafting unique favors for our holiday parties, often assisted by her daughter **Judy Rice**, a BACS member at the time.

We will miss Evelyn's warmth, kindness, high energy, and courageous spirit in the face of notable personal hardships. Indeed, she was a role model for all of us.



Evelyn with Anita Feld (left) and Alba Kenney (right)

BACS Executive Board Openings

We have open positions on the BACS board for two elected positions—president and vice president—as well as vacancies for two appointed offices: head Membership Chair and Historian. If you are interested in taking on any of these positions, please contact **Laura Wallace** at laura.b.wallace@gmail.com. Laura is heading the Nominating Committee, along with **Heidi Trockman** and **Eileen Larsen**. Serving on the board is a great way to help shape the future direction of BACS.



The BACS Spring Luncheon Is Coming

We need help planning our spring luncheon, a much-anticipated annual event. Social chair **Eileen Larsen** is looking for volunteers to help her brainstorm some fun plans for the occasion. If you are interested, contact Eileen at egavinlarsen@gmail.com. The tentative date for the luncheon is June 3. Details will follow in our next newsletter.

LAST CALL: March BACS Workshop: Create a Floral Arrangement Using Design Principles



Don't miss our in-person floral arranging workshop on Saturday, March 11, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Floral artist **Cindy Mattson** will guide participants in creating a unique arrangement using beautiful spring flowers--pussy willows, daffodils, tulips, irises, and more.

This workshop will be held in the Upper Fellowship Hall at the First Church of Christ, Congregational, 25 Great Road, Bedford, MA. There is a \$40 materials

fee payable to the instructor with cash, check, or Venmo.

This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Bedford Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



April BACS Workshop: Needle-Felted Wool Painting of a Spring Garden with Elizabeth Stubbs

Watch for the announcement and sign-up info for our April workshop. The delightful **Elizabeth Stubbs** will lead the group in needle-felting a spring garden scene. Something different! The location will be the First Church of Christ, Congregational. Save the date: Saturday, April 15, 1:00-4:00 p.m. This event is sponsored in part by the Bedford Cultural Council/ Mass Cultural Council.



Felted Painting by Elizabeth Stubbs

BACS Art Show at First Parish Church on the Common



The BACS members' art show continues at the First Parish Church, Unitarian Universalist, in Bedford through March 30. The gallery is generally open on weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., but visitors should call the office at 781-275-7994 before going, to be sure the gallery is accessible on a given day.

The show ends on March 30. A representative of the gallery's exhibit committee will be present at 10:00 a.m. that day to supervise the art pickup. Thanks to all members who participated!

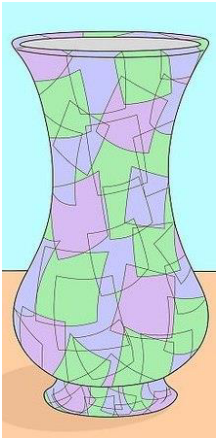
Chris Wojnar and Sylvia Mallory taking a break at the reception for the First Parish Church's BACS art show

Bedford Cultural District News

A town working group is researching the possible creation of a Bedford Permanent Outdoor Performance Space (Bedford POPS) within the Bedford Cultural District. This covered facility, which would have lighting and electricity, could potentially be used for BACS activities such as the weekly crafting sessions and some of our demos and workshops. The location is TBD. Stay tuned for more info on what could be a fabulous new resource for BACS and the town. Meanwhile, if you have ideas as to how BACS would benefit from, and possibly use, the Bedford POPS, please e-mail them by March 13 to **Judi Babcock**, judibabcock@gmail.com.

The Cultural District Partnership produces the Bedford Cultural Events flier, published several times a year. BACS member **Doris Smith**, *The Bedford Citizen's* Arts and Cultural reporter, recently wrote about the spring edition of this handy guide to town art and cultural events and points out where to find it. See <https://www.thebedfordcitizen.org/2023/03/the-bedford-cultural-districts-spring-events-calendar-is-now-available/>

BTW: *The Bedford Citizen* (for those who don't know about this town treasure) is a handy online newspaper. It's free, informative, and fun to read. If you don't already subscribe and would like to receive it daily in your inbox, go to <https://us11.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=131094c29d7398232e3da624a&id=714e1573bd>



Wednesday Crafting, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Weekly

Here's the Wednesday crafting schedule for March. Check your e-mail for updates via **Gail Terrell's** informative weekly blasts.

- March 8: Bring your unfinished project
- March 15: Decorate a candy bowl using oil paint markers with **Judi Babcock**
- March 22: Make beautiful cards from **Marita Hartshorn's** art
- March 29: Turn a plain glass vase into a work of art

Kudos to Our BACS Service Project Crafters

A resounding round of applause goes to the many BACS Wednesday crafters who contributed to recent service projects. You know who you are! You do our club proud. **Susan Schwartz** provided the following tally of items produced and donated this winter to the Bedford Food Bank:

Cards with Envelopes:

- Thanksgiving = 304
- Season's Greetings = 211
- Happy Valentine's Day and/or Thinking of You = 171

Knitted Garments:

- Ear Warmers = 2
- Fingerless Mittens = 3
- Mittens = 1
- Hats = 107



This adds up to an impressive total of 799 handcrafted items!! Susan thanks BACs for this hugely successful community-helping-community activity.

BACS Members' Work on Exhibit

Artwork by **Sylvia Mallory** and **Gloria Tsai** will be on display at an evening art reception on March 17 at Barrett Sotheby's International Realty, 51 Great Road, Bedford. Details to follow when available.

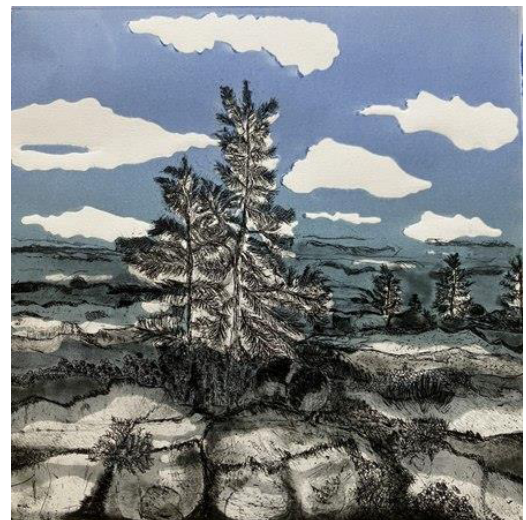


Kudos to the many BACS members who have had work accepted in the Bedford Library's Biennial Community Art Show. A reception is planned on Sunday, March 19, 5:00–6:00 p.m. Plan to see this diverse show in support of your BACS colleagues whose work is represented: **Judy Babcock, Florence Como, Maria Green, Brian Guay, Ellen Hurley, Kati Oates, Taline Saatjian, Namrate Siviya, Doris Smith, Gail Terrell, and Laura Wallace.**

Summer Tanager Family; art quilt by Gail Terrell from the library show

Maria Green's copper etching of a tree is on display in the annual Members' Juried 2 (MJ2) show at Concord Art through March 23. This show features collage, crafts, drawing, graphics, mixed media, photography, and printmaking. If you go to the exhibit, Maria suggests that you also check out the four-color copper etching done by her studio mate **Zoey Anderson.**

<https://concordart.org/exhibition/members-juried-2-collage-crafts-drawing-graphics-mixed-media-photography-printmaking-2023/>



Maria's etching *A Maine Moment* from the MJ2 show at Concord Art



An intuitive drawing by **Namrata Siviya** (left) also was accepted in the Members' Juried 2 show at Concord Art.

Discomfort by Namrata Siviya from the MJ2 show at Concord Art

Classes at Bedford Recreation

The Bedford Recreation Department is offering four spring classes co-sponsored by BACS, as follows. Thanks to Classes co-chairs **Kathy Morse** and **Heidi Trockman** for making these arrangements and keeping us well informed about them.

Tissue Paper & Watercolor Texture with Nan Rumpf

Monday 5/8, 10.00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., & Tuesday 5/9, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$70

Watercolor Journeys: Organic and Plants with Susan McFarlane

Thursdays 5/11–5/25 (3 weeks), 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$90

Floral Workshop with Cindy Mattson

Saturday 5/13, 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

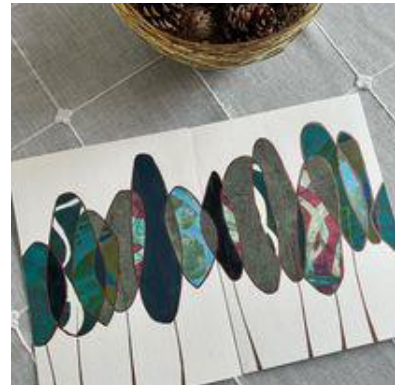
Cost: \$50

Gel Print Collage Workshop with Taline Saatjian

Friday 5/19, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$35

Collage by Taline



Online registration is open. You can register at this link:

<https://www.bedfordma.gov/231/Recreation>. Or you may call (781) 275-1392 during business hours to enroll. Support BACS by taking one or more of these fun co-sponsored classes!

Other Classes

Our area abounds with options for art and craft classes and workshops. Here are a couple of teaching resources to consider.

Rockport Art Association and Museum

The Rockport Art Association and Museum (RAA&M) seems to be expanding its educational resources. Indeed, RAA&M is offering a tasty menu of spring workshops, online art courses, and weekly in-person classes featuring painting, drawing, sketching, color and design, and collage. Check out the choices at <https://www.rockportartassn.org/education-schedule>

Bain Studio Gallery, Lexington

Peter Bain (with whom a number of BACS members have taken classes) has opened a studio/gallery in Lexington where he is painting, teaching, and showing work. He plans to offer 6-week-long courses in the new space throughout the year. He will also continue to teach at

LexArt, with longer 8- and 9-week courses. Bain Studio Gallery, 4 Muzzey St, 2nd Floor, Lexington; pbain1@gmail.com.

Calls for Art

Jacob Wren Throckmorton Annual Art Show at the Bedford COA, April 8

The **Jacob Wren Throckmorton** Art Show will take place at the Bedford COA on Saturday, April 8. The exhibit showcases senior artists' work and honors the memory of Jacob, a teen COA volunteer who passed away at a young age. The COA will collect art and craft entries the week before the show. Details at Bedford COA, 12 Mudge Way, Bedford; find the March newsletter with details at <https://www.mycommunityonline.com/organization/bedford-council-on-aging>.

"Wild: A Spring Awakening" at the Belmont Gallery of Art, May 11–June 25

Shake off winter's slumber and celebrate the spring season by entering work in the Belmont Gallery of Art's next show, "Wild: A Spring Awakening." The gallery is seeking art that captures plants, flowers, and humans' wild neighbors emerging into spring. Both abstract and representative art are welcome in a wide variety of media. Up to three submissions per artist are allowed. The entry deadline is April 10. For additional information: <https://virtualbga.org/call-for-art>



Virtual Demo to Enjoy: The Gilded World of Isabella Stewart Gardner



This virtual demo, sponsored by the Friends of Lexington's Cary Library, will explore Isabella Stewart Gardner's life, friends, travels, and collections. She broke all kinds of rules while setting up her museum. She arranged things the way she wanted, creating relationships between objects that may at first escape us. What is left for us is to marvel at the space she created and filled with beautiful things. The presenter, **Mary C. Woodward**, has spent more than 40 years in the museum and historic home business.

For additional information and the registration link for this virtual event, go to <https://caryllibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/virtual-the-gilded-world-of-isabella-stewart-gardner/>.

Special Event to Enjoy: The Umbrella Open Studios, March 18–19

The Umbrella Arts Center in Concord has announced the line-up of live demos for this year's Open Studios. Drop by on March 18 and 19 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to meet the artists, learn about their process, take in a live demo, and share in celebrating their work. Umbrella Arts Center, 40 Stow Street, Concord; <https://theumbrellaarts.org/studio-arts/open-studios>

Saturday, March 18

Jean Lightman, Oil Painting/Studio 306A: 1:00-1:30 p.m.

Paul Ruhlman, Woodworking/Makerspace: 2:00-2:30 p.m.

Barbara Willis, Fiber Arts/Studio 210: 3:00-3:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 19

Katie Bosley Sabin, Ceramicist/2nd floor hallway, outside Ceramic Sale (224): 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Paul Ruhlman, Woodworking/Makerspace: 3:00-3:30 p.m.

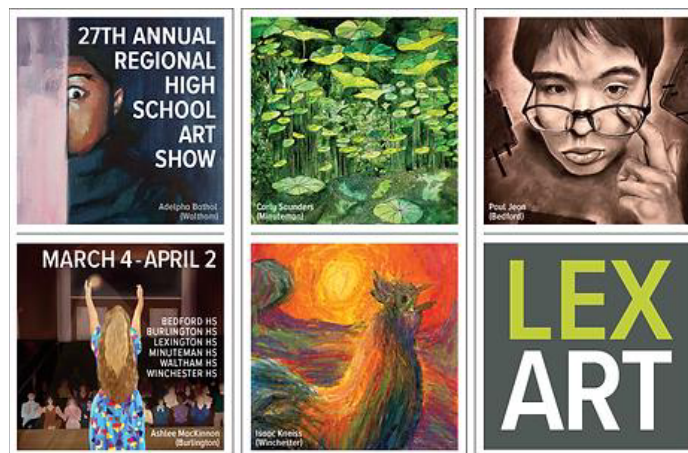
Lonnie Harvey, Printmaking/Studio 111: 4:00-4:30 p.m.



Exhibits to See

27th Annual Regional High School Exhibit through April 2 at LexArt

Featuring the work of students from Bedford, Burlington, Lexington, Minuteman, Waltham, and Winchester high schools, this exhibit showcases the creativity and innovation of area students and high school art programs and helps raise funds for LexArt's high school scholarship program. Lexington Arts and Crafts Society, 130 Waltham Street, Lexington; (781) 862-9696; <https://www.lexart.org/exhibit-information/-annual-regional-high-school-exhibit>



“Close Up: It’s a Small World” at the Grace Chapel Art Gallery through April 22

The opening reception for the Grace Chapel Art Gallery’s new show, “Close Up: It’s a Small World,” will take place on Saturday, March 11, 4:00–6:00 p.m. At 5:00 that day, watercolorist **Kristin Stashenko** will give a talk and demo. “Close Up” will run until April 22. Grace Chapel, 59 Worthen Rd., Lexington; <https://www.grace.org/artgallery/>.



Day Is Done by Mark Zelermeyer from “Close Up”

“Seeing Is Not Believing: Ambiguity in Photography,” Coming to the Currier Museum of Art Later in March



Many photographers play with ambiguities—creating images that question what is real. Perspective, lighting, and close-up details can radically distort the look of objects. These distortions can be both bewildering and delightful.

This exhibition, spanning the history of photography from its birth to the present, explores photographs that make us question what we are looking at. Still life photography, abstract images, and manipulated photographs heighten our sense of wonder. Can we ever trust what we see in a photograph? Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash Street, Manchester, NH; check the museum’s website later in the month for more details: <https://currier.org/>

“The Best of Quilting in Canada” and “Southern Quilts” at the New England Quilt Museum, continuing through April/May

The New England Quilt Museum in nearby Lowell has launched its new season with two exciting regional exhibits. “The Best of Quilting in Canada” runs through May 6, and “Southern Quilts” will be showing until April 15. New England Quilt Museum, 18 Shattuck Street, Lowell, MA; <https://www.neqm.org/on-view-index>



Quilt from the collection of Mary Kerr

New Social Media Chair

Taline Saatjian is our new chair for Social Media. She will administer the BACS Facebook page and investigate creating a BACS Instagram account. If you would like to contribute ideas to these efforts, contact Taline at talineks70@gmail.com

And remember to check out our Facebook page (Bedford Arts and Crafts Society) at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/5120028704785100>. You can share, comment, like, and more. The more participation we have, the more informative and inspiring this space will be.

Artist Support Group

The artist support group is an informal meeting of BACS members. We show what we are working on, ask for suggestions, and share information about resources, materials, and opportunities.



The next meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8, at the home of **Mary Jane St. Amour**. If you wish to attend via Zoom, please let **Judi Babcock** know at least one day in advance: judibabcock@gmail.com.

You can sign onto the support group with this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81678201720?pwd=a28rZ0k5eVZKakxSRTNxQWR1NkRBZz09>

Namrata shows her work at a recent meeting of the artist support group.

See you next month.

Happy spring!

