

CHELMSFORD

ART

SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1970

CHELMSFORD ART SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020

Chelmsford Art Society

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"Clooney"

Tom Christiano painted this wonderful pastel of one of his feline friends.

The Power of Art Creativity in a Time of Crisis

Greetings from our CAS Co-Presidents!



For more than 50 years, we have come together in Chelmsford to have an art show and celebrate the 4th of July. However,

in this extraordinary time, we are required to abide by difficult decisions, among them is the cancellation of the Chelmsford July 4th Country Fair and the CAS Art Festival. This is disappointing, not only to the artists but also to those who look forward to viewing the works of the many talented people in our local area. It is a celebration of both art and community spirit. I know I will miss the energy this event has; I will miss meeting all of the artists and seeing their fantastic works.

While we are sad that we had to cancel the last couple of monthly demonstrations, please know that the CAS Board is making plans for the fall schedule. The CAS 50th Anniversary Gala will take place October 16, 2020. In addition, we have a number of workshops planned. We are exploring all our options, and will provide you with updates as soon as we can. We appreciate your patience and support, and as it's renewal time, please renew your membership at this time!

Take care, keep creating, and stay safe!

Barbara Ludinsky
(Co-President and Treasurer)



Hello everyone!

It seems as if a lifetime has passed in the last 3 months! I hope you have all been able to keep safe and

healthy through this most unusual spring. Thank you for all the wonderful art many of you have been sharing! Although I haven't created much art, I have been working hard on projects and ideas for the CAS, such as online shows, services and resources.

Without the funds generated at our 4th of July show, it will be hard to accomplish our goals, including programming and web site updates.

We depend on our members; please help us by renewing your membership, inviting friends to join, and if possible, making a donation. Payment may be made either online or by check.

Please help us continue the proud tradition of 50 years of supporting artists and art in our community. CAS had over 100 active members in 2019, 36 of them new! With imagination and effort we can adapt and grow - even in this crazy COVID 2020.

I miss the community of friends that is the Chelmsford Art Society. I can't wait to see you all again.

Please don't hesitate to reach out during this time with questions, concerns, needs, ideas, or just to say hello.

~ Virtual HUG ~

Elaine Seidel (Co-President and Membership Chair)

News

Schedule of Events

We are hopeful about this Fall's programming, however, we will "wait and see" about rescheduling our postponed spring demonstrations, and will let everyone know as soon as a decision has been made.

The **May 27, 2020 Meeting** is cancelled.

The **CAS Annual July 4th Art Festival**, normally held at the Chelmsford Center for the Arts, will not take place, nor will the Summer Art Exhibit at the Chelmsford Public Library. However, we will be looking into having a virtual online exhibit instead. (More details coming.)

Scholarship candidates are currently being evaluated.

The **CAS Logo Contest** deadline has been moved to October 1, 2020.

Membership Reminder

Dues were due March 31

If you have not yet renewed (or joined!) you may do so online at <http://www.chelmsfordartsociety.com/membership.htm> or mail a check. (See last page for more information.)

February Presentation

Don Ouellette - Watercolor Painting Demonstration

Don gave a fascinating and informative watercolor demonstration at the CAS meeting on February 29th, 2020.

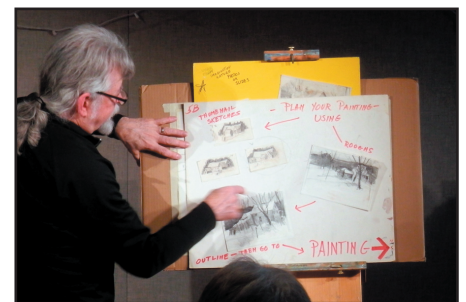
Don has many years of watercolor painting expertise and he was generous in sharing his techniques with his audience. Don specializes in New England sites - capturing and preserving the essence of rural and coastal areas. See more of his art at <http://donouellette.com/>

In addition, the CAS is grateful to Don for donating two of his beautiful paintings to benefit the CAS. **Thank you Don!**

Fortunately for all of us, **Tom Christiano** photographed and videotaped the demonstration for the Chelmsford News Cable TV Show and for the Chelmsford News Facebook group. (Tom is the Producer and Host of the Chelmsford News Show.) The entire demonstration is available on YouTube! Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxGkXgftAfQ&t=186s>

Thank you Don and Tom!



Don Ouellette demonstrating his painting techniques



Member News



Elaine Seidel's photograph, "Curiosity" won an Honorable Mention award the 23rd Annual Regional Juried Show 2020, Newburyport, online at https://newburyportart.org/?page_id=185118&fbclid=IwAR3h-GXADt7PaS2smPe2mxPdX6NoOpqOSVwxY8QU5ER20ycnb4sPPjDZNzg



"Crystal Bowl with Flower"

Esther Donlon's watercolor painting, "Crystal Bowl with Flowers" was accepted into the 70th Annual National Exhibition of Traditional Realism hosted at the Academic Artists Association. This exhibit is online and may be viewed at <http://academicartistsassociation.org/>

Esther painting, "A Tasteful Beginning", is in the RIWS Annual Members Exhibit, this online exhibit may be viewed at <http://www.rhodeislandwatercolorssociety.wildapricot.org/page-1860410>

Mike MacLean is having a "Mayday" sale of his *en plein air* oil paintings. <https://www.mikemacleanfineart.com/>



Keeping the Arts Alive in Our Community

Amidst the disappointment of numerous cancelled or postponed art events, there are a lot of good things happening in the art world.

A few things we've noticed online, email, Facebook:

- Photos or paintings created by the artist/photographer being posted with no explanation, for the sole purpose of spreading more **joy** and less negativity.
- Artists giving lessons remotely, via Zoom, and the lessons being enjoyed and positively received.
- Artists giving remote art lessons for free.
- Artist groups who normally meet on a regular basis, emailing

their creations to each other for feedback, support, and camaraderie.

- More artists taking advantage of the lessons on YouTube, and otherwise via computer.
- Virtual Museum Tours - Many museums are offering free online tours of their exhibits, look online! Here's one link: <https://www.businessstraveller.com/business-travel/2020/04/02/these-museums-are-offering-free-virtual-tours/>
- Libraries offering ways to access the library's resources without having to physically go there (including ancestry.com for free!) – audiovisual downloads, books, instruction, virtual art exhibits, etc.

Art in the Time of Covid 19:

Art Ideas from

Artscope Magazine:

<https://artscopemagazine.com/home/covid-19-online-art-resources/>



"Bouquet with Sunflower" watercolor by **Nan Quintin**

Sharing thoughts - what it's been like to be an artist/art lover during the pandemic

Thank you to those who submitted comments about their experiences during the past few months. Below are some of the remarks received; some contain universal thoughts and feelings that most of us will find are familiar to our own lives.

From **Sue Trepaney**:

"I am taking two of Claire Gagnon's Zoom classes and I find them quite wonderful. I don't like seeing myself on Zoom, but have grown to ignore it and just concentrate on my art projects. Claire is doing a great job managing to teach using Zoom, a medium she has not used before. And she gives her students lots of homework. So, in spite of being sheltered-in-place, I have to remind myself to get my homework done!"

From **Nan Quintin**:

"More than one person has suggested that in order to stay sane right now, do the following: don't listen to the news constantly, eat well, get some exercise and do something creative! I don't mind that I am adding more paintings to my pile of "rejected" or "unfinished" paintings, as long as I am creating – holding a paintbrush, drawing, glueing pieces of paper together – it doesn't matter what or how it comes out. I can listen to my CDs and it takes my mind off of the reality of the day."

From **Julie Montague**:

"My painting has ground to a halt. Have been so focused on what's happening outside my door, that I am barely able to recall the joy that I used to get from painting, as though that was only a dream or from another, long ago era: 'pre-Covid19'. Perhaps part of the reason was that I had no one with whom I could share it!"

From **Wendy Prest**:

"I've been working with my pastels almost every day. In my former life I was busy on 5 out of 7 mornings every week, so I decided at the outset to take advantage of the new free time. I did a series of 12 paintings of scenes in Groton and now I'm working on some abstract/semi abstract subjects for a nice change of pace. I have really appreciated the extra time...most days! At the same time, I really miss my other activities and my friends and family."

"Think Positive. Be Creative. Look for the silver lining."
– The Brush Art Gallery

"Try to learn something new every day." – Anonymous

We are in this storm together, and we will get through it!

From **Sally Ridley**:

"Now I have been able to be more of an observer and less of a doer, and that has definitely sparked some new ideas.

Experiences have been watching the people in my neighborhood as they are out walking, biking, with children and dogs; gardening with family and at my community garden spot; trying to hold a covid 19 social distance yard sale; and keeping in touch with friends by phone and mail.

All of this has helped me cope with the situation. I have been sending simple collages to my friends. I have organized my time in segments for my various activities, such as reading, writing, listening to music, gardening, walking, spring cleaning and family interactions. I live close to family so I am not completely isolated.

I feel that I have more creative energy since I am not going to work and am not driving to get to work. My advice to others is to do what I have been trying to do: Build a structure for each day and stay involved in a number of projects or activities.

My concerns are rather petty - Need a haircut and spending too much time trying to get groceries delivered with online ordering. Having to accept I may not get exactly the food I want. Wondering what is the safest way to get some cash money.

What I see as the new art form is variations on distance watching and distance art. People in my neighborhood put teddy bears and other stuffed animals in their windows for the children to look for. I see a photographer specializing in "window art", taking photos of people sitting or standing at their windows. I read about a retired designer who is sketching covid19 cartoons and mailing them out to his friends and a growing mailing list of interested others.

I was also charmed by the person who was offering the free art supplies. What a great idea."

Online Virtual Art Exhibit

Parish Center for the Arts Gallery, Westford

From the The PCA Board of Directors and the WRAE Co-Chairs:

The PCA is sad to have to cancel our wonderful Westford Regional Art Event. In its place we offer our FaceBook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ParishCenterfortheArts/> as a Pandemic Virtual Art Event where artists and writers of all ages can post a self-portrait, a view from their window, a poem, or a brief prose statement showing how they are experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic and sheltering in place. Please use #PVAE when posting your artwork.

Don't forget to FOLLOW #PVAE, LIKE, SHARE, and HAVE friends do the same! The "winners" of the art event (those with the most "Likes") will be featured on our website!

The Pandemic Virtual Art Event will continue through the end of May. We will extend it month by month as necessary. Email PCA@Westford.org with any questions.

It is a tough time and we have much to learn from each other. Looking forward to your drawings and writings,



Remote Art Classes by Claire Gagnon:
via Zoom: <https://www.chezclaireartschool.com/page/14503/art-classes>

Call for Art

ALL Art Gallery
307 Market St., Lowell MA

Postcards Exhibit
June 19 – Sept. 13, 2020
Open to ALL members and all non-members alike.

Think small and create some post-cards to go up on the walls of the ALL Gallery. The gallery will be open for this show, as well as a virtual online exhibit. Postcards may be purchased from the website.

Unique postcard size, not exceeding 1/4" thickness (4"x6" or 6"x9"); art can be inspired by a color, a theme, a style, or a creative point of view to be accepted for the show.

Entry to this show is open to all artists working in any 2D medium. Student work done under direct supervision is not eligible.

Artists may enter up to 10 works in any medium.

Drop-off work for this show on June 14 (4-6 PM) and June 15 (12-2 PM).

For more info: <http://www.artsleague-oflowell.com/gallery/future/>

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Application for membership to the

Chelmsford Art Society

Please print clearly.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Tel: _____ Amt Enclosed: _____

☐ **New**

☐ **Renewal**

☐ Please check this box if renewing and your information has changed.

Membership Dues:

- ☐ Single: \$30.00
- ☐ Senior (60 and over): \$25.00
- ☐ Family: \$45.00
- ☐ Student: \$25.00 (up to grade 12)

Memberships are valid April 1 to March 31.

Please make checks payable to Chelmsford Art Society

Renew or join online www.chelmsfordartsociety.com, or mail the form and a check to CAS, PO Box 401, Chelmsford, MA 01824; or drop off the form and check at Picture Yourself! Frame Shop and Gallery, 17 Central Square, Chelmsford, MA; or bring it to any of our monthly meetings.

Questions or comments? Contact us at: chelmsfordartsociety@gmail.com

The Chelmsford Art Society values your membership and continued support!