



# Adirondack Pastel Society

News & Notes  
The Pastel Painters Newsletter of Northern New York  
Volume 9 Issue 1  
Spring 2022

## Letter from President Bev Saunders

Hello fellow members!

I have once again taken on the role as president to lead us forward in 2022.

Spring is in the air with new inspirations and opportunities.

I want to thank our past President Carol Runge for her time and energy in leading us in 2021.

I'm very excited that our annual National Show will be held live at View in Old Forge this year. It was a mission of mine from the beginning, as cofounder, to outreach in the Adirondack Region. View Center for Arts and Culture is in the heart of it, with a great reputation and gorgeous facility to host this year's exhibition. I encourage all to participate and support this event.

For 2022, you can count on the traditions we have established, such as our summer plein air event on July 23 at Wiawaka Holiday House in Lake George, the National Show, of course, and our annual members show in October at the Crandall Library in Glens Falls.

As president, my mission is to create opportunities for our members, such as workshops and painting socials as ways to unify our group. Keep an eye out for news about that.

We want to thank you for your support as we continue to grow as a group. I hope you will have a rewarding year with Adirondack Pastel Society!

Sincerely,

Bev Saunders, APS President



Above  
Feminine  
Warrior



Left "and  
God said II"

## 8th Adirondack National Pastel Exhibition: Call for Artists

The Adirondack Pastel Society, has announced the 8th Annual Adirondack National Pastel Exhibition which returning live at View Art Center, Old Forge, opening June 11 through July 31, in the heart of the Adirondacks. Adirondack Pastel Society is accepting entries through [ShowSubmit.com](http://ShowSubmit.com) now through March 29, 2022.

The juried competition is open to all adult artists working in the medium of soft pastel. Please note the dates are earlier than in the past.

To enter go to [www.ShowSubmit.com](http://www.ShowSubmit.com)

The Adirondack Pastel Society is honored to be partnering with View to present this premier pastel exhibition in a return to live exhibits. The live reception at View is June 10, 4-7PM. The exhibit runs through July 31.

Karen Isreal, APS/MC; PSA-MP; PSWC; PPSCC will be the juror for the exhibit. Her work is honored with its inclusion in an exhibition at Pastels of the World in Bourbonnais, France in May 2022. The exhibit honors American Women Pastelists.

***Karen Isreal, APS/MC; PSA-MP; PSWC; PPSCC; CPS- Juror***



Karen Israel's paintings are defined by their dynamic compositions and unique viewpoints. She is influenced by the light and mood of the subject and lets those elements dictate her approach. These subjects are rendered with a strong appreciation for the rigors of formal design coupled with a fearless array of color choices.

Among her many awards, Karen's work placed Fourth in Pastel Journal Magazine's top100 juried competition. She recently achieved Signature status with the American Artists Professional League and she has earned Master Pastelist with the Pastel Society of America and Master Circle with the International Association of Pastel Societies. Karen's work is frequently displayed at the Salmagundi Club, NYC, The Copley Society, Boston and the Lyme Art Association, Ct.

Karen conducts many teaching demonstrations and workshops throughout the United States. Her teaching schedule can be found at: [www.artbykarenisrael.com](http://www.artbykarenisrael.com)

## Adirondack Pastel Society

The Adirondack Pastel Society was established in 2008 and is open to any artist working in the medium of soft pastel and to any person or organization wishing to promote participation in the medium.

APS provides exhibiting opportunities for pastel artists and works to educate and encourage students and professionals in the medium, through workshops, demonstrations and interaction among its members.

APS is a member of the International Association of Pastel Societies (IAPS). For more information or to become a member visit our website:

www.adirondackpastelsociety.com  
adkpastelsociety@gmail.com

71 Lawrence St., Suite 311, Glens Falls, NY 12801

**Bev Saunders - President**  
www.bjsartworks.com

**Patricia Byrne-Varcasia - National Show Chair**  
railroadlady78@gmail.com

**Catherine LaPointe Vollmer - Secretary**  
info@lionheartgraphics.com

**Ronnie Benware - Treasurer**  
benwarer@hotmail.com

**Mark Grasso - Workshop Coordinator**  
mgrasso2@nycap.rr.com

**Diane Leifheit - Newsletter Editor**  
deleifheit@gmail.com

## Member News, Stories, and Works

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Patricia Byrne Varcasia — After working on freight railroads CSX and Conrail, for a total of 40 years, I decided to start a series of railroad paintings. Here are a couple I have painted from a freight yard I worked in and people I worked with. I hope to capture the spirit of hard working people and a painterly quality of

old freight yards, rail cars and trains.

railroadlady78@gmail.com



Suzi Zefting-Kuhn — My pastel titled “Look Up” was juried into the Pastel Society of Western New York’s exhibition at the Art Center of Yates County. The exhibition dates are February 15 - March 27. The Art Center of Yates County is located at 127 Main Street, Penn Yan, NY and open Tuesday-Thursday 10am-5pm, Friday 10am-7pm, Saturday 10am-4pm. It is closed Sunday and Monday. The juror for the exhibition was Aline Ordman.

## GOT NEWS? A great award? A workshop?

Celebrate your challenges won. Tell us how “that paper” works. What are you doing to stay dusty with pastel? Let us know. We want to hear from you. Contact Newsletter Editor Diane Leifheit at deleifheit@gmail.com with new pics of your work. *Name the file!* (Name\_Title.jpg) and send with your current contact info. Categories include exhibits and workshops - send titles, dates, addresses, contacts. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Big thanks** to everyone for contributing to the newsletter.

You all are what makes the APS amazing. Keep painting!  
Artliveslong, Diane

**It's not too late to renew your membership.  
\$30 gets a year's worth of opportunities in the  
Adirondack Pastel Society.  
Look on Page 7 for information.**

“What is now proved was once only imagined.”

William Blake

Jill Alicia Gruben  
— I’ve had successful sales at the Nadur Arts 2nd Annual Juried Art Exhibit, Beyond My Battle: Arts with Heart & Hope Fundraiser, and Saratoga Arts Center Members Show, and commissioned pieces as well as showings at the Adirondack Pastel Society

Members Shows at both Tannery Pond and Crandall Library and a virtual exhibition through Saratoga Arts. In 2022, I am looking forward to my March showing at Arlene’s R Gallery in Albany, Saratoga Coffee Traders in September and at Uncommon Grounds in Albany in November.



## Save the Dates - 2022

### 2022 MEMBER MEETINGS

Monthly, usually 1st Wednesday at 6:00 pm via Zoom. All members are encouraged to attend. Contact: Bev Saunders, President, bjsartworks@gmail.com, for the Zoom hook-up.

### WIAWAKA PAINTING DAY

July 23

APS members are invited to paint plein air all day. Reception & Sale in the Big Tent 5-7pm for work created that day.

Contact for sign up: lf Fuller52@roadrunner.com

### ADIRONDACK NATIONAL PASTEL EXHIBITION

**NOTE! DEADLINES ARE EARLIER.**

Submissions: ShowSubmit.com

Deadline March 29

Exhibit at View, Old Forge June 11 – July 31

Reception: June 10, 4-7 PM

Patricia Byrne-Varcasia - National Show Chair  
railroadlady78@gmail.com

### ANNUAL APS MEMBER SHOW

Dates: October 1-31

Crandall Library, Glens Falls

Reception TBD followed by Annual Member Meeting.

Contact: adkpastelsociety@gmail.com

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Beth Olson — I have been participating in a drawing night with Lise and Bev on Wednesdays. This is a WIP and another of finished piece of a winter stream.



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## Wiawaka Resort APS Paint Out

### Adirondack Pastel Society Plein Air Paintout at Historic Wiawaka on beautiful Lake George.

All APS members are invited to enjoy a day of plein air painting Sunday, July 23 at the idyllic resort of Waiwaka, located on the eastern shore of Lake George. In addition to breathtaking views, there are beautiful gardens and historic buildings to paint as well. Participants should plan to arrive at 8 am or later.

The APS will have the Main Tent to set up for works for sale from the day. The public reception will be 5-7pm. Please bring frames and easels to exhibit your paintings.

To stay overnight at the resort or arrange a lunch reservation, call 518-668-9690 or [www.waiwaka.org](http://www.waiwaka.org) To register for the event, contact: lf Fuller52@roadrunner.com

## 8th Adirondack National Pastel Exhibition Celebrating Pastel 2022 at View Art Center Adirondack Pastel Society



Art: Mark Grasso, Workshop Chair

### Entry Deadline: Tuesday, March 31, 2022

Entry is through <http://showsubmit.com/>

Deadline for receipt of work at View: May 20, 2022

Exhibiting: June 10 - July 31, 2022

Opening reception: June 10, 4-7 PM

Pickup of artwork: August 1, 2022

Location: View, NYS 28, Old Forge, NY

### Eligibility:

This is a national/international open call opportunity for any artist working in soft pastel. Original pastel artwork only. All submissions must be for sale. Artists are encouraged to attend the reception.

This competition is open to all adult artists. All work must be original in interpretation and composition, and completed within the last 3 years, not copied from copyright or published art and not executed in an instructional setting including but not limited to workshops and art classes.

### Awards:

Best of Show: \$650, Second: \$300, Third: \$150, additional cash and merchandise prizes will be awarded.

### Nonrefundable Jurying Fee:

Jurying fee is to be \$35 for two images, \$40 for three images; payable online at [www.showsubmit.com](http://www.showsubmit.com)

**Juror:** Karen Isreal, APS/MC; PSA-MP; PSWC; PPSCC

### Submission Guidelines:

- A maximum of 3 pieces may be submitted for jurying.
- Follow [www.showsubmit.com](http://www.showsubmit.com) guidelines for sizing and submitting entries.
- All entries will be through [www.showsubmit.com](http://www.showsubmit.com)

### About the Exhibition:

Adirondack National Pastel Exhibition 2022 is the eighth annual pastel show, exhibiting live! this year for the first time at View Art Center, Old Forge, NY.

**Contact:** Patricia Byrne-Varcasia - National Show Chair  
railroadlady78@gmail.com



# Member News, Stories, and Works

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Lise Fuller – I thank my Wednesday night pastel get together for finishing these paintings. Bev Saunders, new member Beth Olson and I get together for just a couple of hours on Wednesday evening. It is such a

motivator and there is something so helpful and inspiring about drawing together. I highly recommend it.



Takeyce Walter — I want to share my work being done for Creative February 2022.

28 Days of work in 10 seconds! If you're interested in seeing time lapse video creation of each piece, checkout my Instagram Reels: <https://www.instagram.com/takeycewalter/>



Susan Whiteman—Thanks to Diane for doing our newsletter once again! In the time since the pandemic began I've been exploring other mediums and techniques and have turned a lot of physical pages in my studies, driven too many miles, and purchased way too many art supplies. Most recently I've been studying Tonalism, the late 19th century style of art the is probably best

known by the works of George Inness, James McNeil Whistler, John Henry Twachtman, and Albert Pinkham Ryder. Their works feature a limited palette and have "moments of luminosity" (my own phrase). They are quite stunning, with far less detail than the Hudson River School of painters, and might be said to bridge the gap between that and French Impressionism. If you'd like to learn more, here's the current, written, illustrated tour de force on Tonalism:



A History of American Tonalism, 1880-1920: Crucible of American Modernism by David A. Cleveland.

So far the paintings I've done using some of what I've learned about this style are in oil, but I have been planning to create some pastel landscapes in this style, using underpaintings in either watercolor or dissolved pastels (using underlayments of pastel and a brush dipped in rubbing alcohol to dissolve them on the pastel-ready support). Using this technique lays down the pastel in an immovable layer that doesn't take up any of the textured surface. Whenever I do them I will have a strong base in earth tones, using a value structure, and simplifying my masses. If you've never painted in a medium other than pastel, be assured that you can use many of the same foundational techniques that oil (or other) painters use. As you know, our pastel medium is simply pigment with less binder!

My painting, is an example of my interpretation of Tonalism, though be assured, I am an only an "apprentice" in this style. Happy painting if you decide to experiment with this!



Catherine LaPointe Vollmer I have a show at Roycroft Campus, East Aurora from April 9 - July 2. The reception will be during the museum's Summer Art & Antiques Show, June 25th & 26th, 10am-5pm. The exhibit contains pastel paintings created in the past two years featuring National Park scenes.



Lisa Minnach — I had a good year... a piece accepted in the 7th Annual National Show... quite a few pieces I personally loved, a first place in Pastels in the Massena Artist's Juried Show. I've been working on light and water which seem to be my strong points although the transparency of light sometimes eludes me.

**"Your imagination is an extremely powerful tool."**

**Rhonda Byrne**

David Francis - PSA-MP — My own personal work will probably take a detour this year as I delve into the fantasy art realm that has occupied my attention for the last year or so. So, that means fewer still life paintings to enter into shows, maybe a little step back will be good for the creative juices. "The One Ring" was in the Connecticut Pastel Society National last year and is a take on the Lord of the Rings Fellowship of the Ring. It was a fun piece.



Ronnie Benware - This pastel painting is the 3rd in a series where I have been exploring the reflective qualities of glass on different surfaces. It was adjudicated into the 2021 Adirondack National Pastel Exhibition. As I cannot seem to exhaust this subject matter, you can expect to see more paintings of this nature in the future. You can find me in Studio 311 on the third floor of the Shirt Factory in Glens Falls.



**Imagination is more important than knowledge.  
Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.  
(Albert Einstein)**

Joann Quilivan — I have all been staying isolated from Covid, but this past summer I was asked back to the Hedges to continue teaching beginning pastel to their guests, once a week. What a wonderful experience it was! Beginning in June and continuing through October, I was impressed and happy to see returning guests who have embraced the art of pastel and have continued painting through the pandemic. The Hedges board also commissioned me to do a 30x40 pastel for their great room, which was a massive undertaking for me but I was very pleased to accommodate. Can't wait to go back this summer to see the painting framed and over the fireplace!  
142 Evergreen Road, Indian Lake, 12842 518-223-2813  
joannql@gmail.com joannquilivanart.blogspot.com



Carol Runge — In 2021, I participated in four plein air events held in Keeseville, the 'Adirondack Experience, The Museum on Blue Mountain Lake', Pitney Meadows Farm, and View, Old Forge. I enjoyed

connecting with Adirondack Pastel Society members and onlookers. Everyone was very encouraging.

Jim Griswald – This pastel scene of the Oswegatchie River, I call 'Oswegatchie Oxbox', is a short few steps from my porch here in Rensselaer Falls (not far from Canton). The river has lots of reflective moods. You can kayak from village land through this slough to the main river and on downstream



along wooded shores and marsh. I also like to try Adirondack scenes near Paul Smiths College which has a great trail system through bogs and boreal forests.

I go West every spring and summer to Laramie, WY and Montana and enjoy pastelling in the Snowy Range, WY and in areas along the Yellowstone River not far from Gardiner, MT. Inspiration lies at every turn along these rivers East and West.

# Member News, Stories, and Works

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Corey Pitkin - PSA, IAPS/MC – “2 am”, above, won the Prix de Pastel in the IAPS 2021 Web Show.

“An Introduction” won 2nd Place in the Established Artist category of Dakota Pastels 2021 Pastel Competition Grand Final.

I was invited to exhibit in “The Art of Pastel” exhibition in the Penza Museum in Penza, Russia. Once that show was over 2 of the 3 pieces went on to the Pastel Society of Russia Member’s Exhibition in Moscow. The other is in the museum’s permanent collection.

“These Same Four Walls” won Seventh Place in the Outside The Box category of the Portrait Society of America Members Only Exhibition.

“Blue” won the Silver Award in the 7th Annual Adirondack National Pastel Exhibition.

Dave Francis and I did a dual demo for the Pastel Society of Western New York on Zoom in March 2021. We each painted a shot of whiskey (shocking, I know).

[www.coreypitkin.com](http://www.coreypitkin.com)

Instagram: @coreypitkin

FB: [facebook.com/corey.pitkin](https://facebook.com/corey.pitkin)

See page 8 for workshops.

Constance Dodge — I have nothing to share in pastels, since my Covid project has been to illustrate a book, by a former colleague targeting Middle School kids. The main character is an orange tabby barn cat named Walter and his sidekick, Thurman, a literary rat. The book will be published sometime in April or thereabouts.

I have a friend from college who taught Children’s Literature at the University of Michigan. She told me the illustrator is just as important as the writer. She flipped over my cover design.



Diane Leifheit – It seemed to me a bit of a confusing year. Many commissions had me channeling others ideas. As the end of the year closed I realized I could start channeling my own visions again. I spent January doing 31 in 31 still life paintings small to medium all while contracting and recovering from Covid. Getting to a flow again probably helped my recovery. Some of those pieces are on my website. This plein air painting now hangs in a patrons home. Onward!

Point of View Studio & Rainy Day Gallery

815 State Route 86,  
Gabriels, NY 12939

Instagram: @dianeleifheit

518-651-1938

[www.dianeleifheit.com](http://www.dianeleifheit.com)



**Check out this video!** Wiawaka and Takayce’s demo:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSlh9qE4cNE>

10 minute video on the dock of Lake George at Wiawaka. Summer is coming and it looks like this!

## 2021 APS Accomplishments

- The number of APS members has increased to 55--Thank you!
- The annual newsletter, full of updates and useful information was launched on time. Thank you to everyone who contributed.
- Two new logos were adopted in March 2021. Thank you Catherine LaPointe-Vollmer for the new designs.
- The Adirondack Pastel Society submitted a grant to IAPS for consideration. Please bring back your ideas from the grant winners if you travel to the June 2022 conference!
- The Adirondack Pastel Society members sponsored and contributed to 4 shows: Eden Compton Studio & Gallery Spring Membership Show; the 7th Adirondack National Pastel Exhibition; the Tannery Pond Widlund Gallery fall show; and the annual Crandall Library membership show.
- The Wiawaka Plein Air event was enhanced to support those who wish to sell their artwork. Sadly, bad weather prevented this event from being held, but hopefully these modifications can be brought to the 2022 event. Many thanks to Lise Fuller and Susan Whiteman along with others for their extra work and time spent planning.
- Adirondack Pastel Society artists continue to excel! Many of you have shown elsewhere and won awards. Congrats to Dave Francis and Corey Pitkin for their outstanding work submitted to the IAPS Master Circle competition.
- In September, the Pastelists Studio (Dave Francis, Corey Pitkin, and Matt Kestner) welcomed the Adirondack Pastel Society members to their studio that included abundant refreshments. A bonus tour of the Sandy Hills Art Center inspired us to think of new opportunities for displaying artwork and holding workshops.

## Member News, Stories, and Works

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Ingrid Van Slyke, PSA – I ventured into painting larger pastel paintings this year primarily as encouragement from my professors as I continue to pursue my MFA in painting at The Savannah College of Art and Design. Working in a larger scale is both rewarding and a bit scary, but it holds the same process as developing any painting. Composition, value contrast and



finding that “special something” that asks the viewer to take a longer look and perhaps find a connection. This fall, my painting “Excelsior” was accepted

into the 49th PSA Enduring Brilliance Exhibition. It is one of my pieces in a series of winter landscapes. While painting winter landscapes, I am discovering the many colors of snow and shadow ranging from light pink to dark grey depending on the time of day. Careful observation of the natural world is key in defining the special moments within a landscape. The very cold winter season has kept me inside to paint but I am looking forward to plein air painting this Spring and Summer with fellow pastel painters.

On another note, I illustrated a children’s book this year which can be found on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. The small illustrations were all made in soft pastel and very time consuming but totally worth it! I would love to create more children’s book illustrations in the future.



Jay Costanza— I’m happy to say I was recently juried into the Pastel Society of America and the Fine Arts League of Buffalo.

A picture is first of all a product of the imagination of the artist; it must never be a copy. (Edgar Degas)

## 2022 APS Members

Is your name here? If not - Join!

Pam Agan-Smith  
Ronnie Benware  
Jill V. Burke  
\*Cathy Copeland  
Jay Costanza  
Lynn Couey  
Terry DeArmas  
Connie Dodge  
Kayleigh Peters Falconio  
Dave Francis  
Lise Fuller  
Janine Gibson  
Mark Grasso  
Charlotte Grattidge  
James Griswold  
Jill Gruben  
Joyce Hanson  
Rebecca Harblin  
Shelby Harrison  
Laura Winn Kane  
\*Matthew O. Kestner  
Cristine Kossov  
Lisa LaMothe  
Phyllis Lapi  
Diane E Leifheit  
Christine Macaione-Bilodeau

Robin Lundgren McCondichie  
Mary Lisa Minnich  
Beth Olsen  
Judy O’Neill-Rhea  
M. Janet Palmer  
Corey Pitkin  
Joann Quinlivan  
Anne Ray  
Joan Reid  
Jennifer Richard-Morrow  
Denise Rizzo  
Carol Runge  
Bev Saunders  
Athenia T. Schinto  
Elizabeth Strouth  
Trudi Smith  
Terry Teitelbaum  
Patricia Tribastone  
Scott Tyler  
Kathy Van Loan  
Ingrid Van Slyke  
Patricia Byrne Varcasia  
Catherine LaPointe Vollmer  
\*Takeyce Walter  
Susan Whiteman  
Kristen Woodard



### Adirondack Pastel Society

71 Lawrence Street, Suite 311  
Glens Falls, NY 12801

#### Benefits of APS Membership

1. Vote to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors of APS.
2. Membership to IAPS, benefits listed online.
3. All society members are listed on the APS website.
4. Participate in various APS activities including the Annual Member Exhibit and Adirondack National Pastel Exhibit.
5. Receive APS Newsletter.
6. Post your workshops and exhibits online and in the APS Newsletter.
7. Member workshop discounts.
8. Participate in member demonstrations.
9. Communication network with fellow pastel artists.

**Renew your membership today.**  
**Your support is very much appreciated.**  
**Go to [AdirondackPastelSociety.com](http://AdirondackPastelSociety.com) to renew**  
**and pay for your membership through PayPal.**  
**It doesn’t get any easier!**

## Workshops & Exhibits

\*\*\*\*\*

Corey Pitkin

June 2022 - IAPS Convention, demo No More Flesh-Colored Crayons: Painting Skin in Pastel and workshop Quickly Capturing a Likeness from a Photo

July 2022 - solo show Compton Gallery, Saratoga Springs. In-person outdoor workshop Conquering Natural Light: The Outdoor Portrait on July 16 & 17

August 2022 - online workshop Simplified Chaos: Dynamic Compositions in Pastel with Penn Studio School of Art

September & October 2022: Letting Go - online workshop with the Pastel Society of America

CONTACT: [coreypitkin@gmail.com](mailto:coreypitkin@gmail.com)

## ZOOM into Sketch Club

Tuesday Night Life Drawing  
every Tues, 6:30-8:30pm EST  
nudes & portraits, \$10  
email Corey Pitkin at [coreypitkin@gmail.com](mailto:coreypitkin@gmail.com) for details



We had a really good 2021 at the Pastelists Studio. I think we finished the year with a total of around 20 national exhibitions that the three of us were juried into. The highlight was Corey, Matt and I being juried into the Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod show which necessitated a road trip to the Cape. Corey and I both won awards and my painting found a new home.



**Adirondack Pastel Society**



**Adirondack Pastel Society**

71 Lawrence Street, Suite 311  
Glens Falls, NY 12801

For hard-copy of the Newsletter contact Bev Saunders:  
[bjsartworks@gmail.com](mailto:bjsartworks@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/Adirondack-Pastel-Society>



**In This Issue:**  
**Member News**  
**Adirondack National Pastel Exhibit**  
**Membership Renewal**