

GARTH FAGAN DANCE COMPANY TO PERFORM



Above: *Crow in the Corn* by Phil Hewitt

Phil Hewitt Exhibition: **FARMS AND FIELDS**

The ACWC is pleased to welcome the public to see and celebrate Phil Hewitt's recent work at the opening reception for his *Farms and Fields* exhibition on Friday, April 8, at 6:30 pm.

Phil has been attuned to the natural world around him all his life. He explains, "I was born on a farm and we moved to a small town when I was still young. My brothers and I were always outside in the woods or playing in the hay fields. We had an area just outside of town that we used to call Six Valleys, a combination of woods and fields, and most days you could find us there until almost dark. Even as a young boy I loved looking at the roll of the hills and the cows in the pastures. I could feel the spirituality in the woods among the trees."

After graduating from high school, Phil initially found jobs in construction and factories. Then at age 21, he started driving truck, which he continued for 25 years. He eventually became tired of being away from home and took a job with the New York State Department of Corrections, where he worked as a corrections officer until he retired in 2010. Phil says he never lost his love for drawing, but didn't start to paint seriously until 1995 or 1996. Although not formally trained, Phil has devoted himself to becoming a skilled painter with the help of books and DVDs.

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• continues on p. 2

The Arts Council for Wyoming County, with the sponsorship of the NYS Dance Force and Tompkins Bank of Castile, presents a performance by Garth Fagan Dance at 7 pm on Saturday, May 14, at the Letchworth Central School auditorium.

Garth Fagan Dance is an internationally acclaimed contemporary American dance company. It's a bustling school of dance with an enrollment of 400 students and a community-based resource of broad and growing influence, whose home has remained in Rochester for almost five decades.

The company started in the 1970s, when the country was just beginning to emerge from a tumultuous decade of riots and widespread unrest. As part of his recent appointment to the faculty at SUNY Brockport, Garth Fagan began teaching dance classes at the SUNY Educational Opportunity Center in downtown Rochester. Many of his students had no previous training. Most came from inner city, economically disadvantaged backgrounds. But Fagan was so inspired by their raw talent and tenacity that he decided to transform this highly unconventional group of dancers into a professional company, based not in one of the world's cultural capitals, but in upstate New York.

The concert is a FREE ticketed event, with an optional donation at the door. Tickets may be picked up at any Bank of Castile branch in Wyoming County, GoArt located in Batavia, Genesee Valley Council on the Arts located in Mt. Morris, and the Arts Council for Wyoming County, located in Perry. Letchworth Central School is located at 5550 School Rd. in Gainesville, NY.

This project is made possible with funds from the NYS Dance Force, a partnership program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Additional funding was made possible by Tompkins Bank of Castile.

Due to COVID-19, all mandated NYS social distancing protocols will be observed.

COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT AWARDS

FRIDAY, MARCH 4 • 7 PM

ACWC, 31 South Main Street, Perry

NEW & RENEWED ACWC MEMBERSHIPS:

CRITIC'S CIRCLE

Marwin & Kathryn Rice Cummings
Gilbert Jordan

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

Nancy & Steve Stoddard
Joseph & Sandra Kushnir
Tom & Mary Reagan
James & Claire Bischananey

BENEFACTOR

Gail C. Humphrey
Kathy & Henry Albro
Anne Humphrey
Ted Wetherbee
Jane Emborsky

PATRON

Pat Gesler & Gary Meixner
Thomas & Beverly Pedlow
Jeffrey Mason
David & Nancy Patrick
Wesley Kline, Jr.
JoAnne Brocklehurst & Paul Penner
Chris Nolan
Letchworth Cable Access

FAMILY

Crystal Tuminaro
Charles & Susan Bell

A. David & Vera Hurd
Paul & Nancy Gebauer
Nancy Krause
Ed & Amy Hallborg

INDIVIDUAL/ARTIST

Frederick Schuknecht IV
Eric Szucs
Kaitlin Maciejewski
Patricia Huff
Rosemary McEwen
Louise Sporleder
Mary Beth Kushner
Sandra Tyler
Judy E. Bufano
Karen Barber
Bonnie Leigh

STUDENT/SENIOR

Carol Ann & Bill Ewert
Carol Thompson
Gail & John Meyer
Geraldyn & Edwin Law
Lee Heinikel
Linda Watson
Mary Hotchkiss
Mary L. Carlson
Eileen Witherel

Thank you for **DONATIONS** to the ACWC:

Louise Sporleder	Margaret Gayford
Mary Hotchkiss	Jackie Swaby
Lorraine Strum	Eugen Zah
Kyle Adamczak	Thomas Pedlow
Tami Treutlein	Suzanne Coogan
Joyce Metcalf	Linda Watson
Lee Heinikel	Mary L. Carlson
The Lewis & Clelia Serventi Family Foundation	
Edward Hallborg Family	
Mary Valentino & Ed Underwood	
James & Claire Bischananey	

COMMUNITY ARTS GRANTS NEWS

Wow! What a fabulous response we got from both Wyoming and Allegany counties for our Community Arts Grants program! Our community panelists are working hard at press time to determine how to spend the regrant monies awarded to our area, so be watching in the next issue for all the wonderful programs and events that will be happening near you!

Our annual Awards Night is scheduled for March 4 at 7 pm at the ACWC in Perry. Info: (585) 237-3517

PHIL HEWITT • from p. 1

It is easy to hear the echo of Phil's voice through his paintings as they do indeed reflect what he has to say about his painting style: "I try to paint things that I have a feeling for — old, smaller farms in my area that are disappearing as a way of life, places that I've seen as we travel around." Phil loves painting with oils, but also enjoys creating beautiful bucolic scenes with acrylics. Working with these two mediums gives him the freedom to paint loosely, and as he notes, "with a bit of energy in a brush stroke." He refers to his style of painting as "impressionistic representational."

Phil says, "The longer I paint, the more I try to simplify, to find the feel of a place. I try to think about how it feels to walk across a plowed field or a field of waist-high grass."

Due to COVID-19, the April 8 opening reception will be offered in a hybrid format. All social distancing protocols will be observed. Receptions have been shortened to one hour, and no food will be served.

SPECIAL THANKS:



Abbi Bush
Sherri Bush
Kelly Daly
Larry Hoyt
Valerie Lee
Joyce Metcalf
Theo Sniffen



Wyoming Foundation
A division of the Community Foundation
for Greater Buffalo

ACWC MEMBERS ANNUAL MEETING

• MAY 21 @ 9 AM •

BREEZEWAY BARN & GARDEN
151 N. CENTER ST., PERRY

No cost to attend but
reservations required by May 7

RSVP (585) 237-3517

Special thanks to
Breezeway Barns & Garden
for sponsoring this event!



See original art by local artists in unique spaces around Wyoming County. Visit an ACWC satellite gallery today!

LETCHWORTH CABLE ACCESS
Perry

WARSAW PUBLIC LIBRARY
Warsaw

WCCH NORTH MAIN MEDICAL BUILDING
Warsaw

WYOMING COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING
Warsaw

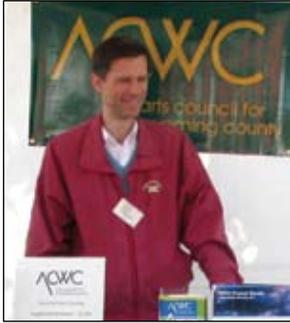
WYOMING COUNTY YMCA
Warsaw

RUFUS SMITH BUILDING AT ONE LAKE ST.
Perry

**WYOMING COUNTY CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE & TOURISM**
Warsaw

STEVENS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Attica

IN HONOR OF KYLE ADAMCZAK



The Arts Council for Wyoming County mourns the loss of Kyle Adamczak, who passed away unexpectedly in February.

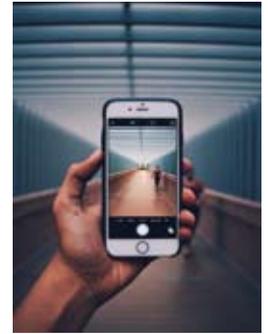
Kyle's volunteer service to the ACWC and the community was significant and will have a lasting impact. His dedication to the ACWC's Classic Film Series

program as curator for almost 30 years earned him the respect of his colleagues in the film community and all who viewed the nearly 3,000 films screened at the gallery. Kyle also played a vital role in establishing the successful Youth Film Festival for ten years. Indeed, Kyle has earned the right to be honored as a legend and an icon. His loss is difficult and brings profound sadness.

The ACWC and Letchworth Cable Access invite the public to celebrate Kyle and his legacy by joining us for an all-day film festival that will feature many of Kyle's favorites. Screenings will run from 11 am to 11 pm on April 23. Titles and times for each screening will be posted on our social media, local radio, and other resources.

ACWC'S CELLPHONE CAMERA FILM FESTIVAL

The ACWC and Letchworth Cable Access present the first annual Cellphone Camera Film Festival! Are you a filmmaker in the making? If you've ever wanted to test your creativity with a camera, we encourage you to join us in our first ever Cell Phone Film Festival! We all have cell phones in our pockets; why not take the opportunity to stretch your skills and creative thinking to move beyond social media posts and into filmmaking?



Filmmakers of all ages and skill levels are invited to participate, and entries are welcome from anywhere in the world. Films should be between 30 seconds and 1 minute long and must be shot on cell phones. We encourage filmmakers to use the time and technology restrictions creatively!

Submissions will be accepted starting April 1 and will close August 1. This September, the Arts Council for Wyoming County, in partnership with Letchworth Cable Access, will screen festival films live at the ACWC. After the festival, films will be released online for all to view.

And there will be awards! As filmmakers of all ages and talent levels are welcome, we will have separate judging categories for grades 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, and adults. All films should be appropriate for all ages as we will be sharing in a single screening. Prizes will be awarded for best in show in each category. Remember... *anyone* can be a filmmaker! Submissions should be emailed to info@artswyco.org

FIBER FLURRY RETURNS!

Fiber Flurry is back for 2022! The big day is April 30 from 10 am to 4 pm, and all your favorite vendors and teachers will be there along with some new ones! Returning to the beautiful village of Wyoming, we will be in the newly restored Church on the Green, entertainment venue and local church. Come shop for some new yarn and fleece, take a class or two, get some lunch, watch some demonstrations, and meet and make friends! There will also be volunteers to help you learn to knit or crochet, or to help you with that spot in the pattern that just doesn't look like you think it should. Looking for more information? Go to https://artswyco.org/events_and_programs/fiber-flurry/ or contact Linda at franke@artswyco.org.

RAFFLE WILL BENEFIT MCDANEL SCHOLARSHIP



You could WIN this needle felted art of *Letchworth State Park Upper Falls* by fiber artist Jo Konvinse. Buy your raffle tickets today! They are available at the ACWC office in Perry for the cost of \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Proceeds of the ticket

sales will support the Douglas and Ryan McDanel Memorial Scholarship fund.

Fiber artist Jo Konvinse was the 2021 recipient of the scholarship. She donated this piece to be raffled off with the proceeds to support the life of the award. The donated piece can be viewed in the ACWC's gallery's front window.

The Douglas and Ryan McDanel Memorial Scholarship is open to artists living in Wyoming County or members of the ACWC. Five hundred dollars is awarded to an adult visual artist who has been creating work continually for the past five years or more. The award is determined by how well the artist's work and statement reflect Doug's and Ryan's art process or philosophy.

ONE PATH, DIVERSE JOURNEYS EXHIBIT

Where are they today and what are they doing? You may have pondered this question as it relates to the ACWC/Creekside Fabrics Youth Visual Arts Scholars alumnae. The ACWC is pleased to showcase the current work of these young women or what they have produced in their journeys since they took this scholarship path. You are invited to join us at the opening reception of *One Path, Diverse Journeys* exhibition, Friday, May 6 at 6:30 pm, to celebrate their past and current accomplishments. Now in its 9th year, the ACWC/Creekside Fabrics Youth Visual Arts Scholarship is made possible in partnership with Creekside Fabrics of Arcade.

NOTE: ALL ACWC AND COMMUNITY ARTS GRANTS EVENTS ARE LISTED IN **BOLD TYPE**

MARCH

4 • DEC Community Arts Grant Award Night at 7 pm. ACWC, 31 S. Main St, Perry. Call (585) 237-3517 or email franke@artswyco.org for info.

4 • Wyoming County High School Art Exhibit opens in the ACWC Main Gallery and will run through March 25. Reception and presentation of awards will be held March 25 at 6:30 pm. ACWC, 31 S. Main St, Perry. (585) 237-3517.

5 • Eagle Free Library’s Community Arts Enrichment Program: Prehistoric World - Reptiles and Amphibians will bring various reptiles and amphibians such as snakes, lizards, turtles, and frogs. Rec Hall on E. Main St. in Bliss at 11 am.

12 • Eagle Free Library’s Community Arts Enrichment Program: Mike Randall and Friends will bring magic, puppets, ventriloquism, storytelling, laughter, fun, and lots of kid participation! Rec Hall on E. Main St. in Bliss at 11 am.

19 • Eagle Free Library’s Community Arts Enrichment Program: Art Workshops with Stephanie Russell will be painting landscapes. Session 1: 11 am – 12:30 pm for grades 3 to 6; Session 2: 1 – 2:30 pm for grades 7 to 9. Eagle Free Library, 3413 School St., Bliss. Registration is required by March 5. Visit <https://owwl.libcal.com/calendar/eaglefreelibrary> to register.

19 • Closing Reception for Elementary / Middle School Student Art Exhibit: 2 pm at the YMCA Gallery, 115 Linwood Ave. in Warsaw. Info: (585) 237-3517

19 • The Museum Quilt Guild meets at the VA Medical Center Auditorium, 222 Richmond Ave., Batavia. Masks required. Meetings begin at 9:30 am and include a short business meeting, a Show & Tell of members’ projects, and a program. Dues are \$20 per year. Workshops may be scheduled for a nominal fee. Please come visit! Learn more at www.themuseumquiltguild.com

25 • Wyoming County High School Art Exhibit: Reception and presentation of awards will be held at 6:30 pm. ACWC, 31 S. Main St., Perry. (585) 237-3517.

26 • Eagle Free Library’s Community Arts Enrichment Program: Circus for All Workshop with Benjamin Berry. Learn how to use various circus props and enjoy a performance by Benjamin. Participants will receive take home circus kits to practice the skills they have learned. Rec Hall on E. Main Street in Bliss at 11 am. Registration is required by March 12. Visit <https://owwl.libcal.com/calendar/eaglefreelibrary> to register.

APRIL

8 • ACWC Gallery Exhibitions Opening: Phil Hewitt’s *Farms & Fields* will be on display in the Main Gallery. Fiber Artist Nancy Kraus’s exhibition, *Travels in Fiber*, will be upstairs in the Members’ Gallery. Reception will be offered in hybrid format at 6:30 pm. ACWC, 31 S. Main St., Perry. (585) 237-3517.

9 • Introduction to Needle Felting with Nancy Kraus: 10 am at ACWC, 31 S. Main St., Perry. All you need is a special sharp needle, a piece of dense foam, a piece of wool for background and a selection of colors of wool to create beautiful needle felted pieces. You will be introduced to the basic technique of flat needle felting and create a sampler and bookmark to take home. Supplies are included in \$10 fee. 12 person limit. Contact Linda Franke at franke@artswyco.org or (585) 237-3517 ext. 102

to register for this workshop.

9 • The Museum Quilt Guild meets at the VA Medical Center Auditorium, 222 Richmond Ave., Batavia. Masks required. Meetings begin at 9:30 am and include a short business meeting, a Show & Tell of members’ projects and a program. Dues are \$20 per year. Workshops may be scheduled for a nominal fee. Please come visit! www.themuseumquiltguild.com

9 • Deadline for submissions to ROCO’s 6x6x2022 exhibition. Visit www.rochestercontemporary.org for information.

16 • The Pearlz Band: Presented by Wyoming Free Library. Mixture of classic pop, timeless rock, folk, country, and bluegrass music. From 6–8 pm at Church on the Green, 5 N. Academy St. in Wyoming. Call (585) 495-6840 for more information.

23 • Classic Film Festival in Honor of Kyle Adamczak: Celebrate Kyle and his legacy by joining us for an all-day film festival that will feature many of Kyle’s favorites. Screenings will run from 11 am to 11 pm. ACWC’s East Indian Screening Room, 31 S. Main St., Perry. (585) 237-3517.

30 • Fiber Flurry from 10 am –4 pm at Church on the Green in the Village of Wyoming. Come meet your fiber friends and shop for local, handmade yarns! Take a class, visit some demonstrations, and have a great time! Visit www.artswyco.org/events_and_programs/fiber-flurry/ or contact franke@artswyco.org.

30 • Annual Round & Square Dance presented by the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts from 7–10 pm at the MacVittie College Union Ballroom, SUNY Geneseo. Music by Kelly’s Old Timers and members of the Geneseo String Band. Admission is \$5 adults / \$3 spectators /18 & under free.

30 • Talent in our Town Series: Darlynn Weber will teach decorative painting at 2 pm in the Orangeville Town Hall, 3529 Route 20A, Warsaw. (585) 322-0174.

MAY

6 • ACWC Gallery Exhibition Opening: One Path, Diverse Journeys opening reception at 6:30 pm showcasing the current work of ACWC/Creekside Fabrics Youth Visual Arts Scholars alumnae. ACWC, 31 S. Main St., Perry.

14 • Garth Fagan Dance Company Performance at 7 pm in the Letchworth Central School auditorium. FREE ticketed event, w/optional donation at the door. Tickets are at any Bank of Castile branch in Wyoming County, GoArt in Batavia, Genesee Valley Council on the Arts in Mt. Morris, and the ACWC in Perry.

21 • ACWC Members’ Annual Meeting at 9 am. Breezeway Barns & Garden, 151 N. Center St., Perry. No cost to attend but you must RSVP by May 7. Call the ACWC at (585) 237-3517.

21 • The Museum Quilt Guild meets at the VA Medical Center Auditorium, 222 Richmond Ave., Batavia. Masks required. Meetings begin at 9:30 am and include a short business meeting, a Show & Tell of members’ projects and a program. Dues are \$20 per year. Workshops may be scheduled for a nominal fee. Please come visit! Learn more at www.themuseumquiltguild.com

26 • Dimensional Paper Art Series with Cheryl Northup from 5–7 pm at Wyoming Free Library, 114 S. Academy St. in Wyoming. Create unique art pieces on cards & other surfaces. Create dimensional paper art using various art mediums. \$3 per person, ages 10 and up. Call (585) 495-6840 for more information.

ALLISON HAMILTON BIDS GOODBYE

It's tough to say goodbye, but my time working for the Arts Council for Wyoming County is ending. I can't say enough how grateful I am to the ACWC, Jacqueline Swaby, and Americorps Vista for the opportunity to spend this year working in marketing and PR for wonderful local arts organizations. I had only ever experienced marketing from a business perspective, and the hard work of single handedly managing marketing for a small organization was an incredible challenge and truly improved my skills. My eyes have been opened to the challenges faced by arts organizations (especially small ones), the hard work that keeps them running, and the true value of the arts and of community building. I've met so many artists, experienced so much creativity, and am beyond thankful for being able to be a part of bringing art to Wyoming County and to have gotten to know this wonderful artistic community! ~ Allison



GIVING TO OTHERS KEEPS QUILTERS CONNECTED

In this second pandemic year, members of the Museum Quilt Guild in Batavia again donated holiday themed bags filled with gifts to the local Salvation Army. Using a list provided by the Salvation Army, bags were filled with items for children ranging from infants to 15 years.



Above: Holiday gift bags on their way to the Salvation Army.

Giving to the community has always been a big part of the guild's activities. Since March of 2020, it has been a great way for members to stay connected. The guild was unable to meet in person for 15 months due to the pandemic, but carried on through monthly ZOOM meetings. The community service committee arranged for members to pick up kits and supplies for projects, and then drop off completed items. This year the guild has donated quilts to provide comfort to individuals being served by the following organizations: the VA Medical Center in Batavia (19), NYS Home for Veterans (5), WNY Foster Closet (10), Lipson Cancer Center (10) and All Babies Cherished (2).

In addition to quilts to be used by individuals, the guild offers quilts to be used for fundraising by local organizations. In 2021 this has included one donation each to the Caledonia Library; Gateway Hospice, Attica; Presbyterian Church, Batavia; and The Genesee Orleans Arc. Members are happy to fill needs other than quilts. Twenty-nine patients undergoing treatment for breast cancer at Roswell were also gifted with heart pillows to aid in their comfort and recovery.

The guild resumed in-person meetings outdoors last summer until finally allowed back to their regular meeting space at the VA Medical Center in October.

The guild holds regular Community Service work sessions each year at their monthly meetings for the purpose of working on projects for donation. The next one will be on March 19 at 9:30 am. New members are always welcome in the guild! Meetings are held the third Saturday of every month (second Saturday in December) at the VA Medical Center, 222 Richmond Ave., Batavia, NY (Bldg. 4, 2nd floor - use the patio entrance). Meetings begin at 9:30 am. You are welcome to attend two (2) meetings as a guest. If you decide to join, dues are \$20 per year.

THE ARTS COUNCIL FOR WYOMING COUNTY
& WYOMING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS
present the

2022 HIGH SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION

MARCH 4 - 25

ACWC MAIN GALLERY
31 S. Main St., Perry, NY



CLOSING RECEPTION & AWARDS

MARCH 25 at 6:30 PM

Call (585) 237-3517 for information

The Arts Council for Wyoming County
& Wyoming County School Districts present the

Elementary/Middle School 2022 Student Art Exhibition

Kindergarten - 8th Grades

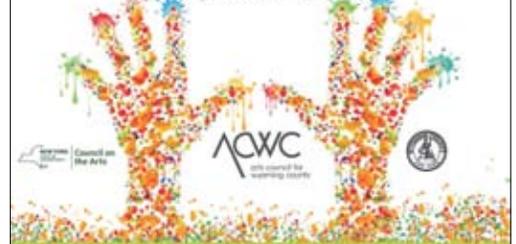
YMCA Gallery

115 Linwood Ave., Warsaw

Show Opens Saturday, February 5th

CLOSING RECEPTION

Saturday, March 19, at 2 pm



Arts Council for Wyoming County | phone: 585-237-3517
mailing address: PO BOX 249, 31 South Main Street, Perry, NY 14530

WOOLY WONDERS ONE A SUCCESS!

What a wonderful, wooly time we had in the first Wooly Wonders group! I hope you had a chance to stop by the gallery and enjoy the display of fabulously creative pieces that were developed. Wooly Wonders II is in the planning stages for 2023, but our original group continues to meet once a month to chat and work on spinning, crocheting, and knitting projects. If you are interested in joining us, contact Linda Franke at franke@artswyco.org or (585) 237-3517 ext. 102.

CALLING ALL CHALK ARTISTS!

The Perry Chalk Art Festival is seeking artists to participate in the 2022 Chalk Art Festival, taking place on July 9 in downtown Perry. Artists are invited to explore the theme, *Down to Earth*. Artists can work on a solo square or with a multiple artist square, which allows a team effort on adjacent squares. Both types of entries will be judged together. \$600 in prizes will be awarded to winning artworks.

Artists will be provided with a 5' x 5' chalking square, a wide selection of pastels and chalk colors, and a \$75 stipend. Participation for professional artists is selective, and requires the receipt of a registration form by Friday, July 1. Artists will be notified of their acceptance after July 5.

Talented youth ages 10 – 19 are also invited to chalk. Youth chalkers will work on the same theme and receive the same supplies as the artists. Completed registration forms and a \$5 entry fee are due Friday, July 1. Prizes will be awarded, and all participants will receive recognition.

Our Aspiring Artist event for those ages 5 – 9 will return. Registration will take place at the festival with artists chalking prepared squares.

In addition, the day's events include a community bike ride starting at the Village Park, Perry Farmers' Market and a street-side public market. Live music will be featured all day, including performances by Creek Bend and Kelly's Old Timers, along with entertainment for kids, the return of the chalk wall, and more.

Registration forms, additional information and a partial schedule of Chalk Festival events are available at www.perrychalkfestival.com or by calling (585) 237-5375.

This event is made possible through generous contributions from local government, businesses and individuals, along with funds from the Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the New York State

Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathleen Hochul and the New York State Legislature; administered in Wyoming County by the ACWC.

Left: Detail of chalking by Erika Lalita.



WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE

Hello to all the cool artists and art-lovers! My name is Ting Bellamy and I have worked as the administrative assistant at ACWC for the past 2 years and recently resigned on good terms. My time at the Arts Council for Wyoming County has been invaluable and I thought I would share a little bit of my thoughts here with you before I depart.

When I graduated from high school, I applied and received a \$1,000 college art scholarship from a nonprofit art organization much like ACWC. I was happy and grateful as the scholarship encouraged me to continue pursuing art. However, it was not until now that I fully understood the backstory of a nonprofit art organization. Thanks to a group of people who believed in the influence of art and the importance in supporting a child to follow their passion, I gained more self-confidence as a young artist and continued my art journey. I now see how they work diligently for long hours, dedicating their time and money to build a world with colors and melody.

Back in 2019, after finishing my undergrad degrees in business and art at Houghton College, I came to Perry where my family was living and I got to know about the ACWC. With the hope to utilize what I learned from college and gain work experience in both art and business fields, I started as an intern and began the path of my first career. Not before long I realized a nonprofit organization really offers a different story from what I had studied in school. Therefore, there was always so much to learn and discover. Although sometimes there were frustrations, I was excited to learn something new every day and make a difference in what I was doing.

I would say I came to the ACWC during the best time and the worst time. The pandemic has created such a hard time for everyone and working remotely with so much uncertainty and fear was never what I expected. Yet it was also the best time as I was able to meet and work with some of the kindest, dedicated, value-driven and open-minded people. I especially would like to thank Jackie for the guidance and support during all this time, her great work ethic and energy towards life are always so inspiring. Despite being a small team, everyone at ACWC worked hard towards one good goal - to bring you to the arts and the arts to you: you the artists who need platforms and fund for projects, the children and youth who have passions and dreams, and you who enjoy arts, value beauty, creativity, culture, self-expression, and social awareness. Serving you is the primary purpose behind every single one of our events and programs.

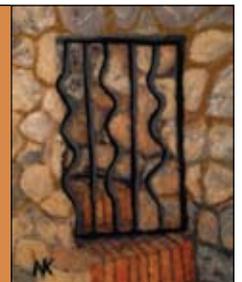
I would like to encourage you to use the resources and stop by the different events the Arts Council offers. Jackie always says, "Make art part of your day." It means seeing the world with an open heart and creative mind, feeling and absorbing the beauty in the world, and having a deeper conversation with ourselves. Art is a luxury as you don't need art to survive. However, life should be more than surviving and making art part of your day is about living, learning and experiencing. I hope you can find a piece of art that gives you a smile, brings you comfort, makes you wonder.

I will miss ACWC and always think of it fondly. And with heartfelt gratitude, I want to thank you for choosing to support the Arts Council for Wyoming County and believe in what we do, especially during this difficult time. Sincerely wishing everyone a blissful new year and make art part of your day. ~ Ting

Nancy Kraus Exhibition: *TRAVELS IN FIBER*

Opening in conjunction with Phil Hewitt's *Farms and Fields* show on April 8, is author and fiber Artist Nancy Kraus's exhibition, *Travels in Fiber*. Her abstract and realistic images created using a needle felting technique will be on display in the ACWC's Members' Gallery until April 30.

At right: *Rousillion Window* by Nancy Kraus



GLOW TRADITIONS NEWS *by Karen Canning*

Our annual Round and Square Dance is back! Hosted by the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts—and open to all—this year’s dance will take place on Saturday, April 30, from 7–10 pm at the MacVittie College Union Ballroom, SUNY Geneseo. As usual the music and calling will be provided by Kelly’s Old Timers and members of the Geneseo String Band led by SUNY Geneseo Professor, Jim Kimball. We are further “combining forces” by joining the college’s typical spring semester dance, which was postponed from early February due to Covid concerns. Admission is \$5 adults, \$3 spectators, 18 & under free. All ages are welcome at this family-friendly event.

If you’ve never been to a square dance, you can come early at 6:30 pm and learn the basic steps. No special clothing or prior knowledge is required—beyond knowing one’s left from one’s right! The dance is truly a fun evening for all ages, and a great opportunity to enjoy a longtime local tradition. Refreshments will be available through the food services in the college union.

Kelly’s Old Timers was started by brothers, Woody and Roger Kelly of Perry in the 1950’s and has been getting people up on the floor for more than 60 years. The group continues with Doug Kelly (Woody’s son) calling the dances and playing bass, Doug Kelly, Jr. on bass, Eric Kelly (Roger’s son) on keyboards and vocals, Guy Macaluso on keyboards, vocal, trumpet and guitar, Tom Kwiecien on drums, and Elise Kelly on vocals and guitar.

Also a long-standing ensemble in the valley, the Geneseo String Band was formed in 1976 at SUNY Geneseo by Jim Kimball, playing traditional American fiddle, dance and vocal music. For more than 40 years, the student group (and some alumni and townspeople) has played for countless on and off-campus events, performing for receptions, clubs, dances, concerts, local churches, historical societies, camps and schools. Much of their music comes from the Genesee Valley region, documented and recorded from old time players by Jim Kimball. Many of Kimball’s recordings have been recently digitized and can be viewed and heard at <https://knightscholar.geneseo.edu/kimball>.

FIBER CORNER *by Linda Franke*

I’ve been reading *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer and loving it. She talks a lot about being grateful for the gifts that nature gives us – for me, that looks like the sheep that share their fleece, the cotton plants that lend us their fluffy blooms, the rain that gives the water to the animals and the plants so that they grow healthy and strong. She also talks about the responsibility that accompanies those gifts. I’ve been thinking about how hard I’ve worked this past year to learn to take a fleece from a sheep to a shawl, and how grateful I am to my teachers and the shepherds, to the sheep and the land itself. It does make me slow down and appreciate the space around me more. I want to really know more about not only the process, but to listen harder and more carefully to those that have led me on this journey, to be more patient and willing to listen to those that I will teach.

We have all been on a pretty tough journey these past few years, some of us more than others. It has sometimes seemed to me that we are far from done with this virus that has taken up so much of our lives. I am grateful, though, that I have had the time and resources in this rich valley we live in to be able to share some fleece with a few sheep, to shelter in a warm cozy shawl that I made with my own hands and for the friendships I made while doing that. I hope that you take some time to go out in the warmer weather this spring to listen to the world around you. Find something that you are grateful for that is right next to you, just waiting for you to say hello.



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- Please send me regular email updates of ACWC events & opportunities in the arts!*



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