

# 2006 2026

VAA newsletter

January, 2026

Volume 23, Issue 1

The Mission of the Valley Art Association is to promote visual arts and artists in the Chippewa Valley of Wisconsin through networking, creative development, and support for exhibits and workshops

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next meeting **February 5** at Mill Ridge Condominium Community Center **4299 Mill Ridge Circle, Eau Claire**
- Annual membership dues deadline **January 31- \$25 individual/\$35 family.**
- 2026 Fall Member Show dates- November 25-December 23, 2026; artists reception December 3; Call for Fiber Artists
- Program for February meeting- Robert Indiana “Love” sculpture- program by Helen Buck with a make-your-own LOVE hands on project



- Bring your show and tell art- share your creativity
- **Bring your dues** if you haven't paid them already!
- Welcome to new member **Patty Martinson!**
- Attachments- newsletter, program from anniversary party, Banbury Holiday Market summary, Call for Artists- Valley Fiber Art

## From the president:

As I reflect on the 20th anniversary party on January 5 this year, I was struck by the camaraderie and excitement of the evening. Observing anniversaries is so important as it acknowledges the past and encourages the future. While researching the history of the VAA, I learned so much about the efforts of the individuals who endeavored to bring this organization to life and all those who have kept it going for so many years. Our task today is to continue that work to make our organization viable and be true to our mission statement. How can we do that? We do that by being an active participant in developing programs, participating in meetings, volunteering to help on the board, volunteering to present programs or workshops, exhibiting your art at our sponsored venues, helping find new venues, and bringing other artists to join our efforts. During my remarks at the party, I shared this:

“We're living in a culture that sidelines the creative act.

That says it's something for children or something for the retired.

This is from a Ted Talk by Aimee McNee- ‘The case for making art when the world is on fire.’

([https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=amie+mcnee+ted+talk](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=amie+mcnee+ted+talk))

‘But some will say, how can art make a difference?

*It's an indulgence.*

*It's a little bit selfish, it's frivolous, it's decoration.*

*It is a narrative that is actively harming us.*

*It is repressing our innate instincts to create.’*

She exhorts us to leave this world with something beautiful whether it is a recipe, a poem, a YouTube channel, caring for birds, working with fabric or wood or plants, making scrapbooks, whatever it is that you do that expresses your creativity. Don't be a slave to your phone or social media. You don't have to make art that someone will buy. Making art is putting what is inside you out there in the world.

Share your art with the world. You may think it is too private or not good enough, but it could inspire another person to express their creativity and art and help change the world.”

I hope you will join the board to help shape the next year and the next twenty years of the Valley Art Association. Reach out to me at

[vaapresident2024@gmail.com](mailto:vaapresident2024@gmail.com) with your ideas and help. Thank you to all of you for being members and supporting the VAA. Kathy Stockton-Behnke

## Exhibiting at VAA venues- January/February 2026

**E.L. Pilates** – June Haigh-Boley

**Decadent Gifts** – Randy Palmer

**Acoustic Café**- VAA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Display

### Exhibit opportunities: Openings for 2-month exhibits:

**E.L. Pilates** - Mar/April, Sept/Oct and Nov/Dec

**Acoustic Cafe 3D** - May/June, July/Aug and Nov/Dec

Contact [sarahj724@gmail.com](mailto:sarahj724@gmail.com) for more information

## Dates to Remember

**TBD**- dedication for park bench for Priscilla Mae...rescheduled for spring.

**Next Gallery Update**- March 5 - 21, 2026

## Your VAA Board Members 2026

**President** – Kathy Stockton-Behnke

**Vice President** – Paula Delfosse(interim) **Secretary** – Sarah Williams **Treasurer** – Val Naber

**Members-At-Large:** Randy Palmer(interim), Barbara Dunham, Mindy Huntress, Noriko Slowinski, Helen Buck

**The VAA Website Gallery** is available to *all members in good standing*. A PDF is available on the website **EVENTS & MEMBERSHIP Pages** with instructions for both current gallery members and new to gallery members. Updates are completed twice per calendar year.



*Celebrating 20 years supporting  
art and artists in the Chippewa Valley  
2006-2026*