

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

December 2 (Sat)
10:00-4:00 PM

Kris Kringle Kraft Fair
Special day for Opening reception

December 9 1:00-4:00 PM
Benefit Concert

December 13 7:00-9:00 PM
Photography Club Meeting

December 17 7:00-9:00 PM
Song Circle

December 18 7:00-9:00 PM
Cultural and Heritage meeting

December 23-January 3rd
Guild is closed for all activities

JANUARY 2024

January 3
Classes begin

January 8 5:00 -6:30 PM
Board meeting

January 10 7:00-9:00 PM
Photography Club Meeting

January 12 5:00-6:30 PM
Art Book Club

January 18 & 19, 1:00-3:00 PM
Drop off for
February Members Juried Show

January 19 7:00-9:00 PM
Concert

January 21 7:00-9:00 PM
Song Circle

January 26 5:00-6:30 PM
Art Chat

January 30 & 31, 1:00-3:00 PM
Pick up for
Dec/Jan members show

FEBRUARY 2024

February 4 1:00-4:00 PM
Gallery opening Reception

**"Open Drop-in Groups"
are listed on last page
of newsletter**



22 Chestnut Avenue,
PO Box 1156
Island Heights,
New Jersey 08732

**Dec/Jan
2023/2024**

A Message from the President

A New Beginning



T'is the season of peace, love, joy, and celebrations! I wish you and your families all the best of what the season brings!

As you know, this year, 2024, marks an important milestone in our organization's history - 50 years of OCAG residing at 22 Chestnut Avenue, a Victorian gem of the Gilded Age!

A golden celebration is in order and our 50th Anniversary Planning Committee has had our first kickoff meeting. We have many exciting events planned throughout 2024 in honor of our beautiful building. Some of the events we have scheduled are a Golden Easter

Egg Hunt, a Victorian High Tea, a Solid Gold 70s Themed Dance Party, and a Year End Raffle and Cocktail Party, along with other special edition arts, cultural, and fundraising events. So if you like to party, please watch your inbox for calls for volunteers in the new year as we will only be able to hold those events that will have ample volunteer support.

As we look to the future of our Guild, I would like to turn your attention to the aforementioned homophone of the word, spelled "gild." It means "to cover a surface with a thin layer of gold or a substance that looks like gold." It is a term that refers to beautifying an object. For us, the stewards of Edith Grace's gift that is 22 Chestnut Avenue, it evokes thoughts of the impending investment and effort that will be required to save the building we love. Our Victorian lady has pretty good bones but needs quite a substantial gilding of her own, a major facelift of sorts, the extent of which will be explained during a membership meeting after the first of the new year. At this meeting, the architect/engineering firm will present the findings and the cost/budget estimate and will be available to answer any questions our members and stakeholders may have. Exact date and time to be determined, which will be provided via email to all of our members.

As President, I am looking forward to continuing to help create a brighter future for the Guild. A new year presents the opportunity for new beginnings and we have a head start with a new team of volunteers to help review and strengthen our OCAG's 5-year Strategic Plan.

(Continued on next page)

A New Beginning
(Continued from previous page)

As an eternal optimist in the season of believing, I believe in our mission and our vision to secure the Guild as the premier center for arts, art education, and cultural experiences in Ocean County and beyond! Will you join me? Email me at cesarettikimberly@gmail.com to answer the call! It will take more than a village!

Wishing You All the Best in the New Year!

Kim Cesaretti
2023/24 President of OCAG
Live Your Best Art Life!



Happy Holidays! And a warm and healthy New year to Everyone!

On Saturday, December 2 from 10 am to 2 pm OCAG will be hosting its annual holiday family event and “Kris Kringle’s Kraft Fair”. This event coincides with the Island Height Victorian House Tour. We have a great line-up of holiday craft vendors selling hand-made ornaments, decorations, chocolate, cards, and a host of other great gift items. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there to greet children of all ages. Stop by and get your free photo taken with Santa. Santa’s elves will be hosting an art and craft workshop upstairs. Bring your grandchildren with you! Come and enjoy a hot chocolate and some delicious baked goods. Try your hand at winning a gift basket.

Members, we still need volunteers to help make this a special day for our guests. Please sign-up and volunteer 2 hours of your time at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44A8AE2CA4FBC07-45361191-kris#/>

Hope you all can make it to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season.

Peace on Earth,
Terry
Chair, OCAG Holiday Fair

BENEFIT CONCERT

December 9 from 1-4 PM



Ocean County Artists Guild
22 Chestnut Ave., Island Heights, NJ

We have chosen the Fulfill Food bank and Each Stitch Counts as our two charities.



<https://Fulfillnj.org>



Each Stitch Counts

providing Dish soap with
handmade dishcloths
and laundry detergent
to local food pantries

<https://www.eachstitchcounts.org>

**"We will have bins out to collect nonperishable goods for Fulfill & bottles of dish soap for Each Stitch counts.
We will also be raffling off a 4-week class (\$80-100 value) at 2:30 PM.
Tickets can be purchased at the Guild or on event day."**

2024 Acoustic Concert Series presents



"SONGS OF LOVE FOR A WINTER EVENING"

Friday January 19, 2024 - 7:00 to 9:00 pm

A variety of Artists will be performing

Galleries open for viewing at 6:30 pm

Intermission with refreshments available

\$5 donation suggested for this non-profit

Concert Series at the Ocean County Artists Guild, 22 Chestnut Ave,
Island Heights, NJ. 732-270-3111, www.ocartistsguild.org.

In the Gallery

Member's Show

“Gilded”-Touch Of Gold



As we approach the 50th Anniversary of the Ocean County Artist's Guild, we reflect back on its rich history in Island Heights. It speaks of Golden memories shared by dedicated founders, who paved the way for the Victorian Lady to be what it is today. A welcoming place where artists are encouraged, inspired and supported in pursuing their artistic endeavors. The Artist's Guild's mission seeks to promote and cultivate the Arts in Ocean County and the surrounding communities!

Mark Twain once termed the phrase, “gilded age” of society. It referred to the appearance of wealth despite the reality of the thinly veiled, highly prevalent poverty of the times. It suggested an age of much lavishness and excess, especially within the world of fashion and lifestyles of the day. Ordinary objects were often ornately decorated with thin layers of precious metals including gold, in order to beautify them, so that they appeared to be of more value. They became instant masterpieces. This process of covering

something in thin layers of gold or gold leaf became known as “gilding!”

All throughout history, artists have used gold leaf to decorate their pieces of art. Egyptian and Chinese cultures were some of the first artisans to be masters of gilding. They would gild anything from textiles and pottery, to ornamental wood. The Romans gilded ceilings of palaces, vaults, even walls inside the homes of those who could afford it. Gold was thought to be the color of the gods and for this reason it was often used to decorate tombs and pyramids. And the Greeks used it to decorate statues, fancy borders on manuscripts, sacred figures and soldiers. In their paintings it was used as a symbol of “excellence” in Christian Art.

The Art of gilding has survived since ancient times and is still relevant today. Modern artists continue to transform ordinary objects into brilliant works of art, with skill and precision. Many artists today mix a blend of gold leaf



In the Gallery

Member's Show

“Gilded”-Touch Of Gold

gilding with traditional paint techniques, as gold adds a “pop” of detail and color.

The word “gilded” is also used to describe something as being covered or “bathed” in bright golden colored light, in such expressive phrases like, “as morning golds the skies,” or “the gilded leaves of autumn.”

So for the months of December and January, the OCAG Members will be showcasing their interpretations of “gilded” art in celebration of the Golden years of the Guild. By doing so, they hope to highlight the priceless value of turning the ordinary....into something extra-ordinary.... just like our beautiful Victorian Lady, the Ocean County Artist’s Guild! Happy 50th Golden Anniversary!!!



Volunteering

Volunteering creates a trifecta of great outcomes. Volunteerism has countless benefits to the community and also to the health and happiness of individuals who commit to volunteering. Volunteering can easily become one of those back burner activities. The type of activity that always seems like a nice thing to do, but loses steam when it comes to reaching out and signing up. We want to make it easy for you to contribute to the success of the guild. We have opportunities that take as little as 2 hours a month to do, other tasks that can be done from your home. Please consider supporting our goals and helping the OCAG grow into 2024. Sign Up to Volunteer at the OCAG today: Many opportunities. Email Katie in the office at info@ocartistsguild.org



Spotlight on...



Rob Henne

Robert Henne, a familiar face around OCAG, has a lot going on lately even though he just “retired”. His newfound time is dedicated to his art and his willingness to explore different mediums and commitment to his artistic growth.

Rob is a talented oil painter who possess a deep understanding of color blending and the ability to achieve lifelike hues in his artwork. Sometimes he switches to acrylics in his more contemporary pieces. He has also delved into the realm of digital art over the past seven or eight years. With digital art, he can swiftly and effortlessly modify an image, enabling him to experiment with various color combinations and shapes. This flexibly allows him to explore numerous iterations until he achieves the desired impact in his artwork.

Rob’s journey as an artist began unexpectedly at the age of 27 when on a whim he enrolled in a beginner’s night course. Encouraged by his progress, Rob submitted his work to a new gallery for a juried show. To his delight, his artwork was selected, marking a significant milestone in his artistic career. The validation he received after selling some pieces solidified his commitment to art.

Rob draws inspiration from the renowned artist Edward Hopper, appreciating his ability to capture the essence of the world around him. Hopper’s portrayal aligns with Rob’s temperament and artistic style. Additionally, Rob admires the surreal and thought provoking work of Magritte, finding excitement in his unique approach.

Since 2019, Rob has served as a trustee at the Guild. He has had two solo shows here, 2007 and 2014. He also shows his work at TRAC in Toms River, Freehold Art Gallery, and the Art Alliance of Monmouth., expanding his reach and connecting with diverse art communities.

Rob’s latest achievement as an artist is the publication of his book titled “The Perceptive Eye”. This compact paperback delves into the exercises employed by art teachers, emphasizing the unique ability of the artist to see beyond the ordinary and infuse their work with profound insight. The book offers valuable guidance on how the artist can harness this perceptive power to create artwork that resonates with greater impact. “The Perceptive Eye” is available on Amazon. Rob Plans to host a book signing event at OCAG soon. You can see more of his work at his website, rhenneart.com.

Senior Art Show

The 2023 New Jersey Senior Art Show was held on October 12 at the Boathouse at Mercer Lakes in West Windsor. Four OCAG members represented Ocean County by placing first place in the county division in June moving on to compete at the state level; Clara Sue Beym in watercolor, Robert Henne in digital art, Jo Guscott in graphics and Jolynn-Tritto Jacobino in acrylics.

Jo Guscott placed second in the state in the professional print category with her linocut reduction print “Flamingo Flourish”.

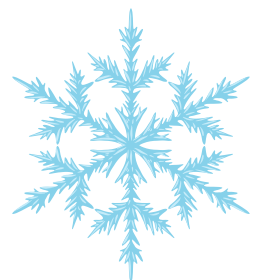
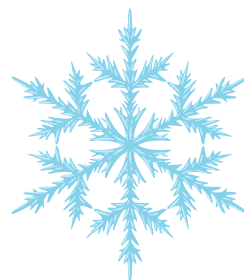
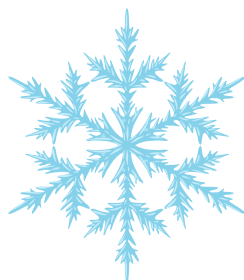
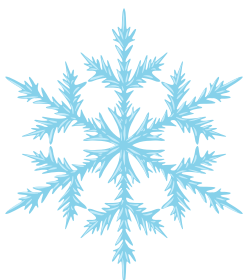
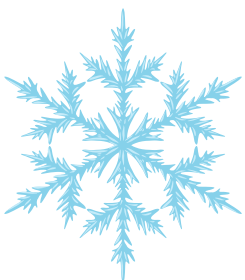
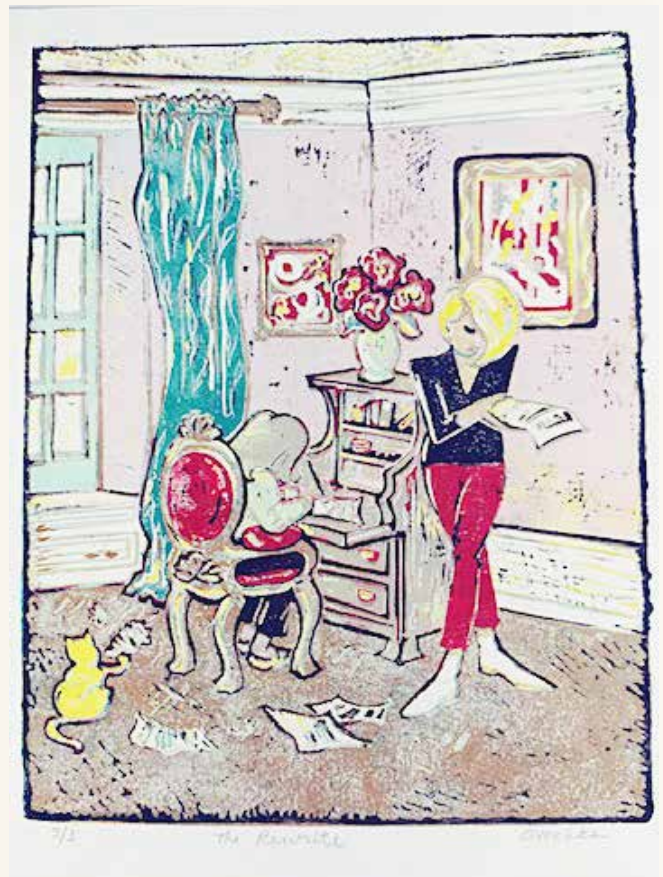
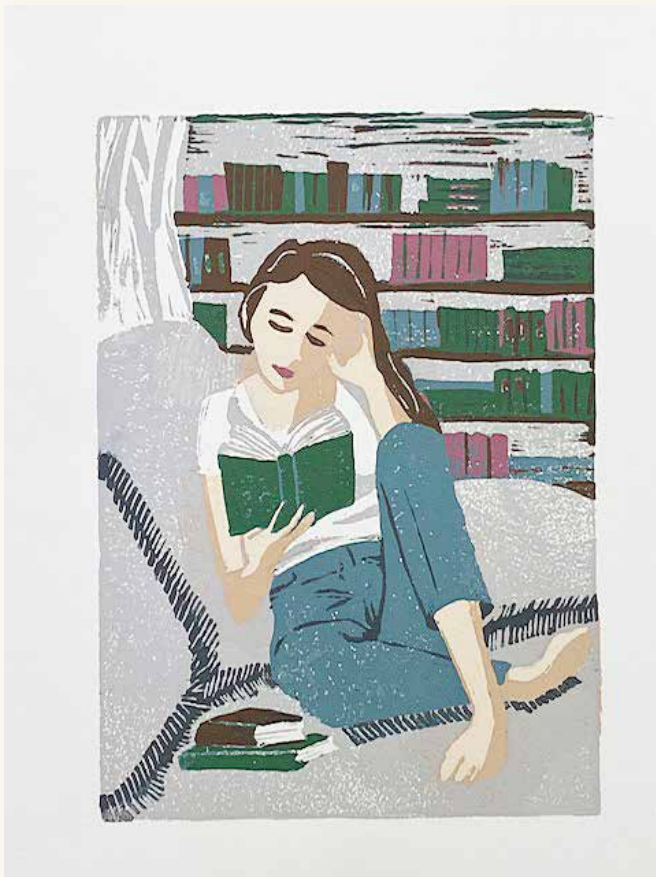


Audubon Artist Gold Medal of Honor

Leslie Ovehka , one of our talented artists at OCAG, won the prestigious Audubon Artist Gold Medal of Honor. Her exceptional linocut reduction print titled “The Rewrite” captivated the judges and earned her this recognition. Along with this honor, Leslie was awarded a prize of \$500 and a medal. This achievement highlights Leslie’s dedication and skill she poured into her artwork.

Jo Guscott, also a member of the OCAG Tuesday print group, recently achieved a milestone by winning the Audubon Artist Silver Medal of Honor for her linocut reduction print titled “So Many Books, So Little Time”.

The Audubon Artists is an esteemed organization that was established in 1942, comprising of painters, graphic artist and sculptors. One of their notable traditions is a yearly members contest and exhibit. This event serves as a platform for members to gain recognition and appreciation for their artistic endeavors.



Custom Glass Etching

After the first season of Courage the Cowardly Dog wrapped in the Fall of 00, I went looking for a fill in job until Stretch Films called me back the following Spring. I answered one of the few art jobs listed in the Village Voice and was lucky to find my old coworker from Canal Jeans there at Exquisite Glass on Allen St. There they were doing custom sandblasting of glass stone and steel and installation of it high and low all over the City. Afterwards I worked for six years off and on sandblasting glass for three different companies. I don't consider it as interesting as my more creative work but the ability to pull in even a B level job was a lifeline after 9/11 when art jobs in the City evaporated. That being said, I have work in Rockefeller Center, did a hundred foot map of the world behind the Air France ticket desk at JFK International Airport and a top design award winning glass lobby at 275 Varick St. as well as too many others to mention. Even if you might not have the top position you may want, we all have bills to pay and so long as you are on the ladder, you can set the goal of climbing higher. By 2004 I was doing digital color work for an agency again but it was not until a couple years later that I could go back to coloring full time. I got my dream job coloring TV commercials for Hiroad Productions in 2007. I am more than happy to hang up my coverall but any medium has possibilities and I may do more work in that area again. I can't see the point of learning a craft and not using it.

L. Stacy



Custom Glass Etching



OCAG and Hearts of Mercy Outreach Partnership

Free Kids Art Program



The Ocean County Artists' Guild (OCAG) continues its partnership and children's outreach program with Hearts of Mercy in Manahawkin. Hearts of Mercy (HOM) is a nonprofit organization that provides support, care and guidance in the lives of underserved children in Southern Ocean County. HOM provides tutoring, mentoring, access to sports and enrichment throughout the academic year as well as summer camp. OCAG is happy to be able to provide a free after school art program during the school year for the clients served by this wonderful organization.



Our first project, geared toward elementary students and led by Kim Cesaretti, OCAG volunteer, was a work showing the beauty of Fall Leaves. First, the students traced leaf shapes on watercolor paper. Then they added the bright fall colors to the leaves using oil pastels. The finishing touch was a wash of watercolor over the whole paper. The oil pastels resisted the watercolor paint, keeping the brilliant warm hues of the fall leaves while leaving behind the wash of cool blue and violet on the bare paper to suggest a beautiful fall sky.

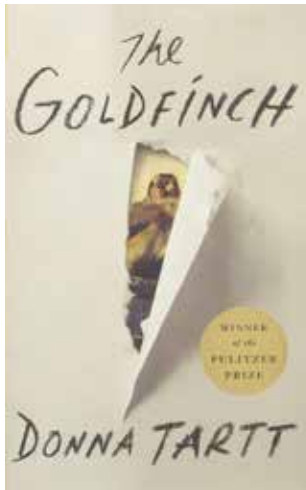
An added bonus was the STEAM element, thanks to Miss Pat, HOM volunteer and retired science teacher, who taught the students the fascinating science of how and why the leaves change color! Best of all was seeing the smiling faces of the children who were happy with the beautiful works of art they created!

If community service and acts of kindness are important to you, you are welcome to join us to volunteer for this program or any other outreach programs we participate in throughout the year. Please send your message of interest to info@ocartistsguild.org, subject "Interested in Outreach." Thanks in advance for your support and participation in our OCAG Outreach programs.

OCAG Book Club

Year in Review

by Kim Cesaretti



Members of our OCAG Book Club enjoyed a year of art-themed works and lively discussions, and you're invited to be a part of it! Meetings are the second Friday of the month, January through November.

Our next meeting will be Friday, January 12, 2024 at 5pm in the Studio at the Guild. Light refreshments served. We will be discussing *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt.

Please send a message to Kim Cesaretti, OCAG Book Club facilitator, at cesarettikimberly@gmail.com to get on the list for meeting reminders. Happy reading! Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Our 2023 Book Club picks were:

Month	Title	Author
January	<i>The Secret Life of Salvador Dali</i>	Salvador Dali
Feb	<i>The Private Lives of the Impressionists</i>	Sue Roe
Mar	<i>Georgia</i>	Dawn Tripp
Apr	<i>Georgia</i>	Dawn Tripp
May	<i>Life with Picasso</i>	Francoise Gilot
Jun	<i>Loving Frank</i>	Nancy Horan
July	<i>Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transforms Us</i>	Susan Magsamen
Aug	<i>The Art Thief</i>	Michael Finkel
Sep	<i>The Friday Night Club</i>	Sofia Lundberg
Oct	<i>Art and Fear</i>	David Bayles and Ted Orland
Nov	<i>The Painted Word</i>	Tom Wolfe
Dec 23/Jan24	<i>The Goldfinch</i>	Donna Tartt



Thank you to our Sponsors for their generosity and support of the Arts in Ocean County!



NOTICE: Payment on sales will be made within 30 days from the end of the month in which the commission was earned.

STAFF

Kim Cesaretti	President's Letter
Jan Fredriksen	In Our Galleries
Wendy Kovacs	Classes
Dan Epstein	Photography Club
Tamara Woronczuk	Workshops
Judy Lepore	Editor
Sally Dracikiewicz	Newsletter Designer

Please address any news items to: info@ocartistsguild.org,
with Newsletter in the subject heading

OPEN STUDIO GROUPS DROP-IN GROUPS

For MEMBERS and GUESTS

Print Group

Tuesdays, 12:30-4:00 PM • \$7 Guild donation + materials
Reduction printing in all forms— In the Studio

Do Your Own Thing

Thursdays, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. Come paint or sketch
\$10 Guild Donation—In the studio.

Long Pose Nude Figure Drawing & Painting

Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 PM,
\$15 Model Fee—In the studio

Portrait Group

2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays, 2:00-4:00 PM Portraits & Figure
Model Fee \$10 in the Studio

Undraped Figure Drawing, Long Poses

Saturdays, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM
\$10 Model Fee—In the studio

Book Club

2nd Friday of the Month 5:00-6:30 PM (Free)

Art Chat

4th Friday of the Month 5:00-6:30 PM (Free)

Photography Group

Contact Office for meeting Information

Sculpting with Clay

Fridays 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Upstairs Studio (\$5.00)

Each Stitch Counts Group

Starting Oct 5th to be on
Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 PM

Welcome New Members

Raquel Andryszczyk

Nancy Coyle

Deborah Fernandez

Shannon McCabe

James McDevitt

Susan Viig

Bob & Donna Villar

Alexandra Zubritzky



This program is made possible in part by a grant administered by the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission from funds granted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.



Phone 732-270-3111
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email: info@ocartistsguild.org