

NEW

# NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA ART ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2022



*The Erie Art Museum, in partnership with the Edinboro University Art Department, is excited to announce Jessica Hong as the Spring Show 2022 juror.*

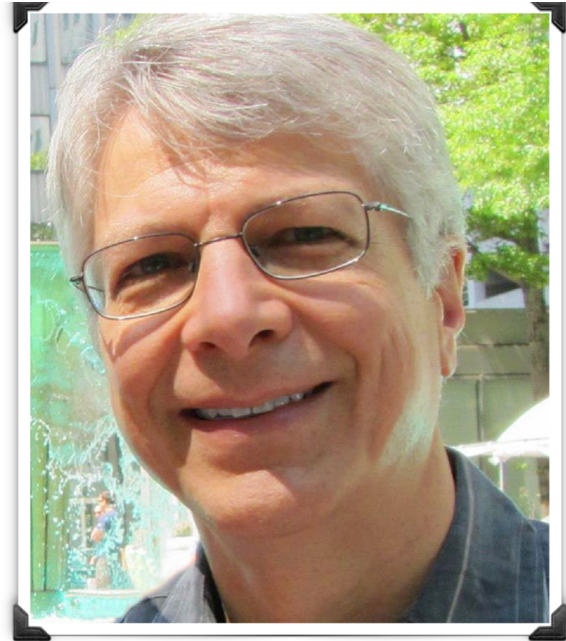
## 17 NPAA ARTIST MEMBERS IN ERIE ART MUSEUM SPRING SHOW

- Lisa Austin, PennDOT's Bayfront Boondoggle
- Ron Bayuzick, Krypto Kid
- James Borowicz, Architect's Dream
- Daniel Burke, Waiting the Return
- Gary Cardot, Cherry Street, Erie, Pennsylvania
- Robert Eustace, Shadow Rose
- Bryan Geary, Obsidian
- Tom Hubert, Cherry Wood Foot Teapot
- Durim Loshaj, Scattered Dogwood and Berries
- Ann Magenau, The Otherside II
- Kimberly Mickelson-Slocum, Waiting
- Mary Rosiak, (with) All My Love, Mary
- Jack Stone, Nexus Stone
- Larry Walczak, The Architecture Of Nature #2
- Carole Werder, Juel
- Barbara Yerace, The Three Cacti
- Greg Zbach - Luminous

### PAY YOUR DUES

**There are 2 ways to pay your dues:  
Online at our website or by check:**

**NPAA  
PO Box #6156  
Erie, PA 16512**



*Robert "Bob" Sajewski*

### ROBERT "BOB" SAJEWSKI SCHOLARSHIP

Robert "Bob" Sajewski, an Erie Insurance senior graphic designer, whose passion for art was matched by his enthusiasm for life, passed away in early 2019. He left behind his loving wife Cheri and their two children.

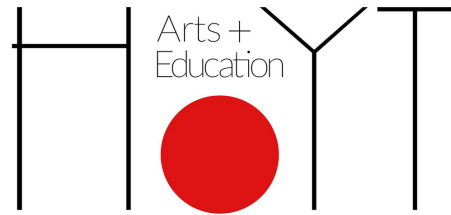
To honor the memory of their beloved co-worker, employees of the Corporate Design group and like-minded associates of Bob over his many years of commitment to the career he loved, decided to raise monies for the express purpose of offering scholarships to deserving graduating high school art students.

Although there are dozens of worthy associations they could have chosen to partner with, Erie Insurance chose to align with the NPAA to distribute the scholarships. With the NPAA's rich history of acknowledging young high school talent year after year, it was a natural fit. Erie Insurance and the NPAA would join together to continue this legacy of providing financial aid to help students continue to pursue their ambitious art careers.

Throughout his career, Bob was also responsible for the curation of exhibits in the Gallery at Erie Insurance. He championed the artist community by providing an outlet for many local and regional artists to exhibit their work.

The generosity of Erie Insurance employees have made these additional scholarships possible. Each year, because of their love for Bob, they continue to raise funds. 2022 marks the fourth year that The Robert Sajewski Memorial Scholarship will have been awarded and it is the commitment of both Erie Insurance and the NPAA to continue this endeavor in perpetuity

It is truly an honor for the NPAA to share Bob's legacy in their annual scholarship program.



## INNER CITY NEIGHBORHOOD ART HOUSE: NPAA COLLABORATION

Sarah Everett, Community Art Director at the Neighborhood Art House would like to start bringing in instructors from outside the Art House to teach workshops.

NPAA Members:

Are you interested in teaching school age students or adults about their art forms? The workshops would be open to the community, with pre-registration required and could be held in the daytime, evenings or on weekends. Sarah could work out a multi-class workshop or a one-time class, depending on the art form and the preference of the artist. If interested, please contact Sarah at [seeverett@icnah.org](mailto:seeverett@icnah.org).

## INNER CITY NEIGHBORHOOD ART HOUSE: TASTE OF THE ARTS 2022

The Taste of the Arts fundraiser will be held September 13, 2022 and the Inner City Neighborhood Art House is asking for donations of artwork from local artists for the Silent Auction. Several members of the NPAA have donated artwork for this fundraiser in past years. The 2022 event will be IN PERSON and as a thank you, artists who donate to the Silent Auction will be provided with 2 tickets to the event!

## BECOME A FRIEND OF THE NPAA

For those who love art but aren't professional artists, we offer our Friends of the NPAA membership category. At \$25 annually, you'll receive early access to NPAA events and exhibitions; our newsletter; priority ticket access for our annual scholarship dinner; and the opportunity to serve on NPAA committees. The Friends category is a wonderful way to show your love of art and those who make it.

<https://www.npaaonline.org/>



*thank you*



NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA ART ASSOCIATION

## NPAA ARTIST MEMBERS

Jayson Amantangelo

Ron Bayuzick

Passle Helminski

Michael Tkach

NPAA Artist Members' artworks have been accepted for the 2022 Hoyt Regional Juried Art Exhibition.

## 2022 Annual Hoyt Regional Juried Art Show

April 26-June 30, 2022

April 26, 2022

11:00AM - 8:00PM

Exhibition Opening Day

**OPENING SOON**



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT FEBRUARY 9, 2022

I would like to take a moment and express my thanks to everyone who voted. I am truly humbled by your positive response. I will take this position very seriously but we will have some fun along the way!

I also want to thank everyone who offered to help, especially Members who stepped in to be a part of the brand new 2022 Board and volunteers willing to give us their valuable time. Most importantly, I would like to thank the hardest working volunteers I have the pleasure to know, Sarah Hlusko Everhart and Toni Kelly. They have single-handedly turned these two positions into massive work centers and I can hardly keep up with them. This is a team effort and I always ask them for their opinion. As a result, they keep me on the straight and narrow. If I can get my ideas past them I am safe to move forward.

I want to assure Members I have not come to this position haphazardly. I am a seasoned electrical engineer and I am sure many of you may question what I can offer to this organization. As an engineer, I have excellent organizational skills and am good at analyzing and solving problems. I also have strong communication skills and have dealt with people as both an engineer and repair center manager. However, I also bring 20 years of experience making and selling art in Erie and I have been on art-related boards for over 35 years. I am currently on two boards. I know what it takes to run a board and, most importantly, when to ask for help!

Countless Members were seriously concerned about the health and wellbeing of the NPAA. I spent many hours analyzing our situation. This included making phone calls, writing emails, and reviewing our bylaws and the treasury position itself (including financial/tax status and other pertinent information). I pursued shows for 2022 and am currently working with a possible candidate for Treasurer. I knew that if we did not urge a Members meeting or organize a new Board we would be in dire straits. As a result, I assembled a detailed agenda that included our current situation and what I felt needed to be our most basic priorities based on what was found.

It is clear what my job will entail. It is pertinent that we reestablish communications, conduct regularly scheduled monthly meetings, and open channels to engage the Membership and answer/solve issues. It is necessary to reestablish the NPAA reputation and reconnect with our community, creating opportunities for our Members to exhibit their artwork and cornucopia of talents. Our bylaws must be updated. We must reach out to our newest Members and look for new talents in both artist Members and Friends of NPAA.

Our community is concerned about our direction and composition. I ask each Member to reach out to me and our Board Members if you have ideas or concerns. Please do not lash out on social media when an issue arises. This is unprofessional and affects the NPAA as a whole. As Members, we all need to defend our reputation, not tear it down. We will listen, do our best to solve any issues, and address your concerns. We are unable to please everyone but we will do whatever we can to listen and to be fair. We will make decisions on what information we have and aspire to be the best version of the NPAA we can achieve.

We hope to hear very soon from one of our contacts who is a possible candidate for Treasurer. This is a major priority - if you have any suggestions, please forward them to the Board. We also have a need for an individual with a law degree/background for hard to answer legal questions. Both positions can be filled by a Friend of the NPAA.

We will be conducting our first Board meeting shortly. This will not be open to all NPAA Members so we have an opportunity to get to know each other and set an agenda. Minutes of this meeting will be distributed to the entire NPAA. A regular Board meeting will follow in March and this will be open to all Members.

As a result of this vote, we now have a small but functional Board and thankfully there have been plenty of Members offering to help in several areas.

I again want to thank everyone who voted to help seat a new Board and I look forward to a successful 2022. We all benefit from a strong organization and we have just taken the critical first step in this fundamental process.

Sincerely,  
Greg Zbach  
NPAA President



## DID YOU KNOW?

In 1974 when the NPAA was founded, there was a need for professional artists to band together to help each other promote the visual arts as well as to protect their artistic endeavors from being exploited by an uninformed public.

Most non-artists thought painting, drawing, and sculpting was "fun," "easy," and a "hobby." Therefore nonprofit organizations would call upon artists to donate works for auction to raise money for worthy causes and give nothing to the artist in return. Many times the work was sold for a small sum and often criticized. This was especially true in the case of abstract art. Where other professionals were asked for tax deductible monetary contributions, the artist was expected to give his work freely.

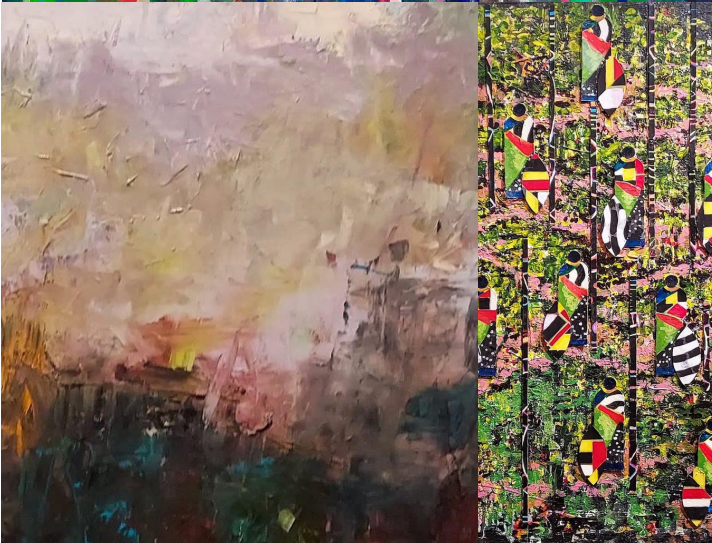
To initially create a uniform policy for art donations, three local artists and one art advocate (the Schabackers and Sundbergs) formed a basic organization that would represent local professional visual artists. The organization, named the Northwestern Pennsylvania Art Association (NPAA), then decided it would base its membership on the national organization "Artist Equity" which required its members to be accepted to at least three national exhibits. The first committee chosen to draft the bylaws included: Dan Burke, John Deckard, Tony Ko, Andrew Sanders, Betty Schabacker, Carl Sundberg, and John Vanco.

Now in its 47th year, the NPAA organizes several annual exhibits for its 130+ members' participation, annually donates college scholarship monies to local graduating high-school seniors, and generally promotes the visual arts in the tri-county community.

<https://www.npaaonline.org/>







## NPAA ARTISTS MEMBERS: DAN AND RACHAEL BURKE

Dan and Rachael Burke have been in many group exhibitions but not a two-person show. This is The Burkes' first exhibition as a couple. They want to give the viewer an opportunity to compare and contrast how they build artworks so differently while sharing a similar aesthetic and interest in disclosing their process. Despite the difference in media, The Burkes use an adding and subtracting method that gives room for constant change. Their approach includes spontaneity, intuition, and ongoing revision. Dan and Rachael's painterly process captures something in the making, unsettled, and shifting that is more continual than final. The result is a very active composition which often asserts the autonomy of paint. Whatever subject they select to hang paint on, they combine figuration with abstraction, letting the work guide them forward.

Opening reception April 9th, 6:00-10:00 pm, City Gallery, with live music, snacks, and refreshments. Exhibit on display April 9-August 5, 2022.

## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President  
Greg Zbach

Communications  
Toni Kelly

Recording  
Sarah Hlusko Everhart

Membership  
Bob Hagle

Exhibitions  
Marsha Cisek

Publicity  
Nicki Azicri

Advisory  
Lisa Austin

Futures  
Joe Krol

WE ARE IN NEED OF A TREASURER. PLEASE CONTACT THE NPAA IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION.



# 2022 Board of Directors

## GREG ZBACH

- Photo Artist, New Media Art
- Retired Electrical Engineer
- Helped create and run Gannon University radio station
- Composed children's ballet, "Grimmsby"
- Served over 35 years on multiple art organization boards, including PASNWPA

## TONI KELLY

- Painter with a concentration on nature, especially birds and landscapes in oil or acrylic
- NPAA Member for 11 years, previously on the Board for Technology
- A retired calligrapher, Toni has studied under international calligraphy teachers and recently took a Plein Air workshop
- Past gallery owner
- Focus is on outdoor art shows and festivals

## BOB HAGLE

- Previous NPAA Board assignments include Archives, Publicity, and Secretary
- NPAA Member for over 30 years!
- Before retiring in 2002, Bob was a Manager for Employee Communications at Lord Corporation
- Syracuse University, MFA, Visual Communications, 1986
- Owned and operated Hagle Studio Gallery from 1968 to 1972
- Created eight music/visual programs for 2001 Clubs of America, a discotheque franchise in 23 US cities in 1974
- Exhibits include local and regional shows in Erie, Pittsburgh, New York City, and Ohio
- Taught photo workshops at Erie Art Museum, Audubon Society, and Mercyhurst University, 1980-1985
- Produced books on works by Roy Ahlgren, Francis T. Schanz, Matta D. and John Silk Deckard, and his own personal photography, 2009 to 2014

## LISA AUSTIN

- Collaborative social sculptor, serving on the City of Erie's Zoning Hearing Board and now serves on Erie County's Planning Commission
- Lisa has contributed dozens of co-authored essays to the Erie Reader and Erie Times-News examining urban design, economic development, and transportation issues in Erie
- As a part of her art practice, she has helped orchestrate federal lawsuits opposing the shortsighted demolition of Erie's McBride Viaduct and construction of an Erie Bayfront Highway - two examples of the city's 21st century redlining
- Austin was one of a dozen candidates for Mayor in 2017 and used her "Elect an Artist" political platform to advocate for innovative, inclusive and sustainable adaptive reuse, planning and economic development
- Through the CIVITAS design collaborative she established, Austin initiated and co-founded Preservation Erie, All Aboard Erie, Innovation Erie, made in Erie Marketplace & Design Lab, SculptureX, ErieCPR and Connect Urban Erie
- She is currently a professor of art at Edinboro University
- Austin has directed the Bruce Gallery at Edinboro University since August of 2020 where, in 2021, she facilitated the first POC curated show of regional POC artists
- Virginia Commonwealth University, BFA, Sculpture, 1984
- Yale University, MFA, Sculpture, 1986

## MARSHA LANGMAN CISEK

- Fiber artist
- NPAA Member for over 30 years!
- Has also served as Publicity and Scholarship
- She has taught at Mercyhurst University, Edinboro University, Millcreek School District
- Past President of LEFG
- Creating and performance at Dafmark Dance Theater

## SARAH HLUKSKO EVERHART

- McDowell Highschool graduate, educated by NPAA Members Mary Rosiak and Marsha Cisek
- Mercyhurst University graduate, studied Studio Art/Biology, educated by NPAA Members Daniel Burke and Gary Cardot
- Interests include barre, hiking with her dog, Spot, fishing, swimming, reading, antiques, website design
- Previous employment/volunteer work includes Erie Summer Festival of the Arts & Celebrate Erie Chalk Walk Chalk Artist/Board Member, Mercyhurst University (Merriad - Photography Editor/Staff Photographer, Lumen - Art Contributor, Juried Student Art Show, Cummings Art Gallery - Student Finalist), Artlore Studio, and Kada Gallery
- NPAA Friend/Board Member since 2021

## JOE KROL

- One of the last students of Joe Plavcan
- Columbus College of Art & Design, BFA, Illustration and Ad Design, and was recently recruited to join the faculty at CCAD, but chose to stay in Erie to restructure and teach Commercial Art Class at Tech Memorial
- Joe has 45 years in art business, including as an art director/designer, illustrator, writer, accountant and production manager
- He has work in Buffalo, NY, followed by four years at Dix & Eaton, a Cleveland PR firm that served heavy industry such as GE, Lords, and Eriez Magnetics
- Tal, Inc., Senior Designer before formation of KolGraphics, his advertising business that served Fortune 500 clients in across the globe, including Oregon and Belgium
- Since retiring from full-time advertising work and teaching, has had a renewed interest in painting, exhibiting regionally as well as nationally at the Butler Mid-Year
- Most recently, Joe began his second year on the NPAA Board
- Completed a commission to research and write a book - a corporate history that will be published in hardcover soon!

## NICKIE MALY AZICRI

- Painter/Sculptor
- NPAA Member for over 30 years!
- Previously NPAA Secretary for 6 years, and an Alternate for Publicity
- Edinboro University, BS, Education
- Edinboro University, BFA, Ceramics
- Edinboro University, MFA, Painting and Ceramics
- Gannon University, MA, Counseling
- Tenured teacher, Erie School District, for 20 years!
- Adjunct Faculty Member, Penn State Behrend
- (Work Displayed in publications such as, The Best of Pottery, 1988
- Exhibited in 75 National & International exhibitions and regional exhibitions such as the Three Rivers Art Festival, and the Erie Art Museum Spring Show

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

NEXT OPEN  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 26, 2022