



NEWSLETTER – January 2026

Letter from the President

"Great art picks up where nature ends" Marc Chall

Here we are once more in a bleak January, or is it?

We can see that nature is at rest, with barren trees, no fruit or leaves.

No birds or squirrels chirping outside your window. Yet you know they are nestled, cozy, and warm in their nests

The scenery can be grand, with fresh fallen snow, tree branches all dressed up in white with the moon shining through.

Scenes appear before an artist's eye that others do not see, we take photos, go home and paint it to our hearts delight.

Every season brings new opportunities to behold.

Our Barnes and Noble show is only a couple of months away and we are already in the plans for it. So, paint the scenes you love, and we will all enjoy them!

"If I could say it in words there would be no reason to paint" Edward Hopper

Margaret

Letter from the Newsletter Editor

I am happy to report that over the last few months we've enjoyed the company of several new members! Keep inviting your friends. We have a great group – getting stronger all the time – and it is fun to share our love for art with other like-minded people.

I hope you enjoy the photos from this month's workshop. Also, note the dates for the Barnes & Noble show. For new members, everyone can typically submit up to 3 paintings (and sometimes more) so start thinking about what works you would like to display!

Mike

UPCOMING & CURRENT CLUB EVENTS

PAG February 5th Meeting at The Pittsford Community Center

Speaker: Mark Stash



Capturing Peace and Harmony in Painted Landscapes

Mark Stash has always attempted to communicate his feelings of peace and contentment through the lens of capturing the natural world on canvas and paper. His oil and acrylic paintings bring to life the Finger Lakes Region, the Adirondacks and other Upstate New York and Northeast United States landscapes that he finds beautiful and compelling.

The Finger Lakes Region has a special combination of agriculture, lakes, villages and undeveloped lands, where they exist in harmony together in a rich ecosystem. The abundance and prosperity of a vineyard mixed with a woodland scene brings to mind how they enhance our environment and are productive with food for both humans and animals. The Adirondack Region is different in that there is very little agriculture and more wilderness, where humans have much less of an impact on the landscape on a daily basis. The beauty and vastness of the wild region are also inspirational for Mark as an artist, where he can explore his “wild side” a bit. He hopes that through his landscapes, he can convey the dynamic balance of the natural environment with the needs of people.

Mark has a background in graphic design and publishing. He attended the Art Institute of Pittsburgh where he majored in Visual Communications and Illustration. He got his first taste of magazine work while starting his career at “Highlights for Children” magazine. He evolved into becoming an editor and designer for “Life in the Finger Lakes,” a regional magazine that he helped create in 2001.

Mark has been a member of Pittsford Fine Art since early 2023. He has also been involved in local art shows, such as the Naples Open Studio Trail and the Canandaigua Lakefront Art Show. His original artwork, art prints and notecards are available in numerous gift shops and galleries in the Finger Lakes Region.



COMING SOON

PAG Juried Show at Barnes and Noble

March 1st through March 28th, 2026

DATES

Sunday March 1st setup 9:00-11:30 am

Saturday March 7th Reception 10:30-12:00 noon

Saturday March 28th take down 9:00-11:30 am*

Stay tuned for more details as we coordinate further with Barnes & Noble.

*They have an event that afternoon, so any paintings remaining at 11:30 will be taken home by Mike or others and brought to the next meeting

FRIENDLY HOME ARTISTS

Do you still have paintings waiting for pickup from the last show? Mike still has a few! Contact Mike to arrange to pick them up at his house if you want them soon – otherwise he will bring them to the next meeting and keep bringing them until all are accounted for.

OTHER REMINDERS

Check the PAG website for a list of all upcoming events and meetings. <https://pittsfordartgroup.com/>

Guest Policy

GUESTS interested in joining are welcomed and encouraged to join us at our monthly meetings to hear and see what's going on and to watch our wonderful demonstrators. To help with rising costs it would be appreciated if an entirely optional \$5.00 donation was made to the group for in-person attendance. Any donation amount made will be applied to the joining fee.

Sunshine Committee

Sylvia Ball will send occasion-appropriate cards to members or their families. If you know of someone who is ill or a member that has passed, please contact Sylvia.

ROTATING EXHIBITS FOR 2026

THERE ARE STILL OPENINGS. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The rotating exhibits are an opportunity for members to display their work at various locations around town. If you have questions about this schedule, please contact **Laura Davis**. Remember - you can share any of these exhibit spaces with other members!

Contact Laura Davis at Davisdyn@rochester.rr.com to sign up

Venue->	Pittsford Town Hall	Friendly Home Main	Star P.T.	Presbyterian Church	Lily Brook
# pieces->	12	22	16	12	12
Jan- Mar	B. Jablonski		L. Davis	L. Davis J. Paperno	A. Limbeck
Apr- Jun	D. Ingerick	J. Andrews	N. Varon		
Jul - Sep	L. Sciortino	A. Limbeck J. Miller		H. Jusko	
Oct - Dec	K. Wallin		P. Fahy	N. Welsh	

CLUB LEADERSHIP 2025 – 2026 Positions

Current Positions

Executive Board Officers

- President, Margaret Mitchell
- Vice-President, Mike Kamish
- Treasurer, Debi Bloom
- Recording Secretary, Carolyn Dey Lobkowitz
- Corresponding Secretary, Joe Sirianni

Standing Committees

- Membership, Carol Schott
- Refreshments, Paula Fahey
- Rotating Exhibits, Laura Davis
- Sunshine, Sylvia Ball
- Website, Joe Sirianni
- Publicity, Open (since Linda has moved)
- Newsletter, Mike Kamish
- Speakers, Margie Mitchell & Mike Kamish

Open Positions

We are now seeking new Board and Committee Members to replace leaders that have been at it for years. This is your club – please be part of it by participating on the Board or a Committee. Open positions are listed below. Current leaders will “show you the ropes” so we can make this very easy. Everyone who has participated in this way says they get a lot more out of the club – and make new friends – when they actively participate in this way. Please participate!

Open Executive Board Officers

- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary

Standing Committees

- Website
- Speakers
- Publicity

RECENT EVENTS

PAG January 8th Regular Meeting at The Pittsford Community Center

Speaker: Member Mike Kamish and a Hands-On Landscape Painting Workshop



Member Mike Kamish gave a short presentation on his typical approach to composition and painting trees.

He explained that he often uses a “centered focus” kind of composition where the lines of the landscape are intended to draw the viewer’s eyes into the painting and make them feel like they are travelling into the image. He used a painting as an example – shared below – with lines showing the various image elements and then how he tries to use trees and mountains to create a kind of “archway” that contains the viewers eyes.

The sample painting and lines of sight are provided below.



Mike also talked about trees – and how he tries to avoid straight vertical lines and instead tries to incorporate gnarled and broken branches.

The group then broke out with paints and canvases to try their hand at creating a landscape with trees and paths, etc.

Some Photos from the Workshop











MEETING NOTES – General Meeting 1/8/2026

**Pittsford Art Group
General Meeting
Spiegel Community Center
36 Lincoln Avenue
Pittsford, NY 14534**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Board members Joe Sirianni and Mike Kamish were present in-person, Margaret Murchell, Carolyn Lobkowitz and Debi Bloom were in attendance via Zoom.

Debi provided a financial update. The group was reminded of the upcoming Barnes & Noble show as well as the need for additional volunteers for:

- Displaying at the various community venues this year (Contact Laura for details)
- For multiple Open Board and Committee positions (contact Margaret for details)

The business portion of the meeting was closed at 7:15 and was followed by a presentation by member Mike Kamish and then a group painting workshop.

Submitted 1/14/2026 on behalf of Secretary Carolyn Lobkowitz,
Mike Kamish

MEMBER NEWS

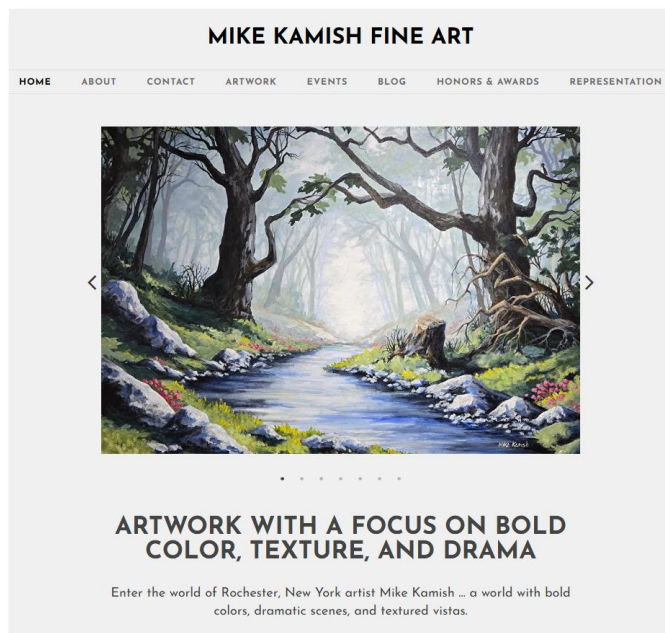
Don't forget to send me any news about your art related experiences and adventures. We also welcome articles as well – so be sure to share those.

New Artist Web Site

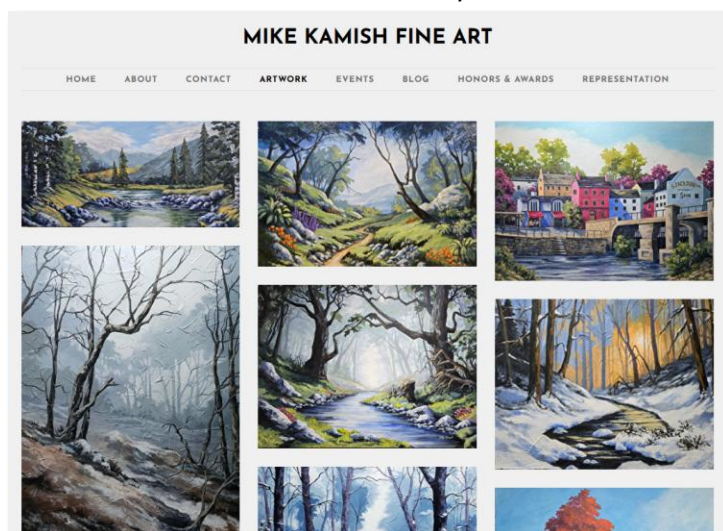
In the last newsletter, Member Mike Kamish described how he went to previous speaker John Hulsey's website and noticed that it was via a company called FASO. He said he was considering creating his own site the same way. Well, the update is: IT HAPPENED! Mike created a web site for himself called **MikeKamishFineArt.com**. Total annual cost is about \$250/year.

Here are a few screenshots as preview:

Home Page



Artwork Gallery



In-Room Preview Feature



Making the Purchase Decision & Getting Up and Running

Even though he created software for a living, Mike needed to make a “Make” or buy” decision when deciding on his own artist web site. The decision: It is so much easier to make use of a prepackaged product than creating something from scratch. The question was – is the prepackaged product easy enough to use, is the support good enough, and is the site flexible enough to justify the annual fee?

Knowing other artists that use the site – Mike gave it a try ... and was pleasantly surprised! There were about 20 templates to choose from – he chose a simple style, but others are more elaborate.

It was easy to figure out. Not perfect – as a software guy Mike could spot literally dozens of changes that he would make – but was understandable, quickly learned, and more than adequate for whatever he wanted to do. Within about 3 hours, Mike had a domain MIKEKAMISHFINEART, an email address, Mike@MikeKamishFineArt, the whole site configured, paintings uploaded, his home page and About page configured, events loaded, and more.

On top of that – built in features were automatically enabled without doing anything, Mike now had a mailing list, visitor analytics, a “shopping cart” for purchases, a newsletter and a blog.

Creating YOUR OWN Artist website

If you are interested in having your own artist website and it’s worth \$250/year to you, you might consider doing the same. Mike has also offered to help any member wishing to do this with some tech support as they get started. The link Mike used is:

<https://www.faso.com/>

Interesting Trivia

The painting “American Gothic” by Grant Wood is thought of by most people as a Midwest farming husband and wife in the era of the Great Depression.

It turns out that in reality, they were neither farmers nor husband and wife! The man holding the pitchfork was Wood’s dentist, Byron McKeeby, flanked by the artist’s sister, Nan Wood Graham.

