

# RARITAN VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION

Est. 1939

Website: <http://www.raritanvalleyarts.org/>

On Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/3m86dahu>

Newsletter Editor, Jennifer Ali

## The Future of the RVAA

A committee of concerned members have been studying how to restructure the RVAA to ensure the organization's future viability. Contact has been made with the New Jersey Center for Nonprofits, and present and former officers of the RVAA have been consulted.

We have looked carefully at the issues of becoming a new nonprofit, and consequently, the need for new bylaws, retaining a lawyer, and insurance—a requirement for holding meetings or exhibiting in community venues, such as libraries.

Because of our declining membership and the above complications, we are recommending the RVAA be dissolved. We believe it is the only realistic option.

In order to dissolve, any funds remaining in our bank account, currently over \$7,000, must be distributed, by law, to other nonprofit organizations. The decision has been made to divide the funds equally and donate them to the following three organizations:

**Farmstead Arts Center:** <https://farmsteadartscenter.org>

**The Center for Contemporary Art:** <https://ccabedminster.org>

**Frontline Arts:** <https://www.frontlinearts.org>



## ART COMMUNITY LINKS

Art Venture Flemington

<https://artventurenj.com/>

Arts Council of Princeton

<https://artscouncilofprinceton.org/>

Garden State Watercolor Society

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

Highlands Art

<https://highlandsart.org/>

Lebanon Township Museum

<https://tinyurl.com/yt4buncz>

Manville Arts

<https://manvillearts.org/>

Montgomery Arts Council

<https://tinyurl.com/cdh2xjkh>

Morris Arts

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

New Jersey Watercolor Society

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

Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission

<https://tinyurl.com/2yzcxum8>

## Art Organization Details:

### **Farmstead Arts Center**

450 King George Road, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

908-636-7576

<https://farmsteadartscenter.org>

Farmstead Arts, located on the grounds of the historic Kennedy Martin Stelle Farmstead, is a center for fine, performing and practical arts offering year-round programming of concerts, theater performances, art exhibitions and special events like barn dances and holiday boutiques. Artists in residence offer all varieties of art classes and workshops.

### **The Center for Contemporary Art**

2020 Burnt Mills Road, Bedminster, NJ 07921

908-234-2345

<https://ccabedminster.org/>

The Center for Contemporary Art is a vibrant, regional art center with in-person and virtual art classes, workshops, summer art camps, rotating art exhibitions, and community outreach programs. Art classes for children and adults are offered in painting, ceramics, pottery, drawing, pastels, photography and more. Outreach programs bring art experiences to children.

### **Frontline Arts**

440 River Road, Branchburg, NJ 08876

908-725-2110

<https://www.frontlinearts.org>

Formerly, The Printmaking Center of New Jersey, Frontline Arts is focused on building communities through socially engaging arts practices rooted in papermaking and printmaking. The organization presently does transformative work with veterans, making paper from uniforms which is then used in printmaking. They offer classes in a variety of disciplines, such as bookmaking and photo lithography, and regularly hold gallery exhibits.

## The History of the RVAA

**In addition to the history cited below, Arthur Trippanera of Somerville was also one of the founders of the RVAA. Nina Trippanera, his daughter, was present at many of our meetings.**

An unabridged version of the founding of the RVAA appears on the website:

<http://www.raritanvalleyarts.org/history.html>

In 1939 Mrs. Cornelius Lowe, chairperson of the Somerville Civic League art department (1939-1940), and painting instructor, Tanner Clark of Green Knoll, recognized the need for an art association in Somerset County and contacted others in the community who they thought would be interested in the endeavor.

In 1941 a meeting was conducted with at least 41 prospective members to determine how to organize the group. They agreed on a democratic format, and that the membership be comprised of professional and non-professional artists, and associates. At that meeting officers were elected, and the Somerset County Art Association was created. In 1942 the name was changed to The Raritan Valley Arts Association (RVAA) and was incorporated.

Over its long tenure, the RVAA conducted monthly meetings, September through May, highlighted by demonstrations by local artists and the RVAA's own talented members. The organization offered many opportunities for its members, including an annual Holiday Art Show and Sale, exhibits in the county's public buildings, and informal "member show-and-tell" at some meetings. The RVAA also organized a yearly excursion to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Watercolor Society's Annual Exhibit at the Salmagundi Club.

During its decades of operation, many artists found inspiration and camaraderie as members of the Raritan Valley Arts Association.

## Acknowledgement

We cannot close the book on the RVAA without acknowledging its members, who are the heart of the organization and its purpose for being. Also, we must acknowledge the work of its officers and committees, present and past, whose tireless efforts kept this organization viable since 1939.

Thanks to Marge McGovern for 'temporarily' stepping in as President seven years ago;

Barbara Fiorentino, Treasurer, 20+ years, for keeping account of the cash flow;

Diana Patton for being the biggest cheerleader for the RVAA through the years, securing a place for our meetings, arranging the annual Holiday Library Show, and writing the newsletter for many years;

Gardner Patton for creating and maintaining the RVAA website;

Donna Souren for scouting and booking the artist demonstrations;

Peggye Tombro and Nancy Boney for negotiating exhibit space and organizing shows;

Lois Westerfield for becoming the RVAA Secretary, succeeding Rosemary Zangara, and for doing extensive work to explore options for the future of the RVAA;

Jenn Ali, who took on the roles of our Facebook page administrator and current newsletter editor.

**Thank you to all the members and supporters!**

**There would not have been an RVAA without you.**

Archived newsletters from 2007-present are currently available at:

<http://www.raritanvalleyarts.org/news.html>