Welcome to our Winter Newsletter!

Creativity
Inspiring audiences through art, exploration, and recreation

Conversation
Engaging our communities in open and honest dialogue

Collaboration
Bringing people together to strengthen our community

Seasons Greetings from WonderArts!

As the year comes to a close and snow begins to stick we are filled with gratitude and are thankful for our community and for you. In the past few months we have accomplished incredible projects, hosted high-quality programs, partnered with other organizations, and worked hard to ensure that we continue to serve our communities in relevant and intentional ways. We are honored to be a part of this community.

Looking toward 2018, we are excited to continue to provide fun and engaging programs, experiences, and opportunities to community members of all ages. We hope you continue to participate in events, attend classes, check in, and engage with us in conversation, collaboration, and creativity. From all of us at WonderArts, thank you and happy holidays.

The WonderArts Team - Board: Alain McMurtrie, Havilah Stewart Mann, Monique Beaudry, Naomi Ranz-Schleifer, and Riva Reynolds
Advisory Board: Peggy Sapphire & Laura Britton
Staff: Anne Hanson, Carol Fairbank, Skye Livingston & Jess Romeo

Connect with us at: WonderArtsVT.org or on Facebook!
Reflections from the Fall

Performance, Poetry, and Enrichment
Since September, I’ve spent my Friday afternoons in 7th and 8th grade classrooms at Craftsbury Academy. I open every class by reading a poem aloud to students - often a contemporary, free verse poem without strict meter or rhyme. Their chatter quiets by the third line, and they jot down words and phrases that strike them. My goal in teaching poetry is not to ask students to decode what a poem means, but rather, to hear what it means to them, to understand a bit about how it works, and to be inspired to create their own work.

I have been pleased (though not surprised) to find that the same students who came into the class complaining that they did not like or understand poetry are now polishing beautiful pieces about love, loneliness, family, or beauty. All the students in the Poetry Enrichment class have taken on a tough subject with energy and humor. By Lizzy Fox

Spark Community Conversation and Innovation
Spark is a new WonderArts initiative supporting innovation and the creative economy. Through Spark, we are creating a space to bring people of all ages and abilities together to leverage technology and provide access to equipment. Spark brings local students, individuals and organizations together to help make the NEK a place where innovation, entrepreneurship, and business can thrive.

Following Thanksgiving, we held our first community meeting, hosting representatives from a dozen towns, spanning students to business owners in everything from engineering, arts, agriculture, and programming to education, and hospitality. We identified key ideas, challenges, and resources that will inform decisions and direction. Spark is at the beginning stages of developing a model thanks in part to support from a USDA Rural Business Development grant. Email spark@wonderartsvt.org to learn more about the project or to get involved. By Ezra Ranz & Naomi Ranz - Schleifer

Fine Art on Campus
WonderArts curates art exhibitions in three locations across the Sterling College Campus. We had a fantastic community turnout during the Artist Reception event in October, celebrating the work of Elise Andrea, Lulu Wooton and Judy Lowry. Be sure to check out Mary Azarian’s prints on view in the Admissions Office foyer from November 15th - January 26th and Chip Troiano’s photographs in the Brown Library from Dec 15 - Feb 5.

Home
As we take in the boisterous activity
We find a longing for serenity

This one time at home,
Let’s not argue
Let’s stop for one second and consider each other’s feelings.

It would be a delicious moment
Without conflict, without chaos,
All of us would be together
In a sudden quietness.

The music would stop blaring
The ball would stop bouncing
We would be together,
This one time at home

Poem by Craftsbury Academy 7th grader
Looking Forward to the New Year!

What a Difference Community Makes.
Working as the WonderArts VISTA means having my hand in a lot of pots: programs, after school classes, projects, and more. Watching the students engage with the curriculum that we develop has been inspiring to me, and I enjoy evaluating these classes, documenting the aspects that can be expanded or improved upon in the future. Currently, I'm also organizing a series of Family Movie & Meal nights, which aim to bring members of the community together and provide them with a free meal and entertainment. It's a simple program that will build community in areas that don't have as much access to programs and events. By Jess Romeo

Keeping up with the 321 Community Greenspace
It's been a wonderful fall, and we've had the pleasure of teaming up with students from Sterling College to clean up and improve the trails at the Greenspace. Community members will see some exciting additions to the Greenspace in the coming weeks, including new hand-painted signs, created by Tara Goreau and the Craftsbury Elementary students.

Winter is such a lovely time in our little corner of Vermont, we are excited about community events in the new year, like our moonlight snowshoe and bonfire. We hope you'll join us this winter season! By Carol Fairbank

Programs from Preschool to Middle School
Our after school programs have been in full swing at 7 different after school sites in topics ranging from Junk Instruments to Culinary Arts. Our upcoming winter session will include classes at Albany, Craftsbury, Lakeview, and Wolcott Elementary and will focus on fun with science and kitchen chemistry.

Get Up and Move! Pre-K dance and movement classes have been going strong at the 4 Seasons of Early Learning this month, and we're excited to expand the program to Craftsbury, Saplings, and Wolcott Pre-K starting in February!

Last year's Friday Afternoon enrichment classes were in such demand from students at Craftsbury Academy that we expanded to the middle school this fall! 7th and 8th grade students participated in an ongoing poetry class as well as various workshops led by guest instructors on orienteering, journal-making, banking, and theater taught by The Funnery director Peter Gould. By Skye Livingston

Stand-Up for Social Justice
This fall, we worked with 40 Hazen teachers on student-led issues, to give youth voice to social justice. We emphasized a need for students, teachers, and families to educate and actively engage in learning about social justice issues and face them within themselves.

Stand-Up has gained a lot of trust and respect from teachers and administrators. Now, we are asked to advise teachers, help with notices that are sent out to the whole student body and more. We see that we have made the biggest impact with staff and that they in turn positively impact students. By Rachel Wilson
We look forward to seeing you this winter!

Upcoming Featured Events:

December 16th - Annual Holiday Market
10 am - 4 pm @ the Craftsbury Academy Gym

December 27th - Annual Holiday Concert
6 - 8 pm @ East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church

Jan 10, Feb 8, Mar 8 & Apr 12 - Let’s Talk Films
6:30 pm Locations rotate throughout the Community

Jan 16, Feb 20 & Mar 20 - Climate Change Films
6:30 - 8 pm @ The Craftsbury Outdoor Center

4th Saturday Afternoon Art Classes
1 - 3 pm @ Craftsbury Town Hall (Starting January)

Jan 31 & Mar 1 - Full Moon Snowshoe
5:30 - 7 pm @ Community Greenspace (start in the village)

Feb 9 - Raise Your Voice Event
6 - 9 pm @ Heartbeet Lifesharing

Feb 13 - Mardi Gras Masquerade
5:30 - 7 pm @ Highland Center for the Arts (for families)

For More Events, Classes, and Information
visit wonderartsvt.org

Seniors Stay Active Through the Winter!
WonderArts is thrilled to be partnering this winter with the Craftsbury Outdoor Center and Heartbeet Lifesharing to host a variety of upcoming activities for seniors! Specific dates and times are still being ironed out but we are excited to be partnering with other organizations to provide seniors with opportunities to engage in the arts, culture, fitness, and well-being. To find out more call 802.533.9370 or email ceilidh@wonderartsvt.org

3rd Annual Holiday Concert!
With the holidays in the air, join us in supporting our local artists at our Holiday Concert in the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, on December 27th from 6 to 8 pm. The Porter Brook Trio brings together Holiday classics, original pieces, and community for a truly inspiring and rich musical evening. The Trio was started by Roy & Mavis McNeil, and Annie Rowell. Each musician brings unique talent to the stage, from flute, guitar, piano, stand-up bass, cello, and more.

For more information visit WonderArtsVT.org or call 802.533.9370
Address: P.O. Box 300, Greensboro, VT 05841

Thank you to our Newsletter Contributors!
Carol Fairbank, Ceilidh Galloway - Kane, Ezra Ranz, Lizzy Fox, Jess Romeo, Naomi Ranz - Schleifer & Rachel Wilson

Your donation makes a big difference in supporting our work.
Thank you!