

Photo exhibit charms at Westfield gallery



Meg Loncharic

The title of the exhibit, "Beauty Unbound," hints at what fine art photography is all about.

East Springfield resident **Patti Larson**, president of the Photographic Arts Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania, is singing the praises of this photo art exhibit in Westfield, New York, showcasing work by 23 Erie-area members. The exhibit runs through March 20 at the Octagon Gallery, a hidden gem of a gallery located at 40 S. Portage St. in Westfield.

According to the society's website at www.pasnwpa.org, Octagon Gallery curator Nancy Nixon Ensign installs 12 shows every year in the unique, eight-sided space. It has a state-of-the-art floating track lighting system and plenty of space for all types of artwork.

A peek at one of the entries, visible online, will excite the minds of shutterbugs as they view examples of fine art photography.

This is worth a drive to Westfield, Larson said. She added that, according to the society's website, many PASNWP members have taken their craft a step further by creating expressive and even abstract works of art.

Talented photographers have taken photography to the next level by capturing landscapes, wildlife, nature and even cityscapes and people with creativity and an eye for detail.

Participating photographers include the society's current board of directors and officers for 2020: **Melinda Isachsen**, vice president; **Candy Felege**, treasurer; **John Misterovich**, secretary; and directors **Anna Marie Senita** and **Greg Zbach**. Also represented are **Ellen Anon**, **Jack Anon**, **Alex Cohen**, **Christine French**, **Ricardo**



Photographic Arts Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania members, from left, Monica Schwegman, Melinda Isachsen, Candy Felege, Anna Maria Senita and Patti Larson, attend a recent exhibit at V Gallery in Millcreek Township. Members are part of a new exhibit at Octagon Gallery in Westfield, N.Y. [CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

F. Gilson, William Joslin, Kathy Silverthorn Maloney, Robert Raydo, Patty Raydo, Rebecca Samler, Monica Schwegman, Kathy Ludwin Welte and others.

According to the society's website, to promote fine art photography as art, PASNWP has hosted annual educational photography seminars for several years with such award-winning and internationally known photographers as **Sam Abel, George Lepp, Charles Glatzer** and **Mike Moats** and Erie-based photographer **Ellen Anon**.

The organization designates a portion of proceeds from sales of members' work to local art-related organizations such as Erie's Inner-City Neighborhood Art House, North East Arts Council children's events, and the Shriners Hospital for Children-Erie, where one exhibit was held.

PASNWP has had exhibits at Glass Growers Gallery, Erie Art Gallery, Meadville Fine Arts, Heeschens Gallery, Erie Arts & Culture and Sensory Winery.

For the first time, in 2019, the society awarded a \$1,000 educational scholarship to a local student

pursuing a degree in photography. To learn more, visit www.pasnwpa.org.

Music in the air

Lisa Herring, director of marketing and development for the Erie Philharmonic, said it will be holding events for ticket buyers and season ticket holders in the next few months to see the Erie Insurance Arena seating map and ask questions about their tickets.

Philharmonic concerts will be among the events moving to the arena when the Warner Theatre closes later this year for renovations.

For updates, call 455-1375, ext. 17, or visit www.eriephil.org.

Dance training

Debbie DeAngelo and **Nick Iacobucci**, instructors for the Stardust Dance Club of Erie, are honing their skills for upcoming classes to be offered on Tuesdays from March 3 through April 28. Beginner cha-cha classes will be taught at 7 p.m. at the Saga Club, 3828 Washington Blvd. If interested, send email to

stardustdanceerie@gmail.com or call 833-8286. Lessons are \$8 per person per class; \$6 for members. Students pay \$5.

Save the dates

Published author and Fairview resident **Sabina Freeman** has been a guest speaker for the Jefferson Educational Society for the past several years, and is now offering talks at its satellite locations. She will be speaking on "Erie County Women in War Time" on March 4 at 6 p.m. at Mercyhurst North East Ridge Library, 16 W. Division St., North East, and on March 24 at 6 p.m. at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in the William P. Alexander Music Center, 110 Kiltie Road, Edinboro.

The presentations are free and open to the public, although registration is requested. For more details, call 459-8000 or visit www.jeserie.org.

Films at JES

The Jefferson Educational Society has three programs left in its Films on Fridays series focused on women with facilitator **Corrine Egan** at the

podium for the group discussion to follow. You'll want to be there on Feb. 28 for "Chisholm '72," a documentary on Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman in Congress. This provocative film is sure to inspire and amaze you, regardless of your political views. Her passion for progress took her into New York politics, then to Congress. The film follows the career of Chisholm, who was the first African American person and the first female to run for president of the United States, in 1972.

The remaining films are "Suffragette" on March 6 and "Eleanor Roosevelt" on March 13.

The series is open to the general public and takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the society, 3207 State St. Tickets are \$10 and include lunch. For more details, call 459-8000.

POSTSCRIPT: No written law has ever been more binding than unwritten custom supported by popular opinion. — Carrie Chapman Catt (1859-1947), American suffrage leader.

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