

RAVN ARTS

Welcome to The RAVN Arts Newsletter

Recent Projects

Upper St. Croix Art Exhibition

Our 14th Annual Art Exhibition was a great success. Our venue, the Gordon Town Hall, proved ideal, with handicapped accessibility, adequate display space, and an ice cream shop next door! During the 2 ½ days of the exhibit, we had about 200 visitors. Visitors purchased approximately 20% of the artwork listed for sale and 11 new members join RAVN. We were pleased with the success of this year's event, and we look forward to next August 14-16 for the 15th Annual Art Exhibition. Further information on the 2026 exhibition will be posted on our website **ravnarts.com** and our Facebook page. Current members will receive advance emails regarding the exhibition.

Greetings From RAVN

We are pleased to introduce our quarterly newsletter for RAVN Arts. Our goal is to keep you better informed about what is happening related to promoting the arts throughout our northern communities.

We have expanded our definition of “the arts” to include the visual arts (painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, fiber arts, and other media and formats), music, writing, theater, dance, and more. In our newsletters, we plan to include calendars of events, member spotlights, and information on area cultural arts groups. We welcome suggestions regarding articles to include, and information about arts events that you are planning and wish to promote.

Once again, welcome to our first edition of the RAVN Arts newsletter. We hope to hear from you in the coming year. Please contact us at ravn.arts@gmail.com, our Facebook page, or snail mail us at RAVN Arts, Box 8, Solon Springs, WI 54873.





Planning Ahead

Artists Round Table

Artists have expressed interest in meeting on a regular basis to create art, network, and expand artistic horizons by learning about various media. We hope to create a vibrant community of creative people by supporting the unique ways we express ourselves artistically. We have scheduled quarterly sessions for 2026. For additional information, visit our newsletter events calendar, website, and Facebook page.

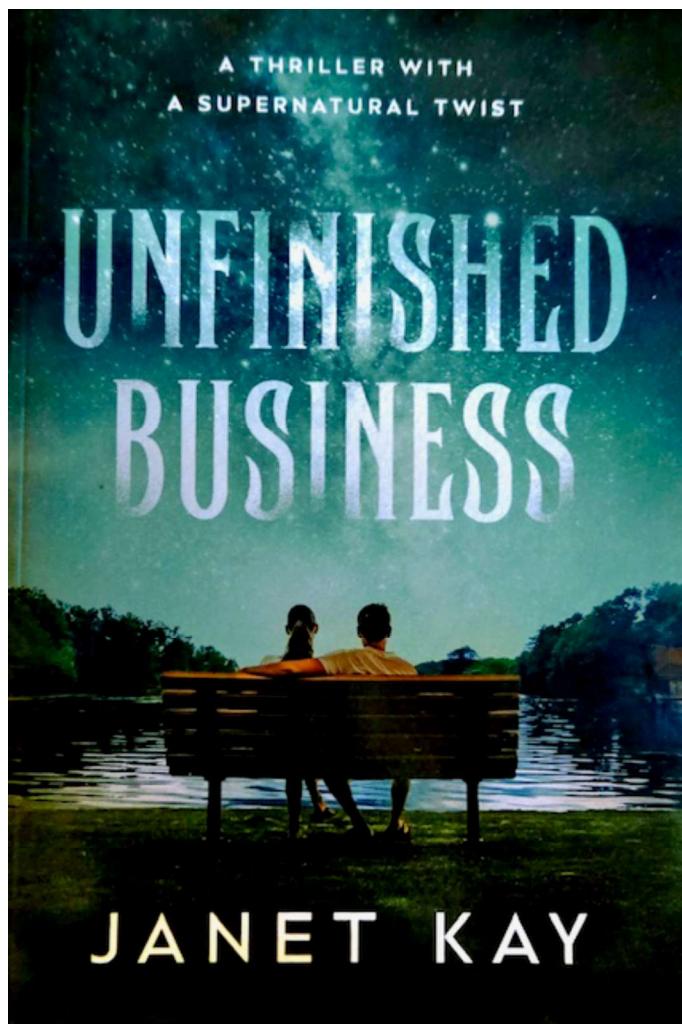
Basic Watercolor Class

Retired art educator, Colleen Nelson, plans to offer a Basic Watercolor class in late April or early May. This will be an introductory course, providing students with an understanding of watercolors' potential, and how to interpret simple landscapes on paper. Students with little or no painting experience will be encouraged to sign up.

For more info, contact Colleen at the RAVN address, RAVN Arts, Box 8, Solon Springs, WI 54873

Member Spotlight

Jan Jenson (pen-name Janet Kay) is a writer and amateur photographer who lives on Whitefish Lake in Wascott WI. Drawn to nature since she was a child, she sees it as a source of renewal, reflection, and connections with something greater than oneself. Her lifelong passions include creative writing, travel, photography, and spending time with her beloved family and friends. She has published five novels to date. They are a blend of thriller and mystery genres, historical fiction, romance, psychological suspense, and the supernatural. Her latest title, "Unfinished Business", is a psychological thriller with a supernatural twist. For more information about her novels, check out her website at <http://www.novelsbyjanetkay.com> or her photography site at www.fineartamerica.com/profiles/4-Janet-Kay.



St. Croix Writers Group

Attention all writers and wannabe writers!

Did you know we have a writers group in Solon Springs? We meet on Tuesday mornings, 9:30 am, in the basement of Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 11405 S. First Street, Solon Springs. All are welcome to join us, share your writing, request feedback, or just listen. We hope to see you there. Feel free to check out our Facebook page for updated information-St. Croix Writers Group.

More Recent Projects

Paint and Sip

On November 19th, we held our first RAVN ‘Paint & Sip’ event at the Solon Springs Town Hall with 13 people attending. The three-hour workshop gave participants who were “paint curious” the opportunity to socialize and experiment with watercolor and mixed media.

Basketry for Kids

This autumn, RAVN member, Colleen Nelson participated in the After-School Program at Solon Springs Elementary School on Mondays, where she taught Beginning Basketry to enthusiastic students. The students were able to learn the basics of manipulating basketry materials to create a berry basket and a wicker basket. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how you can provide artistic opportunities for youth in the area, please contact Colleen at the RAVN address.

Member Spotlight *continued*

Singer/songwriter Bruce W Nelson is a retired choir director, with over 40 years of teaching experience, 21 years in Winona, Minnesota, 18 years in Moscow, Russia, and 2 years in Iron River, Wisconsin. While in Russia, he served as director/conductor at The Anglo-American School and for student choral festivals in Moscow, Sofia, Budapest, Warsaw, and Prague. Since retiring, he averages one new song a day, primarily for his highly-political YouTube channel. As a rock/jazz pianist, he performed at both the American and British Embassies in Moscow, and for various political and cultural events. He has had songs on the Wisconsin State Music Association’s contest list, published several children’s song collections, and has written theme music for a Wisconsin Public Radio program and Duluth Minnesota’s “Octoberfestival”. He is currently the musical director of Time Arc Theatre in Superior, Wisconsin, recently composing the music for their production of Kathy Laakso’s play, “When Storms Come Calling”. He and his wife reside in Solon Springs.

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Area Arts Groups

If you are a member of another arts group and would like to spread the word through our RAVN newsletter, send us a brief paragraph about your organization or group.

Parting Thought

Every child is artistic.
The great challenge is to remain artistic throughout one's life.

RAVN Arts
www.ravnarts.com
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 Box 8, Solon Springs WI
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RAVN Arts Events Calendar

Paint & Sip

Solon Springs Town Hall, Cemetery Rd., Solon Springs WI

Saturday, February 28, 2026 11 am-3 pm
 Thursday, June 25, 2026 6 pm-9 pm

Artist Round Table

Solon Springs Town Hall, Cemetery Rd., Solon Springs WI

Saturday, March 7, 2026 10 am-2 pm
 Saturday, June 6, 2026 10 am-2 pm
 Saturday, September 8, 2026 10 am-2 pm
 Saturday, December 5, 2026 10 am-2 pm



"Art is Magic" by Colleen O'Leary Nelson (and Sveta) Acrylic and Oil