



February 2026 Newsletter - The Month of Love & We're Loving What's Happen'n at WHAM

Here's What You Can See at the Main Gallery

Vanguard Artists

WHAM Gallery Exhibition February 2-28, 2026

VANGUARD ARTISTS SHOW

Feb 2 – Feb 28

WHAM Gallery

16560 N Dysart Rd

Surprise, AZ 85378

Reception: Saturday, Feb. 7, 4-6 pm



Vanguard is a West Valley artists' critique group founded in 1977 with a goal of supporting each other in our artistic development. Members have achieved regional and national recognition.

Vanguard Artists, founded in 1977, is a premier group of professional artists dedicated to

excellence in fine art. Through thoughtful critique, education, and collaboration, the group supports artistic growth and the creation of high-quality work.

Exhibition at WHAM Gallery

Vanguard Artists will be showcased at the WHAM Gallery from February 2–28, 2026.

Gallery Hours: 10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Location: WHAM Art Center

16560 N Dysart Rd, Surprise, AZ 85378

About Vanguard Artists

The group meets at 1:00 PM on the first Friday of each month (except during the summer) at the Sun City West Foundation in Sun City West, Arizona.

Vanguard Artists provides a supportive forum for professional artists to critique work, exchange ideas, and continue pursuing artistic excellence.

Learn More Website: vanguardartists.blogspot.com

Facebook Group: facebook.com/vanguardartistsgroup

Performing Arts At WHAM

This past month, WHAM's Literary and Performing Arts group staged another outstanding solo performance. WHAM member, Penny Orloff, performed her current show, "Songs and Stories from a Not-Quite-Kosher Life," to a sold-out audience. Her beautiful voice gave listeners a taste of the melodies she learned from



her Jewish immigrant family during childhood, while her stories about her immigrant family and the tales from a lifetime in theater delighted and engaged the crowd. We look forward to many more performances by this talented actress.

Get ready for the next solo performance. The last two shows sold out, so get your tickets early.

TITLE PENDING



CREATED AND
PERFORMED BY
HEATHER TYSON

WHAM Presents Heather Tyson in

"Title Pending"

March 28, 2026, 7:30pm
16560 N. Dysart Rd. Surprise, AZ

Tickets:

\$25 advance at WHAM - \$25 at Eventbrite.com - \$30 at the door

REMINDER

Open Mic Night at WHAM
Friday February 20th 6:30 to 8:00pm
6:30 to 8:00pm

Authors Circle at WHAM
Sunday February 15th 2:00 to 4:00pm

WHAM



**GO-KARTS
FOR THE ARTS**
WHAM
AT ANDRETTI
3-14-26

Andretti Glendale | 3.14.26 | 3 - 6 pm
6263 N 99th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85305

PUTTING THE *FUN* BACK IN FUNDRAISER: *GO-KARTS FOR THE ARTS*

Rev up for a fun-filled day supporting the arts! Your participation *helps fuel programs for veterans, kids, teens, and adults* – from painting and drawing to sculpture, mixed media, and more.

FIND OUT MORE.



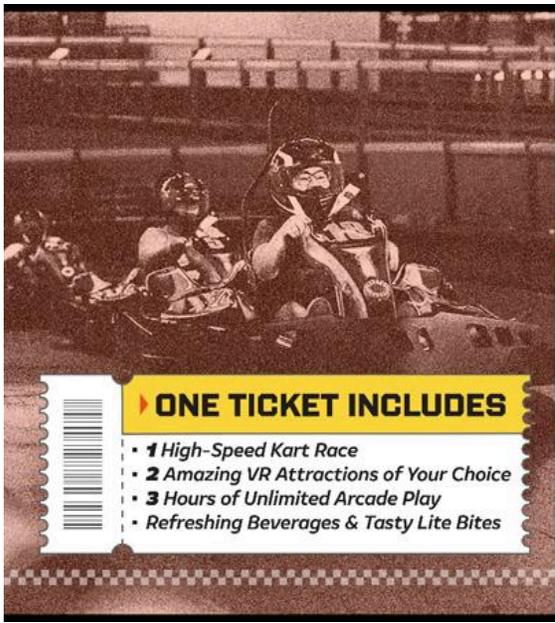
GO-KARTS FOR THE ARTS // WHAM

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 14th from 3 to 6pm for an afternoon of pure fun for yourself, family and friends.

PARTICIPATE: Create a team of five and compete against other teams for a chance to win prizes and awards – or race as an individual and challenge your friends on the track! One ticket includes a High-speed Kart Race, two Virtual Reality Attractions of your choice and three hours of unlimited arcade play. Also available to you are refreshing beverages and tasty lite bites. All proceeds support the WHAM Art Center and the West Valley art movement, helping provide accessible art education for veterans, kids, teens and adults.

DONATE: Along with the Kart Racing, we will be having our popular online auction where folks can bid on gift baskets, travel packages, fine art and jewelry items just to name a few. We are now accepting donations for the auction. [Check it out HERE](#)

SPONSOR: We have three levels of sponsorship available, Platinum, Gold and Silver. Your sponsorship will help WHAM continue to provide art education in the visual arts and literary arts programs for the West Valley communities. *To be a sponsor, contact Connie Whitlock at connie.whitlock@wham-art.org.*



Bring your *friends, family, and kids* for an action-packed day of fun – kids can kart as young as **4 years old!** Race, play, and compete while supporting a great cause.

WHERE:

Andretti Indoor Karting & Games Glendale
6263 N 99th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85305

WHEN:

March 14, 2026 from 3pm – 6 pm

Create a team of five and compete against other teams for a chance to win prizes and awards – or race as an individual and challenge your friends on the track! All proceeds support WHAM Art Center and the West Valley art movement, helping provide accessible art education for veterans, kids, teens, and adults.

ONE TICKET INCLUDES

- **1** High-Speed Kart Race
- **2** Amazing VR Attractions of Your Choice
- **3** Hours of Unlimited Arcade Play
- Refreshing Beverages & Tasty Lite Bites

PRICING:

- Team of 5: **\$130 per person**
- Individual Registration: **\$135**

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!



What's Happen'N Art Movement

FEBRUARY CLASSES AT A GLANCE
for information on our classes
visit wham-art.org/classes



Mindful Art for Seniors & Caregivers

Feb 3rd

10:00 am- 12:00 pm



**TeenWHAM
Quilling Valentines Card**

Feb 4th

4:30-6:30 p



**Friday Night Paint Night
"Love Birds"**

Date: Friday, Feb 6th

Time: 6:00-8:00 pm



Candle Workshop

Feb 7th
1:00-4:00 pm



Vets Program " A Path to
Healing"
Peoria Vets
Feb 9th
10:00-2:00 pm

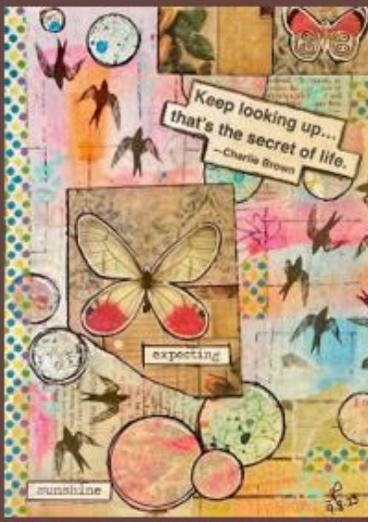


"Love Ewe" Bag

Feb 9th
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Stain Glass Workshop for Beginners - 3 week workshop

Feb 11, 18, & 25
5:30-7:30 pm



Mindful Art for Seniors & Caregivers

Art Journal

Feb 17th
10:00 am - 12:00 pm



TeenWHAM Winter Landscape Acrylics

Feb 18th
4:30-6:30 pm



Finding the Artist Within

Feb 19th
10:00-11:30 am



WHAM Kids Saturday Arts & Crafts
"Create a little flower box"

Feb 21st
1-2:30 pm



Fused Glass by Delight

Feb 21st
2:00-4:30 pm



**BEGINNING WHEEL
THROWING – CYLINDERS**
5 week program

**Feb 24th Mar 3rd, 10th, 17th &
24th**
6:00-8:30 pm

**Acrylic Painting @ the Spicery, located in beautiful
Historic Downtown Glendale**
7141 N 59th Ave
Glendale, AZ 85301

Date: Feb 26th
Time: 6-8 pm

[Visit our Website for Classes](#)

Dear Friends,

I'd like to give a heartfelt high-five to **Maggie Gautier** for shining a light on WHAM at the Surprise MLK Celebration on January 17 at Willow Canyon High School. Along with a WHAM teen poet Zoe Hyman, Maggie co-wrote and delivered a moving poem centered on service and community. She also organized the creation of thank-you cards for our deployed military members, reminding us that small acts of kindness can have a powerful impact. WHAM is stronger because of her compassion and dedication.

At WHAM, service is at the heart of everything we do. Volunteering is more than giving time. It is about sharing joy, building hope, and creating meaningful connections through art. Each act of service helps us nurture a welcoming space where artists feel valued, inspired, and connected. Whether you help with classes, support exhibits, or greet visitors, your involvement makes WHAM a place of creativity and

warmth. Together, we are building a community where art and compassion go hand in hand.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Every helping hand and every moment of kindness matters. Your dedication is what makes WHAM truly extraordinary.

Connie Whitlock
WHAM Executive Director



Zoe Hyman and Maggie
Gautier



Maggie Gautier, Hadley of
Hadley's Hope and Daisy
Vargas from the City of
Surprise, Community
Engagement Technician

The Cycle of Citizenship

Two and three score years ago,
An American Hero professed a dream,
To help all those that lived in woe,
And to look at what must be seen,

Standing at the steps of a memorial to Lincoln,
Martin Luther King's address was also a call to freedom,
His dream became the call to action
That so many people heeded,
His bravery caused the reaction of exactly what was needed,

Those we are gathered to honor today.
Are being recognized for the roles they play,
In spreading kindness, love, and hope
The tapestry you've woven is from (a) golden rope.

Everyone leaves a mark on the world
A legacy of meekness or might,
Some make it through fame.
Others through wealth,
Some find it from love, in sickness and health.

But in this celebration, you've seen the names,
Of the heroes and of the magnanimous souls,
Who humbly choose to serve the whole,
When you make a decision to serve those who lack,
Without ever asking for anything back.

Expressing compassion straight from their core,
Who model for us so much more,
Thinking of others in the midst of a storm,
Who piece us together even when they are torn.

You walk without capes,
Or amour of steel,
Armed with compassion for how others feel,
Whatever the role you have chosen to take
We've known that you know just what's at stake,

You perpetuate good,

You perpetuate laughter,
Forming cycles of kindness that will last ever after.
So thank you sincerely,
For all that you do,
Thank you, thank you, for just being you!

Written by: Zoe Hyman and Maggie Gautier 2025-2026

Teen WHAM

Teen WHAM created this Recycled Materials Sculpture project for the Roots of Creation Art and Cultural Festival. They used tires, aluminum cans, cardboard, bottle caps and other supplies to create this beautiful sea turtle. These materials were repurposed that would otherwise be a hazard to a sea turtle's natural environment.



Featured Team Leader

Transplanted from Illinois to Arizona 38 years ago, Diane Freeman has embraced the beauty of our many Arizona landscapes and climate zones. Starting at the age of 4, she always could be found drawing and observing the world around her. Throughout the years, Diane has created artwork in as many mediums as she could



squeeze into a busy family life and career in the business world. Today, as the Operations Manager at WHAM, she continues to stay busy but also manages to create art and occasionally instruct classes. Diane considers herself to be a water media artist and she says "if I can mix water with it, let's give it a go!" You can often find her in her studio at WHAM, creating art or planning fun events for our WHAM members.

CALL TO ARTISTS

Our Planet, Our *Inspiration*

Entry Deadline:
March 15, 2026

Submit at www.wham-art.org/callforart
nicolas.flowers@wham-art.org



CALL TO ARTIST

Submit at wham-art.org/callforart or contact
Nicolas Flowers at
nicolas.flowers@wham-art.org

Entry Deadline is:
March 15, 2026

WHAM MEMBERS NEWS

ART HALLWAY EXCHANGE

takes place in the front gallery
GIFT SHOP EXCHANGE takes place in the Gift Shop
March 8th & 9th 11AM-2PM
May 10th & 11th 11AM-2PM
September 13th & 14th 11AM-2PM
November 15th & 16th 11AM-PM

VOLUNTEER HOURS start over in January every year and must be documented With Gaylia Young-
Gaylia.young@wham-art.org

GIFT SHOP: Items must be clean, dust free and properly wired for hanging. 10 art pieces and/or 10 greeting cards per artist are allowed in the Gift Shop each exchange session.

ART HALLWAY EXCHANGE: Items must be clean, dust free and properly wired for hanging. Each member is allowed to bring in 3 pieces of wall art and 3 pieces of 3-D art (free standing art pieces). Up to 5 prints are allowed to be displayed in the hallways for a 6 month period.

Each item sold will have 25% deducted from the sale for WHAM. **Artists are paid after the 15th of the month following their sale.**

Lori Favara
Gift Shop Exchange
971-253-9421
Lori.favara@wham-art.org

Jenni Chambers
Hallway & 3-D Exchange
602-361-5117
Jenni.chamber@wham-art.org



Upcoming in the Clay Studio

Bring a dish, make some pots, and hang out!

Feb 3, 2026
Starts @ 10am
1st Tuesday of Every Month

Where: WHAM Clay Studio

Hosted by:
Director of Ceramics
Jeff Heeg

If you would like to be the Gift Shop “Featured Artist” you can sign up on the list that Lori Favara keeps in the Gift Shop. We would love to see your work in a featured display.



WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

WHAM Has Such Diverse Ways in Which to Volunteer. What piques your interest?

We always need help setting up events in the Gallery. To help with changing out the front gallery shows, contact **Nicolas Flowers** email: nicolas.flowers@wham-art.org

To help with setting up the classroom and assisting the art instructors with their classes, contact **Dede Robinson** email: dede.robinson@wham-art.org

Want to become a WHAM member?

Here are the amazing benefits!

- Discount on Art Classes
- Classroom Rental Discount (art instruction/class use)
- Art Clubs & Special Events (art collaboration)
- Member Meetings Quarterly
- Ability to hang your artwork at no cost to you unless it sells then you pay 25% fee
- Usage of WHAM building during open hours with approval
- Access to an Artist community to share ideas
- Ability to sell artwork in the Gift Shop at no cost to you unless it sells, then you donate 25% back to WHAM
- Ability to Enter into WHAM Exhibits, Events and Art Fairs
- Opportunities to give back to the community with your volunteer hours for classes and events!
- More fun than a barrel of monkeys!

IT'S TIME TO GET INVOLVED IN THE ARTS WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY



Newsletter Editor: Maggie Gautier, WHAM Literary Arts Manager
Newsletter Designer: Jimmy Garcia



WHAM Art Center | 16560 N Dysart Rd | Surprise, AZ 85378
623.584.8311 | WWW.WHAM-ART.ORG WHAMARTASSOCIATION@WHAM-ART.ORG

WHAM is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing art education for the local community with the intent of enhancing artistic talents.

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WHAM | 16560 N. Dysart Rd | Surprise, AZ 85378 US

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