



What's Happen'N Art Movement

**February 2026 Newsletter - Spring On Over  
to WHAM for Amazing Art - See Some -  
Make Some - Watch Some**

A poster for an art exhibition titled "Our Planet, Our Inspiration". The poster is set against a background of a close-up photograph of a purple flower. The text on the poster includes the dates "APRIL 2 - 29, 2026", the title "Our Planet, Our Inspiration" in a large, bold, black font, and the word "EXHIBITION" below it. A line of text indicates an artist reception: "\* Artist Reception: April 18, 2026 | 4-6 PM \*". Below this text is a grid of 15 small images showcasing various artworks, including a landscape with a sunset, a glass bottle with a floral design, abstract paintings, a desert landscape with a cactus, a sunset over water, a close-up of a bird's head, a landscape with a tree, a person in a blue jacket, a hummingbird, a person's face with intricate makeup, and a person sitting on a rock. At the bottom of the poster, a paragraph reads: "An exhibition revering the beauty, resilience, and complexity of our world, with artists exploring Earth, life, and human connections." The WHAM logo is visible at the bottom center of the poster.



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**APRIL CLASSES AT A GLANCE**

for information on our classes  
visit [wham-art.org/classes](http://wham-art.org/classes)



**TeenWHAM  
"DIY Bunnies"**

April 1  
4:30-6:30 pm



**Friday Night Paint Night  
"Hoppy Gnome Trio"**

April 3  
6-8 pm



**Beyond Beginning Wheel Throwing**

April 7th, 14th, 21st  
6:00-8:30



**Mindful Art for Seniors & Caregivers  
Acrylic Painting**

Apr 7th  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Stained Glass Workshop for Beginners**  
**3 week workshop**

**April 8th, 15th, 22nd**  
**5:30-7:30 pm**



**"Birds, Whimsical to Realistic" -  
Watercolor Class -**

**April 8th**  
**9 a.m. - Noon**



**"Bright Hibiscus" Using Soft  
Pastels**

**April 11th**  
**1:00-5:00 p.m.**



**Phone Case Decorating Using  
Decoden Cream Glue**

**April 12th**  
**2:00-4:00 p.m.**



**Vets Program "A Path to Healing"**  
**Peoria Vets**  
**April 13th**  
**10:00-2:00 pm**

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**TeenWHAM**  
**"Pinecone Flowers"**

**April 15th**  
**4:30-6:30 pm**

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**Finding the Artist Within**

**April 16th**  
**10:00-11:30 a.m.**

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**Your Story Begins Here:**  
**A Memoir Writing Workshop**

**April 16 & 23**  
**10:00 a.m. - Noon**

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## Whimsical Windchime Class (Clay)

April 16th & 30th -  
1-4 p.m. - \$60



## "Dancing Dolphins" Acrylic Painting Lesson

April 18th  
1-2:30 pm



## Mindful Art for Seniors & Caregivers

### Art Journal

April 21st  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm



## "Autumn in the Country" Acrylic Painting @ the Spicery, located in beautiful Historic Downtown Glendale 7141 N 59th Ave Glendale, AZ 85301

Date: April 23rd  
Time: 6-8 pm

Visit our Website for Classes



## We Love you Dede - WHAM Classes

After four years of hard work and

## Join a Community of Writers at WHAM's Authors Circle

Author Joani Elliott wrote, "Writing can be a solitary journey and finding the support of a small group can make all the difference". WHAM's Authors Circle was created to offer such support to writers in our community. So, if you are a writer of any genre and any experience level or simply



want to learn more about how to begin your writing journey, please join us every third Sunday from 2 PM to 4 PM at the WHAM building. Bring a few pages of your work-in-progress to read and receive gentle feedback designed to offer insight and encouragement. A \$5 donation is requested.

Hope you'll become a part of our Authors Circle!

Contact Chris Taylor (writing fiction as PortiaLily Taylor) at [chris.taylor@wham-art.org](mailto:chris.taylor@wham-art.org) for more information.



## The Open Mic

is Looking for you and wants to thank all those who keep coming back. The Open-Mic is held on the third Friday of every month at 6:30 in the main gallery. Free if you have a library card and \$5.00 or more suggested donation. As always, chocolate is involved. M.C. Maggie Gautier [Maggie.gautier@wham-art.org](mailto:Maggie.gautier@wham-art.org)

## Teen Poet Performance & Selection on Friday April 10th.

Come and see these talented poets perform their original works in the main gallery and be awarded their prizes at 6:30 p.m. Free for all and donations are always welcomed.



**ART is Happen'n HERE**  
Open Studio + Demo Series

**DATE & DEMO:**

**APRIL 17, 2026**  
**Flat Loom Demo**

**WHEN:**  
3rd Friday of the Month  
**4-8 PM**

**Demos start at 5:30 PM**

**WHERE:**



Bring your own art and work in a fun, creative open-studio atmosphere!



## New Events for Veterans!

In addition to the Veterans classes already available at WHAM and in Goodyear, we are adding classes in Avondale!



WHERE:  
**MOUNTAIN VIEW  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**1007 S 3RD STREET  
AVONDALE, AZ 85323**

WHEN:  
**MON, APRIL 6TH 2026  
10:00 AM-02:00 PM**

**MON, APRIL 27TH 2026**

A special day of painting for Veterans will take place in Goodyear on May 2nd. Lots of fun and friendship for those who have served.



WHEN:

**MAY 2, 2026**  
**9 AM – 1 PM**

WHERE:

**GOODYEAR**  
**BALLPARK**

**1933 S BALLPARK WAY,**  
**GOODYEAR, AZ, 85338**

**FREE Plein Air Painting for Veterans**

WHAM Art Association invites veterans of all ages to a free 4-hour plein air painting session! Learn from professional artists while capturing the "Brotherhood" sculpture at Goodyear Ballpark.

- **No experience necessary**
- **Supplies provided**
- **Light breakfast and lunch included**
- **Please bring your military ID to participate**

Come enjoy art, camaraderie, and creativity in a relaxed, supportive setting!

Sponsored by:



**623-606-1649**



**marty.wolfe@wham-art.org**

Thank you so much for being a part of the WHAM Family. Here's some more of what's in store.



Support the Arts. Score Something Amazing.

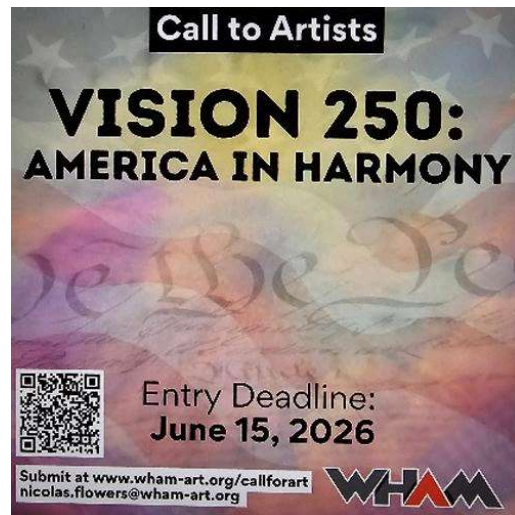
**WHAM Annual**  
**Fun Fundraiser**

Online Silent Auction is coming!

WHAM is having an online Silent Auction –the WHAM Annual Fun Fundraiser. It will be open for bids from April 26th to April May 4th. We need donations of gift cards, gift baskets and certificates/tickets for local entertainment venues. Once the auction opens the fun begins – will yours be the winning bid on that special item, or will someone outbid you at the last minute. For more information, please contact [diane.freeman@wham-art.org](mailto:diane.freeman@wham-art.org).

## Gallery Events

We still have two Open Calls for Art for the front gallery. Information and the prospectus for each call is on the WHAM Website under Gallery/Call for Art. If you have questions or help entering your artwork for consideration, contact Nicolas Flowers, the Front Gallery Manager at [nicolas.flowers@wham-art.org](mailto:nicolas.flowers@wham-art.org).



## Member Spotlight: Lucas Costanzo Gives Back Through Clay

Local ceramic artist and WHAM member **Lucas Costanzo** turned creativity into community impact this March with a heartfelt project honoring local first responders. After returning to



ceramics at the start of 2025, Lucas spent months refining his skills in WHAM's Ceramic Studio before taking on his biggest project yet: **67 handmade mugs** crafted for firefighters in Surprise and El Mirage.

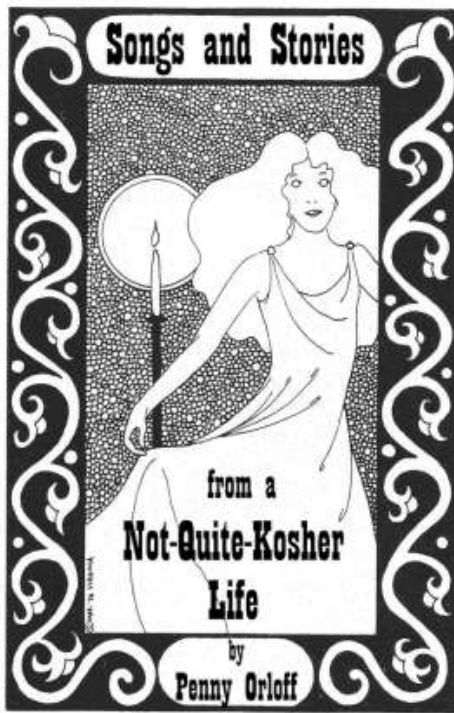
Working in retail, Costanzo regularly saw crews from Surprise and El Mirage shopping for their stations. Their daily presence and service to the community inspired him to create something meaningful in return.

Each mug was marbled in colors representing local fire stations and stamped with both a Fire Department emblem and Costanzo's maker's mark. On March 9, Lucas and his girlfriend, Iris — who baked 60 cake pops to



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**Back by Popular Demand - A Sunday Matinee of**



Art by Virginia Downs

Back by popular demand, Penny Orloff's solo show is bursting with heirloom melodies, stories of her Jewish immigrant family, and tales from her zany life in Showbiz.

*Penny Orloff... assured and excellent in every way.*  
*New York Times*

*This funny, multi-faceted story of one woman's journey through Showbiz entrances from its first word to the last.*  
*Seattle Fringe Review*

*Ravishingly descriptive and continuously entertaining... incredible warmth, wit, charm... Brilliant!*  
*Bellevue Post Intelligencer*

*...a sweet and charming presence, narrating the story while acting an assortment of characters... her self-effacing humor is enjoyable and authentic. She sings in a soft, legit soprano ...Penny Orloff is so darn likeable!*  
*Broadway World*

**WHAM**  
*What's Happen' n Art Movement*

Presents Penny Orloff in  
**Songs and Stories from a  
Not-Quite-Kosher Life**

May 3, 2026, 2:00 pm

16560 N Dysart Rd, Surprise, AZ

**Tickets:**

\$25 at Eventbrite.com \$30 at the door

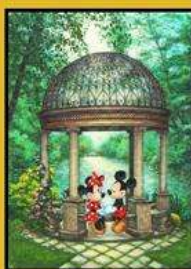
#### About the Artist

Penny Orloff was a working actor/dancer in Los Angeles when a Juilliard scholarship took her to New York. She played featured roles on Broadway and sang more than 20 Principal Soprano roles for New York City Opera. In a career spanning more than 50 years, she starred in over 100 productions off-Broadway, regionally, and internationally. Her first solo show, "Jewish Thighs on Broadway" (based on her best-selling novel of the same name, available at Amazon.com), toured the U.S. for a decade, including a successful off-Broadway run in 2005.



## Coming in May in the WHAM Main Gallery

Everyone is looking forward to this Exhibit! The opening reception is Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:30 to 6:30pm. See you there!

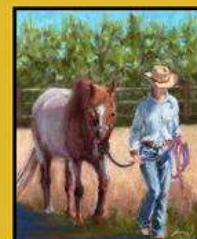


#### A CELEBRATION of ART

"A Celebration of Art" features the work of five highly regarded, award-winning artists, whose creativity will be on display throughout the month of May.

#### Featured Artists

Annick Biaudet—Penny A. Bragg—Kelly Bracken—Peter Ferk—Ron Souza



Penny A. Bragg - Pastels and Oils

# VISION 250

## July Event Lineup

This July, WHAM Art Center is celebrating America's 250th birthday with a month of events honoring veterans and the arts in the West Valley.

**JULY  
11  
2026**

### **Vision 250 Artist Reception:** 2pm-4pm

Meet featured and veteran artists as they share works celebrating freedom, creativity, and a harmonious vision of America on its 250th anniversary.

### **Free Kids' & Adult Make-and-Take:**

**10am-12pm**  
Unleash your creativity and make your own patriotic masterpiece! Paint, glaze, and personalize a handmade clay eagle to take home — perfect for all ages.

### **Heroes in Harmony:** 5pm-7pm

In collaboration with WHAM's veteran program and Michael Maisano's programs, experience a powerful patriotic performance by veteran artists celebrating service and freedom.

**JULY  
12  
2026**

2pm-3:30pm

### **Salute in Song & Stage**

In collaboration with WHAM's veteran program and Michael Maisano's programs, experience a powerful patriotic performance by veteran artists celebrating service and freedom.

**JULY  
17  
2026**

7:30-8pm

### **Open MIC Night**

Veterans and community members take the stage to share stories, music, poetry, and performances honoring service, freedom, and the spirit of America.

**JULY  
18  
2026**

10am-12pm

### **Free Kids' & Adult Make-and-Take**

Unleash your creativity and make your own patriotic masterpiece! Paint, glaze, and personalize a handmade clay eagle to take home — perfect for all ages.

**JULY  
25  
2026**

6pm-8pm

### **250th Grand Celebration**

Watch artists create live and join in interactive art projects inspired by freedom, liberty, and creativity. A hands-on celebration of expression for the whole community!



(623) 584-8311  
16560 N Dysart Rd,  
Surprise, AZ 85378

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:dede.robinson@wham-art.org)

- Usage of WHAM building during open hours with approval
- Access to an Artist community to share ideas

- 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



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623.584.8311 | [WWW.WHAM-ART.ORG](http://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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