



## DEAR ROYCROFTERS AT LARGE MEMBERS,

We are all experiencing very challenging times during this pandemic. We hope you will continue to support the RALA, a registered New York not-for-profit corporation consistent with our mission.

The Roycrofters-At-Large Association, Inc. has been entrusted with educating, fostering, and inspiring through the continual evolution of the Arts and Crafts Movement.



## ROYCROFTERS-AT-LARGE ASSOCIATION CHRONICLE

:: OUR MISSION ::

The Roycrofters-At-Large Association, Inc. was formed over 30 years ago by a group of East Auroran's that included several descendants of the original Roycrofters, including Elbert Hubbard's granddaughter. The Roycrofters-At-Large Association, Inc. has been entrusted with educating, fostering and inspiring through the continual evolution of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

■ SUMMER 2020 ■

## ARTIST AND TEACHER THOMAS KEGLER PUBLISHES THE SPIRIT AND THE BRUSH

by Rick Ohler

Internationally renowned artist and East Aurora High School art teacher Thomas Kegler titled his new book *The Spirit and the Brush: Painting Devotionals*. It is an absolutely stunning collection of more than 120 of his oil paintings of the natural world, divided into the four seasons, and coupled with his prose as well as daily passages from the Bible.

The book is available through his website ([thomaskegler.com](http://thomaskegler.com)) and at Meibohm Fine Arts in either a hardbound edition or a boxed, limited edition that includes an original ink wash by the artist. Meibohm will host an exhibit of Kegler's work called "Poetic Presence," beginning June 26 and running into August.

The inspiration for the book, as Kegler says, "is an alignment of a bunch of stars. A good friend suggested that it was time that I write a book. But a book in my mind would mean a how-to, and I had already addressed how-tos in my workshops and videos. It wasn't for me. As you know, my wife, Kimberly, died three years ago. When she was going through that journey, we both became even more devout in our faith; it became a mutual journey we took. She came to enjoy daily devotionals and I joined her in that.



There's something to the discipline that devotionals engender—reading every day and then connecting it to your life. The idea grew from there. For years I had been including a passage from Scripture with each of my paintings. In a devotional, I could create a contemplative presence for people, an invitation for readers to make a connection. All of the sudden, a light went off and the book fell into my lap, a kind of divine intervention. After that the book wrote itself."

The book is laid out lavishly in a 9-inch by 12-inch, coffee table format. His brother, Alan, head designer for publications at University at Buffalo, designed the book, with input from brother Dennis, a designer in Portland, Ore. Jody Glover Thiel is the copywriter.

"*The Spirit and the Brush: Painting Devotionals* is part-devotional, part-art book, containing a collection of my paintings along with several drawings created over the past decade," Kegler said. "It is arranged to guide the reader through a year of contemplation: spring's renewal; summer's celebration; autumn's bounty; and winter's rest. The book is presented as a 365-day devotional: each image pairs with three biblical passages, one per calendar

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## BOARD MEMBERS

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### RALA OFFICE

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### BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are regularly scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month. The first 15 minutes of the meeting is reserved for member comments, after which the board will enter a closed session. Contact the RALA Coordinator for details.

Join us on Facebook 



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings,

As I prepare this letter on a lovely summer day, it's hard to look outside of my window and believe that things are as far off from normal as they are. Our summer show and chamber music festival were both cancelled this year, as a result of an invisible but vicious enemy that has impacted all of our lives. As a friend of mine said recently, "every day when we wake up, we're one day closer to a vaccine." While this is no doubt true, the return to normal cannot come soon enough. Sadly, we're just not there yet, although hope springs eternal.

In the meantime, while we cannot be engaged in our normal RALA activities, your board—and many of our members—participated in a survey generated as the initial step in the creation of a new strategic plan for the organization. Working with an expert team from Daemen College, and with grant-obtained funding, we are in the process of reviewing the 73 survey responses received. The goal of this plan is to help the organization look forward to its next five years with a roadmap. We went through this process 5 years ago and it helped us as an organization to formulate our strategies for going forward while also working to address our weaknesses. Strategic planning requires a great deal of thought and effort, and I applaud all of you who took the time to help in this process. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Finally, it is my understanding that this year's jury was nothing short of outstanding. Congratulations to our newest and re-juried Artisans and Masters, and, of course, to Thomas Pafk and Debbie Muniak for running the jury with steady and even hands, through very difficult circumstances.

I wish you a safe and healthy balance of the summer. Please join me in renewing your membership if you haven't already done so. I welcome your feedback at any time.

Martha Buyer  
President

day. It is an invitation to meditate daily on the world's natural beauty and truth through the lenses of the arts and spirituality."

For instance, the page for June 3, 4 and 5 features a painting of the White Mountains in New Hampshire at dusk called "Last Light, Proverbs 16:20" with verses from Proverbs, Matthew and Psalms and these words from the author: "The White Mountains offer an endless source of motifs, both in landscape and motif. This particular evening centered around provision and community as a large group of Hudson River Fellowship painters gathered to enjoy food and conversation while we painted at sunset. It was one of many occasions that reminds me that my work is stronger because of my community of friends and colleagues."

While inspiration for Kegler's paintings comes from many places, it is his home in Western New York that gets the most attention from his talented hands and eyes.

"Painting and faith," he says in his website, "are as integral to my life as breathing. As a child, my soul was sated by early morning wanderings in the wilds of Western New York. The wonder I felt for God's creativity set a course for my work."

His iconic painting called "Niagara, Psalms 84:11" is massive, 96 inches by 30 inches. To produce this masterpiece and to portray the point of view he wanted, he hired a helicopter ride above the cataracts, took photos and then made a plaster of Paris model before he began the painting.

Kegler grew up in West Seneca, the son of the late June and Ray Kegler, who was the "R" of the much-loved G&R Tackle store and wildlife art gallery on Seneca Street. He always loved to paint and originally went to college as a fine arts major, but switched to graphic arts, figuring his job prospects were better in that field.

"I worked as a graphic designer out of college with some ad agencies and freelance for a while. In my 20s I had my mid-life crisis early; I ended up going to Alaska for a couple of summers. I found there that I enjoyed working with people in an instructional capacity, and that planted the seed of teaching. After that, I enrolled in Buffalo State's art teaching program, worked as an elementary teacher in Cheektowaga for two years and then I got the job at East Aurora, and I love it. I've been here 20-plus years."

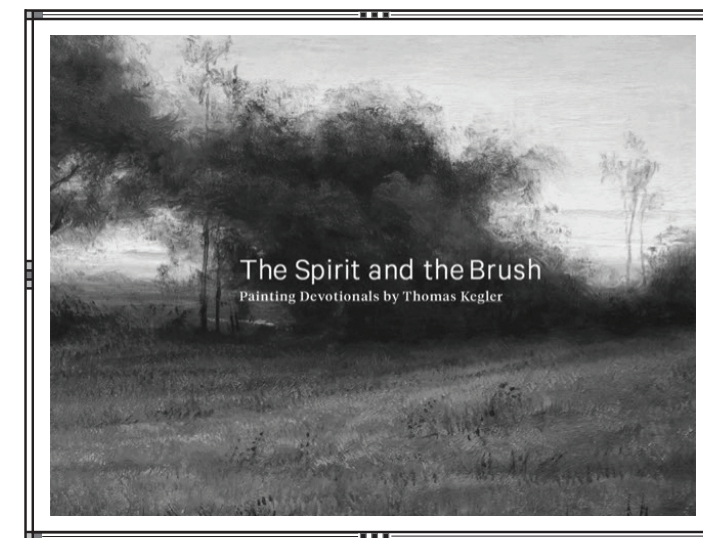
Kegler teaches art as part of the Global Leadership Academy at the high school. He says it's going pretty well on a remote basis with engagement at about the same level as the normal school situation. To keep students

active with their studio art assignments, he arranged to send art supplies on the buses that were helping with the lunch delivery program. He's also taken on the role of homeschool teacher with his two children, Luke (11) and Emory (8) home from Parkdale these days.

Even with all these hats to wear—teacher, homemaker, parent—Kegler is a prolific artist. He's a teaching member of the Hudson River Fellowship (Grand Central Atelier), which models itself after the artistic, social and spiritual values of the Hudson River School painters of the mid-19th century that included Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, among others. He is a Master Roycroft Artisan, a member of the Salmagundi Club, and he is recognized as an Associate Living Master by the Art Renewal Center. His work has been exhibited across the country.

Says Grace Meibohm, "Meibohm Fine Arts is honored to represent Tom Kegler and his inspired artwork. I have watched the growth of Tom's natural gift as a painter and an educator with joy and admiration over the years. His reputation is recognized nationally through respected galleries and workshop presentations from the East to West Coast. Our East Aurora High School students are so very fortunate to learn artistic skills while observing and learning from Mr. Kegler's talents and strong work ethic."

As far as Kegler's hopes for readers of the book, he says, "It's a sharing of love. Especially before the quarantine, everyone was finding that they were doing so much, going in so many directions that they weren't present and didn't do anything well. My book is an invitation to slow down, contemplate a painting, find a connection between the painting and the scripture and themselves." 🌿



Article courtesy of Rick Ohler, Columnist for the East Aurora Advertiser. To subscribe to the weekly community newspaper, visit [www.eastaurorany.com](http://www.eastaurorany.com)





# 2020 RALA MEMBERSHIP PREMIUM



**"THE INN BY STARLIGHT"**  
BY PETER POTTER

The 2020 Roycrofters at Large Association Membership premium is a limited edition photographic print entitled, "The Inn by Starlight," by Roycroft Artisan Peter Potter. The 5" x 7" image is printed on Fuji Deep Matte paper and double matted by hand to fit an 8 x 10 frame. The black-and-white print is hand numbered and lettered and carries the Double R Orb mark. The edition is limited to 100.

East Aurora native Peter Potter has been pursuing his passion for photography for more than fifty years. He learned the fundamentals of composition, camera control and darkroom practices in high school. Since then he has exposed miles of film stock and terabytes of digital images.

Potter has been a Roycrofter-at-Large Master Artisan since 2015. He offers a statement on "The Inn by Starlight":

"My photographs are the result of a desire to share. Share the sense of a space, the line of a car, a bit of color, or the wonder of nature. My influences include Charles Burchfield, Charles Rohrbach, and R. Crumb. Burchfield inspires me with his spare palette, Rohrbach in his mastery of multiple styles, and R. Crumb with his intimate perspective and heavy texture. I try to represent how an item is held in my mind's eye. To this end I use various devices to express those most distinctive characteristics that the subject left me with. I compose the image to highlight those features, and follow with post processing techniques. I approach each photograph with a different process, and usually use several programs to arrive at the final image. I consider a photograph a success if the viewer shares my vision."

## JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Use the form on the back of this sheet and send with your membership check

**\$50** PATRON  
MEMBERSHIP

**\$30** ANNUAL  
MEMBERSHIP

The Patron Membership includes the 2020 Rala Premium "The Inn By Starlight" by Peter Potter

# ROYCROFTERS-AT-LARGE ASSOCIATION

RALA holds its annual meeting and reception in October.

With patron-level membership support to RALA, members receive an original Artisan-created work of art.

All members receive a newsletter "published every once in a while" as was Elbert Hubbard's tradition.

Your support of RALA enables us to continue these activities and continue to offer and provide educational programs.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

**THE APPIAN WAY** ▪ This brick memorial walkway connects the campus to the Roycroft Inn as it did in Hubbard's day. It is bordered by perennial gardens and memorial benches. Additional lighting will soon enhance the path. Information on purchasing engraved bricks and granite blocks may be found at [ralaweb.com](http://ralaweb.com)

**ROYCROFT SUMMER ART FESTIVAL** ▪ This annual outdoor event is held the last full weekend each June where over 60 Artisans are on hand selling their wares.

**ROYCROFT WINTER ART FESTIVAL** ▪ Thirty five Artisans display their work in the East Aurora Middle School. This show has become a holiday shopping tradition for many. There is a small admission fee and a variety of food vendors.

**ROYCROFT CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL** ▪ As a RALA committee, the Roycroft Chamber Music Festival presents an annual series of fine concerts in intimate settings each year with professional musicians from across the US. In addition, RCMF funds the mentoring of local high school chamber musicians. Visit [Roycroftchambermusic.org](http://Roycroftchambermusic.org).

**GOODIE RAFFLE FUNDRAISER** ▪ Each year the one-of-a-kind goodie box is crafted by one of the Roycroft Artisans. It includes the goodie box and contents donated by Roycroft Artisans. Chances are sold at the Roycroft Summer Festival and the funds promote arts and crafts programs.

This year's Goodie Box was designed and built by a collaboration between Roycroft Masters Christie Schorf-Miller and Thomas Pafk, specializing in clay and wood!

This year's Goodie Raffle Winner:  
Patty Cancilla, Grand Island NY

*Pictured right: Patty Cancilla and Thomas Pafk*

*Pictured far right: 2020 Goodie Box*



PLEASE DETACH AND SEND IN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHECK.

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for my 2020 membership in the Roycrofters At-Large Association which runs from June 2020-2021

I am joining at the Patron \$50\_\_\_\_\_ or Annual \$30\_\_\_\_\_ level. This is a renewal ☐

Date\_\_\_\_\_

(Please make check payable to RALA)

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_ e-mail\_\_\_\_\_

(Important)

I would like to volunteer in the following areas:

Summer Show \_\_\_\_\_ Winter Show \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Grant Writing \_\_\_\_\_ Fund Raising \_\_\_\_\_

Other areas of interest\_\_\_\_\_

1054 Olean Road East Aurora, New York 14052

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