



# ROYCROFTERS-AT-LARGE ASSOCIATION CHRONICLE

:: OUR MISSION ::

The Roycrofters-At-Large Association was formed over 30 years ago by a group of East Aurorans 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 2021 ■

## A Visit to a RALA Festival Launched Dave Tundo's Metalsmithing Journey

BY ROBERT LOWELL GOLLER

Dave Tundo's journey to becoming a Roycroft Master Artisan in metalsmithing began at a RALA show more than a decade ago.

"After my kids grew up, I went to a RALA show and saw Frank Glappa's booth," Tundo says, "and he invited me to take one of his classes."

That led to additional learning opportunities with other metalsmiths, including Robert Trout and Al Sleeper. "Then essentially I had a two-year apprenticeship with Ron VanOstrand."

Tundo's interest in art can be traced to a young age. "Art class was probably my favorite class," he says. "But in high school, the guidance counselor always filled my schedule with advanced math and science classes, so there wasn't any room in my schedule to explore an art class."

Teaching technology and engineering at Orchard Park Central Schools for 36 years provided a creative outlet for Tundo. "Making rockets and robots," he says.

However, he didn't discover his artistic outlet until about nine years before his retirement from the school district in 2018, and he never imagined it would become

a passion. "If anything, I probably would have gone into woodworking," Tundo says.

In fact, Tundo admits that before that fateful RALA show at which he met Frank Glappa, he had never even heard of metalsmithing, an ancient artform that has utilized the same techniques for thousands of years.

Mastering the craft took time.

After taking a few classes, "I thought I would just fill up my house with the stuff I made," Tundo jokes. But, he says, he received a confidence boost when the Copper Shop Gallery agreed to sell his pieces, crafted in the basement studio he created in his home.

He was accepted as a Roycroft Artisan in 2009, but taking the next step, becoming a Master Artisan,

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required a little more patience. The jury declined his application the first time around.

"I was rather disappointed," Tundo says. But he took a step back and spent the next five years honing his craft. And it paid off. He was elevated to Master Artisan in 2019.

Tundo creates household items and jewelry using copper and sterling silver. He finds the long and often tedious process of chasing and repousse therapeutic.

"And when the piece is finally done, it's gratifying to have something you've made with your own hands," Tundo says.

With shows cancelled, Tundo spent the Covid-19 lockdown working on commissions, including the often requested copper house numbers. "That and golf have kept me busy," he says.

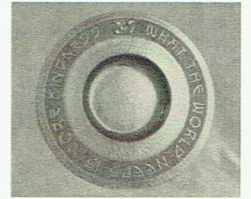
But after the yearlong hiatus, Tundo is looking forward to the upcoming RALA Summer Festival, June 26-27, at the Classic Rink, because he enjoys interacting with the public.

"I hope people have the opportunity to finally get out and come to the show," he says.

The support of the Roycrofters-at-Large Association has been an invaluable resource for the artisan. "There is definitely a valuable camaraderie," he says, citing the geographic diversity of the membership. "Out West, down South and local, as well."

Tundo served on the RALA board, he says, "because I wanted to give back to the organization that gave me this new career."

He credits the success of his artistic career to the willingness of experienced artisans to serve as mentors. "They didn't have to share their talents," Tundo says. "They could have kept it to themselves." ¶

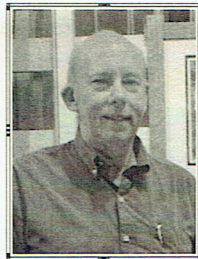


METALWORK PIECES BY  
ROYCROFT ARTISAN  
DAVE TUNDO

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The excitement and anticipation of putting on our first shows in eighteen months is tempered with great sadness from the loss of four of our master artisans since our last art show. **Robert Trout** passed away on February 7, 2020, **Sam Haney** on August 7, 2020, **Tom Harris** on August 23, 2020 and **Alburn Sleeper** on June 2, 2021. The contributions of these artists to the Roycrofters at Large Association and the Arts & Crafts Movement are hard to overestimate. We share their memorials within this newsletter.



The Roycroft Chamber Music Festival Committee and the Roycroft Summer Festival Committee have been working very hard to present safe and entertaining programming while keeping up to date with the changing guidelines for public gatherings. Despite working on a very shortened timeline they have met the challenge and look forward to hosting the public in person.

The Roycroft Chamber Music Festival, will host a free live-stream event on Saturday June 12th at 7:30 PM. Specifics about the performance and how to view it are in the newsletter.

The Roycroft Chamber Music Festival will also present a pair of concerts in person on the second weekend of September. Watch our social media for more details.

We are also very excited to present the 45th Annual Roycroft Summer Festival at the Classic Rink, 41 Riley Street, East Aurora, on June 26 and 27. The show will run from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. This marks our third return to the Classic Rink which has proven to be a popular venue with artists and visitors alike. It is an airy outdoor space with a roof to protect guests and artwork from rain and sun. Tickets for the Goodie Box raffle will be on sale, and the artwork donated for the Goodie Box will be on display.

The Roycroft Summer Festival is a personal favorite. I enjoy reconnecting with artists and friends who attend the show. It's great catching up and seeing their new work. Please be sure to stop by and say hello!

As always, I remain yours truly,  
*Peter Potter*

