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Message from our president

Linda Maldonado



Dear PVW Members,

About five weeks ago I outlined a very different column for the spring newsletter. Talk about being overcome by events - our world has certainly taken a strange and sudden turn.

One happy item is introducing our eleven new PVW members in these pages, another round of extremely talented artists. It's a real loss that we aren't able to have the traditional welcome at the spring luncheon for these new folks. We did initiate a Mentor program this year, matching each new artist with a veteran PVW member. In most cases, mentors were able to meet with their newbies to share information about PVW, map out the website, share past newsletters, talk about our exhibitions and workshops and meetings. Thanks to Leigh Fulton, who midwived this effort, the Mentors helped our new folks get oriented and ready to move into PVW activities — just as the coronavirus slammed us all.

The cancellation of our spring luncheon, the Robbie Laird workshop, and the Green Spring exhibition has been a serious blow to all of us. Behind the scenes: Martha Petroff and Marta Legeckis had already done a lot of work to prepare for the luncheon; Sarah Andrews and Kat Rodgers had organized all the details of the workshop; Leigh Fulton had laid the groundwork for the Green Spring show to get rolling. At this time, we don't know exactly when or if we can reschedule the luncheon for this year, but we'll keep you posted. There's a chance we may be able to create an online version of the Green Spring show in early summer.

Sending out an occasional email to all of you has been a great connection for me. I've heard from many of you how you're keeping yourselves going. Some are creating small works or focusing on sketchbooks. Others are trying out new mediums. Or cooking some new recipes. Many are taking advantage of the virtual museum tours and online resources that have sprouted up. How fortunate we are to have our art to give us a life raft in a turbulent storm. We will have a wealth of art to share when we can all meet together again.

Have any of you been making your own face masks?? I tried a couple of patterns until I found one with a good fit. Not very artful, but it works. And have you seen those endearing videos of penguins wandering the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago to visit the fish tanks, since human visitors are temporarily banned? The Monterey Aquarium has some live cam of otters, sharks, jellyfish, and the kelp forest — very soothing.

To maintain mental balance, I've been gathering humorous material — cartoons, jokes, twitter photos and videos, memes, even stories from American humor anthologies — just to have a fund of laugh-inducing medicine to brighten up the stay-at-home time. It's been fun to share a few of those with you in my emails.

The new streamlined newsletter format will make it easier and less time-consuming for our volunteer editors to put the pieces together. Please join me in thanking our newsletter production team. Jeane Stetson has joined the newsletter team, overseeing editing and production along with Leigh Culver and Cecilia Capestany. I want to extend my deepest thanks to Lorrie Herman for her years dedicating time to the layout of this newsletter, as she steps down from this role. You've created so many beautiful results, Lorrie, and we're grateful for your talents.

Take care of yourselves by keeping social distance, wearing face masks, washing hands relentlessly, and laughing every day. Enjoy spring.

Linda Maldonado
President

New Members Coffee

Board Members and New Members braved the iffy winter weather on January 18th and gathered at the lovely home of Margitta Hanff Potts for introductions and coffee. Many thanks to New Member Co-chairs Margitta Hanff Potts and Connie Boland who, along with assistance from Martha Petroff, hosted such a nice event.



Paint "IN" at the Botanical Gardens

One of our most popular Paint Out locations is actually indoors, at the Botanical Gardens on the Mall. What better way to fight off the wintry cold than painting in the tropical Jungle Room! This year's event was held on Sunday morning, January 26th. Ten of us convened for a few hours of painting, followed by lunch and sharing.

Thank you to Florence Setzer for organizing us!



"Paint IN" participants, (left to right) Martha Legeckis, Noreen Brunini, Connie Boland, Ginnie Luster, Renee Alberts, Jane McElvany Coonce, Pat Porter, Leigh Culver, Leigh Fulton, and Florence Setzer.



Connie set to paint



Ginnie and Renee



Noreen painting the fountains



Results of our painting!

New Members



Antonia Plazibat: I've always loved the creative arts throughout my childhood in California, where I would create seascapes with a hobby-store watercolor set. I purchased several books on watercolor and drawing techniques to study, but never took formal painting classes. I ultimately pursued a very different career path and relocated from California to Virginia in 2006 to practice corporate law. I serve as general counsel for a company in Reston and I continue to pursue my love of watercolor in my spare time. I took my first watercolor course in 2016 at The ArtSpace in Herndon and was encouraged to submit my work for local exhibits. I specialize in animal portraits and landscapes, and I am always interested in learning new techniques to improve my compositions.

Colleen Spencer Henderson

Despite an early fascination with art, it wasn't until I retired from an IT consulting career that I put effort into developing my artistic skills. Initially I focused on fine art photography, with an emphasis on landscapes and cityscapes. I love the way transparent watercolors mingle and allow me to create luminous passages on paper. I enjoy painting in the studio using my photo catalog for inspiration. I also enjoy urban sketching where my goal is to complete an ink & watercolor sketch entirely on-site, ideally within an hour or two. I am thrilled be selected for membership at PVW and look forward to getting to know this fine group of artists!



Françoise Dickson

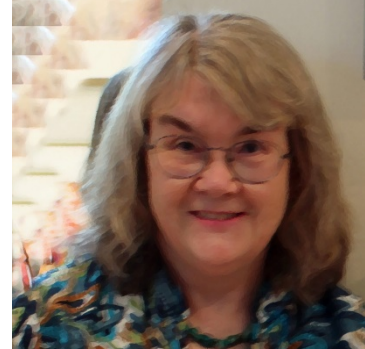
Drawing and painting have always been a favorite pastime, a passion that I developed while in school in Toulouse France where I was born and where I took my first art classes. Watercolor has always been my favorite medium because I like how the water and pigment move on the paper. The fluidity and unpredictability of this medium always gives me a sense of surprise. The uncontrollable side of it is the challenge that keeps me going. In our summer home in southern France I join a local group of artists to paint and participate in workshops. I am a member of the Springfield Art Guild, the Del Ray Artisans, and the Virginia Watercolor Society. I look forward to actively participating in future PVW activities and exhibitions.



New Members - continued

Janet Hansen Martinet

Born in Connecticut, I graduated from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, where I learned classic art techniques. I concentrated in oil painting; my training in design and color transferred to watercolor. My study of oils imbued a tendency to apply watercolor more thickly than many modern watercolorists. I started adding lines of ink to my paintings in 1980, although I am more often drawn to the freedom and fluidity of traditional watercolor at present. In my artwork, which is generally based on my photographs, I strive to transcend realism and add some magic to the subject. I've won several awards at exhibitions including the Virginia Watercolor Society and the Baltimore Watercolor Society. My goal is to make more art, make better art and share my art.



Janice Ducharme

Jan has been painting in watercolor for a couple of years learning her craft through classes at The Lorton Workhouse Art Center and The Art League. She enjoys painting every type of subject, but most especially birds and animals.

Jeanne McIntyre

I always wanted to make art—to be an artist. I was encouraged and at 13, summer art lessons solidified that desire to creatively express. At the University of Wisconsin, I entered its visual arts program earning a BS degree in Communication and Visual Arts. Early on I worked in two Midwestern Federated Store art departments and eventually a Gannet-owned newspaper winning a Minneapolis Ad Club award for a hand-drawn full-page newspaper promotion. In the last four years, the thrill of hands-on personal expression with color flowing on paper and making use of its magic has grabbed me back. Happily, (with the appropriate traces of frustration) watercolor has now saturated my soul and become my passion. My goals are impossibly simple: become a better painter and to enjoy the doing.



New Members - continued



Lily Kak

I was born and raised in India. Now residing in the United States, I travel extensively around the world as an international development expert. I am inspired by the vibrant and diverse cultures that I experience as I travel globally and these are often reflected in my art-work. I have won multiple awards for my watercolors and have exhibited in several juried shows in the mid-Atlantic region and Maryland state. I am a Signature Artist of the Baltimore Watercolor Society and a member of the American Watercolor Society, Potomac Valley Watercolorists, Montgomery Art Association, Glen Echo Yellow Barn, and Rockville Art League. My goal is to be connected with the art community and learn from and be inspired by fellow artists.

Linda Slattery Sherman

I am, in general, an abstract painter. My paintings are all about the process of discovery. I let the painting tell me where to go. Sometimes it's about the motion of making marks that result from large gestures. Other times it's about the surface of the canvas. In reacting to each mark made, I often wind up in a very different place from where I started. I am currently making gelatin prints as well as painting. I attended college at Carnegie Mellon University where I earned a BFA in graphic design. I started my own business, working for clients such as the Kennedy Center, PBS, NASA, BlackRock Center for the Arts and local businesses. I sold my business in 2007 to follow my interest in painting as well as to have more personal time. I have belonged to many art organizations and galleries including the Baltimore Watercolor Society (signature member), TAG/The Artists Gallery in Frederick, The Art League at the Torpedo Factory, Potomac Valley Watercolorists, Rockville Art league and the Gaithersburg Fine Arts Association.



New Members - continued



Linda Wallace-Blau

I started painting many years ago, but I put it aside to focus on my teaching career and raising my children. Now that I am an empty nester, I've had a chance to return to painting and found that it greatly enriches my life. Many of my works focus on plants and flowers, as I enjoy studying the intricacies of their shapes and colors. I also try to branch out and explore new techniques, and have been attempting some portraits recently. I look forward to continuing to develop my skills and exploring the potential of watercolors.

Megha Mehra Watercolors found me when I was about to become a mom. I painted with the belief that my baby would connect with that creative energy (he has, the little painterly scamp!). Little did I know that I would rediscover my own childlike enthusiasm for painting. I love light. It is the essence of my paintings. I strive to paint the child behind the radiant smile; the wonder in sunlight spilling across almonds soaking in a bowl of water; to bring life to mangoes that soon will bring joy to somebody. When I find myself lost in details, it's light that brings focus back to me. When I am overwhelmed by choice, light brings out the simpler story within each scene. And when I'm afraid inspiration has abandoned me; it is the fleeting magic of the light within us all that returns it to me.



Randy Meeks

I grew up in Virginia and later moved to California where I took art and music classes. Being a single mom and having to support myself, I couldn't find time to work on my art until about ten years ago. Since then I have had more time to take art classes and work on my art. Most of my art work has been with watercolors but I also have created quilts, pillows and curtains. I also enjoy gardening, swimming and music. I used to sing on the side for some extra money when I was younger at local bars and weddings but my main profession was modeling and acting.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Group news are listed first, followed by individual artist's news, listed alphabetically. If we missed you this time, please make sure to email Cecilia Capestany at ccapestany@gmail.com for our next issue.

Salon Eight (**Connie Boland, Leigh Culver, Margitta Hanff Potts, Yoshimi Matsukata, Emilie McBride, JoAnne Ramsey, and Donna Sturm**) has had to reschedule its April show, to be held at the Arts Club of Washington. It is now tentatively scheduled for September 2020.

Linda Blau, Janice Ducharme and Lynn Martin each had multiple paintings accepted in the annual Manassas Banner Art Competition. Images will be viewable this summer on banners hung throughout the town.



Lynn Martin

Linda Maldonado, Elise Ritter, Elisabeth Hudgins, and Deborah Taylor of the "Arlington Artists Alliance," were part of an exhibition called "The Divine Feminine" at the Gallery Underground in Crystal City. Their paintings reflected different interpretations of the Divine Feminine, including figures, landscapes, florals and abstracts.

Linda Blau also had a self-portrait accepted into the Falls Church Arts Show, "A Woman's Journey," however, the gallery was closed the same day the show was scheduled to begin. She also had her painting, "Peony," accepted into the Manassas One Love Festival art show. This year all entries can be viewed online at <https://www.onelovemanassas.com/visual-arts>.

Sharon M. Boyle is taking classes online and learning how to set up to be able to teach online in the future.

Gwendolyn Bragg gained Silver Signature status in the Watercolor Society of Alabama's 79th Annual National Exhibition with her painting "Low Tide III." The show can be seen online at <https://watercolorsofala.org/>. Gwen's "Red Roofs" was chosen as Best Watercolor in the Cider Painters of America show in Pennsylvania and her "Coast Colors" is part of the Richeson Small Works 2020, in Kimberly, WI.

Noreen Brunini was juried into the Southern Watercolor Society's 43rd Exhibition which will be held at the Customs House Museum & Cultural Center in Clarksville, Tennessee from May 12 to July 12, 2020.

Cecilia Capestany received an Equal Merit Award in the Alexandria Art League February exhibit for her piece, "Cairn Study."

Marshall Carolus had a painting accepted into Gallery Clarendon's National Juried Show "Kaleidoscope."

Jane McElvany Coonce has a show at the Galleries of the National Institute of Health (NIH) from March 9 to May 1. The show, which will consist of 12 watercolors of Cities Around the World, will hang in the East Gallery.

Leigh Culver gave a talk on the compositional strategies of Henri Fantin-Latour, Paul Cezanne, and Giorgio Morandi to the McLean Art Society in January. Her exhibit at NIH, scheduled for May, has been postponed.



Janice Ducharme also had 3 paintings accepted at the "Art at the Mill" juried exhibit in Millwood, VA.

Virginia Fernbach's painting "Plein Air in the Garden" won Honorable Mention at the Springfield Art Guild annual show at Green Spring Gardens. Virginia started her painting as a transparent watercolor and then decided to rework it using gouache to achieve a mix of impressionism and realism in interpreting the scene.



Jean K. Gill had a painting accepted in the Rocky Mountain National Watermedia Exhibition and in the 99th International Exhibition of the National Watercolor Society, which opened in October 2019. She won awards in the Rockies West National, the Missouri International, and both the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Watercolor Internationals. She was awarded the bronze medal in the BWS Mid-Atlantic Regional and received the Crest Medal, a lifetime award for consistent excellence in works entered in annual exhibitions of the Philadelphia Watercolor Society. In the fall, she taught a workshop in Charleston for the West Virginia Allied Artists. Jean also won awards in the 2020 Rockies West National Exhibition and in the PWS online show. She had a painting accepted in the NWS Members' Exhibition, which will now be posted online. In addition, she and **Elaine Nunnally** were to exhibit artwork in Spain, through the Missouri Watercolor Society, at an international show event that is now on hold.

Jann Haynes Gilmore spoke to the Singer Society of the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown, MD, on Olive Rush, in early February 2020. This presentation was a preamble to the museum's opening in June of an exhibition entitled, "Celebrating 100 Years of Women Artists." Jann also signed her biography of artist Olive Rush.

Rick Goff will have his gouache and ink painting, "Wharf Angel," in the 2020 Michigan Watercolor Society's 73rd Annual Exhibition. The show begins with a virtual event on May 21 as plans for the exhibition opening in West Bloomfield, MI, are delayed until a date to be determined.

Tara Hamilton's painting, "Kaleidoscope #2," received an Honorable Mention in the Art League of Alexandria January 2020 Open Exhibit.



Colleen Henderson was accepted as a signature member in the Baltimore Watercolor Society in October 2019. She also won two awards in the Rockville Art League juried members' winter show at the Glenview Mansion in Rockville, December 2019 to January 2020: 2nd place for her painting, "Sawyers Market," and Honorable Mention for her piece, "Covered Bridge After Snowfall."

Christine Heyse's painting, "Mia," was awarded First Place in the Delaware Watercolor Society "Anything Goes" Show, which can be viewed online at delawarewatercolorssociety.org. In addition, Chris has been busy teaching watercolor with FaceTime to a student friend in NYC.



Angela Lacy's painting, "Want a Ride?" was accepted into the Southern Watercolor Society's 43rd Annual Juried Exhibition, which will be held from May 12 to July 12 at Customs House Museum in Clarksville, TN. In addition, Angela's "Lismore Flowers" received the Best in Show award at the Art League of Alexandria's March exhibit. Her painting, and the paintings of several other PVW members accepted into the show, can be viewed online through the Art League's website.

Janet Hansen Martinet had 2 paintings accepted in the One Love Juried Art Show: "Dark Hollow Falls Illuminated 5" won 3rd place and "I Saw the Figure 520 in Gold" won Honorable Mention. One Love is sponsored by the ARTfactory (Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory) in Manassas. This year all entries can be viewed online at <https://www.onelovemanassas.com/visual-arts>

Jeanne McIntyre received an Art League of Alexandria Equal Merit Award in February for her watercolor, "Forecast Fog."

Randy Meeks' work "Sunflowers" won the Award of Excellence in the 25th Anniversary Plus Three show, run by the Central Virginia Watercolor Guild, in September 2019. Randy also presented two pieces in the 86th Annual International Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature hosted by The Miniature Painters, Sculptors & Gravers Society of Washington, DC, in November 2019.

Elaine Nunnally also had a painting, "Cows on the Camino," juried into the Illinois Watercolor Society's 2020 National Exhibition. The show will be online in May at <https://illinoiswatercolorsociety.org>. Her painting, "Driving into the Orange," was selected for the Georgia Watercolor Society's National Exhibition. Her painting, "Barreling Down the Wet Pavement," was selected for the 11th Annual International American Watermedia Exhibition in Fallbrook, CA.



Lynda Pitman has had, for the 4th year in a row, two paintings ("All Together Now" and "The Peony Sisters") chosen for the Meritorious category in the 2020 Richeson 75 Still Life & Floral Competition. This is an online show. Lynda's painting, "Rose of Sharon," has been selected for the Illinois 36th National Juried Exhibition. This will be an online show to be posted May 2, 2020, at www.illinoiswatercolorsociety.org.

Kat Rodgers started teaching watercolor classes online on Skill Share and would be happy to help other local instructors get started, as well as answer any questions. In other news, she will move this summer to Cuba and will miss everyone in PVW, but will continue as an active member and looks forward to her eventual return to this area.

Concetta Scott had an article published in the Winter 2020 issue of the magazine Pen Woman. The publication is a quarterly of The National League of American Pen Women. The article, "Found Objects," is based on Concetta's watercolor painting, "Chairs, Etcetera," which has been accepted in juried shows and received awards.

Alex Tolstoy was one of the winners in the Reader's Competition for the magazine, The Art of Watercolor, Vol. 38, with the painting "Scottish Thistle." Alex had a collage of her artwork on the cover of a special issue of Acoustics Today magazine, and she also received an Honorable Mention for her painting, "Feet," in the January Art League of Alexandria exhibit.



Rosa Vera's painting, "Close Up, Peonies," was on the cover of the March 2020 issue of the Hill Rag magazine.

Carolyn Marshall Wright's work was profiled in the May 2020 issue of Artists Magazine in an article entitled "Finding Spontaneity in Still Life." Additionally, she is one of three artists currently showing at The Byrne Gallery's "Spring Bouquet" exhibit in Middleburg, VA, which was open to the public for a shorter period than had been scheduled.