



Published by Potomac Valley Watercolorists, Inc. - promoting the art and excellence of watercolor painting

Message from our previous president:

Leigh Culver

No matter where on the political spectrum we fall, I think we can all agree that this past year has been a particularly ugly one for American politics—with friends and nation rancorously divided in opinions about what is best for our country. In such an environment, PVW’s role in our lives can be an antidote, a welcome respite, a way for us all, despite differences, to share and connect in our love of creating art.



Many members have told me that creating art seems even more important now, and some mention being more disciplined with scheduling daily doses of art and beauty in order to cope with, recover from, or counteract the fears or ugliness we’ve witnessed these past months. Some of us have even experienced an uptick in sales, as patrons reach out for, as one buyer put it, “a real pick-me-up.” We are being reminded most palpably right now of art’s capacity to heal.

And luckily for PVW, the presidential transfer at our spring luncheon on March 26 was a comparatively smooth one! I came to the PVW presidency with little career experience outside of classroom teaching, writing, and a bit of volunteer organizing in my kids’ schools. So I learned on the job. Luckily, you all made it easy for me. You took me under your wing, shared thoughts, role modeled how things get done, and offered your natural skills and talents in creating smooth-flowing operations. I have loved every minute of this job! (Ok, almost every minute!) I’m particularly pleased by our three new community-building initiatives: our monthly paint outs, our new painting trips to far-flung places, and our inaugural art lecture. Along with our workshops, exhibitions, Maine trip, and membership luncheon and meetings, our annual events enable multiple ways for us to learn and paint in

community while fulfilling our mission “to bring together the best watercolorists in the region to share mutual interests, enrich [our] art experience, and make creative contributions to the community.” Many thanks to all of you for making my two years at PVW’s helm such an enriching time! I’m looking forward to continuing on the PVW board as the “Nominating/Parliamentarian Chair.” My twins will be entering their final year of high school next fall, and I am grateful to have the time to focus on family before I experience empty nesting! (And I welcome any advice and thoughts you might have for me on that front too!)

While I will miss the many fun aspects of this job, I am so pleased to be able to pass on the reins to someone who brings far more relevant experience to the job than I did! Jane McElvany Coonce is not only a talented, award-winning artist and a delightful person, she has an impressive track record in arts leadership. She was founder and president for nine years of the Arlington Artists Alliance and is the former vice president of the Miniature Society of Painters, Sculptors, and Gravers of Washington, D.C., former First Vice President of The Art League Board at the Torpedo Factory, and former President of the McLean Art Society. Presently, she is also serving as the Vice President of the Arlington Artists Alliance and the Executive Director of the Gallery Underground. We are in good hands!

Welcome Jane!



Happenings

Table listing events: New Members (pages 2 & 3), Coffee & Shows (page 4), Spotlight (page 5), Paint Outs (pages 6 & 7), Workshops (page 8), Trips (page 9), Spring Luncheon (page 10)

New Members!

*Congratulations to the 6 new members who were juried into PVW this past Fall!
We are delighted to welcome you into our membership.*

Kathleen Sullivan



My interest in art had an early start growing up in Ohio. Finger painting was the best part of kindergarten! I recall red paint and the mess. Academia took over and artistic expression was on the back burner until college years when I took a photography course as an elective to my allied medical studies. I loved it

and to this day, my camera is my best tool next to my paintbrush. I enjoyed dabbling in artistic mediums including acrylics, oils, and pottery. In 1977, we spent a year travelling overseas exploring art galleries throughout Europe and insisting I see Jeu de Paume one last time before returning home. My husband reminds me we hitched a ride with a French truck driver who played Elvis Presley songs the entire ride back to Paris!

Since 2001, I most enjoy the Art League classes inspired from lessons learned from Carolyn Grosse Gawarecki and Gwen Bragg. My paintings are realistic, often narrative, reflecting my love of nature, outdoors, and favorite travel scenes. I strive to combine the beautiful flow of watercolor along with the attention to detail. My grandchildren turned me into a portrait artist as I love the challenge of painting the little guys! I met artist Alexandre Renoir, great grandson of Pierre Auguste Renoir. His written words of advice to me were, "Always remember there is no light without shadow, embrace them both and the light will shine brightest". I strive to achieve this. I received honors at the Torpedo Factory Student exhibition show, awards at Gwen Bragg annual exhibition and acceptance into juried CVWG and local shows.

Painting brings a beautiful balance to my life in retirement. It is with great delight that I continue this creative process with the support, friendship, and activities offered with PVW.

Anita Epstein



I began using water color in 1980 when I enrolled in the George Washington University Art Therapy Program. The director of the program required all art therapy students to enroll in a fine arts class. The director, a watercolor artist, taught watercolor at the Washington DC Recreation Center and I enrolled

in his class because it was the politic thing to do. Never having worked in watercolor, I quickly learned the basic techniques under the director's tutelage and discovered that I enjoyed the fluidity and grace of watercolor. I painted off and on during the next several years, continuing to paint with the director, taking classes at the Alexandria Art League and Arlington County adult education program displayed my work at shows in Alexandria, Falls Church, and Arlington, and have taken several commissions.

In early 2014 I moved to Falls Church City, Virginia and became involved in the Falls Church Arts' community participating in the plein air sessions at the local Farmer's Market in the spring and summer. Falls Church Arts' is a congenial and collegial atmosphere and has inspired me to spend more time painting. I joined the Vienna Arts Society (VAS) and the Virginia Watercolor Society. In January, 2016, I won an honorable mention in Vienna Arts Society 2015/16 Winter Art Show "Nature's Treasures" held at Green Spring Gardens in Fairfax Virginia. You can view the Red Hellebores in the Flower tab of my website. The Iris Explosion was sold at the Virginia Watercolor Society's Spring Show in Gloucester, Virginia. In addition, I volunteer with VAS at Fort Belvoir to bring the arts to hospitalized patients. Currently I am featured in a show at the George Washington University Art Therapy Program Center in Alexandria Virginia called "The Road Still Traveled." The show consists of works from four retired art therapists that are still working artists. "So Red" has been accepted in the Central Virginia Watercolor Guild's 25th Annual Exhibition in Charlottesville, Virginia.

I attended Ohio State University and received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Art Education (University of North Dakota) and a Master's of Science degree in Art Therapy (George Washington University). I am a member of the Virginia Watercolor Society, Falls Church Arts, and the Vienna Arts Society as well as the Potomac Valley Watercolorists.

(continued on page 3)

Autumn Newsletter Deadline September 30, 2017

Newsletter Info:

Please submit your newsletter information to:

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Editor

Lorrie Herman lahermanart@cox.net
Graphic Designer 703-906-5815

New Members! *(continued from page 2)*

Beth Ayers



I have always derived my inspiration from nature and I create art as a way to express my love for the natural world. I studied studio art as an undergraduate and art history as a graduate student, but then I went on to a career in administrative work at the Natural Resources Defense Council as well as several other non-profit organizations and law

firms. I also volunteered for many years at the Second Chance Wildlife Center in Gaithersburg, Maryland, helping to rehabilitate injured wild animals. At an early age I was quite taken with Henri Rousseau's jungle paintings and, like him, I choose subjects that both delight me and capture my imagination. Through my work I try to display my reverence for nature. My goal is to create images that convey my love and respect for my subjects and that speak to others about the wonder and beauty of natural things. I have always worked in a variety of mediums but began focusing primarily on watercolor about eight years ago. I have studied watercolor with Susan Abbott, Deborah Ellis, Rachel Collins, David Daniels and Merri Nelson at the Art League, the Yellow Barn and the Smithsonian. I am looking forward to painting with and learning from fellow PVW artists.

My art can be viewed on my website: www.bethayresstudio.com.

Virginia Fernbach



I sketched as a child, loved doing black and white portraits and informed my brother at age 9 that I wanted to be an artist when I grew up. Well, higher education, a career and business/other travel intervened and my dream has been realized later in life. Still, I consider it a work in progress with so much still to learn and master. I study at the

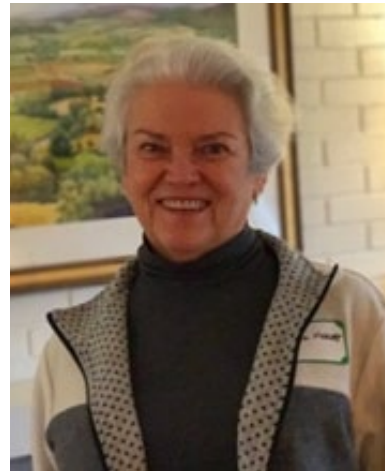
Art League in Alexandria, at my Retirement Community with a local art group and go on frequent trips to Museums and to Art League and Springfield Art Guild (SAG) programs. With a Certificate in Art History from the Smithsonian, studying artists lives and their approach to art has been an integral part of my life and permeates how I approach painting.

Having now been juried into many art shows at the Art League, Springfield Art Guild and the Young at Art Show for Artists 55+

(Virginia Fernbach continued)

I have been honored with a number of awards ranging from Honorable Mention to First Place and most recently was awarded Second Place at the Annual SAG Show. The recognition is deeply appreciated and energizing. In 2016, I initiated a "Visual Arts Group". I like sharing with fellow artists and hope to do more Plein Air.

Lauren Marcott



I've sketched since first grade, but only in the last few years have I worked in color. In school I studied crafts and played around with pencil portraits. During summers I taught among the unique perspectives and color of the Southwestern desert, before traveling and working in East Asia and Europe, always sketching. I retired from the U.S. State Department in 2007, after serving

in London, Turkey, Russia, and Ukraine, as well as various places in Washington.

In the last few years I've traveled with my husband to Jordan, Japan, Turkey, and Central Europe, and have twice driven across the US—to Glacier National Park in June 2016 and to Monument Valley and the red rock region of southern Utah in June 2015. This fall I was in Zion National Park for a workshop with watercolorist Carl Purcell. I visit my daughter and granddaughter in Paris and Jerusalem, New England in summer and Florida in winter -- hence the bistros, seashells, sailboats, canyons, and lighthouses that populate many of my paintings.

Since I retired, I've taken on watercolor, at least in part because of its ability to capture the light in objects – and because it has a mind of its own. I've studied watercolor at the Smithsonian, at the Arlington Arts Alliance, at Arlington Adult Education and most recently the Art League. In addition to PVW, I also belong to the Arlington Artists Alliance and the Gallery Underground.

Suzanne Burton

Throughout my lifetime photography, pen and ink drawing, and watercolor have been my greatest interests. Many years of serious study starting at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, followed by the Corcoran School of Art, various Paris studios, Susan Herron, and Peter Ulrich have contributed to my growth as a watercolorist. The subjects that I care for the most deal with changing light and atmospheric effects relating to the New England seashore. I typically paint from my library of photographs and immerse myself in memories.

New Member Coffee

On January 14th, PVW welcomed 6 new members at a New Member Coffee hosted by Margitta Hanff. Delicious food and coffee were served as we greeted our new members and got to know them a little better.



Anita Epstein, Debby Conn, Martha Petroff, and Beth Ayers.



Carolyn Marshall Wright having a lovely conversation with one of our new members.



Beth Ayers, Kathleen Sullivan, Linda Staulcup and Grace Rooney

Shows

Green Spring Gardens
“Natural Beauty,”
April 18 to June 28, 2017



First Place: *Celebration*, by Alice Kale
Second Place: *Blue Ridge*, by Brenda Barthell
Third Place: *A Rose is a Rose. . .*, by Lynda Pitman

Honorable Mentions

Flower Mart, by Sarah Andrews
Autumn Bright by Gwendolyn Bragg
Portrait of S. as a Hydrangea, by Leigh Culver
A Lovely Bunch of Coconuts, by Catherine Fuller
Hope You Bloom This Year, by Marta Legeckis
A Year on the Creek, by Florence Setzer
Blue Fluttering, by Alex Tolstoy

New Exhibit Opportunity for PVW Artists

PVW will have an exhibition, similar to the Green Spring Gardens exhibition, this September at NOVA's **Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Gallery** in Annandale, VA. This location should be easily accessible to people in Virginia, Maryland (just off the beltway) and DC so I expect it will attract many PVW artists, as well as visitors.

Needed: two people to co-chair this event.

- The gallery space is just inside the front door of the cultural center and is on two levels.
- The gallery can exhibit 100+ paintings.
- The gallery is attached to the performance hall with doors opening into the gallery.
- The exhibition would run for 6 weeks beginning September 1.
- There will be a reception, probably the following weekend, and our hospitality people will assist with the reception.

Spotlight on Our Members

Please email us with all your news so we can be sure to include it in future issues!

Christine Heyes was accepted as a signature member in the National Watercolor Society.

Marta Legeckis was juried in as a Signature Artist Member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society in October 2016.

Florence Setzer's painting, "*Homeward Bound*," received the Potomac Valley Watercolor Landscape Award at the Art League's August 2016 show.

Several of our members were honored in the Art League Member 25 Exhibit, celebrating artists who have been exhibiting artist members of The Art League for 25 years or more. These included **Helen Barsalou, Brenda Barthell, Connie Boland, Gwen Bragg, Chica Brunsvold, Betsy Curry, Yolanda Frederikse, Carolyn Gawarecki, Frances Salo, Jackie Saunders, Florence Setzer, Ruth Thomson, and Carol Vorosmarti.**

Alex Tolstoy had the following honors:
2016 2 paintings selected for US embassy in Bridgetown, Barbados
2016 Article in Elan magazine October issue
2016 MAS River Farm Honorable Mention (Sep 28 - Jan 3,
2016 Honorable Mention by PVW at "Frames of Mind" exhibit, Frame Factory (August)
2016 SEMI-SOLO show (two person) at The Crossroads Gallery "Double Take" (Sep 1 - Oct 30)

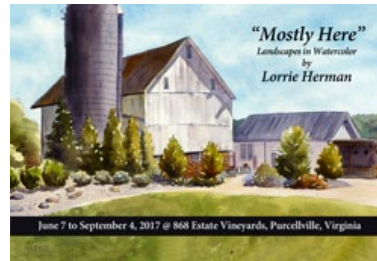


Debbie Cohan won awards to the recent Baltimore Watercolor Society Shows: August for "*Beautification*" at Deleplane Center, and September for "*Alone Together*" at the Howard County Center for Art.

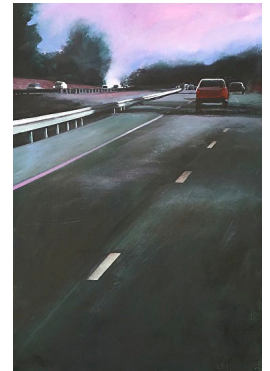
Jean K. Gill, AWS, NWS has a painting in the recently released *Splash 17: Inspiring Subjects*. She received third place in the Virginia Watercolor Society's Annual. Jean also received awards in the Rockies West 2016 National and in the BWS 2016 exhibitions. Her paintings were included in the Philadelphia Watercolor Society's 116th International and the 2016 Missouri National. In July, Jean taught a 4-day workshop for the West Virginia Watercolor Society.

Debbie Conn had a painting accepted in the National Watercolor Society Show.

Elaine Nunnally's painting, "*Long Ride Home on the Interstate*" was accepted into the 150th American Watercolor Society's International Show.



Lorrie Herman is having a solo show this summer till Labor Day at the 868 Estate Vineyards on 14001 Harpers Ferry Road, Purcellville, VA. She has 17 landscape watercolors on display and sale from local areas and favorite trips. Tasting room is open Wednesday - Sunday 11 am to 6 pm. More info: www.868estatevineyards.com and www.lorrieherman.com



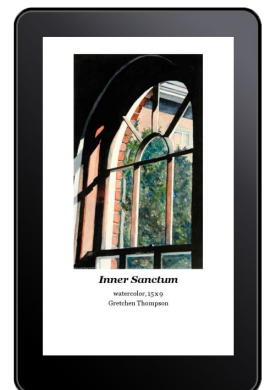
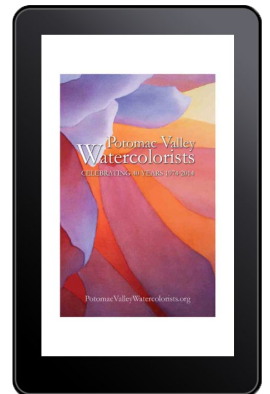
PVW's 40th Anniversary Book is NOW AVAILABLE in ebook format!

The Potomac Valley Watercolorist's 40th Anniversary book features stunning watermedia paintings created by 175 juried members who have come together to share some of their best work, along with insights on the personal processes used to create these particular paintings.

The ebook is available on Amazon.com in Kindle format for \$5.99. If you have a smartphone, tablet or desktop computer, simply download the Kindle app directly from Amazon.

\$5.99

eBook on Amazon



Paint Outs

Here is an overview of the Paint Outs/Ins that are scheduled for this year. Detailed information for each Paint Out will be sent through email as the date gets closer. This is a lovely way to paint with friends and paint from life. It's quite a challenge, but well worth it.

TIP: *Paint in the shade or wear a hat, bring bug spray, water bottle, sunscreen, plastic bag for trash, especially oily rags/papertowels, enthusiasm and patience!*

Paint Out/In Coordinators:
Vita Sims vita@vitadesigns.com
Sally Davies sallydavies@hotmail.com

Previous Paint Outs/Ins
Paint Out on January 8th at the National Botanical Gardens, 100 Maryland Ave, SW Washington, DC

Paint Out on March 23rd at the National Zoo, Washington, DC

Upcoming Paint Outs 2017

April 13th
The National Arboretum

Washington, DC
Paint the azaleas!
Guests Welcome

April 30th
Roof Top Painting from DC Law Firm

1440 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
Aerial views of DC new the White House
(Members Only, must register)
(Rain date: May 7th)

May 11th
The Bishop's Garden
at the National Cathedral

Washington, DC
Guests Welcome

June 5th
Wilson House
Washington, DC
Gardens and Interiors
Guests Welcome



Sue Moses & Florence Setzer had fun painting the Cherry Blossoms at Sue's house.



Rob Henry happy with his work at the Botanical Gardens!



Look at all of the beautiful paintings they all painted at the Botanical Gardens.

June 14th
Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens
Bladensburg, MD
Lotus and Water Lilies
Guests Welcome

July (TBA)
Pop-Up Paint Out
Sunflower Fields
Potomac, MD
Guests Welcome

August 9th
Belle Haven Park & Marina
Alexandria, VA
Guests Welcome

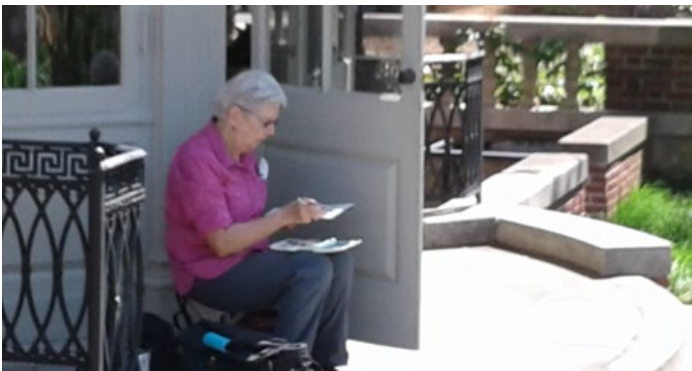
October 7th
The C & O Canal
National Historic Park Great Falls
(Maryland Side)
Potomac, MD
Canal and tow path
Guests Welcome

October 28th
Patuxent Wildlife
Research Center
Laurel, MD
Lake, trails & indoor area
with views. *Guests Welcome*

Paint Outs continued



Bishop's Garden at the National Cathedral
May 11th



Woodrow Wilson House
June 5th



PVW Shepardstown Pein Air Trip

A group of PVW members, a husband, and a dog, enjoyed a productive and fun two days of painting in Shepherdstown, WV, in mid-May. It seemed that the whole lovely town turned out to greet us including the Visitors Center where we gathered on our first afternoon after arrival, and the local French restaurant, Bistro 112, which quickly became our unofficial headquarters. Its owner, Deborah Tucker, is an art lover extraordinaire and an artist herself with gardening and fare. Over the course of our stay, we ate together twice at her restaurant and critiqued our work in the bistro's beautiful garden where we carried on our revelry. It was observed that group photographs in the garden appear not unlike Renoir's Boating Party.

Shepherdstown has a plethora of subject matter to paint and we spread out among its charming land and townscape. Most popular, because of the heat, was the water race, a lovely, clear stream that meanders throughout the town among its residences, restaurants and official buildings. We met the Mayor who lives near the stream and he, too, embraced our work. Another favorite spot was the lush setting along the Potomac River in Shepherdstown, down under the bridge that connects Maryland and West Virginia. There we painted the cool waters, intriguing ruins, and the 1800 tobacco warehouse. o say that we had a wonderful time as a group, is an understatement and before we left, we were already planning another plein air trip within a few hours' drive of DC. We hope you'll join us next time.

--Jann Gilmore and Shelby Conley, PVW Travel Committee



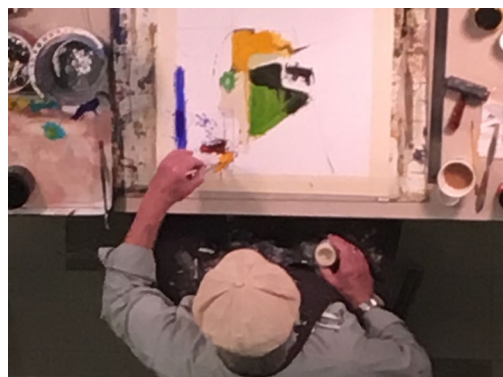
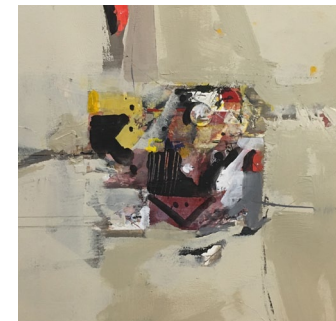
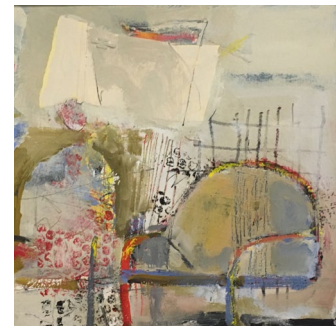
Workshops

The Skip Lawrence Workshop was held last November 7-11, 2016. He also did a demo for the Fall Meeting.

“PVW welcomed Skip Lawrence in November to teach a workshop entitled “Painting Your Own Reality”. Skip shared the journey he’s taken from realist to abstract painter, and through visual references showed how other well known artists have progressed to create paintings that we all know and recognize. With his trademark wit and humor Skip guided students through an honest evaluation of their own approach to painting, and he challenged everyone to think about ways to develop their own unique styles both through technique and choice of subject matter. All of this was backed up by lots of one on one critique.



Skip Lawrence explaining the method to his technique and philosophy on painting. To the left are two of his abstract demos. >



Skip puts down a shape of thick paint right on the paper and then starts moving it around with a large bristley flat to help move the paint around. It’s quite a challenging technique.

Saturday
November 6th at 3:00 pm
FREE art demonstration by
Skip Lawrence
Fall Workshop leader,
followed by brief
PVW discussion forum:
“Tips on How to Market Your Art,”
St. Andrews’ Episcopal Church
4000 Lorcom Lane, Arlington, VA 22011

Iain Stewart Workshop

**“From Sketchbook to Studio –
Painting Light in Watercolor”**
April 24-28, 2017



Contact the Workshop Co-Chairs:
Kate Niner (britrose@juno.com) and
Tammy Wiedenhaefer (tammywiedenhaefer@gmail.com)

During this workshop Iain will guide students through his process which relies on simplification of subject through exploratory sketching and value studies. Iain says “I am most often motivated by capturing a definitive lighting condition and how it influences shape and value rather than faithfully representing the subject as witnessed. Watercolor is uniquely suited for this task as “light” is reserved from the first brush strokes and must be protected throughout the painting process” He will demonstrate how to create a road map, that if followed, will greatly improve your painting.

Upcoming Workshop
Frank Eber October 16-20, 2017
Kathleen Giles March 19-23, 2018
Sandy Maudlin October 15-19, 2018

Trips

20th PVW PAINTING TRIP TO **MAINE**

September 9-16, 2017

We will be painting on Mount Desert Island at “Balla Cragga”, the eight bedroom “cottage” we rent in Southwest Harbor.

Rooms rent for \$747 for private bath and and \$697 for shared bath.

For more information or to join us, call or email
Gloria Logan at 571-277-8713,
Gloria.logan@icloud.com
Or **Vita Sims** at 301-946-6043, vita@vitadesigns.com



PAINT IN France

The travel committee is planning a painting trip to Collioure, France with a 2 day visit to Barcelona, September 21st to 30th, 2017.

Collioure is a picturesque little Mediterranean town where Matisse, Derain and many others came to paint. It is in the foothills of the Mediterranean Pyrenees just north of the Spanish border.

For more information or to join us, email
Jann Gilmore jhgilmoreart@aol.com
Shelby Conley shelbyconley@gmail.com
Elaine Nunnally elainennunnally@gmail.com



Spring Luncheon 2017

Changing of the Guard!

March 26, 2017, Columbia Country Club



Leigh Culver presenting thoughtful awards to some of the members.



Jane Coonce, our new incoming president



Sarah Andrews, Margitta Hanff-Pots, Martha Petroff, Donna Sturm, Linda Staulcup and Marta Legakis



Who's going to win the next door prize?



Leigh Culver is awarding Carolyn and Mac tea towels with special stories attached!



Roberta Day and Carolyn Gawarecki are having fun chatting with others.



Marta Legakis and Kate Niner



Emilie McBride and Liz Roberts



Elaine Nunnally and Liz Roberts



Mary Allen, Debby Conn and Martha Petroff