

Manasquan River Group of Artists

Established 1938

Newsletter



MRGA, P. O. Box 614, Manasquan,

www.mrga38.org

New Jersey 08736 December, 2023

Letter from the President

As we greet this holiday season and the anticipation and wonder of what lies ahead, it is my wish that you savor each moment and appreciate the gifts you have and use them well.

Here in MRGA, our gifts are evident through the exhibits in which we participate. The current exhibit of 26 artists at the Wall Library has filled the room with our beautiful paintings once again. The exhibit will be at the library until December 29th. Thank you to Show Director, Donna Ferris for another great exhibit. The Spring Lake Community House exhibit is hung, surrounded by festive décor in the Upper Gallery. We look forward to gathering for the reception on Monday, December 5 from 5-7. Coming soon is the winter exhibit at the Point Pleasant Beach Library. Look for the details in this newsletter.

Our Holiday Party on December 2 will surely get us in the spirit as we enjoy the bountiful food, delight in the gift exchange and be entertained by the games, all planned by our hostesses Margo Jane Fletcher, Jackie St Angel and Maureen Anderson. Hope to see you all there.

MRGA members contributed 57 stars to the Stars for Charity fundraiser. Thank you once again to Linda Hejduk for your efforts in this very meaningful charity on behalf of MRGA and to Melinda Saminski for photographing the stars.

So, throughout the month of December, give thanks for the gift of YOU. Unwrap the present that is you by sharing a smile, a kind thought or another gesture of caring. I wish all of you and your families a beautiful and blessed holiday.

Happy December and Happy Painting! Happy December and Happy Painting!

Barbara



Please Note Next Members Meeting

There is no Member meeting for the Month of January. The regular MRGA Meeting will resume on February 2 at 4-4:30pm, Refreshments and Business meeting to follow. Also, there is no January Newsletter.

Manasquan Group of Artists 2023-2024 Calendar of Events

ART SHOWS

December–Upper Gallery Spring Lake

Pam Feszi 908.233.4197

MaryAnn Goodwin 732.539.4150

January/February- Pt. Pleasant Beach Library Show

Sheila Soyster 732.674.2038

Pauline Mickle 732.892.5606

April-Brielle Library Show

Tracy Rocanova-Miller 732.822.2099

June- Spring Lake Art in the Park (Devine Park)

Susanna Anastasia 732.715.1555

July- Sea Girt Lighthouse Outdoor Show

Janice Collinson 908.489.7696

July- Brick Library Show

Margo Fletcher 732.259.7767.

July/August-North Hall Gallery Show

PT. Pleasant Presbyterian Church Pt. Pleasant Beach

Karen Norby 908.915.2301

MEETINGS, DEMONSTRATIONS, TALKS

December 2, 2023

Holiday Party

January

NO MEETING

February 2, 2024

Vinnie Nardone

"The Victorian Art Scene at the Jersey Shore"

Vinnie will share some fascinating documents, wood engravings and highlights from Harper's Weekly newspaper of that era, a "show and tell" eye opener of the turn of the 20th century artists and a new look at our MRGA predecessors.

March 1, 2024

David Levy

"What a Judge Sees or Should See and Where the Artist and Judge are Left in the Process"

David will discuss the "subjective" nature of judging, the qualities an "ideal" judge should possess, the criteria for excellence many judges use, how to think like a judge, and much more.

April 5, 2024

Karen Norby *"Hands-On Origami Demonstration"*

Using the ancient art of Japanese paper folding, Karen will teach how to transform a 2-D piece of paper into 3-D forms of a swan, a cat, a hopping frog and more.

May 3, 2024

Jim Inzero *"Painting with Encaustic"*

Jim will bring in some of his paintings and explain his process of wax encaustic

June 2024

Potluck Dinner.

MRGA At-Large Trustees

Our At-Large Trustees, Debra Herbster and Beverly Sirianni are an integral part of The Manasquan River Group of Artists. Beverly and Debra serve as the liaison between the MRGA board and the membership. If you have a suggestion, question or complaint about anything in MRGA, please contact these two wonderful women and they will try to help you or point you in the right direction. Beverly and Debra also choose and write about the members featured in the newsletter's Member Spotlight. Be sure and see the beautiful article written by Debra about Margaret Patterson in this newsletter.

Beverly Sirianni 732.861.0014

Debra Herbster 908.380.7580

Art Classes

Sponsored by The Manasquan Group of Artists

Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:00 PM at the Sea Girt Lighthouse

2023

December 5

Janice Collinson-watercolor.....732.528.7179

December 12 & 19

Leona Lavone-watercolor.....732.914.9941

2024

January 9 & 16

Bev Sirianni-watercolor.....732.774.0014

January 23 & 30

Arlene Newman-watercolor.....732.682.3397

February 6 & 13

Melinda Saminski-pastel732.610.8626

February 20

Barbara Calvo-pastel.....732.996.0738

February 27

Karen Norby-origami.....732.996.0738

March 9 & 16

Pauline Mickle-watercolor.....732.892.5606

March 19

Tamara Woronczuk-book art.....732.998.8286

April 9

Tamara Woronczuk-book art.....732.998.8286

April 16 & 23

Leona Lavone-watercolor.....732.914.9941

April 30

Rose Sinatra-watercolor.....626.797.1213

May 7

Rose Sinatra-watercolor.....626.797.1213

May 14

End of Year Class

Instructed Classes \$6.00 Catch-up Classes \$3.00

Please call instructor before attending class for necessary information.

Any questions, please call Mona Kirk 732.223.2569

MRGA Executive Board and Committees 2023-2024

PRESIDENT

Barbara Calvo.....732.996.0738

VICE PRESIDENT

Vinnie Nardone.....732.903.7468

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jackie St. Angel.....732.216.8568

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Sheila Soyster.....732.892.7692

TREASURER

Laura Lutz.....732.528.8698

AT-LARGE TRUSTEES

Debra Herbster.....908.380.7580

Beverly Sirianni.....732.861.7354

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Barbara Calvo.....732.996.0738

PHOTOGRAPHER

Melinda Saminski.....732.610.8626

DEMONSTRATIONS/SPEAKERS

Ellen Price.....732.223.4670

HISTORIAN

Janice Collinson.....732.528.7179

WEBSITE

Sheila Soyster.....732.892.7692

PUBLICITY/SOCIAL MEDIA

Your opportunity to serve MRGA with creative energy awaits you in this position.

NEWSLETTER

MaryAnn Goodwin.....732.539.4150

SUNSHINE

Mona Kirk.....732.223.2569

HOSPITALITY

Margo Fletcher.....732.259.7767

Maureen Anderson.....732.306.7798

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Mona Kirk.....732.223.2569

MEMBERSHIP

Mona Kirk.....732.223.2569

NOMINATING

Linda Hejduk.....732.714.0854

ART CLASSES

Sea Girt Lighthouse.....732.223.2569

Art Musings

Night Visions

This may be an unusual musing this month because you may or may not see how it's related to art but read on. It's bedtime and you've had a long day and can't wait to close your eyes in sleep. More times than I can count, I've closed my eyes but instead of sleep, my eyelids become a "screen" on which I see images appearing in rapid succession. I see animals from the jungle. Graceful zebras, their black and white stripes seem to vibrate as they pass. Vividly colored tigers run across the screen and nimble monkeys leap in between the other animals. No elephants though! It's very entertaining and I often laugh at the scene unfolding! I never know what animal comes next or in what direction. It's never the same. Other nights I see faces of every type that appear and disappear at such a rapid pace that I feel frustrated because I want to remember them to draw. The faces are only in tones of black and gray as they morph from one image to the next. I lie there and just let it unfold. Somehow, I'm able to fall asleep after all this action. I know I am not dreaming because I often narrate what I am seeing to my husband. Is this phenomenon that I experience a result of being an artist? Does this happen to any of you?

Barbara Calvo

MRGA Anniversary Luncheon

MRGA members and guests enjoyed a delicious buffet for our annual luncheon at the Lobster Shanty on November 5th. Our guest speaker was Pamela Ward, who regaled us with her stories of her journey to becoming the Executive Director of the Algonquin Theater. A beautifully decorated cake celebrating the 85th anniversary(!) of the Manasquan River Group of Artists was a perfect ending for a lovely afternoon. Thank you, Mona Kirk for organizing this event once again.



Please visit the website for MRGA www.mrga38.org Our website is being updated regularly by Sheila Soyster. Please contact Sheila with any information: sheila624@comcast.net or 732-892-7692. Thank you Sheila.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION-

All submissions for the newsletter and changes to your address, phone or email should be sent by email to MaryAnn Goodwin at maryanngoodwinarts@gmail.com by the 20th of the month for the next newsletter. When announcing an award please give the title of your work. Photographs should include the names of the persons in them except for a large group. "Classifieds" will run only once unless you request a repeat.

Stars for Charity Reminder

MRGA members contributed 57 stars to the Stars for Charity fundraiser. Below, you can see a selection of Stars that are available at the Ebay website. You can view all of the stars and start bidding from November 29 to December 10. The link is: http://www.ebay.com/usr/new_dover_umc
The stars will also be on our website www.mrga38.org soon..



LINDA HEJDUK



JANICE COLLINSON



VALERIE MORONE



MARGARET PATTERSON



VINCENT NARDONE



MARILYN SHOTWELL



DONNA FERRIS



BARBARA CALVO



MARY JO AUSTIN





Member Spotlight

Margaret Patterson



We have all come to know that soft smile and the caring eyes that greet us monthly at our MRGA meetings. Margaret Patterson is so much more than the friendly lady who sells us 50/50 tickets at the door.

Margaret was the third of seven children in a predominantly Catholic family. Her father (who was an attorney), was her greatest influence, and was the person who pushed her to pursue her art. And with his encouragement, Margaret has been drawing and painting ever since. She told me about a funny story how her father bought a summer house one night in the dark, in Manasquan, much to her mother's dismay. Every summer Margaret fell in love with the beach and all its treasures.

Margaret and her husband Joe, are residents of Manasquan, where they raised their six children, and where her grandchildren frequent her art room on occasion. There are several walls where family photos are warmly and proudly displayed. After 20 years raising a family, Margaret returned to college to continue her art education. She earned her B.A. in art from Georgian Court College in Lakewood NJ.

Margaret has spent most of her life living at the shore and finds inspiration in the beach and its treasures. The hidden beauty of ordinary shells, the ever-changing ocean from its moody storms to its azure calmness, the shimmering light and long shadows of dusk and dawn all call out to her and Margaret tries to capture their essence in a painting.

Pastels are her medium of choice, and you can see her exquisite use of her preferred colors of greens and blues. Her combination of colors draws you in and your eyes dance with pleasure from the happy greens and clam blues to pinks and lavenders. You can see the influence of Degas and Winslow Homer and the Impressionist styles.



Margaret also has a love of gardening which was clear to me as soon as I arrived at her house where a majestic birch towered over me to greet me. Margaret was so generous to share some cuttings of lavender mums from her front garden. The pastel painting of geraniums is the one work Margaret is most proud of. The geraniums jump off the paper as if they are alive, how fresh, and how exciting are the colors!



Margaret has painted many murals in homes and businesses along the Jersey Shore, including the Ocean Care Center in Point Pleasant Beach, as well as the Spring Lake home of suspense author, Mary Higgins Clark. Her work has been featured in the book, *CELEBRITY BEDROOM RETREATS* by Joanne Lee Doster. Margaret has earned many awards from MRGA and has the desire to keep learning and exploring with her art, and also wants to work larger.

I fell in love with Margaret's style the very first time I saw her artwork. That's when my mom told me that Margaret taught children's art in Manasquan for about 18 years. Her combination of green blues or blue greens, the soft strokes of the pastels, and the very subject matter she chooses, soothes my soul. Thank you, Margaret, for sharing your art with us, for being our friend, for your spirit, your gratefulness and your warm and caring personality.



Member News

December 2023

Congratulations to **Susan Penn** who's painting "Gimme Shelter" in watercolor and pen and ink, was accepted in the Atlantic Highlands Art Councils' juried show "Poetic Boundaries", on display from December 9th to January 6th.



Audubon Artists announced the awards for their 81st annual exhibition. Four of our MRGA artists were among the awardees. Congratulations to **Mona Kirk, Jackie St. Angel, Vincent Nardone** and **Valerie Morone**. Visit the website for the virtual show where you can view the work of all the MRGA artists.

<https://showsubmit.com/gallery/aa-81st-annual-exhibition>.



1. Jackie St. Angel; Title: "Lucky Number"; Dick Blick Materials Award in Aqua-media
2. Mona Kirk; Title: "Heather On The Hill"; Hella Bailin Honorary Memorial Award for Impressionistic Watercolor;
3. Vincent Nardone; Title: "Marine Flutter"; John Antonucci Memorial Award in Mixed Media (Casein on Hardboard);
4. Valerie Morone; Title: "Wake Up Snoopy"; American Artists Professional League Award for Traditional Realism in Oils.....

Awards Juror: Paul Efstathiou, Director of Contemporary Art, Hollis Taggart Gallery, New York City...According to Audubon Artists President Melanie Berardicelli, "Efstathiou has developed a well-trained and prescient eye, making him a successful dealer and curator of contemporary art." Paul is on the Board of Directors of the MoCA Westport Museum in Ct, which is based both in New York City and Connecticut."

2. Mona Kirk



3. Vinnie Nardone



1. Jackie St. Angel



4. Valerie Morone

2024 MRGA Dues

We know you have a lot to DO.....But **MRGA DUES** are **DUE**
Why?

Because we have a lot for you to DO in the coming year. So DO send us your DUES!

After a 6-month moratorium, it's time to send your check for \$40 (Active Member) or \$20 (Inactive Member) made out to MRGA. Please mail your check to Laura Lutz

PO Box 614

Manasquan NJ 08736

Thank You!

MRGA Invitational Art Exhibit

The gallery-style venue of the Middletown Art Center was the perfect showcase for the excellent art that our members and our invited guests from the Art Society of Monmouth County submitted to MRGA's first Invitational Art Show in October.

Sixty-one pieces of art were expertly hung by our volunteers and six MRGA artists walked away with \$500 in cash prizes: 1st Place went to Lou Riccio and 2nd Place to Eileen Georgias. Barbara Calvo, Nancy Robinson, Beverly Sirianni, and Mary Jo Austin took home Awards of Merit. A video of the award winners is posted on our website.

Thanks go to our Title Sponsor, Manasquan Bank; Awards Sponsor, OceanFirst Bank; and supporter, Monmouth Arts Council. A special shout out goes to the volunteers: Barbara Calvo, Bob Stetz, Beverly Sirianni, Nancy Robinson, Pam Fisezi, Margo Fletcher, Karen Norby and Marty Fletcher for their service. We also recognize our judge, Maria Payer, for her expertise and thoughtful comments.

The show would not have been nearly so impressive without the spectacular closing reception which was due to the fine cuisine furnished by our members. A special thank you to Show Director, Jackie St Angel, who worked tirelessly to make this show a success. Thank you one and all!



MRGA Point Pleasant Beach Library
Winter Art Exhibit
January – February – March 2024



Delivery of paintings – Thursday, January 4th, 1-4 pm
Reception – Saturday, February 24, 11pm – 1 pm
Pick up of Paintings – Thursday, March 28th, 1 - 4 pm

- ENTRY FEE \$15 – Check only, payable to MRGA Please send check and entry form to **Sheila Soyster, 53 Serpentine Road, Brick, NJ 08724**
- ONE FRAMED ORIGINAL WORK - No larger than 24 x 36”, No smaller than 11 x 14”
- NO PORTFOLIO PIECES
- WORK CREATED WITHIN THE LAST 5 YEARS
- PREVIOUS MRGA AWARD PIECES NOT ELIGIBLE
- ALL EXHIBITED & SOLD ARTWORK MUST STAY FOR THE DURATION OF THE SHOW
- SHOW LOCATION: Point Pleasant Beach Library, 710 McLean Avenue, Pt. Pleasant Beach
- PUBLICITY: Local newspapers, MRGA Newsletter, Facebook Page & Website
- JUDGING: People’s Choice Award & Recognition of Artistic Excellence

Questions? Call Sheila Soyster, show coordinator– 732-892-7692 sheilasoyster@gmail.com

MRGA ENTRY FORM

POINT PLEASANT BEACH LIBRARY WINTER SHOW

ARTIST _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____

TITLE OF ARTWORK _____

MEDIUM _____ PRICE _____

LIABILITY: MRGA Officers, Trustees and Members are not responsible for loss of damage of submitted artwork, however caused. Entry into this exhibit constitutes an agreement with these terms and conditions.

SIGNATURE _____