



**January - February
2025
Newsletter**

Shenandoah Valley Watercolor Society
P. O. Box 2744
Harrisonburg VA 22801
ShenandoahValleyWatercolorSociety.org

Officers:

Chair: Elaine Dunaway
eedunaway@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Laura Pooler
brennan22801@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kevin Updike
Kevin7Updike@gmail.com

Membership: Julia Stauffer
jastauff@comcast.net

Social Media: Lynda Chandler
lyndaeandler@gmail.com

New Beginnings

Dear Watercolor Friends,

I am excited to have the privilege of being the new chair for the SVWS. I am especially thrilled with the team we've put together for 2025 to keep this organization thriving. Laura Pooler will serve as co-chair, Kevin Updike is Treasurer, and Julia Stauffer will handle Membership. Lynda Chandler will manage the media sources, and we are grateful Mindy Morrison will continue the newsletter.

I am relatively new to watercolor. Around six years ago, I stumbled onto a watercolor kit at Barnes & Noble. It was a cold, wintry Sunday afternoon, and I wanted a hobby as I contemplated retirement in the next several years. Well, I can tell you, I gained way more than a hobby. I developed new skills for my brain, a passion to create, a beautiful medium to enjoy, and, most of all, a community of highly skilled watercolorists to call friends!

I look forward to continuing the great leadership we've had from Barbara Gautcher, Lois Kauffman, Donna Detrich, and Kevin Updike. I hope to continue our common goal of improving our own watercolor skills and promoting watercolor in this community.

It is you who makes this organization what it is, and I look forward to working with you for the new year!

Elaine Dunaway

**An artist painting a picture should have at his side
a man with a club to hit him over the head
when the picture is finished.**

John Singer Sargent

Our Featured Artist: JanetLee Wright



Books, including coloring books, were JanetLee’s first love. Her father taught English literature to high school students, and so her house was always full of books, and story time was every night. Thanks to her artsy aunt, she was never without crayons. After majoring in literature in college, when she absolutely HAD to choose between teaching literature or becoming a starving artist, she found a middle ground by becoming a librarian. She could dwell among books, including art books, and not starve.

Over the next 33 years, JanetLee worked in public and college libraries, but found that government libraries offered the best chance for travel. The Army library program posted her to Germany, Panama, and Washington DC. The State Department sent her to Brazil and Mexico. “My husband and son enjoyed living in those beautiful countries, but when it came time to retire, we wanted to be in the U.S.” Finally, she had time to create art, not just read about it.

In 2008, a three line ad in the Daily News Record newspaper led JanetLee to a SVWS meeting one night in the old Smith house, now the home of the Arts Council of the Valley. “I was too embarrassed to bring my art, but when I finally did, everyone was kind and encouraging, and I learned so much from the critique. Flailing around with watercolors on my own had not gotten me far.” She likes painting portraits because she believes that we are all drawn to the human face. “It’s instinctive. Three month old babies will stare longer at a screen with pair of dots, suggestive of a pair of eyes, than any other abstract shape. The brain is hardwired to look at faces. And faces are a great challenge.” Since joining SVWS, JanetLee studied portrait painting under Jane Angelhart and Mary Whyte. “They both specialize in watercolor portraits, and they’re amazing artists, but have completely different styles. It’s been so interesting to learn from both of them.”

In the future, she wants to learn how to paint better landscapes, “because I love landscapes, too, and I want to put my people into believable landscapes. I also want to paint more portraits. There are so many people I’d like to paint, and at my age, I’m fully aware my productive time is limited.

Member News

Welcome our newest member, Beth Alley! beth.alley@gmail.com Add her and her email address to your current membership list. And look for her at our meetings to welcome her.

'Tis the season to pay your dues. Mail \$30 to Treasurer Kevin Updike at 645 Mason Street, Dayton, VA 22801. Make yourself a note right now so you don't forget because you know you will! I just wrote my note.

Final results of our VMRC Member Show:

Members' Choice: Rob Kloetzer for "Swallows at the Meadow"

Viewers' Choice: Mindy Morrison for "Birches"

Winner of the December Card Contest at our December Potluck: Taking first place - and second place - was Jennifer Wharton. Way to go!

Looking for a Class to take? Member David Draime offers a variety of art classes at Draime Fine Art Studio School at 1153 South High Street in Harrisonburg. For more information, go to www.draimefineart.com/classes

Member Peg Sheridan lists her January class on her website www.PegSheridan.com, including a Saturday workshop held at the Draime Studio. More info on her website.

Upcoming Events & Exhibits

The Friday Paint Party at the Price Rotary Senior Center gathers **every Friday** so mark your calendar. There are usually several members who paint together and share ideas. Throw in \$2-\$4 to offset the cost for the space rental. Bring your painting project with your supplies. The building is directly across the street from the UC Center where we hold our monthly meetings. When you enter Westover Park from Rte. 33, turn right and go up the hill, then park in the first parking lot on your right. We'll be waiting for you! **No Friday Paint Party December 27.**

Our Monthly SVWS meetings are held on the first Saturday of every month, 10:00 am 'til noon at The UC Youth Center located at 700 West Market Street. **Mark your calendar.**

January 5 is the last day for submission to paint a large mural on Massanutten Regional Library's outdoor wall. Go to their website for more information.

January 6 Next Gallery Day: SVWS Signature Members are invited to show and sell their work at four locations in Harrisonburg. Paintings are changed every three months on the first Monday following our regular monthly meetings.

- Taste of Thai restaurant, 917 S. High St. Contact Lois Whitecotton, Lwhitecotton@yahoo.com
- The Rocktown Gift Shoppe inside the Hardesty-Higgins House Visitor Center, 212 South Main St. Contact Barbara Gautcher, bgautcher@gmail.com
- OASIS Fine Art and Craft, 103 S. Main St. Contact Donna Detrich, DonnaDetrich@gmail.com
- Sharp Litigation Offices, 1224 Newman Avenue Suite 201, Harrisonburg. Our newest location, ask Barbara Gautcher for more information.

The 2025 VMRC Juried Art Exhibition is coming soon! They will issue a Call for Entry on January 3-4. If you are interested, go to www.callforentry.org to set up an account on CaFE to learn more and receive an application. Click on the ARTISTS tab at the top of the page and follow directions.

Harrisonburg Plein Air will resume in the spring.

Brushstrokes

Peg Sheridan participated in the 4th Floyd Pain Air Event in September - during Hurricane Helene! The power went out the day of the show, so a patron family opened their home to display the art. It was a successful evening. Peg sold 3 paintings! She had a large solo show at Westminster Canterbury in Charlottesville during October, and she sold a large painting. Peg was the Featured Artist at CoArt in Staunton in November - December. No word on her sales there.

Bahir Al Badry was a top selling artist at OASIS this year. He was this newsletter's Featured Artist in the September-October edition.

News for the Next Newsletter?

Inquiring minds want to hear your news! If you sell a painting, receive an honor or award, are exhibiting, or teaching a class, send your information to me, Mindy Morrison, at MJDM@comcast.net no later than February 15. Please specify in the Subject line, "For the next newsletter." The next bimonthly newsletter will go out the last week in February.

This newsletter's color scheme is light blue for January's icy temperatures, with Amethyst Purple font for February's birthstone. My computer is in its death throes, so this edition is a bit wonky, my sincere apologies. To my trusty eagle-eyed editor, Elizabeth Heidt, may your New Year's resolutions come true.

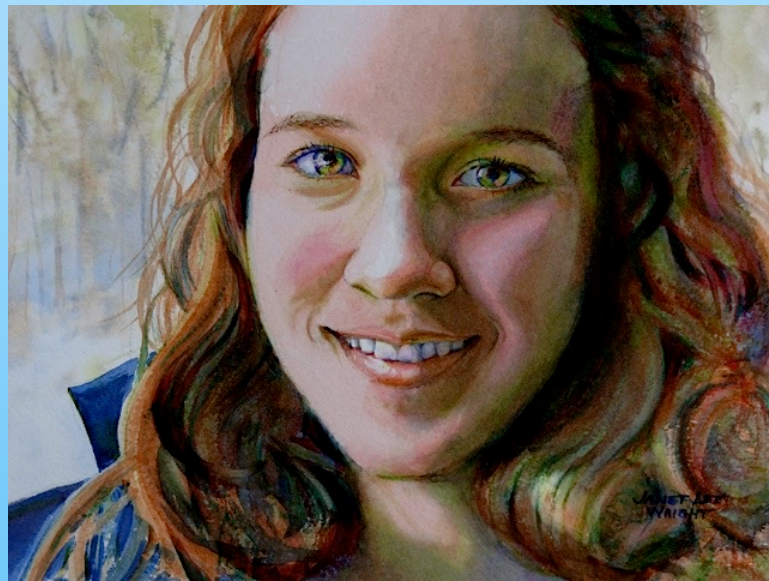
Help Wanted

Partner with me on the SVWS bimonthly newsletter. As a reporter, you would gather information and write the news for each regular section, including Member News, Upcoming Events & Exhibits, and Brushstrokes. I will continue the feature story on a member artist. We will use the same format for now. Really shouldn't take very long every other month, perhaps 3-4 hours. If you are interested, text me, Mindy Morrison, at 540-435-6535 or email MJDM@comcast.net.

**You can't do sketches enough.
Sketch everything and keep your curiosity fresh.**

**Color is an inborn gift. But appreciation of value
is merely training of the eye,
which everyone ought to be able to acquire.**

John Singer Sargent



Portrait by JanetLee Wright

