



July - August 2023
Newsletter

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

Officers:

Barbara Gautcher

BGautcher@gmail.com

Lois Kauffman

LRKauffman@gmail.com

Donna Detrich, Treasurer

DonnaDetrich@gmail.com

Learning & Growing Together ...

I've been immersed in art for a long time and thought I knew how to express myself in paint. Not true! I've been reflecting on the Lynn Ferris workshop and all she taught the participating members. For three days, we struggled through a new language, a unique way to translate what we see into a visual language for others.

The first day, we painted a small section of a door. Sounds easy, right? It was just three rectangles and two circles, a blank piece of watercolor paper, and three small tubes of paint. We started at ground level, drawing this small section of the door, adding cool shadows, and allowing it to emerge from our pencil drawing into a wooden structure with a brass doorknob and lock. From Lynn's demo and instructions, we built 22 solid and different doors!

The second day, we moved on to an entire house. We learned to see and paint **only** the shadows cast by the sun, and a house appeared. Light and shadow, not dark and light. Understanding this vocabulary, this new language gave our paintings a dynamic difference. The final day, the visual language progressed to the light and shadow of clear glass, only painting the intricacy of its sparkle, and variations of shadow.

It's difficult to say we "learned" these things because this is the condition of learning. We have not arrived, but the journey continues. And like any language, the more it's used, the richer the communication. Isn't it amazing? We can always learn something if we are open to the possibilities around us. Join us at our July meeting and let's continue learning together.
Barbara Gautcher

The eye is always caught by light, but shadows have more to say.
- Gregory Maguire

New Members!

Many thanks to Kevin Updike for saying YES! He is heading up our Membership Committee so Lynda Chandler can focus on our website. Thank you, Lynda, for organizing Membership last year. Well done! If you are willing to greet members and guests as they arrive or send a note of welcome to new folks, let Kevin know.

SVWS continues to grow. Please look for our newbies and make them feel welcome. Add their information to your Membership List in your SVWS folder.

Judi Coleman judi.s.coleman@gmail.com 804-357-1141

Nicole Faut ndfaut@gmail.com 540-423-4961
4300 Captain Yancey Rd., Elkton, VA 22827

Arnita Taliaferro
77 South Peak Dr., McGaheysville, VA 22840

Exhibits & Upcoming Events

At OASIS: JULY 1 - 27th- “Vintage Cars: Works of Art”:

Our June show is a collaboration between **Stewart Mason** and **Barbara Camph**. The photographs of vintage cars were taken by Stewart, after which he matted the prints and hand-made the frames. Barbara Camph interpreted Stewart’s photographs in art glass. Come see this wonderful show!

JULY 1 - 27th - Water Street Window Gallery Friendly City Fortune Mega Raffle Fundraiser is back!

For further events at Oasis, check out the following link.

<https://www.oasisfineartandcraft.org/events>

Currently, Bridgewater Retirement Community has an exhibit in the main lobby at Maple Terrace. Janina Greene, Charlie Raisner, and Rob Kloetzer have work in this show.

Another current show featuring our members from Sunnyside Retirement Community as well as other area artists is at **Smith House**, next to the Quilt Museum in Harrisonburg.

June 23 – August 6 Beverly Street Studio School Gallery I Am Still Learning Show, including Peg Sheridan’s students Elaine Dunaway and Lois Kauffman.

July 15 - 23 Open to All Members Register now for **The Bath County Art Show**. The price is \$15.00 per painting and an artist may enter up to five. Martha Mobley volunteered to take the paintings and someone else will pick up the ones that don’t sell. The show will be held at the high school. Visit their website for further information and entry forms:

<https://www.bathcountyarts.org/artshow>

July 1 – August 30 SVWS Exhibit at Hotel Madison, 710 South Main in Harrisonburg. Last year our SVWS exhibition was such a success, Signature Members were invited back. On June 28, approximately 23 works will be hung in the second-floor gallery. Meet the Artists July 7 and August 4, 5-8pm.

July 21 Rob Kloetzer will host a Plein Air Paint Day Workshop at Wildwood Park in Bridgewater. More information will be coming soon but mark your calendar.

September 2 – November 4 SVWS 37th Annual Members Show at VMRC Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community, located at 1491 Virginia Ave. Harrisonburg, VA,. will once again host our show in the Park Gables Gallery. All SVWS members are encouraged to show their work. The judge for 2023 will be Michael Hough, Associate Professor of Art at Bridgewater College. Up to three pieces will be considered for presentation. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded in this juried show. Contacts are Mindy Morrison and Lois Kauffman for more information.

November 10 – 11 Peg Sheridan will offer two one-day workshops on two different topics to SVWS members at our usual meeting place. Friday is “Designing Better Compositions in Watercolor” and Saturday is “Painting Misty Mountains.” You may sign up for one or both days. There are a couple of spaces still available. More specific information will be available as the workshops near. Check with Barbara Gautcher if you are interested.

Gallery Days: SVWS Signature Members are invited to show and sell their work at three locations in Harrisonburg. Paintings are changed every three months on the first Monday following our regular monthly meetings. Upcoming “change” dates are **September 11**, and December 4. *September 11 is a change from the normal date due to the Member Show conflict.*

- Taste of Thai restaurant, 917 S. High St. - Contact Lois Whitecotton
- The Rocktown Gift Shoppe inside the Hardesty-Higgins House Visitor Center, 212 South Main St. - Contact Kelli Hertzler
- OASIS Fine Art and Craft, 103 S. Main St. Contact Donna Deitrich

Brushstrokes

Oasis sales for SVWS Signature members' paintings, prints, and cards continue to fly out the door.

Kelly Prim sold a painting in the recent juried multimedia show at VMRC. Another Prim painting for the Show: Recycled, Repurposed and Reimagined at the Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley won the People's Choice award.

Barbara Gautcher is teaching a six-week class at VMRC for their residents only.

Lois Whitecotton sold paintings and cards at various locations.

“Bits & Bobs,” as the Brits Say

During the Lynn Ferris workshop, she mentioned an ultra-round, pointy brush she has used for years on every painting. Lorraine Davis asked her about it, and although it's no longer available, Hillary White did some sleuthing. KingArt bought the defunct maker of the brush, and their 9020 is very similar. Here is the link for this reasonably priced brush, and it's also available on <https://www.DickBlick.com>: <https://www.kingartco.com/products/kingart-original-gold-9020-series-golden-taklon-ultra-round-1?variant=12366647230487>

Smudgy Graphite paper? Hilary White suggested opening the sheet and aggressively scrubbing the graphite side with a paper towel. No more smudges!

OUR NEXT MEETING IS SATURDAY, JULY 1, 10:00 – 12:00 AT THE WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH YOUTH CENTER, 700 WEST MARKET STREET, HARRISONBURG. BRING YOUR SVWS FOLDER WITH YOU. Rob Kloetzer will speak about Supplies and Set Up for Plein Air Painting for his July 21st Plein Air Paint Day workshop at Wildwood Park in Bridgewater.

Our August 5th meeting will feature Lynda Chandler speaking on Sources for Cost-Effective Framing plus a demonstration on How to Finish a Frame Yourself, with a DIY finishing of a purchased or thrifted frame, including the hanging wire assembly.

AND DON'T FORGET THE **PAINT PARTY**, EVERY FRIDAY 10AM - 12. COME TO WESTOVER PARK'S PRICE-ROTARY BUILDING in HARRISONBURG. BRING YOUR PAINTS AND CURRENT PROJECT. WE'LL PAINT TOGETHER!

News for the SVWS September – October newsletter? Send it to me, Mindy Morrison, at MJDM@comcast.net. Please specify in the Subject line it is for that edition.



Flight Delay by Lynn Ferris

Find beauty not only in the thing itself but in the pattern of the shadows, the light and dark which that thing provides. -Junichiro Tanizaki

Thank you to Blick art materials for donating 2 cash awards for the coming SVWS Member Show! We love Blick!

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