

**President: Alka Dalal**

Newsletter: Diana Patton

## January 2015 Newsletter

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Happy, healthy New Year!

To start the year off well, be sure to attend our first meeting/demo, Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at the Somerset County/Bridgewater Library at 7:30 pm. The pen and ink artist Eric Escobar will be speaking and demonstrating his art. Heavily influenced by the past and current alternative comic scene and cartoonists ranging from Robert Crumb to Sammy Harkham, Eric's unusual art style will be very interesting to see and perhaps be inspired by. Eric recently had a one-man exhibit at the Flemington DIY artspace. Eric frequently sells his work at First Friday events held in Philadelphia. Intrigued by surrealism and unique storytelling, he's currently working on independently publishing his first comic book. To preview some of the artist's work please visit <http://ericescobar.blogspot.com/>. You'll really want to come to this! If someone would like to volunteer for hospitality, please email Alka at [alkadalal@hotmail.com](mailto:alkadalal@hotmail.com) or phone 908-393-6561.

Our annual **Holiday Show** at the Somerset County/Bridgewater Library is over and it was as lovely as ever. Unfortunately only one painting was sold—the honor goes to Olga Phelps. Other artists in the show included Alka Dalal, Susan Boyd, Bill Gilbert, Bill Metz, Diana Patton, Donna Souren, Rosemary Zangara, and Eric (Zhicheng) Zhao.



We had works in the display cases, in the Circular Gallery, and on racks. Lots of people looked, and commented favorably. My thanks to all the artists who participated!





**Our Holiday Dinner was lots of fun.** A small group of us celebrated "wisely and well" at Cross Roads Restaurant (formerly McCarthy's) on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. We talked, laughed, ate, and exchanged our "grab bag" gifts. Readings were done by President Alka Dalal and Diana Patton (with her annual original Christmas story).



**Save the date! April 18<sup>th</sup>. You really must...our annual bus trip to NYC.** Marge McGovern is once again chairing this great fun trip (thank you, Marge!). The AWS show is of course at the Salmagundi, and we'll go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art before it. The trip does not interfere with any Easter plans as Easter is April 5<sup>th</sup> this year. More details next time.

RVAA member Florence White's husband Paul passed away January 14<sup>th</sup>. He fell New Years Eve and fractured his hip, and then had surgery but never really came out of it. There was a memorial service at the Van Ardsdale Funeral Home on No. Gaston Ave in Somerville Saturday the 17th. The family requests that any donations be sent to the Wounded Warriors Fund or St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, Florence.

**Demo Artist needed.** We are always looking for good artists who would like to demo at RVAA. If you know anyone, please refer them to us. If members want to demo their art, techniques, photography etc., please contact Alka [alkadalal@hotmail.com](mailto:alkadalal@hotmail.com).

The web page for the RVAA Wounded Warrior project is on our website <http://www.raritanvalleyarts.org/ww.html>. Interested artists should send their jpg files to Gard as soon as possible. Gard's email is: [gcp6@optonline.net](mailto:gcp6@optonline.net). You can display any painting(s) you want to donate, which must be ready to hang (it could even be a fine print). Wounded veterans can then choose a painting, which the artist ships to him/her. The shipping cost will be absorbed by the organization. Alka has been working with Rick Lynch who is the WW contact in Texas; he is the retired Lieutenant General involved in building homes for the wounded warriors. Your email should include the name of the painting, the medium (original watercolor, print on canvas, etc.), and dimensions.

RVAA member Judy Hummer clued me into an interesting technique you might want to try. Just google Zentangle. It's an art/meditation creation sort of thing. You wouldn't have to follow directions exactly; just experiment and have fun with it. It's basically pen and ink, but you can add watercolor, or colored markers, or colored pencils as well. Check out Zentangle images and what Wiki has to say about it. Fun! Thanks, Judy!

## **Members in the News**

**Judith Hummer** is doing a demo for the Hunterdon Watercolor Society on Monday, March 2, 2015 at the Hunterdon County Complex Route 12, Flemington NJ. The demo will take place from 7:30pm - 9:00pm All are invited to watch Judy's demo!

**Hello, out there in RVAA Land! We'd like to hear what you've been doing. Do write or email me!**

*Happy painting! Diana*