

January Newsletter 2017

President: **Marge McGovern**

Newsletter: Diana Patton

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Happy New Year to all!

If you are making resolutions, please do resolve to come to our next meeting, **Wednesday, January 18th, 7:30 pm** at the Somerset County/Bridgewater Library, where you'll be treated to a demo by our own RVAA member Linda Lam. Linda works primarily in oils, but also has done exquisite drawings. Because Linda was the 2015 Watchung Arts Center Members' Show Winner, she was awarded a one-woman exhibit there entitled "Faces and Blossoms". With an MA in Economics from Hunter College, Linda spent 20 years as a market analyst for AT&T and HSBC, but as the third generation of a family of artists, Linda says, "Art is my heritage, my vocabulary, and my way of living. The emotion of a face and the expression of a blossom inspire me. The process of creating works of art excites me and it is my privilege to share my passion about art to the world." Linda works from life and you definitely don't want to miss this meeting. Also at this meeting we will have easels and various art supplies which Sid Dalal knows our past President, and wonderful friend, Alka Dalal, would want us to have.





FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As we begin our first Wednesday night meeting, our first meeting of 2017, let's all look forward to a successful, fruitful, and painterly year to come!

Marge McGovern

HOLIDAY/CHRISTMAS PARTY

RVAA thanks Mary Lou and Ed Guididas for hosting RVAA's annual Holiday/Christmas Party. Quite a few of us came out and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Mary Lou and Ed have a truly lovely and gracious home; the decorations, the tree, and all the poinsettias added to the joyous ambience of the night. And yes, we could wander about and view Mary Lou's handsome paintings. Our repast was "pot-luck" and we were all the lucky ones as the food was delicious, and plentiful as well. Mary Lou's mulled cider and her delectable desserts added the final touches to a successful evening.



Pres. Marge McGovern and Mary Lou Guididas

Holiday Show

Many thanks go out to those RVAA members who were part of our annual Holiday Show at the Somerset County/Bridgewater Library: Susan Boyd, Bill Metz, Diana Patton, Donna Souren, Rosemary Zangara, and Eric (Zhichdeng) Zhao. It was a beautiful show, with about 65 works in the Circular Gallery with "smalls" in the three display cases. Unfortunately we didn't sell anything from the actual show. I like to keep the December slot for Raritan Valley Arts Association each year, but it is getting more difficult to get members exhibiting. This year I did not require sitting for the show, although one could (and I did, but no sales). We've had the December slot since the library opened in 1981 and if we lost it, it would be difficult to ever get it back. I hope next year more people exhibit, or perhaps we *should* give it up.

NEW PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON

Our thanks to RVAA member Donna Souren, who is our new program chair person. Donna will be obtaining our wonderful demonstrators and we thank her for stepping up to do this. If you have ideas for demonstrators or would even like to demonstrate yourself, you can contact Donna by email at donna@souren.com

SOMERSET COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE SHOW

Several RVAA members will be in the exhibit at the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission Gallery in Somerset County's Admin Bldg on Grove Street in Somerville. Because titles, prices, and insurance forms are due January 23 (the show is Jn. 30-March 17) if you are interested you must contact me immediately. RVAA members presently in the show are Susan Boyd, Mary Lou Guididas, Ellie Morehouse, Diana Patton, and Donna Souren.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXHIBITION

RVAA members have some lovely opportunities for exhibiting. Remember that you can apply to have one-woman/man or group show at the Somerset County/Bridgewater Library, the Somerville Library and Arbor Glen. For Arbor Glen, please email Joan Bloomer ag17jc@gmail.com The Somerville Public Library, a branch of the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey, now has gallery space available for artists' exhibits. The Library is located at 35 West End Avenue in Somerville. The newly renovated main floor of the Library offers space for up to 40 paintings, sketches, drawings, photographs, and the like. To obtain a copy of Somerville Public Library's Art Policy and Exhibit Application, please log on to <http://somerset.lib.nj.us/PDFs/ArtExhibitPol&App.pdf> or, contact Roberta Karpinecz at rkarpinecz@yahoo.com for more information.

ARTISTS INVITED TO SUBMIT ARTWORK

The Somerset County Office on Aging & Disability Services invites artists of all ages to submit artwork for two separate exhibitions that will be held **February 13th - May 19th**. The two locations are the Somerset County Senior Wellness Center, 202 Mt. Airy Rd., Basking Ridge (on the VNA Campus) and the Quail Brook Senior Center, 625 New Brunswick Rd, Somerset (on the golf course). The artwork can include, but is not limited to, watercolors, oils, acrylics, photography, pastels, drawings, mixed media, and printmaking. The deadline for submitting entries is **February 1st**. Please send photos (4" X 6") to Caitlin Witucki, Somerset County Office

on Aging & Disability Services, P.O. Box 3000, Somerville NJ 08876 or JPEGs may be sent via email to Witucki@co.somerset.nj.us. Slides and photographs will be returned to the artist. Each entry should be identified. On a separate sheet of paper, artists are asked to provide a list of entries, name, address, phone number, title, dimensions, media of the artwork to be considered and the location in which you prefer to be displayed. Artwork selected for the exhibition needs to be framed, wired and ready for hanging. Exhibitors may offer the artwork for sale, with a small % of the sale donated to the Somerset County Nutrition Program to benefit senior center activities. For more information call Caitlin Witucki, Somerset County Office on Aging & Disability Services at (908) 704-6346.



CALLING ALL SOMERSET HILLS ARTISTS

A Tribute to the Historic White Oak in Basking Ridge

All artists 18 and older living in the Somerset Hills are invited to join the celebration of the historic white oak tree of the Presbyterian Church of Basking Ridge, to express how this historic natural landmark has touched them. Artists can use the medium of their choice – painting, sculpture, photography, poetry, song, or multi-media to express their personal experience of the Great Oak.



Artists who are open to being filmed will become a part of a documentary made of the project. They will be recorded working on their pieces, and will be interviewed to discuss the importance of preserving memorable pieces of their journey through life. This footage will be added to interviews with tree experts, historians, and local residents with memories of the Great Oak to create a documentary motivating the viewer to keep a connection to the past.

The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills (THSSH) will be hosting a gala art exhibition in the spring of 2017, presenting the collected works of the entrants. The filmed documentary of the project will also be shown. The exhibition will be held at the Brick Academy, 15 W. Oak St, Basking Ridge. Thereafter, selected pieces will travel to local galleries, libraries, and municipal buildings.

The deadline to submit an entry application is January 13, 2017. The deadline to present your finished work is April 7, 2017.

For more information, and to complete an entry application, visit the website THSSH.org or call 908-221-1770.

What are you doing? Please write or email me your news!

Happy Painting!
Diana