

RARITAN VALLEY ARTS ASSOCIATION established 1939

President: Alka Dalal

Newsletter: Diana Patton

February 2013 Newsletter

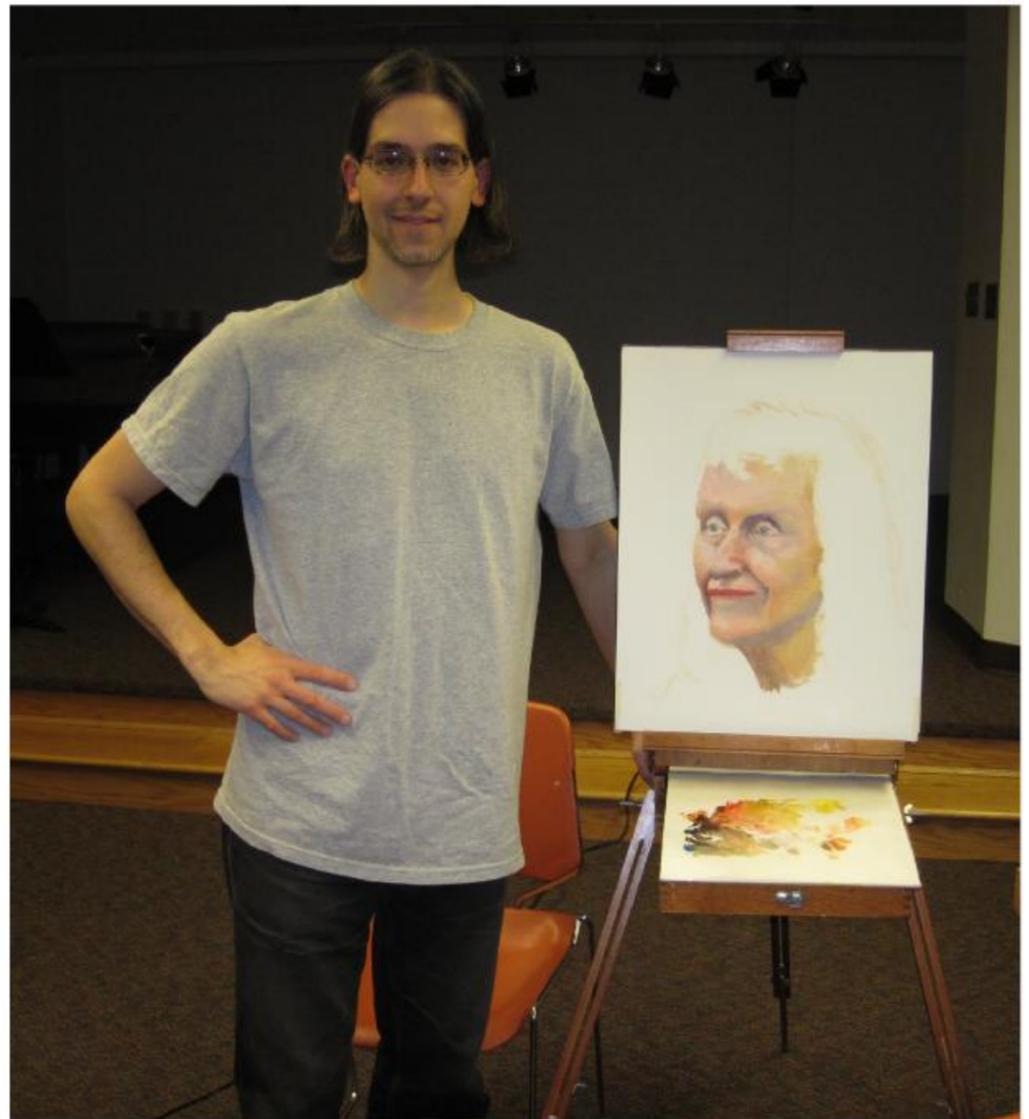
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Snowflake Greetings!

We've seen our share of snow lately and perhaps its beauty inspires you. Or perhaps you just feel snowbound. Whether you need inspiration or a change of pace, you're sure to get both when you come to our next meeting, Monday, February 25th, 7:30 pm at the Somerset County/Bridgewater Library, when Lena Shiffman will be our demonstrator. Lena will be showing us the wonderful technique of guided pouring for watercolor painting, a technique that will add a special glow and depth to all your work. In addition Lena will talk about and show the different steps she does in order to make watercolor children's book illustrations. She will have some of her illustrations and books there. Lena, born and raised in Sweden, came over here and attended the Spectrum Institute of Commercial Art as well as studying at Parsons School of Design and the Art Students' League in NYC. Currently Lena teaches watercolor, illustration, and drawing classes at the Center for Contemporary Art in Bedminster, so we have a triple winner here. You can have a preview of Lena's work by going to <http://www.lenashiffman.com/> Come learn this technique and see Lena's work. (your editor has been in Lena's illustration class and also seen her way with watercolor; you'll have a great time here) We will need hospitality for this meeting; please contact President Alka Dalal at alkadalal@hotmail.com or phone her at 725-7638.

Our January meeting was most festive and we learned a lot from our oil painter demonstrator Anthony Galati. Anthony painted a portrait (mine!) and described how he mixed his colors and his technique in creating a portrait. Everyone was very impressed at how he captured the "model's" image in just a little over an hour. We also admired his animal portraits, house and garden portraits, and other work. Anthony also provided links to the galleries in NYC to see the work of two artists he mentioned that you might be interested in: Brad Kunkle's works at <http://arcadiafinearts.com> and David Kassan's at <http://davidkassan.com>. Anthony also does live painting events—painting at one's wedding reception, mitzvahs, and corporate events, recording the event and the people there. More information on this at <http://thelanguageofpigment.com/>

It was during our January meeting that we celebrated the fifteen years of Linda Arnold's Presidency of RVAA and our new President Alka Dalal. If a picture is worth a thousand words—look at these!



Above left: Alka Dalal & Linda Arnold
Above right: the cake showed the cabbage Linda had painted in watercolor—Bill Gilbert got it for us. Lower left: Linda admires sculptures by former RVAA Pres. Ed Golubiewski, sculptures given by RVAA members Debbie & John Tintle. Lower Right: Anthony Galati with portrait of me (we ran out of time to do the hair)





Here we all are celebrating! Linda also received a subscription to her own website and the book *Websites for Dummies*.

Schedule of demos—these are exciting people with exciting things to show us; we owe it to them to come out and learn something new by witnessing exciting demos.

2/25 Lena Shiffman...watercolors (and illustration)

3/18 Andrea Gianchiglia...animal portraiture

4/22 Bob Heyer...watercolors

5/29 (Wednesday, because of Memorial Day) Kathy Rupff collage art combined with watercolor and more

For information about your own RVAA, gallery, archived back issues of the Newsletter, events, and more, please go to www.raritanvalleyarts.org

We are very sad to note that our longtime member (she was a member of RVAA the longest of anyone, I believe) Eleanor DeMott died January 22nd. You remember her lovely oil paintings, of course, and if you attended our annual Holiday Dinners, it was a custom for her to tell the story of how poinsettias became a Christmas flower, and also how candy canes became Christmas symbols. Then Eleanor would give each person a candy cane or two. Eleanor had retired after 29 years as the Church Secretary for the Immaculate Conception Church in Somerville, working primarily for the late Pastor, Monsignor Eugene B. Kelly. A 1944 graduate of St. Peter's High School, New Brunswick, Eleanor was a member of the Somerset County Senior Women's Group, the Raritan Valley Art Association, and was a daily communicant of the Immaculate Conception Church and a tireless volunteer at the Blessed Sacrament Shrine in Raritan. There was a large crowd at Eleanor's funeral mass at the Immaculate Conception Church; it was a

beautiful service. Your editor was very fond of her; she was a good friend to many of us, and is sorely missed.

Some members of RVAA have exhibited at Arbor Glen (Connie Gray, Diana Patton, and Rosemary Zangara) on 100 Monroe St, near Union Ave, in Somerville. The gallery wall is 60 feet long and ideal for a show. The current exhibit, through March 15th, is entitled "Seasons", and is a one-woman show of oils and watercolor paintings by Joan Bloomer. Joan has produced these works over the last fourteen years as a resident of Arbor Glen. You are invited to view this exhibit located on the second floor of Arbor Glen. Just check in at the reception desk and ask for directions. **Arbor Glen is interested in showing works of RVAA members** on this 60' wall sometime after March. Please contact Joan Bloomer at 908-541-1231.

Former member **Jim Laubach** is still in need of Mylar, or Mylar paper, as a protection for his work (or even some suggestions for something similar—not the plastic envelope watercolorists use, but something more, and also suitable to perhaps protect, store, and save framed work) Jim also has a full-size wooden easel arrangement and he would be willing to exchange the easel for a roll of the Mylar. Please phone Jim or even mail him—908/725-2747, or Jim Laubach, 44 Charlotte Drive, Bridgewater, 08807.

On May 17, 2013, the Old Farmers Road School PTA (OFRS) will be hosting its Annual Tricky Tray Raffle. "This is our most well-attended and successful fundraising event of the year! The proceeds will enable our PTA to bring educational and cultural enrichment programs to the school children at OFRS. Please consider supporting this event with a donation of products, tickets, or gift certificates or by writing a check payable to "OFRS PTA" (which will be used to purchase a gift on your behalf).

Over 500+ adults will be in attendance at our event. Each contributor's name will be displayed with their donated item(s) and will also be recognized in a press release. We believe in a community partnership and strongly encourage all of our parents to patronize those businesses' which directly support our school. All contributions may be sent to Old Farmers Road School, 51 Old Farmers Road, Long Valley, NJ 07853, c/o Laura Paynter. However, if you need additional information, please do not hesitate to call Kelley Adams at 908-239-4278 or email, smellykelley@aol.com. www.ofrspta.org

The Big Apple Bus trip is planned for April. We would go first to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and then to the American Watercolor Society Show downtown at the Salmagundi Club. That show runs April 2-21. More info in the next Newsletter.

The Pennsylvania Watercolor Society announces its 34th International Juried Exhibition to be held October 5—November 15, 2013, in the Crary Art Gallery, Warren, PA. There is over \$10,000 in cash and merchandise awards. Enter the competition either by

downloading the Prospectus directly from the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society's website at www.pawcs.com or by contacting John W. Walker, Exhibition Chair, at 4077 Bowser Road, New Freedom, PA 17349 (717-235-5310)

Terrific shows you'll want to see...now...and they are all at the Morris Museum of Arts & Sciences, 6 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown, NJ. Your editor enjoyed several exhibits there today—"Reflections—Contemporary Studio Art Glass" until April 28th truly beautiful and original glass pieces "Mega Model Train" only until Feb. 24th—fun for any age—Lionel and other train sets in a ginormous stage setting of city, parks, country, etc. *You* can press buttons and make things happen! Child and senior-friendly alike! "Paintings by Maria Mijares" to March 31st, realism in acrylic on arches paper and on canvas, superb work with interesting tales behind the work "Watercolors by Carl Burger" always great—his paintings rotate, but there are always some on exhibit. "Toying with Art" fantastic art made from toys, crayons, carved pencils, you name it—fabulous and fun. And there's more—their regular displays of animals, stones, Indian art, etc. Check out the website--- <http://www.morrismuseum.org> . Feel free to bring children if you want; they'll love Mega Model Train, the Dinosaur exhibit upstairs, the animals, and "Toying with Art." You can bring your own bag lunch and sit at a table in the entrance lobby if you wish. Coffee machine and lovely gift shop.

Members in the News....

DEBBIE TINTLE and DIANA PATTON have paintings in the current exhibit of the Essex Watercolor Club at the Chatham Public Library. The exhibit runs through February 26th.

Hello, out there in RVAA Land! Please contact me with your news. Inquiring minds want to know what's up.....

Happy Painting!
Diana