

**President: Alka Dalal**

Newsletter: Diana Patton

**February 2014 Newsletter**

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[diana@dianapatton.com](mailto:diana@dianapatton.com)**Snowbound Greetings!**

Have we ever had such a month! How gorgeous is it? How much painting or writing or other creative endeavors have we had time for with all the cancellations? You are letting your creative self shine, right? And for added inspiration for that creative self, you simply must come to our next meeting, **Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm, Somerset County Library** for a watercolor demonstration by the illustrious (pun intended, as besides being a watercolor artist and teacher, Lena has illustrated many children's books) **Lena Shiffman**. The title of her demo? **"Pouring Animal Portraits"**. Lena will be using the pouring technique to create luminous watercolors and her subject will be an animal. Currently Lena is an art instructor for Hunterdon Museum of Art in Clinton, the Center for Contemporary Art in Bedminster, the Zimmerli Art Museum in New Brunswick and also for the Hunterdon Park and Recreation—in New Jersey. "I am comfortable teaching young or old and inspired by my students' passion for the arts". Besides being an accomplished watercolor artist (and other media), demonstrator, and teacher, as your editor mentioned, Lena has illustrated many children's books and magazines. A member of the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators, you may see her work at [www.lenashiffman.com](http://www.lenashiffman.com) Lena says, "When I'm not illustrating or teaching art, I enjoy visiting schools to share my passion for children's books. I love being an illustrator and hope to be an inspiration to children—young and old—who love books as much as I do." Do come, watch, learn enjoy! Also, please phone Alka if you are interested in providing hospitality for our meetings....908-393-6561



Our meeting Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> with artist Doris Ettlinger



was well attended and the picture included here is the final painting...most of it was done in front of us. This is now in her Etsy shop page <http://www.etsy.com/shop/DorisEttlingerStudio> Good attendance despite the cold. Many thanks to Marge McGovern for providing delicious hospitality. Oh, those red velvet Cookies!

**Bus Trip—hooray for Marge McGovern** who once again is running our Big Apple Bus trip to New York City. Although the bus company is charging a bit more we are keeping our price the same as last year...\$35. **Big Apple Trip. Saturday, April 19, 2014** RVAA is headed for the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Watercolor Society Show at the Salmagundi Club in lower New York (47 Fifth Ave). You may send a check made out to RVAA for \$35. to Marge, PO Box 399, Martinsville, 08836. You must come—all the art and camaraderie! Plus, you can probably fit in a most entertaining half hour at the Forbes Museum diagonally across the street from the Salmagundi. Take it from your editor that it is one fine small museum. So cheerful! The trip is great and is so simple for you—8:30 am we meet at the upper parking lot of the library (i.e. Vo-Tech School). In a comfortable bus with a rest room we are driven to the front of the Met around 10 am. Then we will all meet out front about 2:30 and go to the AWS Show. You are home about 6, after enjoying driving-home refreshments. All this for just \$35! (trust your editor on this—it has taken me as long as 2 1/2 hours each way to get to these places, that's 5 hours of subways, busses, and trains; this is so much easier and enjoyable. Adding it all up, it's about as cheap as doing it all by your lonesome). Checks are due by April 5th. Reserve your place for this special trip. Questions? Marge is at 732/356-7800. There is an admission fee for the Met, but not for the AWS Exhibit or the Forbes Museum. Of course you may bring your family, your friends, your significant other. We're a welcoming group!

President Alka Dalal has secured a show for us at the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Gallery in the Somerset County Administration building in Somerville (20 Grove Street). The show will hang April 14<sup>th</sup>; there will be a \$5 entrance fee. Alka would love to have a volunteer to be there when the paintings are delivered. Please call her to volunteer...908-393-6561 or email [alkadalal@hotmail.com](mailto:alkadalal@hotmail.com) Delivery will be Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 am; pickup is Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am. The gallery receives 15% commission. The gallery does have insurance, but there is a \$250. deductible. The painting does not have to be for sale, but does need an insurance value.

**This year marks Raritan Valley Art Association's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!** We are one of the oldest arts associations in New Jersey. Alka has the really thoughtful idea of helping to celebrate this by helping the Wounded Warrior project. You will hear more about this at the next meeting. We might each donate a painting to the project and they will perhaps grace the buildings where rehab and counseling go on. Alka is researching this. We are also thinking that we might get an exhibit at a local museum like the Zimmerli, the Morris Museum, the Monmouth Museum, the Noyes, etc. If anyone is interested in either of these projects, or has feedback, helpful contacts, etc. please call Alka 908/393-6561 or email her at [alkadalal@hotmail.com](mailto:alkadalal@hotmail.com) Alka will try to get press releases and publicity for these endeavors. Help RVAA celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup>!

I.C.A Publishing is accepting submissions for the 8th volume of "International Contemporary Artists" art book; a book that promotes and supports the artists and connects them directly with potential buyers, galleries, art consultants, etc, in an international level. A juried committee of established art critics reviews the submitted works and selects the most exciting and recent artworks with the most innovating techniques to be presented in the book. The book will be published in May; artists who are interested in joining this project should send 4-5 images of their work (JPG, high resolution, 300dpi) and a short statement of about 100 words by email. In the end of the editing process, the jurors will select the best two works among the selected artists, who will be presented in the front and the back cover of the book without any cost. More information about the project, publicity, distribution, etc, can be found in the following links: [www.incoartists.com](http://www.incoartists.com) [http://www.incoartists.com/the\\_book.html](http://www.incoartists.com/the_book.html)

Lists of the presented artists along with their testimonials are also available in:  
<http://www.incoartists.com/artists.html> <http://www.incoartists.com/testimonials.html>

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

**DIANA PATTON** is happy to say that she now has a blog. It's attached to my website and I will try to update it a few times a week....just go to [www.dianapatton.com/blog](http://www.dianapatton.com/blog) I hope you enjoy it!

**Oh, dear!** Once again, no one has snail mailed or emailed me any. Please do! And until then,  
**HAPPY PAINTING!**

*Happy Painting!*  
*Diana*