

President: Alka Dalal

Newsletter: Diana Patton

February Newsletter 2016

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Snowflake Greetings!

As I write this the temperature dips. However, let us all feel the warmth that will surely come **Monday, February 22nd**, when we attend our next demo, with **Alice Harrison**, at 7:30 pm at the Somerset County/Bridgewater Library. She will be demonstrating mixed media (editor's note: it will be quite unusual, I'm sure). Alice Harrison's work has been exhibited widely in the United States, Europe, Mexico, South Africa, Israel and New Zealand, and has been recognized with numerous awards. Her paintings are found in many private and corporate collections. She received several Geraldine R. Dodge grants as well as a grant from Soaring Gardens in Pennsylvania. Listed in *Who's Who in American Art* and in *Outstanding Artists and Designers of the 20th Century*, published in England, Alice co-authored and published *Artists' Guidebook to a New Creative Life*. She is one of 40 artists featured in the book *Masters: Collage, Major Works by Leading Artists* published by Lark Books. She has been the featured artist in *Cloth, Paper Scissors*. Her work appears in several other publications as well. To see some of Alice's work, please go to <http://www.alicenharrison.com/home#.VrObDILM5gw>



"Pieces for Peace"



InnerVisions, Inner Rooms 2

Last month we all enjoyed Susan Antin who introduced us to different ways of using acrylics. Some of the techniques presented were sgraffito, impasto, drip & splash and scumbling. You may want to take Susan's class "Experiment with Paint". The next session is Tuesdays, Feb 16 - Mar. 8. 10 - 12:30 at the Arts Council of Princeton pop up studio - at The Princeton Shopping Center, Harrison St. (*Editor's note: you can still register*) If anyone has questions, they can contact Susan or register on-line at: artscouncilofprinceton.org or call the ACP. 609-924-8777.

You all know that our **President Alka Dalal** is quite ill. Here is a note from her:

My fellow RVAA members:

I want to sincerely thank all the members who sent me personal get well cards as well as one with the group. Your cards have tremendously helped me cope up with this terrible condition that I am going through.

I have hired full time help from Monday to Friday and it is helping me a great deal with the new challenges that I am facing every day. I will keep you updated with my condition.

Our next meeting is on February 22nd and I hope it is a snow free meeting.

Stay safe in the snow as I am.

Love you all, Alka

And now Alka writes:

It is with lots of regrets that I want to inform you that I am stepping down as President of RVAA due to my ailing health. I can no longer perform all the duties of President. I had most wonderful and productive years as a President of RVAA and would have loved to continue. However, it is not possible now. If anyone is interested in taking the position, please call me (908/393-6561) or Diana (908/722-0562, but it's better to email diana@dianapatton.com) immediately. I want to take this opportunity to wish you best of health. Happy painting. Alka

Your editor speaking: This is serious, folks. We all wish Alka well; her address is 592 Cabot Hill Road, Bridgewater, NJ, 08807 if you'd like to drop her a note. And we do need a new President, if RVAA is to continue. The Raritan Valley Arts Association was started in 1939 by Arthur Trippanera and a few other artists; I believe it's the oldest artist association in New Jersey. Our dues are among the lowest; we have eight free demonstrations a year, an online presence and a newsletter, an annual bus trip to New York, and we have 2 or 3 shows a year in which we can exhibit. It would be almost

criminal if RVAA ceased to exist. Obviously the President should try to be at most of the meetings. The President contacts the demonstrators, but as President you will get suggestions for demonstrators (I suggest some!) from others, and we pay demonstrators well, so they like to demonstrate for us. The President keeps us abreast of shows (you'll get emails, letters, etc for this), and is on the lookout for shows for us. You will have the help of our secretary, membership chair, treasurer, bus trip chair, Holiday Show chair, and editor. So.....**are you interested in helping keep RVAA alive?**

Our secretary, Rosemary Zangara, had breast cancer and so had an operation on February 8th. This all came about suddenly, as she only found out about it in December. She is home from the hospital and "feeling pretty good." Today she emailed me:

"Diana,

Thanks for thinking about me. You can put information about my recovery in RVAA newsletter. I hope to be getting stronger in the next few weeks and getting out after a few visits to the oncologist and surgeon next week.

Rosemary"

You all know Rosemary, her lovely work, and her very excellent and thorough minutes of our meetings...if you'd like to drop her a card, Rosemary's address is 1302 St. John Street, Manville, 08835.

Big Apple Bus Trip Yes, our wonderful trip to New York City will be here before you know it, Saturday, April 23rd and Marge McGovern is once again good enough to organize this trip (Thank you so much, Marge!). So hurry and sign up and leave the rest to us. (or at least, Marge McGovern). **April 23rd** the AWS (American Watercolor Society) Exhibit is of course at the Salmagundi, but we'll go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art before it. The bus leaves at 8:30 am from the upper parking lot of the Somerset County Library (same spot as usual). We leave the Met about 3:00 or 3:15 to go to the Salmagundi Club for the American Watercolor Society Show, and we leave there at 5 to arrive back in Bridgewater at 6. This is a fantastic day, with all sorts of wonderful art to see and inspire us, as well as the camaraderie of art friends. And the bus, with comfortable seats and a bathroom besides, only costs \$40. Everything door to door for us! If you were to go by train and taxi, or train/subway/bus, you would spend about as much and waste ever so much time, time that can be used looking at art. **This is a marvelous trip, trust your editor!** Please send your check made out to RVAA to Marge McGovern, **PO Box 399, Martinsville, NJ, 08836**. For information about what will be showing at the Met just go to <http://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions>. Please art lovers, please reply by March 15, as then we open it to other watercolor clubs. Also you do know that you can bring friends/ relatives/etc., don't you?

Geri Oldman - We are sorry to tell you that a long time member of RVAA, Geri Oldman, passed away January 27th, after a long fight against cancer. I'll always remember Geri's smiling face, her cheerful manner, her lovely watercolors, and of course, her presence, always, at our Holiday Dinners, and meetings. Geri graduated from Douglas College with a BFA degree in mathematics and then went to work for Bell Labs as a computer programmer. She married Howard Alfandre and they raised four daughters. From her obituary "Geri was a true hero and always put her family first. She survived the deaths of her late husband Howard and beloved daughter Tamara after their long and difficult battles with cancer." "Family, friends, painting and bird watching were Geri's passion and delight. Some of her most cherished memories were the times she spent at the NJ shore with her family and sister Eleanor's family. She loved to paint and took many courses over the years which yielded many beautiful paintings of her favorite things - flowers, birds, and landscapes that captured the change of seasons." She was also very involved in philanthropic work. Geri is survived by her (present) husband, Dr. Elliot Oldman, and three daughters. "In lieu of flowers, Geri requested that donations be made to The American Cancer Society - Relay for Life." You may want to send a card to Dr. Oldman, 60 Hillcrest Road, Martinsville, NJ 08836.

Artist Opportunity Artist Getaway in 2016 www.artistgetaway.com
5 days of Art Vacation with a group, no instruction, just plein air painting together. Each evening we will have an optional group "show and tell".

[Occidental](#), the Sonoma coastal forest....May 1 - 6, 2016

[Murphys](#), the Sierra foothills...May 22 - 27, 2016

[Occidental](#), the Sonoma coastal forest...October 16 - 22, 2016

Our mailing address is:

Artist Getaway
PO BOX 20214
El Sobrante, Ca 94820-0214

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

DONNA SOUREN will be exhibiting two watercolor paintings at the 9th Annual Leonard J. Buck Garden Art and Photography Show. The show takes place at the Visitors Center from February 22nd to March 11th, at 11 Layton Rd., Far Hills, NJ and is open weekdays from Monday through Friday, 10AM - 4PM.

Hello out there in RVAA Land! **Inquiring minds** want to know what you've been up to. Please email me or snail mail me **your news** so I can put these minds at rest.

Happy Painting!
Dana