

May Newsletter 2016



Spring Greetings!

President:

Newsletter: Diana Patton  
497 Stony Brook Drive  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
[www.dianapatton.com](http://www.dianapatton.com)

We may not have the usual warmth of spring (yet), but the cold is at least preserving the wonderfully colored forsythia, blooming trees, daffodils, hyacinths, and violets for a long time. And I *hope you will want to spend time* at our next meeting, **Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm** at the Somerset County Library, when I will be demonstrating and yes, hoping to help you with some of your painterly problems. Do you ever ask yourself... "What's wrong with my painting? Can I do anything to save it? I'm just not pleased with it." Obviously I don't have all the answers, but I hope to help with 1) looking at what you bring in, watercolors, mainly, and perhaps changing/helping you to improve a painting you're ready to toss.... 2) and overcoming fear of the blank page, sometimes known as "I can only paint if I feel inspiration" syndrome. 3) there are some techniques I'll demo in watercolor which can help you with both 1) and 2), improving your "lost" work, and/or starting over. Please bring in anything you've given up on, or perhaps just don't know what to do next on it. I'll try to help (and demo some watercolor techniques along the way), and we'll have feedback from others, as well. We'll all gather around the tables and watch, I'll paint, and we'll have some fun as well as be helped. As for my background, most of you know me, but my website is [www.dianapatton.com](http://www.dianapatton.com) and you'll find my bio and some of my work there. I'm a member of the Garden State Watercolor Society, the New Jersey Watercolor Society, the American Artists Professional League, and the Society of Children's Writers and Illustrators, among other organizations, and have been teaching watercolor for over 35 years. *(I'll also bring two of my children's picture books with me)*





Our bus trip April 23<sup>rd</sup> was a big success, with all of us enjoying various exhibits at the Met, and then the handsome American Watercolor Society Show at the Salmagundi Club. Marge McGovern worked very hard on this trip and we all thank her for her efforts in getting enough people to run it. Hooray for Marge! Many of us enjoyed learning about Vigee Le Brun, the female portrait painter who was a wonder of an artist in revolutionary France and other countries, and about Hellenistic art in Pergamon (in present day Turkey), or other current exhibits at the Met. The AWS show is always inspiring, and this year seemed to have a lot of urban themes. Marge provided bottled water, and crackers and cheese, crackers and peanut butter, and cookies on the way home. What a great day, and again, Thanks, Marge!

This needs to be said again....our wonderful association is in trouble, folks. We need a President if the club is to continue. As President, you would have lots of help. Susan Boyd does the membership, Rosemary Zangara the minutes (although she is still mending from cancer), Marge does our bus trip, Barbara Fiorentino is our treasurer. I'm your editor and run our holiday show at the library. Gardner Patton keeps up our website where you can have your paintings up free ([www.raritanvalleyarts.org](http://www.raritanvalleyarts.org)). Obviously the President should try to be at most of the meetings, but we have capable substitutes for when you might have to be absent. The President contacts the demonstrators, but as President you will get suggestions for demonstrators (I suggest some!) from others, plus there is a spread sheet of demonstrators from Alka. We pay demonstrators well, so they like to demonstrate for us. The President keeps us abreast of shows (but as president, you'll get emails, letters, etc for this), and is on the lookout for shows for us. So.....**are you interested in helping keep RVAA alive? Please contact Alka 908/393-6562, or email your editor [diana@dianapatton.com](mailto:diana@dianapatton.com) . RVAA is arguably the oldest arts association in New Jersey; it would be a sin to let it go.**

You may not be aware of it, but on our website [www.raritanvalleyarts.org](http://www.raritanvalleyarts.org) you can always find, not just the current Newsletter, but an archive of past newsletters and a gallery of our members' work.

Our own Judy Hummer is Co-chair (with Debby Fryer) of the Garden State Watercolor Society's exhibit at the "Spring Festival" at the Old York Cellars Winery in Ringoes, NJ, Saturday and Sunday May 14-15, from noon until 5. There will be music and food and wine, and a Plein Air Paint Out and Clothesline Sale with Garden State Watercolor Society Artists. If you need more information, please contact Judy at [jhummermom@aol.com](mailto:jhummermom@aol.com)

In addition to other exhibits the Zimmerli Museum of Art in New Brunswick has a new exhibit, "Dreamworlds and Catastrophes: Intersections of Art and Science in the Dodge Collection" and on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm there will be a curator-led tour and a panel discussion, followed by a reception. This exhibit will be up until July 31<sup>st</sup>. There are several current exhibits, but one in particular calls out...you've probably read children's books illustrated by Roger Duvoisin...."Donkey-donkey, Petunia, and Other Pals: Drawings by Roger Duvoisin" will be up until June 26<sup>th</sup>. The museum is free to all. The Zimmerli's hours are: Tuesdays through Fridays: 10am to 4:30pm, Saturdays and Sundays: Noon to 5pm, First Tuesday of each month: 10am to 9pm.

You might also go to the Princeton University Art Museum this summer. Current exhibits include such varied exhibitions as early Jewish Contributions to American Culture, Women, Art, & Social Change: the Newcomb Pottery Enterprise, and African Art at Princeton. Admission is also free at this lovely museum; Thursdays they are even open until 10 pm. You would be amazed at the breadth of the collections here. For example, among the 19th-century holdings are works by Jean-Léon Gérôme, Gustave Courbet, Édouard Manet, and Claude Monet. The art of the early 20th century includes paintings by Odilon Redon and the Russian master Ilya Repin, whose works are rare outside his homeland.

## **MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

**BILL GILBERT** has a one-man show of 24 paintings currently in the Gallery of Arbor Glen, on Monroe Street in Bridgewater. You are invited to his talk and reception, Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:45. The exhibit will be up through mid-June.

**JUDY HUMMER** has been accepted as a Full Member of the New Jersey Water Color Society. Congratulations, Judy!

*Now you know what I'm going to ask...for your news, of course. Inquiring minds really do want to know what you are doing. Just email or snail mail me, please. The May issue will be the last until September, but I'll keep your news in my file for the September issue. Do write!*

*Happy Painting!*  
*Diana*