

President: Alka Dalal

Newsletter: Diana Patton

September 2014 Newsletter

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Sunny Greetings!

As I write this, sun couldn't be brighter, the garden still blooms, and the fishes still swim, although a few trees are already starting to change color. And if color is on your mind, you'll want to come to our *next RVAA meeting, Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm* at the Somerset County/Bridgewater Library when you'll see *expert watercolorist Steve Zazenski* demonstrate. Known primarily for his traditional watercolor landscapes, Steve has recently been using gouache (opaque watercolor) with a striking color palette and strong values to create contemporary impressionistic works. The recipient of over 150 awards, Steve's work is included in public and private collections including the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, Bell Telephone, and Polish President Lech Walesa. You won't want to miss this! If you want a lovely and colorful preview, do visit [www.stevezazenski.com](http://www.stevezazenski.com) and enjoy his paintings.

Because it's September RVAA dues are due. In keeping with the times and our expenses, our dues have been raised \$5. across the board, so they are as follows: \$35 for Individual, \$40 for Family, and \$20 for Student (through high school). Please send your checks made out to **RVAA** to our Membership Chairman **Susan Boyd 437 Washington Avenue, Martinsville, NJ 08836** (email: [setb@yahoo.com](mailto:setb@yahoo.com)). Dues will get you all these demonstrations, two or three exhibits a year, the annual Big Apple Trip, the newsletters, our wine & cheese, a presence on the internet (<http://www.raritanvalleyarts.org>), and last, but not least, lots of camaraderie.

President Alka Dalal has been very busy on RVAA's behalf. We are going to have an exhibition for our members from November 6- Dec 31 in the Adult Day Center of Somerset County, 872 Main Street, Bridgewater, NJ 08807. We need to limit this to 15 members with 2 paintings each. You may submit one large painting, maximum size 18 x 24 and one smaller than that. Interested members, please give your name to Alka at the meeting Sept. 29 (if you have to miss the meeting you can contact Alka at [alkadala@hotmail.com](mailto:alkadala@hotmail.com)). We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate this. The labels for each painting will be made by this volunteer. We need : name of the member, email, phone, names and sizes of the paintings and medium. *The deadline to receive the information is October 6, Monday.* There are no fees to participate.

Alka has also been busy working on for art for The Wounded Warrior project. We are going to have one extra tab on our website: "Project Wounded Warriors" where people can display one painting which they want to donate and which must be ready to hang. (It could even be a fine print). Wounded Warriors can then choose a painting, which the artist ships to him/her. The shipping cost will be absorbed by the organization Alka is working with. Rick Lynch is the contact in Texas and he is the retired Lieutenant General involved in building homes for the wounded warriors. Alka will cover this whole project more thoroughly at our next meeting. Members interested in donating will send a jpg. file (300 dpi) to our webmaster Gardner Patton, [gcp6@optonline.net](mailto:gcp6@optonline.net). Email should include name of painting, medium, and size.

**For sale!** Long time RVAA member has a couple of art related items she can no longer use.

They are: 1) An Artograph projector with stand for \$75.00

2) Canvas stretcher bars: **all for \$25.00** 2-12", 2-13", 2-14", 2-16", 6-18", 6-20", 6-24", 2-30", and 3-36". Lib can be reached at 908-604-9459 or [libr21226@aol.com](mailto:libr21226@aol.com). (editor's note: These are some bargains!)

And now a few personal notes....because I've been your editor for years and because I consider all you RVAAers my friends, I want to tell you about our summer. It's been life-changing, with all sorts of big events. Briefly....expecting our first grandchild July 26, we were surprised by a call from son Shawn on **July 2** that April was in hospital with pre-eclampsia and the baby was to be induced, the only way to save April's life. We rushed out to Pittsburgh and long story short---all went well. After many hours of labor April gave birth to Jillian on July 4th. Shawn and all of us were overjoyed. April was able to take Jillian home--she weighed 5 lb. 14 oz. at birth. All of us were delighted. We went on a planned vacation to a Maine island, taking a French family with us.

After they all left, we had a phone call at midnight Saturday the 19th that Shawn was in hospital with brain seizures. Prognosis unknown. Long story short, we got off island as fast as ferry schedule allowed and rushed back to NJ, picked up son Tal and then dashed to Pittsburgh.

Shawn had the tumor removed July 23rd and we were in Pittsburgh from July 20-August 1 and then again two weeks later to help out. His left side is affected. Shawn, like me and Tal, is left-handed. He is walking again, has PT three times a week, and is trying to get his left hand working. In between we got more definitive news and since this is cancer, all things considered, it's good news. Thank you, dear God! Although the tumor was definitely cancerous, it is a low grade tumor, an oligodendroglioma---and most of it was taken out. Apparently it's a type which can leave little cells of itself around, so Shawn will need MRIs three or four times a year. Chemo may be needed. We are cautiously optimistic. We pray that he lives to see Jillian grow up. I hope you will add him to your prayers.

## Members in the News

**ELSA HERRMANN** participated in a Summer Show of her work at the Brielle Library, along with 3 other artists. Elsa won First Prize in Watercolors at the Laurelton Art Society's Show at the Pot Luck dinner and she also won Second Prize at Laurelton's Festival of Art at the Brick Library. She has paintings hanging in the Tewksbury Inn in Oldwick and the Washington House in Basking Ridge (which used to be The Store/Ridge Tavern). Last autumn she was honored to be one of the jurors for the New Jersey Watercolor Society in 2013.

**JOAN MCKINNEY** is in the show "Watercolor Masters of New Jersey" in the Carl and Helen Burger Galley of Kean University September 10<sup>th</sup>-November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Curated by Carl Burger (Ed. Note: the artist we all know, and son of Carl and Helen), along with Joan's watercolors will be watercolors by Ed Baumlin, Charles & Lucy McVicker, Harry Naar, and Anne Pikarz. The opening reception is September 17<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-6:30.

**DIANA PATTON's "Goldfish Maze"** was accepted into the juried 2014 Arts on Division Exhibit in Somerville (and it sold!), and her piece "Jellyfish Ballet" from the Center for Contemporary Art's Member's Show was one of 14 included in the CCA's Gallery at Arts on Division. Diana has been accepted into the juried 2014 Rutgers University Council on Children's Literature One-on-One Plus conference (where aspiring children's writers & illustrators are paired up with editor, art director, and agent mentors—you "try out" by sending your work to the council—in case any of you are interested ... [http://ruccl.org/One-on-One\\_Plus\\_Conference.html](http://ruccl.org/One-on-One_Plus_Conference.html) )

Hello, out there in RVAA Land! We'd like to hear what *you've* been doing. Do write or email me!

*Happy Painting!*  
*Diana*

## Adult Day Care Center Exhibition Artist's Information

Title of Art work \_\_\_\_\_ Value \_\_\_\_\_

Medium \_\_\_\_\_ Dimensions \_\_\_\_\_

Is Art work available for sale? YES \$ \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the artist: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_