

Manasquan River Group of Artists

Established 1938

Newsletter



M. R. G. A., P. O. Box 614, Manasquan, www.mrga38.org New Jersey 08736 February 2023

Letter from the President

Welcome to February, and as 2023 gets into motion, we settle back into our routines and ponder our resolutions (or not) and look ahead as to what is to come.

February is a month so often filled with dreary weather, but also a month when the focus is on **LOVE**.

In the nature of that theme, I propose the following:

Let's get to know each other better, especially our new members, Maureen Anderson and Susan Penn who will be inducted into MRGA at our February meeting.

Offer your talents and time to a committee such as hospitality, grant-writing, by participating in future MRGA shows, and fund-raisers like Stars for Charity. Be sure to read the heartfelt thank you from William Bunting in this newsletter.

Voice your ideas and suggestions at the meetings or in between to your At-Large Trustees Karen Norby and Beverly Sirianni or any other board member.

Enjoy our time together each month at our meetings and at show receptions, the Point Pleasant Beach Library reception is Saturday, February 25 from 11-1.

Happy Painting!

Barbara Calvo

President



Please Note Members Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 3rd. Refreshments at 4- 4:30pm; Business meeting to follow at 4:30pm

Art Musings

Now is the Time, Not Later

“Paint from your heart, paint for yourself, paint what’s inside you, paint everyday”

Robert Burridge

You’ve probably never heard of artist Robert Burridge, but I recently rediscovered an article about him which I had saved. Rereading it again, I was inspired by Burridge’s philosophy of his art practice. As I read his words, a challenging question was triggered, that of, how do I balance everything in my life to include my painting?

Often, my painting sits on my easel, silently calling out to me for attention. Other tasks beckon and all I do is offer a wistful glance in passing. I want to change that response! I want to paint everyday even if it’s not THE painting on my easel. I want to embrace my painting and focus on the process and the journey for me. I want to be open to new ideas and techniques and not be afraid to make a mistake. I want to paint with an urgency of images that exist only in my head. I want to get out of my own way. If not now, when? *BJC*

Member News

Dear Fellow Artists,

I want to thank you very much for your submissions for this year’s Stars For Charity fundraiser. Together we have raised over \$9,000. This will provide 27,000 meals for our neighbors in need. When Anne Labonte-Neff created Stars For Charity in her Anchor And Palette Gallery years ago I don’t think anyone imagined it would grow into what it has become today. What began with a handful of artists now has over 100 artists from all over the USA. Stars came in from Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey from artists -ages 6 to 92- many new to Stars For Charity, who were eager to participate.

Besides feeding the hungry, Stars For Charity is a uniting force for artists. We all know that art can be at times solitary, thankless, ego driven, frustrating, exhausting and competitive. Stars For Charity invites us to let go of our egos and take up the tools in unity and fun to use our skills to serve others. Stars For Charity creates art awareness and can unite places of worship and other organizations as well. Stars For Charity creates a dialogue between artists and the public. When I stood back and looked at the diversity of the stars this year I saw a hundred different voices translating the very same star. It was (and is) the world’s greatest art gallery. This was not lost when they went online. I hope you will continue to participate in Stars For Charity. I believe we have excellent growth potential and opportunity with this fundraiser. Future plans include corporate matching donations, national media attention, and a coffee table book.

I would also like to thank Linda Hejduk who worked with the Manasquan River Group of Artists to coordinate and collect their incredible stars. The members of New Dover Methodist Church, Edison, N, and all those who bought Stars and shared Stars For Charity with Friends. I could never have done it without you. Great Job and a Happy, Healthy, Creative New Year to you all.

Sincerely,
William Bunting

On the following page are more Stars created by our members. In the November issue Stars created by Linda Hejduk, Mona Kirk, Laura Lutz, Donna Ferris, Margo Fletcher (Annie and Jackson Fineman, Margo’s neighbors), Arlene Newman, Terry Sciria, and Tamara Woronczuk were featured. The following MRGA artists also contributed Stars: Janice Collinson, MaryJo Austin, Barbara Calvo, Robert D’Imperio, and his daughter Mickey, Vincent Nardone, Karen Norby, Tracy Miller, Margaret Patterson, Pauline Mickle, Sheila Soyster, Paula Shipman, Bev Sirianni, Melinda Saminski, and Laura Hart (who owns the Jolly Tar)



ROBERT D'INPERO



MICKEY D'INPERO



MELINDA SAMINSKI



PAULA SHIPMAN



TRACY MILLER



SHEILA SYSTER



PAULINE MICKLE



MARGARET PAPPAS



VINCENT MARDONE



BEVELLY SIMANNE



PAULA SHIPMAN



LAURA HART



JANICE COWNSON



Manasquan Group of Artists 2023 Calendar of Events

ART SHOWS

April-Brielle Library Show

Tracy Roccanova-Miller 732.822.2099

June- Spring Lake Art in the Park (Devine Park)

Susanna Anastasia 732.715.1555

July- Sea Girt Lighthouse Outdoor Show

Janice Collinson 908.489.7696

July- Brick Library Show

Margo Fletcher 732.259.7767

July/August-North Hall Gallery Show

PT. Pleasant Presbyterian Church Pt. Pleasant Beach

Karen Norby 908.915.2301

MEETINGS, DEMONSTRATIONS, TALKS

February 3, 2023

Tamara Woronczuk "Gelli Plate Printing"

A Gelli Plate is made from a unique plastic mixed with mineral oil to give it a "cushy" surface. Artists use this printing surface as a base to create original hand-printed papers to be used in collages and mixed media. Tamara will demonstrate how to use a variety of objects as well as stamps and stencils to create beautiful monoprints.

March 3, 2023

Vinnie Nardone "Vintage Shore Collection"

Vinnie will display and speak about a selection of "auction listed" and "collectible" art of NJ shore artists, both living and deceased. Included in the presentation will be biographical information and a discussion of each artists' painting styles. Vinnie promises this will be a fun and educational presentation and an opportunity to experience a museum-like setting in the Curtis House.

April 7, 2023

Theresa Heidel "A Street Scene in Watercolor"

Renowned watercolorist Theresa Heidel will give a brief demonstration how monochromatic value studies, a good drawing and value plan are key to a painting's success. The street scene she will paint will show progression from dark to light with emphasis on luminosity, clarity and confidence in brush strokes.

May 5, 2023

TBD

June 2, 2023

Potluck Dinner hosted by Margo Fletcher and Paula Shipman, our Hospitality Chairs

ART CLASSES

Sponsored by The Manasquan Group of Artists

Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:00 PM at the Sea Girt Lighthouse

January 31-Catch-up Class

February 7&14

Mona Kirk-portraits/watercolor....732.223.2569

February 21& 28

Melinda Saminski-pastel732.610.8626

March 7 & 14

Barbara Calvo-watercolor.....732.996.0738

March 21 & 28-

Pauline Mickle-watercolor.....732.892.5606

April 18 & 25

Tamara Woronczuk-book art.....609.203.5201

May 2 & 9

Arlene Newman-watercolor732.682.3316-

May 16

End of Year Class

Instructed Classes \$6.00 Catch-up Classes \$3.00

Please call instructor before attending class for necessary information.

Any questions, please call Mona Kirk 732.223.2569

MRGA Executive Board and Committees 2022-2023

PRESIDENT

Barbara Calvo.....732.996.0738

VICE PRESIDENT

Vinnie Nardone.....732.903.7468

RECORDING SECRETARY-

Jackie St. Angel.....732.706.1171

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY-

Sheila Soyster.....732.892.7692

TREASURER

Laura Lutz.....732-371-6284

PHOTOGRAPHER

Melinda Saminski.....732.610.8626

DEMONSTRATIONS/SPEAKERS

Ellen Price.....732.223.4670

HISTORIAN

Janice Collinson.....732.528.7179

WEBSITE

Michelle Ignozza.....732.600.9616

Sheila Soyster.....732.892.7692

PUBLICITY/SOCIAL MEDIA

Michelle Ignozza.....732.600.9616

NEWSLETTER

MaryAnn Goodwin.....732.539.4150

SUNSHINE

Mona Kirk.....732.223.2569

HOSPITALITY

Margo Fletcher.....732.259.7767

Paula Shipman.....732.915.4048

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Mona Kirk.....732.223.2569

MEMBERSHIP

Mona Kirk.....732.223.2569

NOMINATING

Linda Hejduk.....732.714.0854

ART CLASSES

Sea Girt Lighthouse.....732.223.2569

Pt. Pleasant Library Exhibit

The Point Pleasant Beach Library reception is Saturday, February 25 from 11-1. The exhibit features the art of 28 artists. Thank you to Show Directors' **Pauline Mickle** and **Sheila Soyster**!

Please visit the website for MRGA www.mrga38.org Our website is being updated regularly by Sheila Soyster. Please contact Sheila with any information: sheila624@comcast.net or 732-892-7692. Thank you Sheila.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION-

All submissions for the newsletter and changes to your address, phone or email should be sent by email to MaryAnn Goodwin at maryanngoodwinarts@gmail.com by the 20th of the month for the next newsletter. When announcing an award please give the title of your work. Photographs should include the names of the persons in them except for a large group. "Classifieds" will run only once unless you request a repeat.

PLEASE NOTE:

Please continue to send any member news, artwork and opportunities to MaryAnn Goodwin at maryanngoodwinarts@gmail.com



Member Spotlight

June Coles

JUNE COLES, A RENAISSANCE WOMAN: Painter, Dancer, Fashion Designer, Actress, Director, Choreographer, Mother.



All these experiences have molded June into the multi-faceted person she is today. June was encouraged by her mother, a professional dancer and Hollywood extra in the 1940's. Her father worked for AT&T as a pioneer of Transcontinental Telephone Service, but June credits the "greatest influence in her life" to her grandmother, who taught her how to sew.

June explained, "My mother spent most of her time in Hollywood, she looked like Ethel Merman. My grandmother had been the house tailor for the uniforms for the Kaiser (Germany), my grandmother's husband was the in-house photographer. My grandmother divorced him, he loved to paint nude women." June's grandmother married again, to an engineer/designer of beer gardens. In 1913 they immigrated and settled in Springfield, NJ. As an only child, June had the opportunity to have lessons in painting, dance, piano, tailoring and gymnastics. She attended some of the most prestigious schools in the northeast. Her resume includes the American School of Ballet. June recalled, "When I was fifteen years old my dance teacher set up a group audition with the Rockettes. I put bows on my tap shoes and created a costume of printed shorts and a halter top. It had to be a summer routine. I was selected!! When I told my mother, it was an absolute NO! I hated my mother then, I wanted to be a Rockette in the worst way!"



Oil Painting by June, age 13

June made and designed her clothes. Her greatest desire was to redesign her mother's Hollywood dresses, she would cut them up and recreate. "I never was afraid to cut fabric". June created her own proms gowns, one had mink down the front, another, the front of the gown was covered with artificial flowers.

High school was not really for highly creative June. She recalls "I spent most of my time making advertising posters for events held by the clubs and school activities. I drew my way through high school." June attended McDowell School of Fashion, where she learned tailoring and pattern making, and Parsons School of Design.

June exclaimed "I was always an artist first."

After graduation, June worked for 26 years as a buyer and fashion illustrator, a designer of young girl's clothes; all the while she was dancing professionally. She belonged to her mother's troupe of Polynesian dancers and then her own troupe.

June has one daughter and one son. Her daughter, Debbie Herbst, also belongs to MRGA. June reminisced "I had been introduced to oil painting by my aunt when I was very young. My aunt was a well-respected European artist. She used the grid method." As June's children got older, June became very involved in children's art shows in Watchung, NJ and children's theater in Cranford. She has directed, written and choreographed for children's theatre in productions such as Heidi, Babes in Toyland, Cinderella, Snow White, and Beauty and the Beast. June remembered "One of my greatest joys was being the director, art director and choreographer of "Beauty and the Beast". June was first disappointed when she attempted to get the rights to produce the play with children. "Beauty and the Beast" was about to make it's Broadway debut the following year, and she got turned down. June was not to be discouraged; she would not give up. She found a French version of the play, with some small differences in the story, reapplied and it was approved for the children's



Clippings from newspapers, June's fashion designs



A mural of the scenery from "Beauty and The Beast"

theater. June was ecstatic! A true renaissance woman! June said "I went to see the play on Broadway. It was amazing how our little children's theater production of "Beauty and the Beast" was so similar in so many ways to the Broadway Show. Producing a play is like making a painting in motion." June was delighted!

The June I know is a valuable member of MRGA, and a past president. She and Mona Kirk started the Sea Girt Lighthouse classes. Pauline Mickle, a watercolor artist, introduced Mona and June to watercolor. They were both oil painters. June is also a mentor. I belonged to a drop-in art group at the Spring Lake Train Station. June would work on her beautiful seascapes or one of her cats! She would always take time to guide us when we asked. We were all so fortunate to have June as a mentor!

I thanked June for her guidance, she humbly replied "I have always been a mentor my whole life, bringing out the voices and actions of Jr. Miss Pageant participants, teaching Sunday school, and directing children. June's latest goal "to use more white space". June will be 91 years old. She is blessed, thankful, knowledgeable and wise.

These are some thoughts she would like to share.

"I don't use pictures or photographs of the ocean, it is in my mind."

"People don't spend enough time with each other. We need more compassion for each other. Take time to listen to each other. Give a little more of yourself."

"I like happy colors. A lot of oil painters use dark colors. I would like to see more happy colors."

"I try to do freer watercolors, not so much detail. Things have changed over time; new customers don't want to see churches. They want freer paintings, pictures of the sea and beach, free of business."

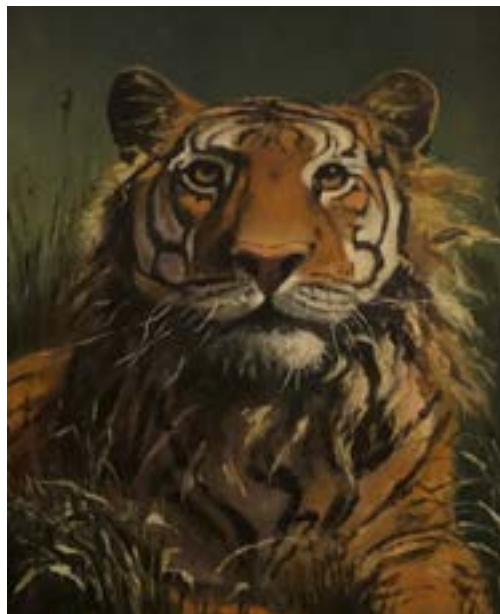
"Water and the shore hold a place in my heart. Twenty years on the beach watching my grandchildren swim, grow and surf; watching the ebbs of the tides and the sunsets. What God has done with color we can never duplicate. God gives us so much beauty. With the world the way it is today, I pray at night, that with all the beauty he provides,



Oil painting of Debbie as a young girl

vides, plants, fish, forests, music, they are all so amazing; we have so much to be thankful for."

Thank you, June,
Karen Norby



One of June's large tiger paintings

MRGA 2022 Holiday Party

What a Great Success & Fun Time had by All!!

Barbara, Paula, Jackie & Margo would like to thank one & all for their wonder contributions of Entrees, Appetizers & Desserts & Gifts!!

Such fun playing games, having laughs & admiring Vinnie's Happy Holiday Jig!
Plus really Great Holiday Socks from Vinnie & Karen!

AND...What Great Auction Fun!!!!... between Laura & Joanne ...bidding on the Santa Teddy Bear originally designed by our very own beautiful Lindia Hejduk!

Joanne Pisapia the Winner Donating the Fabulous Amount of \$85.00 for MRGA!!!A Very Happy Healthy 2023 to ALLthe MRGA Members & to ALL a Good Night!

