

Manasquan River Group of Artists

Established 1938

Newsletter



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

Letter from the President

It's hard to believe it's March already, which means the season of Spring is just around the corner! Spring brings new beginnings, the buds appear on the trees and the green shoots of emerging plants are everywhere. Think of all the inspiration for painting that lies ahead. What a wonderful time to be an artist!

The reception at the Pt. Pleasant Beach Library was well-attended as usual with great conversation, lots of food and of course, wonderful art! The exhibit will continue until March 30, pick up is that day. Thank you to Show Directors Pauline Mickle and Sheila Soyster. Our next show is the Brielle Library Show, more information will follow. Don't miss reading about Mona Kirk in this month's Member Spotlight. Mona has quite a story to tell!

Who will be next?

Happy Painting!

Barbara Calvo

President



Please Note Members Meeting

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

Member News



MRGA member **Robert D'Imperio** was commissioned to paint the portrait of Dennis E. Gibson, a past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, Council 11529. The unveiling occurred on October 28th, 2022. At the event not only was the painting presented but Dennis Gibson was also awarded the Knight's Sword with his name engraved. It was truly an emotional night for all.



MILLY & MARGO "HANGING" TOGETHER! 1937 TO 2023

Hi All!

My mom, Milly, was 15 or 16 when she drew, brilliantly, the women of her day in pencil
For the first time ever they are being shown in public

At the Brielle Library!

Along with a few of my own pieces!

From 2/11/2023 to 3/31 2023

We both hope you'll stop by to see them for yourselves!

**Reception Saturday March 25th
1:00 To 3:00pm**

Thanks, Margo Jane



**Point Beach Art has announced a call for entries for their Juried Art Show.
This is juried and moneyed.**

The submission period is now until March 15, 2023. Here is the website for more information:
<https://arts.pointpleasantbeach.org/virtualartshow/> Unfortunately the link is not working. Please copy the address and paste into Google. That should bring you to the information.

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

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 14, 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

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

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Sheila Soyster.....732.892.7692

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

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Melinda Saminski.....732.610.8626

DEMONSTRATIONS/SPEAKERS

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HISTORIAN

Janice Collinson.....732.528.7179

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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

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



Mona Kirk

Five foot tall, talented, feisty, FBI and family; these adjectives define Mona Kirk. I visited with Mona in her beautifully appointed home in Manasquan. We sat in her dining room and drank Earl Grey tea from China cups and Mona began to talk about her life. Family is her first take away, it is what formed her early years and sustains her now. I listened in fascination and awe as she began to speak in a stream of consciousness, as she later called it. Mona was born Domenica (her paternal grandmother's name) Parcaro, on April 18, 1928 in Kearny, NJ. I mentioned that Mona is "FBI" full-blooded Italian, with both sets of grandparents immigrating to America early in the 1900's. Mona's mother was an artist and a piano teacher, and her father, an engineer and businessman. Mona



Mona and John

met John, her future husband, in grammar school. He was a year older than she. After graduation, John joined the Navy and went into the Seabees and was in the invasion of Okinawa where he wrote a beautiful and heartfelt poem about the war, he was only 18. Honorably discharged in 1946 he went to Lehigh University under the GI bill and graduated with a BA in business. Mona went to Beaver College and to Traphagen School of Fashion in NYC. Mona said I could draw before I could write! Mona and John married on January 28, 1951. It was then thought that a mixed marriage, Roman Catholic Mona and Protestant John wouldn't last but it did, for 71 very happy years. They had two daughters, Judy and Karen, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren who shared 50 years of Sunday dinners together. It cannot go unsaid that her loving granddaughter Kayla passed away at 31. John was working for 3M, but joined Mona's father in his company The International Development Corporation, becoming president after her father passed. He continued in that position for 39 more years until his retirement in 2008. As her family duties increased, Mona slacked off on her art until one day she was listening to a program called the Christophers and the message was clear: use your God-given talents and she began to draw again.

She joined the Red Oak Women's

Club during the 1960s and 70s and became their art chairman. She won the state award in Atlantic City for her painting of fishing boats. The category was Aspects of New Jersey. Mona



State award winning picture, "Fishing Boats"

was fearful of flying, but by flying, she met some of the most famous people of the times. She asked for and got Eleanor Roosevelt's autograph on an airplane in 1947, which is tucked away somewhere safe, she knows not where! She discussed being an artist with Tony Bennett in the Concorde Airport Lounge in Paris in '94 and in 2000, met the Bushes there. She also met Arthur Miller and Jimmy Stewart when he played on Broadway in Harvey in 1948. Mona and John loved to travel to Bermuda. While there, the owner of the famous Tom Moore's Tavern in Tuckertown, commissioned Mona to do 2 paintings. Her painting of the tavern hangs

in the entry and a portrait of Nea Tucker hangs in the Nea Tucker Dining Room. Mona's extensive travels include Italy, especially Venice, London, Paris and Scotland and she always painted wherever she went.



Top: Mona and Tony Bennett



Below: Mona, John and the Bushes.

In 1984, Mona was commissioned to create a portrait of the late Reverend John F. Welch, former pastor of her church, Saint Denis in Manasquan, for the church's 75th anniversary. That painting now hangs in the vestibule of the church. In 1999 the Squan Village Historical Society asked her to paint her interpretation of the stages of the development of the Bailey Reed House which hangs in the restored house at 105 South St. in Manasquan. Mona has illustrated the children's book *Lucy and the Lighthouse* written by Sally Whitman. The cover done in watercolor and the sketches inside are pen and ink. In 1983 she joined the Manasquan River Group of Artists. Mona was painting in oils then and didn't realize that watercolors were in her future. Mona has produced 50 years of Christmas cards for her family and friends done in pencil, pen and ink, acrylics and watercolor. Mona and June Coles have been involved in classes in the Sea Girt Lighthouse for the past 33 years. In 2012, during a lesson taught by Lou Riccio, Mona realized she couldn't feel her arm. She was having a stroke! June called out to alert Lou who had been a medic and recognized the signs. 9/11 was called, an ambulance took her to the hospital and that immediate action saved her. She was subsequently treated at NYU for an aneurysm of her carotid artery with 15 stints, a five-hour surgery. Mona is now 10 years into a remarkable recovery.

In 2014 Mona made her debut on stage in *My Fair Lady* as Mrs. Higgins at the age of 85, a delightful experience but hard work. In March of 2021 Mona noticed smoke coming from under the cellar doorway. She ran into the street where a neighbor called 911. The ensuing cleanup from the smoke damage has been a long and difficult journey for Mona and John, compounded by John's age-related decline. They finally returned to their home on February 3 2022.



Mother and Child

On June 8, 2022, her beloved John passed away. John was not just her husband but also her best friend, her traveling companion, the father of their children, her rock! Time, family, friends and her art are slowly healing her broken heart.

Mona is a member of Belmar Arts, Ocean County Artists Guild, an elected member of Audubon Artists and the NJ Watercolor Society, and an associate member of the Guild of Creative Art. Her awards include first place and best in show in watercolor in the Monmouth County Senior Show and her work has been accepted in juried shows at the Monmouth Museum, the Guild of Creative Arts, the New Jersey Watercolor Society where she was corresponding secretary and Audubon Artists National juried exhibits. Her paintings are in collections in Bermuda, California, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina,

Pennsylvania and Great Britain.

In Mona's own words "I've enjoyed my membership in Manasquan River Group of Artists through my three terms as president, two terms as vice president, seven years on the refreshment committee and am still chair of the membership committee, that's 40 years of MRGA. June and I especially enjoyed the themed covered dish meetings at the end of the year where we would dress in costume".

In my own words "This was an incredible opportunity and experience to get to know this amazing woman. Mona Kirk she is not quite five feet tall, but she is packed with talent and kindness and a ferocity that has sustained her through good times and bad, yet she has found the strength and courage to continue to paint and grow her wonderful talent that God has given her".

Happy Birthday Mona. I was so glad to really get to know you!

Beverly Sirianni



Mona and portrait of John F. Welch



Tom Moore's Tavern



Mona in her studio

MRGA Member Meeting

February's Member meeting included a demo of **Tamara Woronczuk's "Gelli Plate Printing"** 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. Also, two new members were introduced by Mona Kirk



Above: Tamara demonstrates the steps needed to create a mono print using a Gelli Plate. And one of Tamara's artworks.

At right: Mona Kirk (center) welcomes new members, Maureen Anderson (left) holding her floral still life and Susan Penn (far right) holding her mixed media of palm trees



Point Pleasant Library Reception



At the Point Pleasant Library Show
28 artists rattended a lovely reception.

Award winners were

First: Lou Riccio

Second: June Coles

Third: Tamara Woronzuk

Honorable Mention: Jackie St Angel

People's Choice: Bev Sirianni