

# Manasquan River Group of Artists

Established 1938

## Newsletter



MRGA, P. O. Box 614, Manasquan,

[www.mrga38.org](http://www.mrga38.org)

New Jersey 08736

March, 2024

### Letter from the President

Can it be March already? I don't know about you, but I hope the snow is behind us and Spring will soon be here. Our membership in MRGA is growing steadily. We inducted 7 new members in February (see the photos in this newsletter) and this month, Emily Beasley, Dana Mensel, Ron Surgent along with Michael Dreyer, a returning member, will join our organization. A warm welcome to all of you!

The reception of the Point Pleasant Beach Winter Art Exhibit was a success on February 24th thanks to Show Director Sheila Soyster. Photos of the event and the award winners are posted in this newsletter. The exhibit will continue at the library until March 28th. Pick up of the artwork that day is from 1:00 to 4:00. Also in this newsletter, our beloved Vinnie Nardone is featured in this month's Member Spotlight

A short but important membership survey will be distributed at the March meeting. Please take the time to thoughtfully read it and answer the questions. The survey will be collected at the end of the meeting.

Our meeting this month features David Levy who will speak about "What a Judge Sees or Should See and Where the Artist and Judge are Left in the Process". This presentation should give us many insights into the judging process.

Happy March and Happy Painting!

Barbara



### Next Members Meeting

. The regular MRGA Meeting is on March 1 at 4-4:30pm. Refreshments and Business meeting to follow.

# Manasquan Group of Artists 2024 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

## ART CLASSES

*Sponsored by The Manasquan Group of Artists*

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

### **March 9 & 16**

*Pauline Mickle-watercolor.....732.892.5606*

### **March 19**

*Tamara Woronczuk-book art.....732.998.8286*

### **April 9**

*Tamara Woronczuk-book art.....732.998.8286*

### **April 16 & 23**

*Leona Lavone-watercolor.....732.914.9941*

### **April 30**

*Rose Sinatra-watercolor.....626.797.1213*

### **May 7**

*Rose Sinatra-watercolor.....626.797.1213*

### **May 14**

*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*

## MEETINGS, DEMONSTRATIONS, TALKS

### **March 1, 2024**

*David Levy*

*"What a Judge Sees or Should See and Where the Artist and Judge are Left in the Process"*

David will discuss the "subjective" nature of judging, the qualities an "ideal" judge should possess, the criteria for excellence many judges use, how to think like a judge, and much more.

### **April 5, 2024**

*Vinnie Nardone*

*"The Victorian Art Scene at the Jersey Shore"*

Vinnie will share some fascinating documents, wood engravings and highlights from Harper's Weekly newspaper of that era, a "show and tell" eye opener of the turn of the 20th century artists and a new look at our MRGA predecessors.

### **May 3, 2024**

*Jim Inzero "Painting with Encaustic"*

Jim will bring in some of his paintings and explain his process of wax encaustic

### **June 2024**

**Potluck Dinner.**

**MRGA Executive Board  
and Committees 2023-2024**

**PRESIDENT**

*Barbara Calvo.....732.996.0738*

**VICE PRESIDENT**

*Vinnie Nardone.....732.903.7468*

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

*Jackie St. Angel.....732.216.8568*

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

*Sheila Soyster.....732.892.7692*

**TREASURER**

*Laura Lutz.....732.528.8698*

**AT-LARGE TRUSTEES**

*Debra Herbster..... 908.380.7580*

*Beverly Sirianni..... 732.861.7354*

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

*Barbara Calvo..... 732.996.0738*

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

*Melinda Saminski .....732.610.8626*

**DEMONSTRATIONS/SPEAKERS**

*Ellen Price .....732.223.4670*

**HISTORIAN**

*Janice Collinson..... .732.528.7179*

**WEBSITE**

*Sheila Soyster..... 732.892.7692*

**PUBLICITY/SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Your opportunity to serve MRGA with creative energy awaits you in this position.**

**NEWSLETTER**

*MaryAnn Goodwin.....732.539.4150*

**SUNSHINE**

*Mona Kirk..... 732.223.2569*

**HOSPITALITY**

*Margo Fletcher.....732.259.7767*

*Maureen Anderson .....732 306-7798*

**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](http://www.mrga38.org) Our website is being updated regularly by Sheila Soyster. Please contact Sheila with any information: [sheila624@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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.

# March Art Musings

## Art as Therapy

*"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life"*

*Pablo Picasso*

I had this quotation, along with others from famous artists, posted in my art room for all my students to see. I'm not sure if any resonated with any of them but hopefully did so on a subliminal level. I know at least one of my students benefited from art to calm him. Bobby was bipolar and in a self-contained class for special needs students. In the art room I had created a miniature Japanese garden which consisted of a cardboard box filled with sand, a tiny shovel and rake, a few stones and seashells. I explained to all my students what a Japanese garden was and how they could use it when they finished their work. Many of them did but Bobby would ask to come into my room if he was stressed and rake the sand into different patterns, moving the stones and shells to create a pleasing arrangement. When he was done Bobby would leave with a smile on his face which tugged at my heart each time. We don't need a Japanese garden but we do have our paints and pastels as our own private vehicle when we are anxious or hurting. How many times have you had a problem sleeping and you get up and paint? I know of several people who do this regularly. Art is an important tool which can reduce stress and create a sense of well-being. Drawing and painting can distract you as you lose yourself in the landscape of your work.

Aren't we as artists, fortunate to have our art to sustain us? BJC

## Member News

**Susanna Anastasia** started the 2024 year off as winner in the Island Heights Artists Guild Golden Anniversary Members Show, Island Heights, N. J. Susanna was presented with two Honorable Mentions in these categories:

Still life: painting entitled "Still life with Paper Whites and Lemons", acrylic

Landscape: painting entitled "Marshmallow Snow", oil.

The show is on display for public viewing until March 2024.

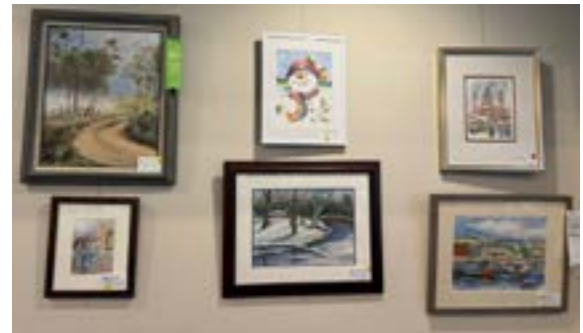


The Train Stop Artists, **Donna Ferris, Pam Fisezi, Debra Coles Herbster, Karen Norby, Paula Shipman, and Beverly Sirianni**, who paint at Duggan Hall in Spring Lake, have their work exhibited at the North Hall Gallery, Point Pleasant Beach Presbyterian Church until March 24. The closing reception is 11 am. All are welcome to see the exhibit and support our MRGA artists.

**Nancy Robinson** (Photo; left) has received a Certificate of Merit at the Essex Watercolor Club for her painting "Winter Stream".

# Point Pleasant Library Show

The reception of the Point Pleasant Beach Winter Art Exhibit was well-attended on Saturday, February 24th. The artwork display was a delight to see and the refreshments plentiful and delicious. Valerie Marone was awarded 1st place for her oil painting "Islands in the Sky"; Lou Riccio's oil painting "Bill" received 2nd place honors and Pauline Mickle's watercolor "Scottish Harbor" was awarded 3rd place. Betty Laird's painting "Morning Mist" in oil received an Honorable Mention Award and the Peoples' Choice Award went to Debra Herbster for her acrylic "Pretty in Pink". Congratulations to the winners and thank you to Sheila Soyster for all her efforts in planning this exhibit and to all of you who displayed your art, brought food, helped with hanging the show, set-up and clean-up.



1st place, Valerie Morone  
"Islands in the Sky"



2nd place Lou Riccio. "Bill"

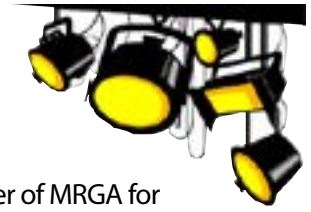
3rd place Pauline Mickle.  
"Scottish Harbor"



Honorable Mention  
Betty Laird.  
"Morning Mist"



# Member Spotlight



## Vincent Nardone

Vinnie describes himself a Visionary Expressionist but he is so much more to us as a member of MRGA for over 25 years and current Vice- President. Vinnie is a font of information about art and artists of the past, is the keeper of the membership list, purveyor of healthy chicken soup at receptions, and can always be counted on to bring a touch humor to our meetings.

Vinnie's talent was evident as a child in third grade when he was selected for NJ's first gifted and talented program in his school district of South Orange/ Maplewood. He tells the story of painting on the stage of The War Memorial in Trenton in front of a large audience accompanied by an orchestra. When the music stopped, he was having so much fun that he refused to get off the stage! Subsequent training in studio arts at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts coupled with a Fine Arts Education degree at Montclair State University and a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Southern California resulted in a 30-year career art teaching in the public schools of South Orange/Maplewood. Sabbaticals were undertaken in Paris and Florence with disciplines in painting and art history.



*"Beach Apparitions", Casein on Board*

In Vinnie's paintings, innovative techniques are explored from a cache of proprietary formulae with acrylic impasto, encaustic and pastel. He recently has been exploring the use of milk casein in his paintings. His artwork reflects the rhythms and pulse of the back bays and coastlines of NJ.



*"Shoreline Wisp", Encaustic Wax on Metal*



*"The World of A Visionary", Casein on Conservation Board*

Vinnie's international and national exhibits in one person and group shows are numerous including the Butler Institute of American Art in Ohio, the National Museum of Art in Budapest, Hungary and the Noyes Museum of Art in New Jersey. Awards bestowed upon him include the Le Salon, Paris Painting Award of Merit; the Queen Fabiola of Belgium, Prix Rubens Medal in Painting; the Connecticut Pastel Award in Pastels and numerous awards and medals from Audubon Artists.

In addition to his membership in the Manasquan River Group of Artists, Vinnie is an Honorary Member of Audubon Artists and the Salmagundi Club, both of NYC; Allied Artists of America, NYC; a Signature Member of the Noyes Art Museum, NJ; and the Guild of Creative Arts, NJ. His work is represented by Refind Gallery in Bayhead, NJ. As longest reigning President of Audubon Artists, Vinnie is very proud of the fact that he has recruited many of the artists in MRGA who are now Elected members, giving MRGA the distinction as the premier local art society in the US with the largest contribution of Audubon Artist members!

Manasquan River Group of Artists is fortunate to have Vinnie Nardone as part of our organization. Thank you Vinnie Nardone!



## February Member Meeting....

February's Member Meeting featured Karen Norby's demonstration of Origami. Members who attended were able to practice the art of Japanese paper folding for themselves.



## ....And New Members



John Troisi



Mary Ann Smorra



Terry Groark



Sue Pappa



Sherly Bennett



Thomas Nulton



Mary O'Malley-Joyce

Seven New and returning members were introduced by Mona Kirk: Sherly Bennett, Terry Groark, (returning member) Thomas Nulton, Mary O'Malley-Joyce, Sue Pappa, Mary Ann Smorra, and John Troisi