



Established
1938

Manasquan River Group of Artists Newsletter

MRGA, P. O. Box 614, Manasquan, New Jersey 08736

April, 2025

www.mrga38.org

Greetings, MRGA Members!

Welcome to Spring! March came in like a lion for the Manasquan River Group of Artists! On March 1st, we had a lovely reception for our exhibit at the Point Pleasant Beach Library, with plenty of good food and great company. A list of award winners and photos of the event is in this newsletter. On Sunday, March 2, many of our members were honored at the reception for the Monmouth Museum's Annual Juried Exhibit, which will remain open until April 13. The show features work from across Monmouth County, New Jersey, and the United States, as well as internationally.

Our March 7th meeting was a blockbuster, attended by over 45 members. Below is my view from the front of the room. What a marvelous turnout! Vinnie Nardone gave us an informative talk and hands-on demonstration about the art medium of casein. Everyone was provided with sample kits of casein paint and materials to try it out. What a wonderful experience and lots of fun! Thank you, Vinnie.

Our very popular classes are continuing at the Sea Girt Lighthouse, with bookmaking and watercolor classes taught by MRGA members Tamara Woronczuk, Debbie Herbster and Leona Laverne. These Tuesday classes will continue until May 12th. The good times kept on coming, with a second trip to the Cadillac collection in Wall Township on March 26th. We got to meet Bobby Duncan, the artist responsible for the amazing murals, and Joe Puleo, our gracious host and owner of the marvelous collection. Check out our photos!

By the time you get this newsletter, we've probably had our pastel workshop with Rene Leopardi. About 20 artists will have gathered to learn the ins and outs of this marvelous medium. Stay tuned for pictures in our next newsletter, and information on our May painting workshop with Theresa Heidel.

Lastly, here's a quick reminder of upcoming events – don't forget to pick up your paintings from Point Pleasant Beach Library on Monday, March 31st, from 1 – 4 pm, and we'll see you at our next meeting on April 4th. Our guest artist will be Dorrie Rifkin, with "Bold Juicy Watercolors"!

Happy painting!

Sheila Soyster, MRGA President



ART CLASSES

Sponsored by the Manasquan Group of Artists
Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 PM
at the Sea Girt Lighthouse

April **1 - Leona Lavone - Watercolor914-9941**
 8 - Debbie Herbster - Watercolor.....908-380-7580
 29 - Rose Sinatra - Watercolor.....626-797-1213

May **6 - Rose Sinatra - Watercolor.....626-797-1213**
 12 - End of Year Class

Instucted Classes.....\$6.00

Catch Up Classes.....\$3.00

Please Call instructor before attending class for necessary information

Any other informaton, please call Mona Kirk - 732-223-2569

MRGA Executive Board and Committees 2024-2025

PRESIDENT

Sheila Soyster..... 732-674-2038

VICE PRESIDENT

Vinnie Nardone.....732.319.1772

RECORDING SECRETARY

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Susanna Anastasia.....732.449.9287

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Barbara Calvo..... 732.996.0738

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Janice Collinson..... .732.528.7179

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Sheila Soyster..... 732.892.7692

PUBLICITY/SOCIAL MEDIA

Terri Groark..... .732.859.8566

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SUNSHINE

Mona Kirk..... 732.223.2569

HOSPITALITY

Margo Fletcher.....732.259.7767

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.

MANASQUAN RIVER GROUP OF ARTISTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 31

Point Pleasant Beach Library

McLean Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach

Painting Pick-up March 31st – 12 – 4 pm

Friday, April 4 4:00 pm

MRGA General Membership Meeting

Curtis House, Brielle

Demonstration by Dorrie Rifkin - "Bold Juicy Watercolors"

March 27 – April 30

Spring Lake Upper Gallery

The Spring Lake Community House,

300 Madison Ave. Spring Lake

Reception: Wednesday, April 9, 5-7 pm

Pickup: Wednesday, April 30th, 11:30 am – 1 pm

May 1 – June 28

Brielle Library

Receiving: Tuesday, April 29th 1-3 pm

Reception: Saturday, June 28th, 12-3 pm

Awards: 2 pm, Pick up 3 pm

May 17 11 am – 3 pm

Floral Painting with Theresa Troise Heidel Workshop

Curtis House, Brielle

Impressions of Spring

March Monthly Challenge



Linda Hejduk



Margo Fletcher



*Photo & Painting by
MaryAnn Smorra*



Pauline Mickfe



John Troisi

*Your painting can be featured
here in next month's challenge -
Celebrate Earth Day with a
beautiful landscape or seascape!*

March Members Meeting

Our own Vinnie Nardone gave a very informative and fun demonstration on Casein paint. Vinnie spoke about the history of Casein; his own experimentation to find the perfect formula which included Borax and cottage cheese: examples of paintings and finally a hands-on painting experience for all the members.





Member Spotlight

Helaine Donovan



Helaine and "Kevin's Peonies"

Helaine was born in Newark and grew up in Millburn. She was educated at Marywood University, Seton Hall University and Kean University. She taught for two years as a classroom teacher in East Orange. When Helaine and her husband moved to Manasquan in 1974, she continued her teaching career in Brick as a reading specialist.

Helaine and Kevin have two children, Tim and Shannon, and four grandchildren, Olivia, Gus, Maeve and Kiera, with whom Helaine spent many happy times doing artwork. Her granddaughter, Olivia, shows interest and promise in art. Helaine proudly shares that Olivia is in Honors Art in her middle school!



"Dogwoods in Bloom"



"Winter Lavender, Les Baux de Provence"

Helaine and Kevin traveled extensively, and many memories of their trips were captured in her paintings. Helaine shared one trip to France where Helaine was painting a watercolor while sitting on the balcony of their apartment. Her painting, L'Escarene depicts her balcony. Across the alley, several children were watching her intensely. Speaking French, Helaine generously asked their mother if she could send her children art supplies. In Provence, they visited an ochre quarry and brought back a quantity of this precious mineral with which Helaine experimented to make her own oil paint years later.



"Waterlilies"

Helaine had admired the art and camaraderie of the Manasquan River Group of Artists prior to becoming a member. She took watercolor lessons with Susan Mc Lean, and Bill Carpenter, then MRGA members. She exhibited her paintings at Brielle Day along with other MRGA members but was not a member ... yet! Encouraged by Susan and Bill, Helaine applied for membership and was installed in 2004. As a member of MRGA, Helaine chaired the Scholarship Committee and handled the 50/50's at the meetings.



"Dogwoods in Bloom"

Helaine's art journey continued when a friend asked her to help complete a mural in her home, so Helene began exploring acrylics and then oil, using some of the ocher she brought back from France.

Art has enabled Helaine to enjoy being home and she expresses her love of art with this quote "My painting is an appreciation of all the beauty and joy in the world".

BJC



"Iris for Priscilla"



"Thanksgiving Day Parade"

A Visit to the Cadillac Museum



Bobby Duncan, Mural Artist



March 26

Point Pleasant Beach Library Exhibit Reception

March 1, 2022

Award Winners

1st - Lou Riccio

2nd - John Troisi

3rd - Pauline Mickle

Hon. Mention Linda Hejduk

Peoples' Choice - Mona Kirk



**2025 MRGA BRIELLE LIBRARY
SHOW PROSPECTUS
SHOW DATES: MAY 1st – JUNE 28th**

RECEIVING: Tue., April 29th, 1 – 3PM

RECEPTION: Sat., June 28th, 12 – 3PM (Awards: 2 PM; Pick-Up Art: 3PM)

1. **\$15 Entry Fee: Check Only (NO CASH)** Payable to “MRGA”
2. One original work, properly framed and wired, **Maximum Size: 20”x 24”**
(including frame)
3. MRGA provided labels must be attached to the front of originals and portfolio pieces.
4. Portfolio Works: 1 to 3 matted and wrapped pieces, **Maximum Size: 16”x 20”**
5. All pieces must be priced to sell; Judged artwork must be new to this venue and not a previous award winner of any MRGA Show.
6. A 20% Commission will be taken by the Library and the Library Staff will handle all sales transactions.
7. Publicity: Media Coverage in local papers; Brielle Boro Hall Electronic Sign, MRGA & Library Newsletters, Signage in Library
8. Awards Judge: David Levy & Associate
9. Awards given to “Best in Show”, Best in Medium and Theme Categories, and “Peoples' Choice Award”

MRGA Show Director: Tracy R. Miller (732)822-2099; tracyrock@comcast.net

Assistant: Vinnie Nardone (732)319-1772; nardoneart@comcast.net

Assistant: Margo Fletcher (732)259-7767; margo812@aol.com

Brielle Library Director: Maribeth Pelly (732)528-9381;

mpelly@monmouthcountylib.org

Library hrs: M/W/F: 10am-5pm; Tu/Th: 10am-7:30pm; Sat:10am-1pm; Closed Sunday

MANASQUAN RIVER GROUP OF ARTISTS
BRIELLE PUBLIC LIBRARY SHOW AND SALE 2025

ENTRY FORM

SHOW DATES: MAY 1st TO JUNE 28th

RECEIVING: (TUE) APRIL 29th 1 – 3 PM
PICK-UP: 3 PM on Reception Day (June 28th)

ARTIST (print).....

SIGNATURE.....

TITLE of ARTWORK.....

MEDIUM.....

PRICE \$.....

PHONE

E-MAIL

UP TO THREE (3) PORTFOLIO WORKS: Reproduction Prints and/or Originals – Maximum Size: 16”x20” – Matted and Wrapped

1. TITLE.....

MEDIUM.....

PRICE \$.....

2. TITLE.....

MEDIUM.....

PRICE \$.....

3. TITLE.....

MEDIUM.....

PRICE \$.....

Meeting Reminder

The Next General Memberr Meeting will be on April 4th. Refreshments at 4PM Business meeting at 4:30. We will welcome Dorrie Rifkin, watercolor artist who will paint an urban landscape as she demonstrates her process from drawing to painting.