



Established
1938

Manasquan River Group of Artists Newsletter

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

February, 2026

www.mrga38.org

Greetings MRGA Members!

I hope you are getting through the snow and ice without too much shoveling, power outages, etc., and can use your “stuck inside” time creatively. I spent my snow days pondering the upcoming events for the MRGA and putting together our calendar for 2026. We have an extensive schedule of art shows, so I hope everyone will have an artistically prolific new year! There are at least twelve shows in the works, in a variety of venues throughout Ocean and Monmouth counties. We’ve started off with 33 paintings at the Point Beach Library and will move into our exciting new “Blossoms & Wings” exhibit in March. At the upcoming meeting on February 6th, we’ll go over our schedule of events.

There are some regional art opportunities which also might be of interest. The Monmouth Museum is accepting submissions through February 13th for their juried show, *A Time Within a Time*, which invites artists to reflect on the many layers of experience that shape our lives. More information can be found at <https://www.monmouthmuseum.org/entries>.

If you live in Monmouth County, you might want to consider entering their Semiquincentennial (that’s 250 years) Art Competition. They are looking for artists to interpret specific historical events that took place in Monmouth County during the Revolutionary War period. The Member News page of this newsletter has more details. The prize amounts are very appropriate and creative - First prize is \$2026, second prize \$1976, and third prize is \$1776!

As for you members south of the Manasquan River, there’s an Ocean County show in September/October, and possibly a Senior show in June. Plus, the MRGA will be having a show at the Ocean County Artists’ Guild in November. Monmouth County’s senior show is usually in August, so I will keep you posted on all of these.

Speaking of that February meeting, we will begin with our usual food and fellowship, followed by our business meeting and then a presentation by Bob Stetz. Bob is an accomplished artist, and longtime member and past president of the MRGA. He will be giving us important advice on the preparation of artwork for exhibition, including varnishes, fixatives, mounting & matting artwork and more.

In other MRGA news, the Trustees have voted to reinstate the MRGA Art Scholarship which will be given to a local graduating HS student. We are looking for a few MRGA members to be on a scholarship committee to develop an application and choose the recipient. The Trustees are also looking for members to assist with art shows, publicity, and hospitality. Please let me or any officer know if you are interested in helping, or if you have any ideas for future events.

I look forward to an enjoyable and fulfilling 2026 with the MRGA!

Sheila

President, Manasquan River Group of Artists

MRGA Executive Board and Committees 2025-2026

PRESIDENT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

Vinnie Nardone.....732.319.1772

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Jackie St. Angel.....732.216.8568

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

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AT-LARGE TRUSTEES

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Beverly Sirianni..... 732.861.7354

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Barbara Calvo..... 732.996.0738

PHOTOGRAPHER

Melinda Saminski.....732.610.8626

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Barbara Calvo..... 732.996.0738

HISTORIAN

Janice Collinson..... .732.528.7179

WEBSITE

Sheila Soyster..... 732.892.7692

PUBLICITY/SOCIAL MEDIA

Claudia Simes..... 732-288-3739

NEWSLETTER

MaryAnn Goodwin.....732.539.4150

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

Member Reminder

Next meeting February 6. Refreshments: 4pm Meeting at 4:30 Bob Stetz will have a demo on proper framing and presentation of artwork for gallery shows

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.

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.

MANASQUAN RIVER GROUP OF ARTISTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2 – March 30

MRGA Winter Art Exhibition

Point Pleasant Beach Library

McLean Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ

Reception – February 28, 11 am – 1 pm

Painting pick-up – March 30 1-3 pm

Friday, February 6 4:00 pm

MRGA General Membership Meeting

Curtis House, Brielle

“Preparing Your Art for Exhibition from Creating to Hanging”

Presentation by Bob Stetz

Friday, March 6 4:00 pm

MRGA General Membership Meeting

Curtis House, Brielle

“Simple Wax Encaustic for Everyone”

Presentation by Vinnie Nardone

March 7 – April 30

“Blossoms & Wings: A Spring Reverie” Art Exhibition

Monmouth County Library Eastern Branch




Route 35, Shrewsbury

Receiving: Saturday, March 7 9:30 – 11 am

Reception: Thursday, April 30 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Pick up: April 30 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Member News



Nature's Coastal Palette
A Journey through Land and Sea

January 28 - March 16, 2026
Reception: January 28, 6 - 8 PM
The Upper Gallery - The Spring Lake Community Theatre

If 2026 rolled in and you are among the many who didn't pay your MRGA dues, don't despair! You can bring your \$40 check to the February 6th meeting, or you can mail it to:

MRGA
PO Box 614
Manasquan, NJ 08736

Calling all Monmouth County Artists! The 250th Anniversary of the United States of America is coming in 2026. America's Semi quincentennial will be celebrated across the nation and in the County of Monmouth, New Jersey. To highlight Monmouth County's role in the American Revolution and to showcase the talent and creativity of Monmouth County residents, the MonmouthNJ 250 Committee is hosting an art competition for professional and non-professional artists. Deadline for Submissions- April 3rd



Click on this link for details! [Monmouth County Art Competition](#)

ART CLASSES

Sponsored by:
The Manasquan River Group of Artists

Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00 pm
At the Sea Girt Lighthouse



2025

December 2 & 9 – Karen Wachter – watercolor 732-202-8417
16 – Janice Collinson – watercolor 732-528-7179

2026

January 6 - Janice Collinson – watercolor 732-528-7179
13 & 20 – Bev Sirianni – watercolor 732-774-0014
27 – Arlene Newman – watercolor 732-682-3397

February 3 - Arlene Newman – watercolor 732-682-3397
10 & 17 – Melinda Saminski – pastel 732-610-8626
24 – Tamara Woronczuk – collage 732-998-8286

March 3 - Tamara Woronczuk – collage 732-998-8286
10 & 17 – Leona Lavone – watercolor 732-914-9941
24 – Barbara Calvo – pastel 732-996-0738

April 14 & 21 – Carol Ann Oporto – pastel pet portraits 732-504-7217
28 - Debbie Herbster – watercolor 908-380-7580

May 5 - Debbie Herbster – watercolor 908-380-7580
12 – End of Year Class

Instructed Classes - \$6.00

Catch-up Classes - \$3.00

Please call instructor before attending class for necessary information.

Any other information, please call Mona Kirk – 732-223-2569



In Loving Memory of
Irene Walker

1925 – 2025

Irene was a treasured member of the Manasquan River Group of Artists. She will be remembered for her inspirational art classes as well as her beautiful watercolors and photography.

Irene's obituary can be found here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/jYJSr7AssZ4AYXN38>

BLOSSOMS & WINGS: A SPRING REVERIE

SHOW DATES MARCH 7 - APRIL 30

**NEW
MRGA SHOW!**

original images of
florals
and/or birds
to welcome spring

Monmouth County Library
Eastern Branch Rt. 35
Shrewsbury, NJ

More exciting details to follow!

Show Director is Elizabeth Grimaldi at elizagrim1@gmail.com

show is open to MRGA members only

PROSPECTUS

Manasquan River Group of Artists' Art Show and Sale "Blossoms and Wings: A Spring Reverie"

March 7 - April 30, 2026

Monmouth County Library Eastern Branch, 1001 Rt. 35, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

(This Prospectus and Entry Form are also available at www.mrga38.org)

IMPORTANT DATES

Entry Form and Payment due: by March 6th (at the monthly meeting at the Curtis House) or mail the form before March 6, to Elizabeth Grimaldi, 43 Winchester Drive, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

Receiving: March 7, (Saturday) 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Reception and "Artist Meet and Greet" with the public: April 30, (Thursday) 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Pick up: April 30, 3:00 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Eligible Work: This is a themed show. Works must represent a floral, botanical subject, bird or local landscape with florals in view*

For this show, your title should include:

Birds: The name(s) of the bird species (if can be determined)

Flowers: The name of the flower

Landscape: A specific reference to a florals in view and the location in Monmouth/Ocean County

Open only to members of MRGA. Entries are limited to the first 40 artists registered. The show director reserves the right to refuse artwork that it deems inappropriate or does not conform to the criteria.

Entry Rules: Artwork must be for sale and remain on display for the duration of the exhibit. An artist will be notified of a potential buyer. It is the artist's responsibility to manage the sale and to forward a 20% commission to the library. Sales tax remittance is the responsibility of the artist.

Criteria: Original work only. No reproductions. Art must be properly framed, wired and ready to hang. No sawtooth hangers. No works larger than 24"x 30", including frame. No photography, sculpture, or digital art.

*By entering the show, artists agree that their name, likeness and image of their work may be used for publicity purposes. Artists are encouraged to insure their works, as the MRGA are not responsible for damage or loss of artwork during the Exhibit.

There is no submission fee associated with this exhibit.

Show Director: Elizabeth Grimaldi, at elizagrim1@gmail.com or text my cell at 732-718-0379

ENTRY FORM

Manasquan River Group of Artists' Invitational Art Show and Sale
March 7 - April 30, 2026 • Middletown Arts Center

This completed Entry Form is due March 6, 2026. No cash or credit cards will be accepted. Please make your check payable to MRGA.

Mail to: Elizabeth Grimaldi, 43 Winchester Drive, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724 Check No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Entry Title _____

Medium _____ Size, including frame _____

Price \$ _____

Your entry into this exhibit constitutes an agreement with the following terms and conditions.
LIABILITY: MRGA Officers, Trustees and Members are not responsible for loss or damage of submitted artwork however caused.

MEDIA RELEASE: MRGA may use my name and likeness and/or images of my art for publicity purposes.

Name (print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____



Attach this form to the back of your art.

Title _____

Medium _____

Price _____

Artist _____

Art Organization () MRGA () ASMC

MANASQUAN RIVER GROUP OF ARTISTS
POINT PLEASANT BEACH LIBRARY
ART EXHIBIT

January – March 2026

Public Reception – Feb 28 11-1 pm

