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# Manasquan River Group of Artists Newsletter

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

January, 2026

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

President's Message

January 2026

Dear MRGA Members,

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday and are looking forward to a happy, healthy and creatively fulfilling 2026. Reflecting on 2025, the MRGA had a great year, filled with informative presentations, engaging workshops and classes, lively social events, inspiring exhibitions and the addition of several marvelous new members.

We're excited to share that plans for 2026 are well underway! Expect a full calendar of shows, classes, meetings, workshops and maybe even a trip. We'll present these ideas at our February meeting.

But first – please note - there is no meeting in January! Our next meeting is on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 4 pm at The Curtis House. We'll begin with refreshments and our business meeting, followed by a special presentation by MRGA member Bob Stetz: "*Preparing your Art for Exhibition from Creating to Hanging*". Bob will share his expertise on additives, surface preparation, varnishes, fixatives and mounting artwork.

The Point Pleasant Beach Library Winter Exhibit opens on January 2<sup>nd</sup>! Painting drop-off is from 10 am to 12 noon. Twenty-four members have signed up – there's room for six more! An application form is included in this newsletter, which can be brought in with your check and painting. Please send a message to [mrga38cal@gmail.com](mailto:mrga38cal@gmail.com) to reserve your spot. Mark your calendar for our reception at the library – Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am to 1 pm.

While you have your checkbook handy, why not pay your 2026 dues? You can bring your \$40 check to the painting drop-off at the library, or mail it to MRGA, PO Box 614, Manasquan, NJ 08736.

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, don't forget to pick up your artwork from the Wall Library, between 11 and 12 noon. Please contact Donna Ferris (732-995-5491) if you have any questions or concerns.

In other news, our "Stars for Charity" project was very successful, with the MRGA providing 98 beautiful hand-decorated stars which were auctioned off in December. We are awaiting the final tally but are hoping to surpass last year's record of providing 90,000 meals for those in need.

As we celebrate the MRGA's 88<sup>th</sup> year, we welcome your ideas for new programs, exhibits and activities – and your help in making them happen! Please reach out to me or any Trustee with your suggestions. Thanks!

*May the New Year be a blank canvas for you to paint your dreams, and may each day hold a promise of new beginnings. Happy New Year!*

*Sheila*

Sheila Soyster

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*

### **RECORDING SECRETARY**

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

### **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

*Susanna Anastasia.....732.449.9287*

### **TREASURER**

*Laura Lutz.....732.371.6284*

### **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**

*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 Reminders

**No January meeting - next meeting February 6**

### **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.

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.

# 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

Delivery of Paintings – Friday, January 2, 10 am – 12 noon

Reception – February 28, 11 am – 1 pm

Painting pick-up – March 30 1-3 pm

**October 31 – January 8**

### **Wall Township Library Show**

2700 Allaire Road, Wall Township

Painting pick-up January 8 11-12 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

# Member News

Two of our MRGA members, **Carol Colvin** and **Tom Nulton**, are teaching classes at the Ocean County Artists Guild, beginning in January!

## OCEAN COUNTY ARTISTS GUILD

22 Chestnut Avenue  
Island Heights, NJ  
732-270-3111

[info@ocartistsguild.org](mailto:info@ocartistsguild.org)



Ocean County Artists Guild is excited to offer a new Teen Art Class, led by **Carol Colvin**, beginning **Monday, January 5**, from **3:30–5:30 PM**.

Designed for teens who love making art but want more guidance, this class encourages creativity while building strong foundational skills. From saucers to superheroes, students choose their own subject matter, working from personal photo references or images provided by the instructor.

Teens will explore the principles of design, composition, and value using traditional materials, such as drawing pencils, watercolor, acrylic, pastel, or mixed media. The class welcomes experimentation and supports both developing and beginner artists. Students should bring their own materials and creativity. Beginner artists are encouraged to bring a 10" x 12" sketch pad, drawing pencils, and a kneaded eraser. To help tailor instruction, students are asked to bring a few examples of their artwork during the first sessions so learning goals can be discussed.

### Class Details:

Mondays • January 5 start • 8 weeks      3:30–5:30 PM  
\$ \$200 | \$160 with Teen Membership

## THE STORY OF ARCHITECTURE

Materials, Methods and Masterpieces

SATURDAYS, January 10, 17, & 24      12:30 – 2:30



**JOIN ARCHITECT TOM NULTON AND EXPLORE** how humans have shaped their world through architecture, from primitive shelters to modern marvels. In this engaging lecture series, students will journey through time, learning about the materials, techniques and cultural influences behind the structures of each era. Discover how architecture reflects the values, needs and technologies of its time.

*No Drawing or Design experience needed, just curiosity and a love of history.*

**Ages 16 & up**

**MEMBERS \$115**

**NON-MEMBERS \$125**

# 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**

# MRGA Holiday Party

A great time was had by all!

December 2025



# Happy Holidays!

From the Manasquan River Group of Artists



Pam Fisezi



Arlene Newman



Nancy Robinson



John Troisi



Sheila Soyster



Laura Lutz



Linda Hejduk



MaryAnn Goodwin

# MRGA Point Pleasant Beach Library Winter Art Exhibit

## January – February – March 2026

*Delivery of paintings – Friday, January 2nd, 10am - 12 noon*  
*Reception –Saturday, February 28th 11 am - 1 pm*  
*Pick up of Paintings – Monday, March 30th, 1 - 3 pm*



- ENTRY FEE \$15 – Check only, payable to MRGA Please send check and entry form to **Sheila Soyster, 53 Serpentine Road, Brick, NJ 08724** or bring to December meeting.
- ONE FRAMED ORIGINAL WORK - No larger than 24 x 36”
- NO PORTFOLIO PIECES
- WORK CREATED WITHIN THE LAST 5 YEARS
- PREVIOUS MRGA AWARD PIECES NOT ELIGIBLE
- ALL EXHIBITED & SOLD ARTWORK MUST STAY FOR THE DURATION OF THE SHOW
- SHOW LOCATION: Point Pleasant Beach Library, 710 McLean Avenue, Pt. Pleasant Beach
- PUBLICITY: Local newspapers, MRGA Newsletter, Facebook Page & Website
- JUDGING: People’s Choice Award & Recognition of Artistic Excellence

**Questions?** Call show Coordinator - Sheila Soyster– 732-674-2038 [sheila624@comcast.net](mailto:sheila624@comcast.net)

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### MRGA ENTRY FORM - POINT PLEASANT BEACH LIBRARY WINTER SHOW

ARTIST \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF ARTWORK \_\_\_\_\_

MEDIUM \_\_\_\_\_ PRICE \_\_\_\_\_

*LIABILITY: MRGA Officers, Trustees and Members are not responsible for loss of damage of submitted artwork, however caused. Entry into this exhibit constitutes an agreement with these terms and conditions.*

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_