

# Garden State Watercolor Society Newsletter

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## Garden State Watercolor Society Newsletter

Diana Wilkoc Patton 497 Stony Brook Drive Bridgewater, NJ 08807

### Message from the President

For me, this past year was like a quick moving storm, swooping through one event after the other. But, unlike a storm, which often creates damage in its path, the result of the fast moving action and implementation necessary in keeping this organization moving forward, was a positive period of growth not only for myself, but for GSWS as a whole. The responsibilities and challenges of being President of an organization such as this are numerous and ongoing and the tasks continual. I am very thankful to have such a wonderful and dedicated team working with me for the benefit of the general membership and the future of the Society.

The Garden State Watercolor Society offers to its members three exhibitions each year, providing opportunities to exhibit and compete for awards, educational demonstrations, workshops and an art show and sale. This is not an easy feat and could not be possible without the willingness of our artist members who volunteer their time, organizing exhibitions, chairing committees, and doing whatever needs to be done. Unfortunately, we do not always have enough of these giving individuals and the responsibility falls on a very small group of serious, caring and dedicated people, who I know you have witnessed, working over and over again at our various events.



This brings me to Margo Froehlich, Hyatt Art Sale Chairperson. For the past eleven years, Margo has brilliantly organized the GSWS & Eden Services Hyatt Art Show & Sale and is now stepping down. We can't thank Margo enough for her dedication and wish her the best in her future endeavors. This beautiful event will be placed on hold until someone is willing to take over the responsibility. Please make sure to read the inside article and contact me if you are interested.

GSWS is proud to announce that we have two new additions to our Board, who have been regular GSWS volunteers over the years and are now chairing two very important committees. We welcome and thank Carolyn Peterson, our new Membership Chair and Karen Bannister, who is heading up the much-needed new position of Hospitality Chair. Also, many thanks to our 2004 ongoing Officers and Standing Committee Chairpersons: Carole Bleistein, 1st Vice-President, Jennifer Cadoff, 2nd Vice-President, Connie Gray, Treasurer, Lucy Graves McVicker, Recording Secretary, Livi Glaubitz, Corresponding Secretary, Marge Chavooshian, Historian, Diana Wilkoc Patton, Newsletter, Jack Hand, Data Base, Annette Novoa, Publicity, Joan McKinney, Fall Workshop and Robyn

*continued on page 2*

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Website

[www.geocities.com/gardenstatewatercolorsociety](http://www.geocities.com/gardenstatewatercolorsociety)

Past Presidents

Dagmar Tribble, Founder 1970-1989; Mary LaForge  
1990-1994; Elizabeth Lombardi 1995-1996; Rae Hendershott  
1997-1997; Elizabeth Roedell 1999-2000; Deborah Paglione 2001-2002

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; and the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission through funding by the Mercer County Executive and Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

## Message from the President *continued*

Rosenbaum, Website. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to my fellow co-workers who surprised me with a beautiful portfolio and an exquisitely hand painted card by Lucy Graves McVicker at the end of my first term, which was presented to me by Carole Bleistein at the Associate Show reception. Thank you, everyone!

Now in our 35th Anniversary Year, GSWS has a very exciting schedule of future events for you, our membership. Don't just sit back and wait for your prospectus to arrive. Get involved! Contribute! Make a difference! And, meet a lot of wonderful and talented people in the process, as I have. The experience will be invaluable.

Happy New Year to all, thanks to our founder, Dagmar Tribble and Happy Anniversary, GSWS!

**Barbara March, President**

## Membership Reminders

The GWSW membership year begins on January 1st and runs through December 31st. Current paid up members for the year receive a membership renewal letter in October requesting that dues be paid by January 1st and no later than January 15th, in order to be included in our Membership Roster. This allows members over two months to pay dues and be included in the roster. If you do not receive our renewal letter, please let us know, so we can get another one out to you. Also, typographical errors occur from time to time and we apologize for that, but we can only print in the roster what is clearly written on your application form.

New Associate Members may join GSWS any time during the year. However, if a new Associate joins during our Open Juried Show or the Associate Show in the fall only, their membership will be considered paid through the following year as well.

As of January, 2004 there will be an increase in our membership dues to \$35. per year.

Please direct any questions involving membership to Carole Bleistein, Membership Chair and 2nd Vice-President at 609/882-1168, or E-mail [CGBlei@aol.com](mailto:CGBlei@aol.com).

# GSWS Welcomes New Full Members

As a result of our Thirty-Fourth Annual Open Juried Exhibition, we have seven new Full Members. The following artists were accepted into three Annual Open Juried Exhibitions in a seven-year period: Susanna Anastasia, Mark de Mos, Connie Gray, Joyce McAfee, Dallas Piotrowski, Virginia Swanagan, and Gail White. If you don't already know these artists, the following paragraphs, written by the artists, will introduce them to you all.

SUSANNA ANASTASIA is a native of NJ, presently residing in Monmouth County.



Susanna jumped feet first into the professional arena of watercolor 25 years ago. Accomplishments and awards followed: a

Grumbacher Gold Medal, the NJWCS's Award for Best Design, the American Artists' Professional League's National Award, and her recent inclusion in WHO'S WHO IN AMERICAN ART 2001 edition.

Susanna's pride in her state and local communities is depicted in her paintings. She was honored to receive an Award of Recognition, presented by the NJ Senate and Assembly on the floor of the State House in Trenton. Susanna was later commissioned on behalf of the former Governor Christine Todd Whitman's husband, John, to paint a portrait of the Governor's mansion in Island Beach State Park.

Along with solo and gallery exhibits, Susanna has given radio and newspaper interviews and painted on "Live Cable" television. She served as president of two art association boards, is an Art Foundation member, and held several art committee and board positions. Susanna teaches daily, conducts workshops, performs demonstrations, lectures, and critiques.

There have been so many wonderful adventures and rewards, Susanna certainly does not regret taking the plunge!

CONNIE GRAY says, "I joined the Garden State Watercolor Society eight years ago. It is with great joy that I have become a Full Member. To be included in such a prestigious organization is very gratifying.

My first watercolor painting lesson was twelve years ago. Since then, I have branched out into acrylic, oil, and mixed media. With a love for brilliant color and abstract design, watercolor remains my favorite medium. I have no formal training but have studied with very talented local painters including Lucy McVicker (my mentor) and Diana Patton. My work can be seen at Gallery ONE Main in High Bridge, NJ and at Hills Gallery in Princeton, NJ."

Recently one of Connie's works was one of only 75 chosen out of 1,200 for the Pen & Brush East Coast Non-member Juried Show in New York City. At the Open Juried Show of TAWA at Ellarslie in September, Connie received the Curator's Award. She recently had a one-woman show at ORPHA'S Coffee House. (see Membership News)

JOYCE McAFEE took drawing classes at the Philadelphia College of Art and Cinnaminson Art Workshops, as well as classes at the Center for the Arts in S. New Jersey, including Printing without a Press, but mostly Joyce is self-taught.

Joyce paints in watercolor and acrylic mediums, working on miniature and standard size paintings. She exhibits at



galleries and exhibit areas in the Delaware area, including the group "Hanging Together" (fine and historic art), "A Perfect Mix" (experimental art),

and her own business at the Olde Columbus Inne. As well as private collectors, Burlington County purchased four of her works for their Permanent Collection.

As well as the GSWS, Joyce is a member of the Burlington County Art Guild (past President), the Willingboro Art Alliance, and the Center for the Arts in Southern New Jersey. Some of her many awards include First in Watercolor - Jane Law Miniature Show in Surf City, NJ, First Watercolor 1998 Center for the Arts in Marlton, Best of Show in both the Chatsworth Cranberry Festival Art Show and in BCAG, Robert Ransley Memorial Exhibit 203. Joyce has also been awarded the Grumbacher Merit Award at one of the Robert Ransley Memorial Exhibits, held at the Smithville Mansion, Mt. Holly, NJ.

DALLAS PIOTROWSKI's main focus for the last 25 years has been painting our vanishing wildlife and the beauty of nature. Her true love is nature, although she does veer to other subjects occasionally.



Having worked in all mediums, at one time Dallas painted only in watercolors as a respite from acrylics. Now, she paints large

acrylics on canvas only as a respite from watercolors!

Having taken only one course in watercolor, Dallas is basically self-taught, although artist-teachers who have influenced her the most are Mel Leipzig, Elizabeth Ruggles, and Hiroshi Murata.

Dallas has had 21 solo exhibitions and has been accepted into hundreds of juried competitions.

Her paintings can be found in numerous corporations, museums, and private collections. In 2002 she was named by the national magazine WATERCOLOR MAGIC as a "rising star". In August 2003, that magazine did a six page feature story on her work. Dallas has three major exhibitions upcoming. Two will be in 2002, one at the Trenton City Museum and one at the Perkins Art Center in Moorestown. The third will be held at Princeton Theological Seminary in 2005. Dallas is very pleased to become a Full Member of GSWS.

VIRGINIA SWANAGAN says, "After graduating from Denison University with a major in art and a minor in theater, I continued for several years to paint scenery for summer theater. Later, during the years of child rearing, there were the pleasurable volunteer joys of



graphics for community groups, work at the local library which also included graphics, and china painting of house portraits.

Finally, the best stage came when taking watercolor lessons from Lucille Geiser, which in turn led to joining the group "Watercolorists Unlimited". I feel so fortunate to be able to celebrate the scenery and seasons of

## GSWS at Manex Groundbreaking

On November 22, Barbara March and Carol Bleistein set up a great booth for Garden State Watercolor Society for the ground-breaking of Manex in Trenton. It was your editor's pleasure to be there for this momentous occasion. Manex is a huge company who will have headquarters in Trenton,



Governor McGreevy

bringing new and creative jobs to New Jersey. Manex did the visual effects for such movies as THE MATRIX, CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON, and MISSION IMPOSSIBLE II. Governor McGreevy attended the opening and spoke, as did the CEO and others from Manex.

In the spring they will be rebuilding or redesigning the interiors of five existing warehouse buildings, on seven acres of Trenton, and two new buildings will be erected. Eventually development and production work will be done on location, the wondrous animation and computer effects we have come to

expect in the newest action and sci-fi movies. Creativity will abound!



Carole Bleistein, Barbara March, Santa Claus & Diana Patton

## Garden State Watercolor Society & Eden Hyatt Show 2003

by Jennifer Cadoff

The 10th Annual Art Show and Sale was held on Sunday, July 20, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency Princeton. One hundred GSWS artists, both full and associate members, signed up to participate in this fund-raiser that benefits both GSWS and the event's co-sponsor, the Eden Family of Services, which is a local non-profit organization dedicated to autism.

Close to 1000 pieces of beautiful artwork were checked in by the cheerful and efficient members who got up very early on a Sunday morning to get this much-anticipated event off to a rousing start.

As the day rolled along, we had 155 walk-in art lovers, who each paid a



Jennifer Cadoff, Margo Froelich & Barbara March

\$5.00 donation at the ballroom door for the opportunity to browse through our stunning collection of original artwork. We are extremely grateful to the dozens of GSWS member volunteers who manned the GSWS information table and the art-sales table, collected the entrance fees, greeted art lovers at the doors with a friendly smile, checked that buyers took the proper pieces, and kept all of the artwork enticingly arranged and displayed in the ballroom and on the easels in the foyer. We could not hope to hold such a complicated and ambitious event without the help of every single one of them. Our thanks go, too, to Daria Caldwell of Eden Family of Services, who had a cheerful and hardworking crew on hand to process payments. We are also grateful to the Hyatt Regency Princeton, which generously donated the use of their beautiful ballroom, and provided food and drink throughout the day for both the

volunteers and the art lovers who visited the sale.

By 4:00 PM closing time, we had sold a total of 140 pieces of art – 68 framed paintings and 72 unframed works. Fifty-four of our artist members sold at least one piece. Daria Caldwell was very quick to get checks out to each of them, and we know the artists appreciated her efficiency!

But our biggest thanks are reserved for the tireless and awesomely organized Margo Froelich, who has, for the past 11 years (even before Eden was our co-host) coordinated this terrific event. Sadly for us, this was Margo's last year as Chairperson of the Hyatt Art Sale Committee and possibly the last year for this magnificent event. We can't thank her enough for her many years of incredible generosity and hard work on behalf of GSWS and the Eden Family of Services. In appreciation of her dedication the GSWS Board of Directors presented Margo with a beautifully engraved Orrefors crystal bowl and unanimously made her an Honorary Member of the Society.

If anyone is interested in volunteering their time, contributing to our organization and taking over this wonderful event, please contact Barbara March, President at (856) 596-7747 or E-mail [BJM1001@aol.com](mailto:BJM1001@aol.com).

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# A Beautiful Success---Our Open Juried Show

By Barbara March

The Garden State Watercolor Society Thirty-Fourth Annual Open Juried Exhibition was held at Montgomery Center for the Arts at the 1860 House from October 3rd through November 2nd, 2003 with our opening reception and award ceremony on October 18th. We extend our thanks and appreciation to the Montgomery Center for hosting our exhibit and to Nancy Coffee, Program Director. The show was open to GSWS Full and Associate Members and non-members residing in the State of New Jersey and represented a wide range of participants. Jurors, Domenic DiStefano, AWS, DE, and Siv Spurgeon, NWS, selected sixty-one dazzling and diverse paintings out of one hundred and fifty-eight submissions and had the difficult task of selecting sixteen award winning paintings, totally over \$8,000

dollars in prize money. We thank them for their artistic insight and judgment.

A show of this magnitude does not happen without the help of our hard working and dedicated volunteers. A very special thanks to our Board of Directors, Standing Committee Chairpersons and our exhibition committee and receiving volunteers, Jennifer Cadoff, Carole Bleistein, Livy Glaubitz, Lucy McVicker, Connie Gray, Joan McKinney, Ed Baumlin, Karen Bannister, Joe Knuth, Judi Gilden, Annette Novoa and Chuck & Eileen Person. Also, thanks to Karen Bannister and our hospitality team of volunteers for setting up a beautiful and delicious reception table and to our artist members who volunteered to "gallery sit", including Lucy & Charles

McVicker, Connie Gray, Barbara Cox, and Lyn Kuo. We can't thank you enough.

During the exhibit, GSWS presented two watercolor demonstrations and a gallery walk, which were open to the public. Irvine Spracklin conducted a demonstration on Yupo paper to a standing room only crowd of interested artists and James Toogood led us through the landscapes of Bermuda with his inimitable style. Charles McVicker very eloquently discussed the various painting techniques and the thoughts behind the paintings in his gallery walk, which was enjoyed by all.

A very special thanks to our Benefactors, Sponsors, Patrons, Memorial Contributors and In-Kind Donors, who over the years have continued to support Garden State Watercolor Society with their very generous donations.

We commend all artists who participated and congratulate all that were accepted and honored with award recognition. Also congratulations to Beverly Golembeski, Sandra Jones, and Virginia Swanagan on the sale of their paintings. We look forward to your participation in our Thirty-Fifth Anniversary Open Juried Exhibition later this year!

\$3000.	Nummie Warga Memorial Award .....	Charles McVicker
\$1,000.	Dagmar H. Tribble Memorial Award .....	Beverly L. Golembeski
\$1,000.	A Friend's Award-Dorothy & Charles Plohn, Jr. ....	James Toogood
\$860.	Crimson Atelier, Inc. Award-Gift Certificate .....	Sheila Grodsky
\$600.	Garden State Watercolor Society Award .....	Ann H. Michels
\$500.	Cotswold Industries Award .....	Robert Sakson
\$400.	President's Award .....	Angela Barbalace
\$380.	American Frame Corporation Award .....	Thomas E. Rutledge
\$300.	Ken McCann Memorial Award .....	Wayne Skyler
\$200.	Triangle Art Center Award-Gift Certificate .....	Barbara March
\$100.	N.J. Chapter-American Artist Professional League Award .....	Walter Bill
\$100.	B. Bud Chavooshian Memorial Award .....	Tony Ventura
\$100.	Reed House Gallery Award-Gift Certificate .....	Alice Skidmore Culbreth
\$100.	Cheap Joe's Art Stuff Award-Gift Certificate .....	Sherry Pinck
\$100.	Cranbury Station Art Gallery Award-Gift Certificate .....	Joan LePore
	One Person Show at Johnson and Johnson .....	Betty Stroppel



Ann Michels GSWS Award, Jennifer Cadoff.



Barbara March Triangle Art Center Award.



34th Annual Award Presentation - Jennifer Cadoff, Barbara March, & Carole Bleistein.

# Photos Of A Beautiful Success



*Award winners group photo: Charles McVicker, Tom Rutledge, Alice Skidmore Culbreth, Angela Barbalace, Beverly Golembeski, Robert Sakson, Barbara March, Ann Michels, Joan Lepore, James Toogood.*



*Charles McVicker gallery walk.*



*Robert Sakson - Cotswold Industries Award.*



*Irvane Spracklin "Experiments with yupo paper" demo.*



*James Toogood "Bermudian Landscapes" demo.*



*Angela Barbalace President's Award.*



*Betty Stroppel - One person show, Johnson & Johnson.*

# Photos Of A Beautiful Success *continued*



*Charles McVicker  
Nummie Warga Memorial Award.*



*Beverly Golebeski  
Dagmar H. Tribble Memorial Award.*



*James Toogood  
"A Friend's Award" - Dorothy & Charles Plohn.*



*Walter Bill  
New Jersey Chapter The American Artist  
Professional League Award.*

# Seventh Annual Associate Member Juried Exhibition 2003

The Garden State Watercolor Society was very proud to present the works of our very talented Associate Members in our Seventh Annual Associate Member Juried Exhibition at Capital Health System at Mercer, Trenton, New Jersey from November 24, 2003 through January 2, 2004. The exhibit graced the hospital hallways in all its glory, attracting hundreds of hospital visitors and employees.

Thirty-eight pieces were selected for the show by jurors Sandy Mezinis and Joan McKinney, both accomplished and major award winning artists and Full Members of GSWS. Sandy and Joan also awarded seven prizes to our Associate Member Artists, totaling \$550. First Place, and \$200, was awarded to Amal Shihabi. Second Place, and \$150, to Michalyn Tarantino. Third Place, and \$100, to Connie Schlosser. There were also four Honorable Mention Award gift certificates of \$25 each, which were sponsored by Triangle Art Center in Lawrenceville and were presented to Darlene Bates, Joanne Bodner, Jason Bladzinski, and Lisa Walsh.

Due to blizzard-like conditions on December 6th, the original reception date and award ceremony was

rescheduled for Tuesday, December 16th from 4-6 PM, which was thoroughly enjoyed by a number of artist members and friends.

An exhibit such as this would not be possible without the dedication of our hard working and diligent volunteer staff. Chairing the exhibit this year with President, Barbara March, we thank Vice Presidents, Jennifer Cadoff and Carole Bleistein. We send a big thank you to Karen Bannister, GSWS's new Hospitality Chair, who along with Alice Warsaw planned and set up an array of delicious food and drink for everyone to enjoy while they perused the artwork and caught up with friends. We also wish to thank our receiving day volunteers, Karen Bannister, Carole Bleistein, Connie Gray, Livy Glabitz, Jennifer Cadoff, Joe Knuth and Barbara March.

We are especially grateful to Nancy Schlitter, Director of Volunteer Services and Mary Helen Wiley, Exhibition Committee, at Capital Health System and their friendly and efficient staff for all their help in hosting, coordinating and hanging this outstanding exhibit. We would like to extend a special thanks to Triangle Art Center, Lawrenceville and Joseph Teti, CEO &

President and Shaun Kiernan, Merchandise Manager for their continual support of the Garden State Watercolor Society.

We congratulate all of the participating exhibitors and the award winners and look forward to continuing the tradition of giving our very talented Associate Members the opportunity to exhibit their work and compete for awards in our very fine organization.



*Associate Show: Jason Bladzinski - Honorable Mention. & Barbara March, President*



*Gift of Appreciation from board to Barbara March, presented by Carole Bleistein.*



*Associate Show: Amal Shihabi - First Place*



*Associate Show: Michalyn Tarantino - Second Place*



*Associate Show Hospitality: Karen Bannister & Alice Warsaw.*



*Associate Show: Jason Bladzinski, Michalyn Tarantino, Lisa Agnes Walsh, Darlene Bates, Amal Shihabi, Barbara March & Carole Bleistein.*



*Associate Show Capital Health: Mary Helen Wiley, Nancy Schlitter, Barbara March & Carole Bleistein.*



# GSWS Fall Workshop With George James, AWS, DF, NWS "Best Workshop Ever!"

By Barbara March

The Garden State Watercolor Society was honored to present a four day workshop with George James, AWS, DF, NWS at Montgomery Center for the Arts at the 1860 House from October 9th through the 12th. This insightful and exciting workshop continues to be discussed by all who participated, including myself. George gave us an amazing tour of his unique technique with the use of Yupo paper. Both traditional and abstract artists participated in this workshop and the results were phenomenal! Aside from being highly skilled in his field, George is an extremely warm and personable individual, which made the experience even more enjoyable. If anyone is interested in learning more about George James or purchasing his video, you may contact him through [georgejameswatercolor.com](http://georgejameswatercolor.com)

I would like to thank Joan McKinney, Fall Workshop Chair, for her efficient implementation, planning, and donations, which resulted in one of GSWS's best workshops ever! Also thanks to Lucy McVicker for her input and assistance, Roberta Carter Clark for her "goodies" and Joe Knuth for setting up and breaking down. We look forward to what Joan has in store for us this coming fall!



*Mr. & Mrs. George James and Lucy Graves McVicker.*



*Joan McKinney, Workshop Chair, George James, AWS, DF, NWS., & Barbara March, President*



*George James workshop group critique.*

## Mark your calendars, please! Future Garden State Watercolor Society Events

Members' Exhibition 2004 : June 7th—July 16th at the Capital Health System at Mercer, Trenton

35th Annual Juried Exhibition: Aug. 22nd—Sept. 26th at the Montgomery Center for the Arts at the 1860 House in Skillman (a special show in celebration of GSWS's 35th Anniversary)

Fall Workshop: Date and demonstrator to be announced

8th Annual Associate Member Juried Exhibition: date to be announced (October). Place: Triangle Art Center Gallery in Lawrenceville

Deadline for June/July Newsletter is May 15th

## Special One-Time Sale! Almost-New Art Holders!

Tired of storing your artwork in untidy piles all over your studio? Wish your work could be displayed in professional-quality flip-bins — at your home, or in your studio, or at art sales, shows or other events?

We've got just what you need! Sturdy, good-looking art stands that are, quite literally, like new. They were used

for one day at the Hyatt Art Sale this past summer. Two sizes. Large is 38 x 25 x 32, and designed to hold 32 x 40 unframed/matted paintings. The smaller ones are 26 x 26 x 41, and hold paintings up to 26 x 32 in size. The small size folds flat for storage. Color: black.

Price: \$125 for the big ones, \$100

for the small ones. (They list at Triangle for around \$200.)

We only have a few: four (4) large holders and six (6) smaller ones. They are stored at the Princeton home of Hyatt Co-Chair and Second Vice-President Jennifer Cadoff. For more information, call her at 609-497-0635. Email: [cadoff@aol.com](mailto:cadoff@aol.com). Don't delay!

## Online Gallery Goes National

Last July Associate Member Russ Johnson launched The New American Gallery, an online showcase for the work of contemporary American artists. The Gallery's first juried show, Watercolors from the Garden State, was highly successful thanks mainly to submissions by GSWS members. Since then the Gallery has become one of the most visible art galleries on the Internet, and its current exhibition — a national juried watercolor show with a top prize of \$1,000 — attracted outstanding work from artists throughout the country.

The New American Gallery strives to distinguish itself from most other Internet art destinations by maintaining an ad-free, commission-free format and by showing only award-winning work. "Most other public Internet galleries fall into one of two categories: they overwhelm you with ads, or they show anyone's work in return for a membership fee. Either way, they also generally collect a commission from artists whose work is sold as a result of the online show. With The New American Gallery, none of this is true."

Russ plans to run three juried shows each year and believes that the entry fees for those events will eventually underwrite the Gallery's annual operating costs. In between juried shows, he'll be

running Invitational Exhibitions at the Gallery's expense. From mid-September through mid-December, for example, Russ hosted solo shows by four New Jersey artists, including GSWS members Tony Ventura, Barbara March, and Beth Alyse Kantor [who, by the way, finished first, second, and third, respectively, in the Gallery's first juried show]. "While it's true that running an online gallery is less expensive than creating a walk-in gallery and hiring a staff," he says, "the expenses are still significant. The prize money alone is \$1,750 for a national show, for example. To that you need to add the cost of things like the NewAm medals, advertising and press releases, web design, and photographic services, since every slide we receive needs to be scanned for Internet use. Doing a show properly is expensive," he adds, "but I don't think that doing it sloppily will get this Gallery where it wants to go."

Although Russ doesn't expect the Gallery to break even during its first few years of operation, he's encouraged by the early progress. "Now that we've run several shows," he says, "more artists are overcoming their fear of participating in an online competition, and I believe that the Internet will increasingly become a comfortable place for talented artists." Russ is hoping, of course, that The New American Gallery will increasingly be

viewed as one of the leading art-related sites on the Internet. He already has high hopes for a May, 2004, national 2D-media show that he recently announced. The juror for that exhibition will be Amy Ellis, Curator of The Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme, CT. "We're talking about one of America's premier art museums, and without question having someone of Amy Ellis's caliber serve as juror is an important step in the Gallery's development."

But the most important step of all, he says, was the response that he got from GSWS members back in July. "Sometimes you don't get a second chance if you blow the first one," he says. "As far as I'm concerned, anything good that happens to The New American Gallery in the future must be traced back to the first juried show and the outstanding participation of GSWS members. I'm especially grateful to Barbara March, whose experience in running juried shows and willingness to share advice were critical to the success of Watercolors from the Garden State."

If you haven't visited the new online gallery, the web address is [www.newamgallery.com](http://www.newamgallery.com). The national watercolor show runs through Feb. 17th, 2004, and will be followed by a round of Spring Invitational Exhibitions.

## In Memoriam

Full Member Dorothy Wells Bissell passed away several months ago, since our last Newsletter.

Dottie, who was in her eighties, had painted her lovely and delightful

watercolors for many years. She was represented by the Coryell Gallery in Lambertville, and also sold her work through several galleries along the New Jersey shore. Dottie's watercolors were

loose and free, and exemplified the spontaneity of the medium. Our sympathy and prayers go out to Dottie's family, which includes a son and two daughters, as well as grandchildren.

## NJ-AAPL Open Juried Show Upcoming

For all artists who value the representative traditions and whose work reflects those traditions, the New Jersey Chapter of the American Artist Professional League, Inc. will conduct their Open Juried Exhibition of Representational Art 2004 Feb. 15—March 21 at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn. The exhibition features

\$3,300. in awards, including a \$1,000 Best in Show Award. The Awards Judge will be M. Stephen Doherty, Editor-in-Chief of AMERICAN ARTIST and WATER-COLOR magazines.

The exhibition is open to all NJ artists 18 years of age and older. Original artwork in all media completed in the past two years may be

entered. All entries will be juried for acceptance and must be for sale. Deadline for pre-registration is Feb. 4th; receiving day is Feb. 9th. The prospectus can be secured by sending a #10 SASE to Burton Longenbach, 1 Winters Court, Clark, NJ, 07066. For information call 732/382-5814.

## GSWS Welcome New Full Members *continued*

New Jersey in many of my paintings. "

Virginia is a resident of Cranbury, New Jersey, an award-winner who has exhibited in many juried and judged shows.

GAIL BARNWELL WHITE, as well as being a new Full Member of GSWS, is an elected member of the NJWCS and the NJ League of Professional Artists. She is also an exhibiting member of the Guild of Creative Arts in Shrewsbury, NJ, the Visual Art Center of Sarasota, Florida, and Women Contemporary Artists of Florida. Gail obtained her Bachelor degree from the College of New Jersey and her Master's degree from Georgian Court College, and she also studied with various artists, and at the Ringling School of Design in

Sarasota. A long time member of NJ Art Educators, Gail retired as art teacher from Wall Township School District, after having taught in Monmouth County schools for 30



years. Presently dividing her time between her homes in Wall and Sarasota, Gail teaches watercolor classes for the Operations

Department of Wall Township and workshops in Sarasota, as well as demonstrating watercolor.

Gail's work reflects her lifestyle and interests which include gardening, golf, sailing, and travel.

Contrasting the beauty found in

nature with manmade forms and patterns, Gail combines a realistic style of rendering images with loose ambiguous passages and use of arbitrary color.

Gail's paintings have been exhibited at the Cork Gallery, Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, NYC; the Monmouth Museum, the City of Trenton Museum, Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center, and Georgian Court College, among other venues in both NJ and Florida. An award winner in juried shows, Gail is represented by the Thistledown Gallery in Spring Lake, NJ.

## Membership News

Oh, my! As I write this it's 2 degrees Fahrenheit, but -12 with the wind chill. Guess we're all painting indoors today! But perhaps it's time for a hot cup of soup or tea, or maybe a wine-and-cheese break. Maybe it's time as well to see what your artist friends are doing. I'm constantly amazed at all you do, and all you are. Certainly it's worth sitting down, reflecting, reminiscing, and reading this, right now.

JANE GARVEY ADRIANCE had a one-woman show at the University Medical Center at Princeton November 21st-January 14th with an opening reception Nov. 21st.

Associate LINDA ARNOLD was awarded First Place under Glass in Raritan Valley Art Association Members' Show in December. Her work was accepted in the juried Watercolor LBI Exhibit at Jane Law's Gallery. Linda had one-woman shows at the Madison Gallery, Morristown Memorial Hospital, July 26th-September 6th and (a Retrospective Exhibition) at the Bernards Township Town Hall in December. One of Linda's paintings is the cover of FOCUS, the magazine published by the Bernards Township Chamber of Commerce.

ED BAUMLIN won First Place in the Hunterdon Watercolor Society Members' Show, the First National Bank Award at

the juried Phillips Mill, PA Exhibit, an Award of Excellence at the NJWCS Associates' Show, and Honorable Mention at the AAPL-NJ Show at ADP. Ed was accepted into the following juried shows: the Louisa Melrose Gallery, Watercolor LBI at the Jane Law Gallery, AAPL's 75th National Exhibition at the Salmagundi Club in NYC, the Tewksbury Historical Society Exhibit, the Ocean Artist Guild Show, and the National Society of Painters in Acrylic at the Binney and Smith Gallery, Banana Factory, Bethlehem, PA. He also exhibited at the 1800's Prevost House in Milford, NJ.

Associate GAY BILLICH was juried into the inaugural show online "The New American Gallery--Watercolors from the Garden State", into the NJWCS Associate Members' Juried Show, the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission and Somerset Art Association's exhibit "Awash with Color", and also into the 103rd Anniversary International Exhibition of the Philadelphia watercolor Society. Gay has also been juried into NAWA (National Association of Women Artists) as a full-fledged signature member.

RITA BODNER received the Liquitex Art Award in the National Society of Painters in Casein and Acrylics 5th Annual Exhibition at the Binney and Smith Gallery, Banana Factory,

Bethlehem, PA., Oct. 24-Nov. 30. Rita was also accepted into the Allied Artists of America 90th Annual Exhibition at the National Arts Club, NYC, NY, Nov. 14-Dec. 2; the 34th Juried Exhibition of the Garden State Watercolor Society at the Montgomery Center for the Arts, in October; the Millburn-Short Hills Arts Center Annual Exhibit at the Renee Foosner Gallery, Papermill Playhouse, in Millburn, Nov-Dec; and the Aqua Media Group Invitational at the Ocean County Artist Guild Gallery in October.

GREGORY BRUNO was awarded Best in Show, the "Mary S. Lawrence Founder's Award" at the 61st Annual Exhibition of the NJWCS at the Ridgewood Art Institute, October 19, 2003. Greg became a Signature Member of the North East Watercolor Society on October 19th. He is currently a Fellow of the American Artist Professional League of NY, an elected member of the GSWS, and a Sustaining Associate Member of the American Watercolor Society.

MARGE CHAVOOSHIAN was given the Mary Hill Memorial Award at the Catherine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club' 107th Open Exhibit at the National Arts Club, NYC in Oct. and the Commendation Award from the Delaware & Raritan Greenway Exhibition in Rocky Hill, NJ, in June. Marge was Juror for Selection at Catherine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club 107th Annual Open

Greetings! Happy New Year! A very special year for the Garden State Watercolor Society as we will begin having our 35th Anniversary. Dagmar Tribble certainly had foresight, initiative, ambition, and imagination—just look what she created! But more on this later. ....It's kind of a special year for your writer/editor, as well, as I enter my tenth year of doing this Newsletter. I hope 2004 will be a good, hey, why not great, year for you! A healthy and content year, a painterly year, and a sharing year. So here, now, let's share the news!

## Membership News *continued*

Exhibit at the National Arts Club in July 2003 and Juror for Selection & Awards for the Washington Township Arts Council's 5th Annual Exhibit in Robbinsville, NJ, in August. Marge was selected for the Invitational Exhibit at the Sarasota Art Center, North Tamiami Trail, in Sarasota, Florida, in November. Marge will be holding workshops at the Chalfont Hotel, 301 Howard St., Cape May, NJ, 08204 on July 11—16, and September 17-19th. You may call 609/884-8409, or FAX 609/884-4588, or email: Chalfont NJ-AOL.COM for info or to register.

JUDI GILDEN received Honorable Mention for "Dunes" at the Freehold Art Society's Open Juried Show at the Freehold Public Library in Freehold. She exhibited and demonstrated at the Monmouth Festival of Arts 2003, was awarded First Place-Watercolor at the Monmouth Art Gallery, Ruth Crown Memorial Art Show, Evergreen Gallery in Spring Lake. Judi's painting "Hips" was accepted into the National Association of Women Artists, Inc. 114th Annual Exhibition, Part II, 85th Ave., NYC. Judi received Honorable Mention at AAPL-NJ's Open State Juried Exhibition of Representational Art, Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts, Melville, NJ. Judi is currently serving as First Vice-President of the Monmouth Arts Gallery, Shrewsbury and also served on the Jury Panel for NAWA, for their "Markings" Exhibit at 928 Broadway, NYC. She had a painting exhibited at the North East Watercolor Society annual Members' Show, Orange Hall Gallery, in Middleton, New York. Judi was elected to membership at the Pen & Brush, Inc., 16 East 10th Street, New York City.

CONNIE GRAY is now a Full Member of the GSWS. Her work was juried into the Pen & Brush East Coast Non-Member juried Show in NYC in November; only 75 works were chosen from 1,200. Connie's work was also accepted into the Open Juried TAWA at Ellarslie in Sept., receiving a curator's award; the Somerset Art Association juried show in August, and the Montgomery Center for the Arts juried show in June. Connie's work was also in the Somerset Art Association Members' Show, the Hills Gallery "Creative Artists Group" show in Princeton, the NonSuch Gallery Artists Group in Skillman. Connie had a one-woman show at ORPHA's Coffee House in Princeton. Her works can be seen at

Gallery ONE Main in Highbridge, NJ and at the Hills Gallery in Princeton.

ELSA HERRMAN received the Joan Day Memorial Award in the Tewksbury Historical Society's annual show. She also won a first place in watercolors at the Senior Citizen Show in Ocean County, and a Merit Award in the State Show. At present Elsa also participated in a retrospective show at Gallery I, Main, in High Bridge, and a small collection of her work is hanging in The Main Avenue Galleria in Ocean Grove.

BARBARA MARCH was juried into the following shows: The New American Gallery "Watercolors from the Garden State" (Received Second Place Award), Garden State Watercolor Society 34th Annual Juried Exhibition (Received Triangle Art Center Award), Burlington County Cultural & Heritage Affairs 27th Annual Juried Art Show, Philadelphia/Tri State Artists Equity 54th Annual Anniversary Exhibition, Willingboro Art Alliance 8th Annual Open Juried Exhibition (Received Place Award) and The New American Gallery National Juried Watercolor Exhibition.

Associate JEANETTE FRAGASSO MASI won an Award of Excellence at the Chatham Community Center Exhibition in May, 2003, held at the Chatham Library for her work "On the Waterfront". The Exhibition was sponsored by the Woman's Club of Chatham.

LUCY GRAVES McVICKER AND CHARLES TAGGART McVICKER had a very special exhibition "Two for the Show" at Rider University Art Gallery in Lawrenceville November 6—December 14th, with an Artists' Reception Nov. 6th and Artists' Talk Nov. 13th. Chuck will be jurying the upcoming Perkins Show in Moorestown and also the AAPL-NJ Show at the Noyes Museum.

Lucy was just given the Purchase Award at the juried Mercer County College Show. The NJ State Council on the Arts purchased her painting "Tears for 9/11".

DEBORAH PAGLIONE was juried into the Phillips Mill Exhibition in New Hope, Pennsylvania in the fall and she won Second Place and an Honorable Mention in the Washington Township Arts Council Exhibit. Deborah's work was also in the Johnson & Johnson Gallery in Sommerville in the fall.

DIANA PATTON had a one-person show at the Madison Gallery, Morristown Memorial Hospital, and then at the Morristown Hospital Rehabilitation Center this summer. Her students exhibited at the Somerset County Library in November. In December Diana chaired the Raritan Valley Arts Exhibit at Somerset County Library. She is demonstrating watercolor on Yupo and clayboard for RWAA in January

Associate CAROL STAUB has been juried into NAWA as a full-fledged signature member. Carol also was juried into the 4-person show at the A.E. Bean Backus Museum in Ft. Pierce, Florida, for the month of September. She was juried into the National Acrylic Painters' Association USA's 7th Annual International Exhibit at the Cornell Museum in Delray Beach, Florida, Sept. 8—Nov. 19th. Carol has now received signature membership in the National Acrylic Painters' Association. As a member of the National Collage Society, Carol exhibited in their 6th Annual Postcard Show at Lincoln Center. She had two paintings juried into the 12th Annual National Exhibition at the Art Institute and Gallery in Salisbury, Maryland and received a Juror's Mention Award for her painting "Vintage."

Carol also received an Award of Excellence in the juried NJWCS's Associates' Show at Children's Specialized Hospital. Carol and Gay Billich were juried into the Louisa Melrose Gallery 5th Annual Juried Show and were awarded the Louisa Melrose Gallery Award and a two-person show for June, 2004.

DEBBIE TINILE was given the Award of Excellence for her painting "Moose" in the Essex Watercolor Club's Members' Exhibit in the Atrium Gallery of the Morris County Administration building. This show ran from November until January 24th and included two paintings by each exhibiting member.

Associate THOMAS WILCZEWSKI participated in the Second Annual Timothy Neylon Memorial Art Exhibit in October at the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, an exhibit/fundraiser. The exhibit featured Tom's watercolors as well as photographs and digital arts. Proceeds from sales benefited the Food Bank and the charities it serves.

# JAPAN—an Awesome and Lovely Experience

by Diana Wilkoc Patton

September is a perfect month to visit Japan. The weather generally is excellent; when my husband and I were there this past September we had warm (70s for the most part), sunny days. Children were in school, most vacation crowds were over, and there wasn't the rush and crush of spring cherry-blossom viewing time. Because Gard's brother-in-law Bob was working in Mito City for a while, we had a gracious home base in Karen and Bob's apartment, plus their guidance locally and (albeit new) knowledge generally. The country and its people are amazing; I'm still not over our trip. I continue to study and research maiko and geisha and kimono customs and I've created a small Japanese corner in our kitchen which gives me great pleasure. We were there for 17 days, based in Mito City with Karen and Bob, but we also went to Nikko, a lovely mountainous region, with them. On our own we went to Kyoto for four days and then to Ito and Izu-Kogen on the Izu Peninsula, and also to Tokyo (Asakusa section). We feel the Japanese were the friendliest people we've encountered on our travels, and that's saying something, considering how hospitable we've found people in Australia, New Zealand, and Tanzania. Not only that, but Japan is so lovely, with mountains and rushing rivers, deep wooded valleys, the ocean, and the picturesque and so historical sections of Kyoto and Tokyo.



*Bus-Kyoto (some are flowered)*



*Shopping Arcade*

Art is truly a way of life there, from the way food is presented to the way the simplest purchases are wrapped for you (gratis and charmingly) to flowers painted on some buses, the eyelet and lace head cloths on the seatbacks in colorfully hued taxis, and the tiny gardens everywhere. Everywhere! In Kyoto Railroad Station (the famous "bullet trains" are marvelous, fast and clean), I purchase a few souvenirs, as the station contains some charming stores, including one of antique furniture, paintings, and bibelots. My souvenirs are simple, though, and as usual (for I saw lots to buy for family and friends), each piece is wrapped in a lovely print paper, gratis, and then—oh, my! one of the shop girls comes, bows, and presents me with a small wrapped gift. Going by the Japanese gift guide I'd recently read, I bow and reply "arigato gozaimass" (thank you very much), and know that I am to open the gift, after, not in front of them. I am delighted to find a small but charming wooden doll when later I unwrap the gift in the train.

Meals are presented, as many of you know from Japanese restaurants here, in a variety of lovely ceramic and lacquer ware bowls and trays, and they are beautifully garnished. Of course half the time I hadn't a clue what I was eating, but it was delicious! In many restaurants you can choose your courses from either photos on the menus or, more probably, plastic food samples in the windows (you still don't

know exactly what you're eating, but who cares?!) Fragrant wet and warm washcloths appear first, and almost always a steamy cup of green tea. I personally found it much easier to sit at a western style table when I could, as my 5'8" body was not used to getting down to cushion height/kneeling. And my size 11 shoes did look out of place placed in a restaurant's vestibule, or on the shelves outside a temple or shrine!

I soon became an aficionado of miso soup, sushi, sashimi, sticky rice, sake (cold), and various other dishes. As for green tea ice cream, oh, the dishes and cones of it I enjoyed.

Guess what? Accustomed to NJ and NY prices, Japan is not formidably priced. Not at all! Pick out smaller hotels or ryokans (kind of b'n'bs). And you can purchase bullet train excursion tickets. And bus and subway passes. The subway system is clean; almost all is clean in Japan, it seems. Why, in the complex of shrines which includes the gorgeous Golden Pavilion in Kyoto, I saw bonneted and gloved ladies picking up stray sticks and shrubs! Okay, so we encountered few who could speak English with us (only fair, I can't speak Japanese), and signs were confusing—so one memorizes that one's bus stop has characters in the name of the stop that look like houses or drunken deer, but we managed. And those who could help us, offered to. Kindnesses abound in Japan. The gentleman who exchanged seats on a local train to Tokyo so we could sit

## JAPAN—an Awesome Experience *continued*

together, and then bought us coffee! Offering it with a bow. Oh, yes—the trains employ young women (sometimes men) in darling outfits, who push carts of coffee, tea, sweets, and other items on narrow carts down the aisle. They bow on entering the car, and they bow on leaving. Of course, to save a bit, you can purchase your bento, or lunch tray, in the station ahead.

I can see this will just be a beginning of my story, and perhaps you'll endure with me a second article on specific art venues next issue, for this article can't leave the art of life in Japan without saying a bit more. As an artist, you cannot help noticing that all you've ever seen in Japanese paintings is really there. The wooded mountains do have that puffy atmospheric look, and there are layers of mountains, one in front of another. The clouds do come down and clothe the cliffs in mystery. The people are graceful and there is a certain formality still (although the rush and shrillness of the western world is fast invading and you will find Kyoto and some of the small towns more "Japanesey" than Tokyo).

What I was not prepared for were the many kindnesses we encountered, the real art of life. For example, the thin paper tickets to the shrines and temples were miniature works of art. The flyers and posters given out at museums or shops or shrines or at the railroad station, were rich and colorful. I found a lot of "freebies" as I couldn't resist picking up ads or flyers for I-don't-know-what-because-I-haven't-a-clue-how-to-read -Japanese-characters.

As an artist, or gardener, you will be thrilled by the gardens and flowers all over. The most crowded of narrow city streets in Kyoto, for example, has mini-gardens, or hanging pots, or vases and urns with bouquets. Many street lamps have them also, or silk and paper blossoms hanging down. And in many towns that we saw, gardens and small rice fields are sandwiched in among



*Nikko Toshogu Shrine Complex*



*Diana at the Asakusa Kannon Shrine Complex, Tokyo*

apartment complexes! Wow! Needless to say, my senses were reeling. And I haven't even mentioned the ocean, Aqua World, an amazing complex of aquariums, or the Sunshine City Aquarium, on the 10th and 11th floors in Tokyo, an amazing aquarium where a woman in wet suit plays with and feeds, manta rays and moray eels, and I, who have an obsession with fish and aquariums, saw fish and exhibits I've never seen before!

Would you believe that Japan, as well as having hundreds of beautiful shrines and temples, aquariums and zoos, spas and hot springs, wondrous back streets/alleys, gardens galore, and beaches, too, also has three Teddy Bear Museums? I asked, at the most famous one in Izu-Kogun, for the artist bears of Hisa Kato; they had none for sale, although there was an exhibit of her work in the museum. Three hours into my fascinated viewing of this

small but elaborate and fanciful museum, a shop girl, in plaid jumper and crisp white blouse, found me on the second floor and, handing me a hard-cover book, she bowed and said, "Gift for you!". It was, literally, the only book on Hisa Kato's work—in its protective plastic cover, their sample book they'd had when they did have her book and bears for sale. I was overwhelmed! It was like the Met handing you the only sample of a book on Van Gogh out-of-stock. I didn't know what to say, and couldn't have said it, in Japanese, at any rate. After thinking it over, I finally sketched a caricature of me in my flowered skirt and frizzy blonde hair, bowing to them, and handed it to the shop girl.

So there you go; I did view museums and wonderful paintings and prints. I'm still trying to absorb what I saw in temples and shrines. I'd love to speak about this another time, but I guess the people seem more important, for this article at any rate. Thanks for reading.