

Dear DWS Member

As 2014 comes to a close, we can look back with pride in our accomplishments.

We began the year with our new team approach to achieving our goals and ensuring that members have opportunities to participate in our programs and activities. We appreciate all who have been so willing throughout the year to share their talents and the responsibilities needed to sustain our dynamic and growing organization. Your participation and service have made 2014 a most successful year.

Throughout 2014, DWS Second Tuesday events continued to be the cornerstone of our monthly get-togethers. We played and learned, discussed and explored topics such as how to prepare for entry into an exhibition, how to have a successful opening reception, how to get the most out of your workshop experience, understanding the elements of design and how to apply them, using abstract techniques in form and texture, setting up an art flea market and sale, giving positive feedback during critiques of artwork, sharing our secrets and tips about watercolor, grasping the benefits of art therapy, understanding what painting miniatures really means, as well as demonstrations on valuable techniques for creating impressionistic and abstract paintings, and energized color.

This was our Tenth Anniversary Year and at the May Second Tuesday, we celebrated with cake and special treats and enjoyed a "throwback" contest showing members' early works. The fun and challenge was in trying to identify who painted what. The evolution of divergent styles came through loud and clear. Photos and interviews by Delaware Beach Life for a planned article on our anniversary in their April issue topped off the day.

Included in our Tenth Anniversary celebration were Open, Juried, and Signature exhibitions at Cadbury, Nassau Valley Vineyards and Winery, The Buttery, and the Ocean City Art League. We held two workshops: Sarah Yeoman's Finding the Light in Watercolor, and Susan Avis Murphy's, Rivulet Technique. Both gave participants an opportunity to experiment with new colors and techniques.

We continued with our Outreach program at Lewes Library, holding two capacity-filled sessions-- Dot Braun's Sunflowers Loose and Free and Beth Collard's Mr. & Mrs. Snowman and Baby Snowball greeting card. Many members donated to our annual coat drive in support of the local Community Resource Center.

We also expanded our efforts and tried a new program as part of our commitment to community outreach. During June and July a team of DWS volunteers partnered with West Side New Beginnings, Inc., to bring watercolor into the lives of the 35 children participating in the West Rehoboth Children and Youth Program. This successful and rewarding endeavor brought the magic of watercolor to children who might not have otherwise had this opportunity. The experience benefitted both the children and adults who participated.

We are lucky to have great members and volunteers and look forward to exploring, creating, and sharing new and exciting events in 2015. We count on your continued support for the success of DWS as we go forward.

We wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday and New Year!

Your DWS Board of Directors