

From the President

In early 2004, Nancy Alexander, then executive director of the Rehoboth Art League, approached me about forming a local watercolor society. She recommended some artists to contact whom she thought might be interested, and I knew a couple of painters to call as well. Between the two of us, we found another four artists who formed the first board of directors of the Delaware Watercolor Society: Julie Baxendell, Donald Blow, Dale Sheldon, Lesley McCaskill and me. We decided we wanted a society with a broader scope than Delmarva, so we aimed for a mid-Atlantic organization that also would include Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia. I registered the society with the State, and we had our first meeting at the VIA building on the boardwalk in May of that year. We recruited members through some of Alexander's contacts with RAL. She was most generous with her time and efforts to help launch the society.

It has been very satisfying to watch our organization grow over the years to almost 100 members with a website and newsletter. DWS has continued to offer many programs and activities for members as well as exhibitions and workshops, and in 2015, it became a 501c(3) non-profit.

It has been a privilege and honor to be a part of DWS for the last fifteen years. I have served as president and communications director, editor of the newsletter, liaison to the web master, and exhibitions director, and for a total of twelve years, as a member of the board of directors. I look forward to watching the organization continuing to serve its members in new and exciting ways. I hope that each of you will wholeheartedly support the board members in their efforts!

– Anne Crown-Cyr, President

Member News

Anne Crown-Cyr's watercolor ink painting, *All in a Row*, is in the December Open juried show at the Torpedo Factory, Old Towne, Alexandria through January 5, 2020. She is also a member of Gallery 75 at the Art League.

Annie Strack's painting, *The Gossipers*, will be in the Mid-Southern Watercolor Society 50th National Show, March 13 – June 27, 2020, at the Galleries at Library Square, Little Rock, AR.

Congratulations!

Outreach

In November, signature artist Isabel Pizzolato led twenty new painters through a prepared watercolor seminar at South Coastal Library. She instructed participants in the use of vibrant color in a fun step-by-step lesson on painting hot air balloons. Pizzolato had a repeat performance at South Coastal in December, but this time the lesson focused on a holiday theme.

Participants learned about the challenges of watercolor, including the amount of water needed, how to blend colors, and how to create highlights and shading to bring depth to the painting. DWS artists and seminar assistants Pat Hoey and Robi Cavagnaro helped out during the three-hour session. All told, the students went home having accomplished their first watercolor painting — a good baseline for their future attempts.

The "Come Paint with Us Program" continues to be very successful with a full session of twenty artists at each event and a regular waiting list. We look forward to reaching out to more potential artists in 2020 and beyond.



Instructor Isabel Pizzolato (center) and assistant Robi Cavagnaro (right) help student.



Student tries her hand at painting holiday image.



Hot Air Balloons
 by Isabel Pizzolato.

Second Wednesday Seminars 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Glade

December 11 – Annual Meeting and Holiday Luncheon

We had a particularly beautiful holiday luncheon this year with more than thirty members in attendance. We can all thank Vice President Marjorie Wuestner for making this a successful event. She was responsible for planning the menu, obtaining the poinsettias, and decorating the room in a festive holiday fashion, as well as organizing the agenda. She did it all! Elizabeth Collard also provided the lovely Norfolk Pine centerpieces and built and decorated two additional boxes for our *Toys for Tots* drive.

We had two full boxes of toys at the annual meeting and another two full boxes at our November Second Wednesday seminar. We also received toys in the boxes we left at the Glade clubhouse. Thanks to everyone for their generosity.



DWS Board Members from left to right: Marjorie Wuestner, Anne Crown-Cyr, Charlotte Hughes, Elizabeth Collard, and Pat Hoey with the second batch of toys collected.

At the annual meeting, each board member provided a brief report on our finances, outreach efforts, Second Wednesday program, workshops, and exhibitions, and what was coming up in 2020. The election results showed unanimous support for the re-election of our Treasurer Pat Hoey and Secretary Charlotte Hughes who have done such a wonderful job as board members. Although we had no candidates for either the President or Exhibitions Director positions, we did get a variety of nominations. For exhibitions, Joan Fabbri received the majority of nominations and Elizabeth Collard received the majority for president. Elizabeth Collard immediately accepted the challenge and volunteered to fill the position.

Near the end of the meeting, outgoing president Anne Crown-Cyr presented the Outstanding Volunteer award to Marc Collard. This new award gave



Marc Collard happily receives his Outstanding Volunteer award from Anne Crown-Cyr

special recognition to Collard for his ongoing support of DWS over the last eight years. If you've been to a DWS event, reception, or exhibition, you've probably seen Marc helping with logistics, carrying boxes or art supplies, and helping artists with their "stuff." Marc's quiet kind demeanor has inspired us all.

Thank you and congratulations!



Kristine Helstrom (standing) chats with members; Dan Feth and Joanne Guilfoil in the foreground.



From left to right front row: Jean Owen, Debra Iammateo, Kym Bellerose; back row left to right: Pat Hoey, Charlotte Hughes, and Isabel Pizzolato.

November 13 – Travels with Chrys

Chrys Dudbridge's presentation about her second and third years on the road brought home to many of us the joy of painting, and even better, the wonders of traveling to paint. Every twist and turn of her journey is filled with art, artists, artisans, and musicians. So much so that the travels became second nature to the memories Dudbridge continues to develop. Art and nature were the keystones to the myriad slides and anecdotes that she shared during the November Second Wednesday seminar. From the thrombolites in Newfoundland to Florida panhandle and the western Rockies, DWS members had the opportunity to share in her adventures for a day. What a fun and informative ride we all had!



Travato buddies (from left to right): Bernie and Marsha Brecht from NH, Chrys, and author Sue Ann Jaffarian who travels full time in her van.



Chrys Dudbridge explains the process for hand dying fabric.



Birthdays

January

Kathleen Cropper
Marie Isola
Mark Kaufman
Teena Riley

February

Charlotte Hughes
Lisa Hunter
Debra Iammatteo
Dianne Shearon

Bonne Bay Fjord (Gros Morne National Park)
by Chrys Dudbridge.

Happy Holidays

Exhibitions

May 1-30, 2020

Nassau Valley Vineyard and Winery – Mixed Media

DWS will have its first juried mixed media exhibition, “Anything Goes,” during May in the winery gallery. Kathleen Conover, AWS, NWS, has agreed to serve as juror. For this show, work must have been completed in the last three years and not previously exhibited in any DWS judged, juried, or open exhibition. Paintings may be any watermedia, such as acrylic, ink, and gouache (no water-based oils) on any suitable structure such as silk, paper, Yupo, Tyvek, Aquaboard, and canvas. Other media may be included as long as long as they are not copyrighted. Submissions are by digital entry.

You should receive the prospectus in January, and it will also be posted on the DWS website. Don’t wait until the last minute for this exhibition. Start painting now.

Workshops

We are planning and scheduling two workshops for 2020, one in the spring and the other in the fall. Specific dates and details will be announced as soon as the workshop contracts are finalized. Anyone who would like to submit a recommendation for a potential workshop instructor should forward that information to Beth Collard at fleur-de-lisstudio@comcast.net or call her at (302) 645-4821.



Walt Yatko at the 2018 holiday luncheon.

In Memoriam

We learned recently that in October one of our faithful members, Walter Yatko, passed away. We are all saddened by this loss, but remember Walt as a jovial and kind man who loved watercolor. He was always willing to lend a hand in setting up or taking down for our clubhouse events. He was one of Beth Collard’s students, and she remembers how much he enjoyed painting and was proud of what he created. She notes that “Walt was always excited to send his most recent artwork to a friend or family member. He loved sharing his paintings with others.”

He will be missed.



Who Said?

*“The truth is in nature,
and I shall prove it.”*

Paul Cezanne