

Message from the PRESIDENT



'Twas the night before a deadline,
And oh, can't you see,
Not a creature was stirring, except, of
course, me!

My fingers were drumming with growing despair,
In hopes an idea would soon be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While thoughts of this newsletter played havoc with my
head.

And mama upstairs and me in deep trouble,
I settled myself in for an all-night struggle.
While writing and scribbling, I made such a clatter,
But nothing would work. What was the matter?

When what to my wondering mind should appear,
But a miniature idea, one without reindeer.
"I'll say it simply and lively and quick,"
I knew in a moment it would be lick-it-y split.

More rapid than eagles the words they came,
And I whistled and shouted, and called them by name.

"Bargains, price cuts, discounts abound,
None better than ours, they're the best around.
In your upcoming workshops, you could possibly sell
our videos, or "Tips" books, and oh what they'd tell.

'Bout our artists, their techniques, and advice we may
need,
To inspire great paintings, during this season, indeed.
What e're we create, will last longer than bows,
And packages, and glitter, and people in rows.

Don't forget our sketchbooks make wonderful gifts,
On 100% rag, only the best, we insist.
Have you considered past exhibit slides to rent?
Could be just what you need for your next public event.

Completing a partially disguised soft sell,
I can roam more freely, with my verse pray tell.
An opportunity to share with the members today
Images of the season and the feelings they convey.

Now, icicles! Now, greeting cards! Now, homemade de-
lights!

On treetops! On frozen ponds! On cold winter nights!
From the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
These words, they come! On they come!
On they come all!

Red bows and green bows and tangled colored lights,
Fruitcakes, galoshes and snowball fights (did I say fruit-
cakes?!).

Wrapping paper, long lines and fireplaces aglow,
Skating, shopping malls and fresh fallen snow.

The look of a child knowing something special is near,
The parent standing by whom rightly does steer.
There are candles and toys surprises and bliss,
The gentle reminder of one much greater than all this.

Cups of hot cocoa, cookies and milk,
"What should I get her, terry cloth or silk?"

Visions of the less fortunate, in humble attire,
And the Army of Salvation, whose work is admired,
With red cans to fill all for good reason,
As ringing bells echo the sounds of the season.

So many images have come to my mind,
Hustling and bustling, nary a moment to unwind.
But beyond all of these rests one steady and dear,
The light of hope and peace and a Blessed New Year.

So I heartily exclaim before these lines drop from sight,
"Happy Holidays to all, and to all a good night!"

Tom Francesconi, MWS
President

KANKAKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Message from the **VICE PRESIDENT**



**Vicki L.
Morley**

First
Vice President/
Exhibition
Chairperson

It is with great enthusiasm that I share with you information of our 26th Annual National Transparent Watercolor Exhibit. Midwest Watercolor Society's 2002 juried exhibit will once again take place in a museum setting but with some exciting differences. It will be hosted by the Kankakee County Historical Society Museum in Kankakee, Illinois, an hour south of Chicago. MWS is highly honored to be the first large two-dimensional art exhibit at the Kankakee County Historical Society Museum. Ninety accepted paintings will share space with George Grey Barnard's magnificent sculptures. It should be a very impressive sight integrating works of two and three-dimensional art at this historical setting! To highlight the event, a sit down, catered dinner will be held on June 29, 2002 along with our annual meeting.



This historical society was first organized in 1906. For many years the historical society's artifacts were housed in Central High School and also the County Court House. But in 1945 the Kankakee County Historical Society was given the boyhood home and grounds of Illinois Governor Len Small. Governor Small's father, Dr. Abram Lennington Small, built the native limestone home sometime after 1855. After a successful career in medicine, Dr. Small practiced horticulture. As a result his home was surrounded by

In 1990, a major addition to the museum was built ...the enormous windows provide a powerful connection between the sculptures and the grove of mighty trees outside. This unique venue provides all transparent watercolorists an opportunity to exhibit their work alongside the statues. of a highly acclaimed sculptor.

a beautiful grove of trees and a nursery.

In 1990, a major addition to the museum was built to house the George Grey Barnard sculpture collection. Barnard studied in France for more than a decade submitting his work to the 1894 Societe Nationale des Beaux-Arts Salon receiving high praise and acclaim. George Grey Barnard enjoyed boyhood in Kankakee during the ages of 5-13. This childhood time was an important part of his 75 years and, as a result, he donated many of his sculptures to the community of Kankakee. These classical larger than life sculptures are displayed in this appropriately designed gallery. The enormous windows provide a powerful connection between the sculptures and the grove of mighty trees outside. This unique venue provides all transparent watercolorists an opportunity to exhibit their work alongside the statues of a highly acclaimed sculptor. For further museum information, hit the website at: **www.kankakeecountymuseum.com**

TIME TO SEND IN THOSE SLIDES

By Nancy Rayborn, Slide Receiving
Chairman

The next several months are both exhilarating and tedious ones for the slide receiving committee. The sheer joy of viewing all of the wonderful slide submissions for our annual exhibit cannot be described. At the same time, the amount of work involved with preparing the slides for presentation to the juror is phenomenal. All applications must be carefully scanned for errors and omissions, slides must be marked for placement in carousel trays. Data entry, copying and filing takes many hours per week for our team to complete.

How can you help?

- Double check your application before sealing the envelope.
- Remember that there are size limitations to consider.
- Price and Insurance value MUST be entered.
- Application MUST have phone number included.
- Signature is required (no signature stamp).

- Artwork submitted MUST be completed during the last 2 years.
- Annual dues MUST be paid prior to January 1 or a check for the jury fee MUST be included.

A SASE business envelope is truly important. Not only is the envelope used to hold the empty slide container while the slides are with the juror, but the full sized envelope is necessary for the return of the information packet sent back to you along with the juror's results. PLEASE remember to put 2 oz. postage on the SASE.

It is so important that your artwork be properly photographed. Sadly, every year we receive slides of apparently beautiful paintings that are dark, out-of-focus, and/or show backgrounds of grass and trees. When viewed alongside properly photographed artwork, the impact is lost. UNLESS your artwork fills the entire frame of the slide, take it out of the slide mount, use mylar tape to block out extraneous material, and remount.

Be sure that the slide mount is not bent or coming apart. If your slide jams the projector, it cannot be submitted to the juror.

✎

Mark your **CALENDARS**

February 19, 2002—Deadline for entry...
*slides/entry form/fee must be received
on or before this date.*

April 16, 2002—Notifications mailed.

**May 28, 2002-June 7, 2002—Paintings due at
the Museum**

June 22, 2002—Public Opening

June 24–28, 2002—Frank Francese Workshop

June 29, 2002—Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner

August 18, 2002—Exhibition closes

**August 28–September 10, 2002—Return of shipped
paintings**



MWS WANTS YOU!

How about a nice volunteer job as a **Slide Rental Chairman**. This is a detail-oriented position and an important one. The duties are:

- Keep a running calendar of rental requests.
- When a request is made, send out the contract
- Receive the signed contract with the appropriate checks i.e. \$75 for deposit and \$25 for the rental. • Send the rental check to the Treasurer, hold the deposit check.
- Package up the slides with the appropriate instruction materials and ship.
- When the specified time has elapsed and the slides are returned in proper condition, return the deposit check.

**Call Tom Francesconi to volunteer
708-799-8161**

Member NEWS

AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **Susie Schreiber** of Lancaster, Ohio, won first place at Central Ohio Watercolor Society Fall Show, an all transparent group at the Michael Orr Gallery in Columbus, Ohio.
- **Dean Davis**, MWS, was awarded three prizes at the Northwest Watercolor Society show. His painting *Barn Light* has been selected to appear in Splash 7, and he has a one man show at the Brubeck Art Center in Mt. Carmel, Illinois.

Copy deadline for the next newsletter is April 15.

- **Leatrice Joy Richardson**, MWS, received the Watercolor West Founder's award at the 33rd Annual Juried Exhibition at the Riverside Art Museum, in Riverside, California.
- **Peggi Batcheck** received the Doug Pasek Award in the Ohio Watercolor Society's Watercolor 2001 Fall Exhibition. She was also granted Signature Membership in that society. She had a painting accepted in the Ohio Watercolor Society's first National Exhibition and in the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society's Aqueous Open. She also won Best of Show awards in both the Central Ohio Watercolor Society's Fall Exhibit and in the Lancaster Art Guild's Autumn Open. She was also featured in an article in Worthington Living magazine's August issue.
- **Ted Rose**, AWS, NWS will have two paintings included in Splash 7: *The Qualities of Light*, published by Northlight Books. Other works have been accepted by the Rocky Mountain National, the Adirondacks National, the Philadelphia Watercolor Society and the MWS 2001 exhibition.

• The art of **Don Getz**, AWS, MWS, OWS, WPA, is featured on the cover of the latest edition of the *Automobile Quarterly* as well as in a ten page article entitled "*As good as it Getz.*"

• **Ellen Rose**, MWS, received a College Lake County Purchase Award at the First Annual Juried Exhibition in October. Her painting appeared on the cover of the program.

• **Lori Fronczak**, KWS, MTWS, PWS, RRWS, WCWS, received signature status with the Red River Watercolor National in their exhibit in North Dakota. She also won awards in the Elk Grove Juried Show, and in the Addison Art Guild show held in Addison, Illinois. She was juried into a group exhibition in Chicago, Art Apex 2001. As well, she will be included in Splash 7. And just recently, she won Best of Show in the Addison Art League members show.

• **Jan Fabian Wallake**, MWS, has authored a new book, titled, "*Watercolor: Pour It On*" published by North Light Books. The book details her dramatic glazing process.

Correction:
The workshop reservation deadline date on the accompanying flyer should read 2002 not 2001.

• **Kathleen Newman**, MWS and **Andrea Vincent**, PWS were recently featured in an exhibit "Realistic Visions 2001" at the Palette and Chisel Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

• **Evelyn Ecale Schultz** received the Grumbacher Award and Gold Medallion from the Kentucky Watercolor Society Aqueous 2001

Exhibition. She was chosen for the Traveling Show Award and her painting will be exhibited in various locations throughout Kentucky and Indiana. She received Award of Excellence First Place in the Elk Grove fine Arts Exhibition, IL, Honorable Mention in the Danada Nature Exhibition, Second place in the Addison Art Guild Members' show. She was selected for the DuPage Art league Gallery and School for their 2001 Studio Walk.

• **Mieze Riedel**, MWS, OWS, GWS had a painting accepted in the 65th Area Artists Annual Exhibition in the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown in November.

Slide Deadline is February 19

• **Dan Burt**, MWS, AWS, NWS, won the Arches Paper/American Artist Magazine award at the Kentucky Watercolor Society Aqueous USA 2001 exhibition, in Louisville, Kentucky.

MWS is also in need of a secretary. This person will need to attend the board meetings (three a year) and take minutes by hand and/or by tape recorder. They will then need to transcribe the minutes and send them to all the board members including the MWS attorney.

At election time, the secretary will tabulate the votes and report the results.

Call Tom Francesconi to volunteer 708-799-8161



25 Tips by the Best of MWS

A full color booklet with painting tips from some of the best MWS artists has been published to commemorate the MWS 25th Anniversary.

\$10⁰⁰ for Members **\$12⁵⁰** for Non Members.

Please add \$2.00 for shipping.

Revisit the 25th Anniversary MWS show at the Elmhurst Art Museum through these two MWS items.

Cheng Khee Chee Gallery

Walk video **\$25⁰⁰**

25th Anniversary Show

Catalog **\$12⁰⁰**

Order now for the holidays!



25th Anniversary MWS Watercolor Sketchbook

20 pages 12" x 9" 140 lb. Acid free paper. For this item, we must charge shipping

\$20⁰⁰ plus \$5.00 shipping



MWS Membership Pin

\$5⁰⁰

Reduced prices on older videos

2000 Gerald F. Brommer video ----- **\$20⁰⁰**

1999 Joseph Bohler video ----- **\$20⁰⁰**

1998 Stephen Quiller video ----- **\$18⁰⁰**

1997 Tony Van Hasselt video ----- **\$15⁰⁰**

These items still in stock

2000 MWS Show Catalog ----- **\$10⁰⁰**

1999 MWS Show Catalog ----- **\$5⁰⁰**

1998 Show Catalog ----- **\$5⁰⁰**

1999 MWS Exhibition Computer Screen Saver
for PC or MAC

\$12⁰⁰

MWS Stickers 4 @ \$1⁰⁰

MWS Special Promotions

Name _____

Address _____

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Description	Quantity	Price	Subtotal

Order Total _____

Please mail checks with order to:
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Box 253
126 E. Wing St.
Arlington Heights, IL
60004-6064

MIDWEST WATERCOLOR SOCIETY
26TH ANNUAL NATIONAL
TRANSPARENT WATERCOLOR EXHIBITION
JUNE 22–AUGUST 18, 2002
Kankakee County Historical Society Museum

801 South Eighth • Kankakee, Illinois 60901

Michael Erickson, Director

Exhibition Chairperson Vicki I. Morley

542 South Bristol lane • Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005

847-394-931 Fax 847-590-1844

email: vlmorley@home.com

**WE
INTRODUCE...
Nia Pirnat-Dressler,**

our membership chair, new to the position this year.

Fresh from a membership position at a local art group, Nia ably takes over for MWS, as well. Brought up in inner city Chicago, Nia now lives with her husband on a working farm, surrounded by soybeans and corn and grain.

With a painting degree in hand, Nia found she needed food and shelter and became an audio-visual graphic artist, first at Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois and then for State Farm in Bloomington, gaining experience in print, slide shows, videotapes, transparencies et al. Nia now confines herself to painting, teaching watercolor classes locally, art fairs and commission work.

If you haven't sent in your membership dues, her address is

**2410 County Road-800 N,
El Paso, IL 1738;
email address is
nia@elpaso.net**

UNDERUSED RESOURCES

Many of you members teach classes, conduct workshops and are active in local and regional art organizations. You may be overlooking some wonderful resources for teaching watercolor. Our MWS materials are a treasure trove of information and inspiration regarding watercolor painting.

Videos These videos of recent shows feature the juror talking about each painting and why it was included in the show. The videos are at least one hour long and should be viewed in 15-minute segments for maximum impact. They provide a wonderful synopsis of current excellent watercolor paintings.

Catalogs Used with the videos, the catalogs are very useful. Viewed alone they provide a superb overview of the variety represented in current American watercolor.

25 Tips Book This unique little gem was created to celebrate the 25th anniversary of MWS. Some of the best contemporary watercolor artists contributed their own individual painting ideas as suggestions for other artists. It is a useful resource for student or professional watercolorist.

We want to offer you access to these materials at a discount. Call it Number/ Percent Discount. If you buy ten items, you get 10% off the total price. Purchase twenty items, and get 20% off. And so on. You can sell these materials to your students at our full price and make a tiny profit. Or you can simply use them as class resources.

To take advantage of this offer, send a note to:

**MWS Special Promotions
Box 253
126 E. Wing Street
Arlington Heights, IL 60004**

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El Paso, IL, 61738
309-527-0234
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Joye Moon

February 18-20, Du Page Art League, Wheaton, IL. Contact Cele Gerber-630-658-7090

March 1-4, Palm Key, S.C. Contact Rebecca Willis-912-351-9911

April 19-20, Sangaman Watercolor society, Springfield, IL. Contact: Shirley-217-529-6959

April 27, Artist and Display, Milwaukee, WI. Contact Nora 800-722-7450
June 13-27, Italian Adventure. Contact Group Travel Directors 800-747-2255

August 26-30. Willow Wisp Farm Studios, Ashville, N. C. Contact Peggy 828-728-0401

September 16-20, Plein Air at lake Butte des Mortes, Oshkosh, WI.
Contact Joye 920-235-4429.

Thomas Trausch

Painter's Tour of Provence-a ten day "plein air" painting excursion will be held from September 16 through September 26th, 2002 in and around St. Remy, Provence, France. Please call 815-338-0389 or email thomas@trauschfinearts.com for a brochure

Member
NEWS *continued*

• **Joye Moon** recently won Best of Show, First place, Honorable Mention and Peoples Choice Awards in the arteasel.com Totally On-Line Exhibit. She received First Place and two Peoples Choice Awards in the Santa Fe international; First Place in Alive in the Arts; N.E.W.S. Crystal Award in the North East Watercolor Society International exhibit.

• **Nancy Newcomb** was published in the October-November issue of International Artist Magazine. The article is titled "Postcards from the Heartland" and shows an example of Newcomb's portraiture in watercolor. Nancy will also be the featured artist on the Chicagoland public television program "Artist to Artist" on Channels 19 and Channel 6 for the month of January 2002. This is Nancy's fourth Public Television appearance.

Remember if you renew your membership by December 31, 2001, you will not have to pay your entry fee for the 2002 exhibition.

• **Lorraine Ptacek** was accepted and exhibited paintings in: the Twenty-Seventh Exhibition of the National Watercolor Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; in the Southside Art league, Inc., Regional Show XVI, Greenwood, Indiana; in the 2001 National Small Works Exhibition, Bloomington, Illinois; in the Later Impressions 2001 Renaissance Court Gallery, Chicago Cultural Center, Illinois; in the Art Center 2001 Exhibit, Elk Grove, Illinois; and in the 2001 Chicago Art Open, Chicago Artists Coalition Exhibition, Illinois. she won awards in the Illinois Watercolor Society's Exhibition, Schaumburg, Illinois and in the Addition Art Guild Exhibition, Illinois.