

January / February  
2015

# Brushstrokes



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## From Our President

Dear CVWG members,

As we start a new year I feel the temperature of our winter weather disturbing my painting. In hopes of changing that, I have turned to some reading by an artist whose work I admire, Barbara Nechis. In her book Watercolor from the Heart she says, "Paintings may have beautiful childhoods and miserable adolescences, and then make wonderful adults. Many children, plants and paintings go through awkward stages. Only a few get through unscathed and are beautiful without having been stunted."

Having been stalled out by the holidays, I need this reminder in order to get rolling on my own work. You see, I'm very skilled at questioning myself when it comes to moving ahead when I'm painting. Have you ever been frozen by the fear that you may be going to "do it wrong"? (a quote from me). But I am convinced that what needs to be expressed in my own work is what is inside of me. And so I am willing to work toward what inspires me. I encourage you to do so as well. Your imagination and your intuition coupled with a study of fine art and techniques will send you in the right direction. But also be sure to follow your heart, like Barbara Nechis' book title says.

I'll see you all shortly,  
Judi

*The book Watercolor from the Heart is no longer in print but you may be able to find it at on-line book services or check Barbara's website for her price list. She still had a few copies left. – Courtesy of Donna Brune who took Barbara's workshop at Springmaid Watermedia Workshops this past November.*

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# Member News

## SHOWS

**Don Whitson** – Shenandoah Valley Arts Center presents “Watercolors by Don Whitson” at the Arts Center, 122 S. Waynesboro Avenue, Waynesboro, VA, from 6 to 8:00 PM

**Chee Kludt Ricketts** – The University of Virginia Health System Arts Program presents “Shenandoah Skies”, recent watercolors by Chee Kludt Ricketts in the Main Hospital Lobby.

**Terry Pratt** – Terry is the featured artist of the month at The Palette in Stanardsville. His art will be on display for the month of January. A reception in honor of Terry Pratt and Anne Hopper, who is the featured artist for February, will be held on Feb 8, 2015 from 2-4:00 PM at The Palette in Stanardsville.

**Etta Harmon Levin** – McGuffey Art Center presents paintings by Etta Harmon Levin beginning March 3 and running to March 29, 2015. There will be an opening reception on March 6.

**Etta Harmon Levin**—The Writer House presents paintings by Etta Harmon Levin beginning April 3 through April 30, 2015. An opening reception will be held on April 3, 2015.

**Pat Williams** – Is showing her new watercolors at Touchstone Gallery, 901 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC this month. The Opening reception will be Friday, January 9, 2015, 6-8:30 PM with hors d’oeuvres by Purple Onion Catering. Pat will also be painting at the gallery’s “Artists at Work Sunday” on January 25, 2-4 PM. A relaxed opportunity to see three different shows, watch Touchstone solo artists create new work, ask the questions you always wanted to ask an artist, and enjoy light refreshments.

**Announcing the 2015 Baltimore Watercolor Society’s Mid-Atlantic Exhibition at the Black Rock Center for the Arts, Germantown, MD.** It is open to all water media artists in the Mid-Atlantic States and D.C. **Juror:** Mark Mehaffey, AWS df, NWS. Entry online or by CD. **First Place** is \$1200. **Deadline:** March 21, 2015. For a prospectus and more information contact us at: [www.BaltimoreWatercolorSociety.org](http://www.BaltimoreWatercolorSociety.org)

## CLASSES

Peg Sheridan has the following classes for January and February:

**Night Scenes in Watercolor-** Saturday, January 17 (snow date 1/24), 9:30 to 3:30 Register: [continuinged@brcc.edu](mailto:continuinged@brcc.edu) or call [\(540\)234-8102](tel:5402348102)

**Splashes of Color: New Session with all new Lessons**  
Fridays 9 - 11:30 am., Jan. 30-March 6; [continuinged@brcc.edu](mailto:continuinged@brcc.edu) or call [\(540\)234-8102](tel:5402348102)

**Exploring the Beauty of Winter in Watercolor**  
Wednesdays 10-12, Jan 7 – 11 Feb; Registration: Call [\(540\)885-2028](tel:5408852028)

## City Scenes in Watercolor.

Saturday and Sunday Feb. 14 and 15, 9:30 to 3:30 (Snow date March 27 and 28)

Register: Call (540)886-8636, or online at [www.bssschoo.org](http://www.bssschoo.org).

## BRUSHSTROKES NEWS

With a new year comes some changes in the distribution of the Brushstrokes Newsletter. In order to streamline the amount of time needed to pull everything together, proof and get it published, items need to be turned in to me for the March/April Brushstrokes no later than 17 February.

In addition, there will be no hard copy mailings of the Newsletter. If you are not able to receive the Newsletter on your computer, hardcopies will be available at the monthly meeting.

## CVWG PLEIN AIR PAINTERS

There are currently no plein air events planned.

I am sending a plea out to our membership, would someone be willing to take over this group to include planning the venues and notifying the membership? It's not difficult, there are many beautiful areas around to paint, so please consider taking charge of this pleasant event. Please let Sue Stover know at the next meeting if you would be willing to take on this task. Thank you.

## Monthly Blog

It's a new year and house cleaning is on the agenda. Along with that house cleaning, I am looking inward, looking for things I am holding onto in the corners of myself. Things that need to get swept out or freshened up a bit. Hmm, there's a musty trail of self-doubt that needs scrubbing up and gotten rid of. I will replace it with belief in myself and my skills knowing I work to the best of my abilities. In another corner I see a BIG lump of procrastination. Let's get rid of that! There will be no more waiting or putting off doing until little issues become screamers. That only takes up time and energy that could be put to better use painting! And there, behind that lump, was a quivering mass of intrepidation. Out, out you mass! I WILL tackle new skills and ideas in my painting. Push that envelope. If the outcome isn't perfect, who cares, I will have learned something and will continue to experiment, growing and becoming more confident and skilled. I will let the joy and amazement of seeing and interpreting in paint and various media, flow into all those dark corners and begin to fill me with light and joy and fun. I challenge you all to do the same!!