



Newsletter



Art is for everyone!

MANSION HOUSE ART CENTER & GALLERY

Gallery: (301)797-2867

480 Highland Avenue (City Park), Hagerstown, MD 21740

Hours: Friday & Saturdays, 11am-4pm

Sundays, 1pm-5pm

Website: www.valleyartassoc.org

Email: valleyartinfo@gmail.com

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/ValleyArtAssociation)

[ValleyArtAssociation.](https://www.facebook.com/ValleyArtAssociation)

[Hagerstown.Md](https://www.facebook.com/ValleyArtAssociation)

November/December 2025

President's Message

As we step into the final months of the year, I am filled with gratitude for the vibrant energy and artistic spirit that continues to define our community. November and December invite reflection, celebration, and anticipation—and I can think of no better way to begin than by remembering the joy and success of the En Plein Air Event in August followed by the Fall Fest in September. Both events had many city-wide participants!

With much gratitude!

Donna Crow VAA President

Dates to Remember

November 1 to 7 - Members to set up Holiday Crafts at the Mansion House

November 10, 5:30 pm - Board Meeting (Zoom)

November 19 (1 week earlier), 7 pm - General Meeting (Hybrid)

November 23, 25 - Pick up dates for Nov member show & drop off dates for Dec/Jan show

December 5 - City Park Lighting Event (Volunteers needed!)

December 8, 5:30 pm - Board Meeting (Zoom)

December 8 - Deadline to RSVP Julie Gottlieb for Holiday Party

December 14, 1:30-5 pm - Holiday Party/Open House at Cafe Roma

December 28 - Deadline to pick up Holiday Crafts from the Mansion House

VAA Member News

VAA Members in Washington Goes Purple Show (and Award Winners)

Jennie Avila, Dee Henry, Haley Hollins-Crosson, Richard Lange (1st Place 2D, “Comfort, Pain, Regret”), Amelie Lavenant-Wink, Donna Mason, Judy Melby-Robinson, Tarah Reynolds (2nd Place 2D, “Universal Consciousness”), Chris Shingler (Best of Show and People’s Choice, “The Art of Recovery”), Jermaine Tyler, Carol Wilks, and Elaine Wolfe.



VAA Member Chris Shingler: Thanks to the vision and leadership of Chris Shingler, our 8’x4’ community art project, over the day, became a stunning centerpiece of collaboration and creativity. Over 80 artists participated in this event. This beautiful work not only showcased our collective talent—it symbolized the heart of VAA: artists coming together to inspire, uplift, and transform shared spaces. Whether you added a brushstroke, shared a story, or simply stood in awe, your presence made the moment unforgettable. Thank you, Chris, who brought together the artists and any Hagerstown resident or traveler, who wanted to participate in this beautiful painting, which is now on display at WCAC!



VAA Member Tarah Reynolds: Congratulations also to Tarah Reynolds! The City of Hagerstown selected her piece called “SPIRIT OF THE PARK” Tarah was inspired by the Hager’s and Heyser’s love story after she began feeling connected to their spirits, which led her to create this beautiful painting! As we look ahead to winter exhibitions, holiday gatherings, and new opportunities for engagement, let’s carry forward the spirit of celebration—bold, inclusive, and joyfully expressive. Thank you for being part of this journey. Your passion fuels our mission, and your art continues to shape the soul of our city.

VAA Member Donna Mason: Also, to be recognized in the newsletter is Donna Mason. Her portrait painting, “The Art of Overcoming: Healing Through Creativity” was in the September issue of AT HOME PLACES magazine...congratulations Donna!

VAA Member Patricia Boyst’s watercolor painting “Time to Circle Around” was juried into the 2025 Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition. The exhibition will run from October 10, 2025, to January 11, 2026. It will be held at the Arts Barn & Kentlands Mansion Galleries, Gaithersburg, Maryland. For hours, log on to bws.wildapricot.org/2025Mid-atl

Pattie also entered “Time to Circle Around” into an international Best of Watercolor competition. From thousands of entries, her painting was one of 122 chosen for this year’s winners. Each year the winners are showcased in a magazine called Best of Watercolor, Splash 26 Art Competition. The painting was then chosen by the editors of the magazine Watercolor Artist as a lead photo for an article. The article, called Artfully Arranged, showcased 11 paintings that “captivated through the power of a composition.” Both magazines are for sale online through Artist Magazine. “Time to Circle Around” was completed with much support from our Wednesday painting group. Pattie almost stopped painting it, but the group encouraged her to continue and finish. For that, she is thankful.

Valley Art Member Nicole Troup’s work is featured in the Annual Nancy Horton Heefner Memorial Art Show at Mercersburg Academy from now until November 16, 2025. Join artists at the reception on November 16, 2025, from 1:30 to 3 pm.

Submissions for Newsletter: If you have news you would like to include in the Newsletter, please send it to the email address: valleyartinfo@gmail.com with the subject **Newsletter**.

Program available for VAA members to display and sell their artwork: VAA artists can hang and sell their artwork at Cafe Roma Restaurant in Hagerstown. Cafe Roma does not charge a commission. All sales will be handled through the VAA. For details on the program and requirements including size of painting & limits on the number (2 paintings are available per artist at this time). Please call Coordinators Rick & Julie Gottlieb, 240-707-6271(h).

Social Committee: Volunteers are being recruited to help plan events, serve on committees, and help at various events and meetings throughout the year. If anyone is interested in helping with anything, call Julie Gottlieb at 240-707-6271(h).

Workshops and Classes Committee: If you can participate in assisting artists set up workshops at the Mansion House, please contact Elaine Wolfe at valleyartinfo@gmail.com or Denise Ruby at denise7231@aol.com or call/text 240-818-7547.

Upcoming Member Activities

Photograph your pieces. Send them as jpeg to: jessica.casey@meritushealth.com. Try to have your selected pieces to Jessica by November 19th or the date of our next VAA meeting. Please refrain from sending questions to Jessica. If you have questions, please direct them to Donna or Hal Mason.

Holiday Craft Mart: Beginning Saturday, November 1, 2025, all members can bring in their items and up to 10 shrink wrap prints to sell at the Holiday Craft Mart in the Mansion House. Before you bring in your items, please advise the Gallery Director, Denise Ruby, by email, phone, or text. denise7231@aol.com, 240-818-7547. The crafts and prints will be on display from Friday, November 7 to Sunday, December 28, 2025. The items should be picked up by December 28, 2025.

Holiday Party/Open House at Cafe Roma Ristorante: Sunday, December 14, 2025, from 1:30 to 5:00 pm. The address is 14224 Pennsylvania Ave, Hagerstown, MD 21742. Attendees order as you wish from the menu. The meal will be Dutch Treat (pay for your own food and drinks), but the restaurant will deduct 15% off your bill! Valley Art will provide cake for dessert. If you would like to participate in the GIFT EXCHANGE, bring a Painting (Max. size 4"x6") and take home a Painting! Must RSVP to Julie Gottlieb by December 8th. 240-707-6271(h) - leave a message, or email julgot6@gmail.com.

FY26 General Meeting Program Schedule

November 19, 2025 (1 week earlier due to Thanksgiving), VAA member Amanda Taylor - Program TBD

January 28, 2026, VAA member Breann Clifford - Alla prima painting demonstration

February 25, 2026, VAA member David Buckley Good -Still Life Oil painting demonstration

March 25, 2026, Amy Lindenberger - Colored pencil solvents demonstration

April 22, 2026, VAA member Donna Crow - Demonstration TBD

May 27, 2026, VAA member Lynn Ferris - Watercolor painting demonstration

North Gallery Exhibits and Sales

Month	Exhibition Title	Drop-Off Date	Opening	Closing Date	Pick-up Date
November 2025	It's a Colorful World	Oct 26, 28	October 31	November 23	Nov 23, 25
Dec 2025/Jan 2026	A Creative Celebration	Nov 23, 25	Nov 28, 2025	Jan 25, 2026	Jan 25, 27
Nov/Dec 2025	Holiday Craft Mart	Nov 1-Nov 9	November 7	December 28	Dec 21-Dec 28
February 2026	A Journey in Creativity	Jan 25, 27	January 30	February 22	Feb 22, 24

Month	Exhibition Title	Drop-Off Date	Opening	Closing Date	Pick-up Date
November 2025	It's a Colorful World	Oct 26, 28	October 31	November 23	Nov 23, 25
Dec 2025/Jan 2026	A Creative Celebration	Nov 23, 25	Nov 28, 2025	Jan 25, 2026	Jan 25, 27
March 2026	7 Elements of Art: Line, Space, Shape, Form, Value, Color, Texture	Feb 22, 24	February 27	March 29	Mar 29, 31
April 2026	In My Garden	Mar 29, 31	April 3	April 26	Apr 26, 28
May 2026	Here, There, Everywhere	Apr 26, 28	May 1	May 24	May 24, 26
June 2026	Inspired by Nature	May 24, 26	May 29	June 28	Jun 28, 30
July 2026	Outside My Window	Jun 28, 30	July 3	July 26	Jul 26, 28
August 2026	Art In Nature	Jul 26, 28	July 31	August 23	Aug 23, 25
September 2026	Chasing Light & Shadow	Aug 23, 25	August 28	September 27	Sep 27, 29
October 2026	It's Fall Again	Sep 27, 29	October 2	October 25	Oct 25, 27

Pick up and Drop Off Times: Sunday 1 - 5 pm, Tuesday 11 - 12 am

Art in the Hallway at Meritus Healthcare Center

November 2025	Donna and Hal Mason	May 2026	Gwen and Larry Bergey
December 2025	John Mullican	June 2026	Dianna Basile
January 2026	Elaine Cooper	July 2026	Tarah Reynolds
February 2026	Andy Stanicek	August 2026	Nicole Abuhmada
March 2026	Jennie Avila	September 2026	Lori Bell
April 2026	Laura Shindle	November 2026	Chris Shingler

Figure Drawing at the Mansion House

Mondays from 10 am to 1 pm in November and December, plus one additional 10 am - 3:30 pm session on Thursday, November 13. No sessions Thanksgiving Week (November 24) and Christmas Week (December 22). Open studio, uninstructed, figure drawing sessions with professional models.

CONTACT: Elaine Wolfe valleyartinfo@gmail.com / 304-261-9583 no text.

COST: Participants share the Professional Model's fee.

Drop in okay but pre-registration is helpful.

Workshops and Classes at the Mansion House in 2026

Lynn Ferris - 2026 Watercolor Classes

Thursdays, July 9 - August 13, 2026, from 9 am to noon

Six weekly watercolor classes. To register, contact Lynn directly at ferrislynn@yahoo.com

Information on her 2026 exhibitions and workshops is on her website

<https://www.lynnferris.com>

These classes fill up quickly - to avoid disappointment, please register early.

Lesa Cook (sculpture), Michael Davis (oil painting - portrait/still life), Lynn Ferris (watercolor classes), Hans Guerin (figure-drawing), Amy Lindemberger (colored pencil), Pam Wenger (watercolor portrait). Information will be provided when finalized.

Please contact Denise Ruby at denise7231@aol.com/240-818-7547 or Elaine Wolfe at ecwolfe@frontier.com/304-261-9583 (no text) with any requests.

Off-site Workshops and Classes

Nicole Troup is offering Open Studio Group Sessions monthly from 1:15-2:15 pm at her home studio in Greencastle, PA. Students bring in their own art projects, supplies and photo reference materials. Four open spots only. \$40 for a 1-hour session. Email nfntroup6@gmail.com, <https://www.nicoletroupemasterpiece.com>

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts Classes wcmfa.org/learn/classes/

Call for Artists

Calling all Valley Art Association Members: After visiting the event center of Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine, we were offered the opportunity to display art from our members. This is a large new beautiful center which is often the site for hosting visitors from near and far communities.

To get started we need to identify possible art to be selected by officials from Meritus . We are asking those interested to check their personal art work particularly for those pieces that are 24×36 or greater.

It is also time to create because we are looking to have more than one show.

Opportunity to Paint a Mural: Stephanie Sullivan and her husband own a farm in Washington County and are a new Agritourism business. They have set aside \$1200 for an artist or a group of artists to paint a mural on the side of their silo. If you are interested, please contact Stephanie Sullivan at wtforchards@gmail.com.

Artists - Get your Brushes Out! There is going to be a Cupid's Art Sale & Reception on February 10, 2026, during Cocktail Hour at Cafe Roma from 3 to 6 pm. Most drinks are ½ off. Artists are asked to bring artwork to display on easels and take home at 6 pm. Contact Julie Gottlieb, 240-707-6271 (h).

Exhibitions

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts wcmfa.org "In Nature's Studio," through January 4, 2026. American landscape painting, featuring key artists.

"Cumberland Valley Artists Exhibition," November 8, 2025 - March 1, 2026.

Opening reception Saturday, November 8, 1 - 3 pm

Show of works in honor of America's upcoming Semi quincentennial.

Washington County Arts Council www.washingtoncountyarts.com

"The Best Local Art of 2025," December 4, 2025 - January 13, 2026.

Opening Reception Thursday, December 4, 2025, 5-7 pm.

Message from our Historian, Roy Tressler

Thank you for your continuing contributions to the VAA archival scrapbooks. Please leave any art-related information and other appropriate materials at the Mansion House desk. Place your name on any information you share. The scrapbooks will be on display at selected VAA events.

Board Officers			
Crow, Donna	President	DonnaCrowART@gmail.com	480-652-0555
Elia, Philip	President Elect	yekpersianone@yahoo.com	954-661-7412
Mason, Harold (Hal)	Treasurer	halmasonart@myactv.net	301-491-2894
Jones, Keith	Asst Treasurer	KKingotu@yahoo.com	304-283-5734
Hoffman, Tamara	Corresponding Sec.	tamara.l.hoffman@icloud.com	301-331-0862
Martin, Jennifer	Recording Secretary	jenmartin72@outlook.com	410-746-9843
Ruby, Denise	Gallery Director	denise7231@aol.com	240-818-7547
Stanicek, Andy	Apprentice Gal. Dir.	stanicek.andrew@gmail.com	240-917-0214
Mason, Donna	Past President	donnamasonart@myactv.net	301-491-2899
Board Members-at-Large			
Boyst, Patricia	BMAL	wetblues@msn.com	301-992-8874
Cordes, Jayson	BMAL	jdanielcordes@gmail.com	410-507-7726
Holloway, Maria	BMAL	mholloway72@gmail.com	240-217-2094
Miller, Carol	BMAL	painterckm1234@myactv.net	240-675-9807
Parker, Susan	BMAL	scp2art@gmail.com	304-261-2255
Taylor, Amanda	BMAL	amanda.creativechancebaltimore@gmail.com	240-338-8099
Tressler, Marjorie	BMAL	marjorietressler@comcast.net	717-762-6791
Wilks, Carol	BMAL	cawilks44@gmail.com	240-818-3851
Committee and Board Advisors			
Apostolides, Patty	Social	info@pattyapostolides.com	240-203-9478
Basile, Tony	Maintenance	tntbasile@aol.com	301-791-2079
Bergey, Gwen	Social	gwenbergey@yahoo.com	240-675-0049
Bergey, Larry	Maintenance	bergeylarry@yahoo.com	240-675-0049
Boyst, Patricia	Gallery	wetblues@msn.com	301-992-8874
Cannon, Jolanda M.	Social-Backup	cannonjolanda@gmail.com	301-697-7782
Cordes, Jayson	Social Committee	jdanielcordes@gmail.com	410-507-7726
Dawson, Mike	Board Advisor	waterwalker_1@yahoo.com	717-372-7485
Elgin, Bonnie	Art in the Hallway	babyboomereducation@comcast.net	240-625-5563
Elgin, Dan	Maintenance	danobono@comcast.net	240-625-6920
Gottlieb, Julie	Social Chair, Cafe Roma	julgot6@gmail.com	724-590-1086
Gottlieb, Rick	Cafe Roma	rickgottl@verizon.net	240-707-6271
Hoffman, Tamara	Sunshine Committee	tamara.l.hoffman@icloud.com	301-331-0862
Hoverman, Rosanna	Sunshine Committee	rjhoverman@gmail.com	703-618-9051
Jones, Keith	Technology	KKingotu@yahoo.com	304-283-5734
Loveless, Charlotte	Art in the Hallway	charlove288@gmail.com	301-733-7611
Martin, Jennifer	FB Editor, Technology	jenmartin72@outlook.com	410-746-9843

Mason, Harold (Hal)	Maintenance, Tech.	halmasonart@myactv.net	301-491-2894
Moltrup, Janie	Newsletter, FB, Tech.	janiemoltrup@gmail.com	240-388-7200
Mullican, John	FB, Tech.	johnnmullican@gmail.com	301-988-7012
Parker, Susan	FB Ed., Tech., Website	scp2art@gmail.com	304-261-2255
Penrod, Matthew	Board Advisor	apostle61@gmail.com	202-725-5734
Poropatic, Catherine	Social	wigatic589@gmail.com	252-435-9348
Reynolds, Tarah	Social-Backup	cannonjolanda@gmail.com	301-697-7782
Ruby, Denise	Members, Classes, Gallery	denise7231@aol.com	240-818-7547
Shingler, Chris	Art in the Hall, Maint.	csshingler@gmail.com	301-733-0318
Stanicek, Andy	Tech., Maintenance	stanicek.andrew@gmail.com	240-917-0214
Taylor, Amanda	Publicity	amanda.creativechancebaltimore@gmail.com	240-338-8099
Tressler, Roy	Historian, Maint.	roytressler@comcast.net	240-217-3022
Wilks, Carol	Chair, Newsletter Coordinator.Team	cawilks44@gmail.com	240-818-3851
Wilson, Anne	Board Advisor	wilsoanne@hotmail.com	240-291-6409
Wilson, Don	Board Advisor	donwilson1950@hotmail.com	240-513-5471
Wolfe, Elaine	Figure Drawing, Workshops Coordinator	ecwolfe@frontier.com	304-261-9583