



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

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

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

May-June 2026

President's Message

Hello all Valley Art Association members,

As May opens into June, the days stretch long and warm, carrying that soft early-summer glow that invites us to slow down, look closer, and let inspiration find us. Color returns with confidence, and creativity feels less like something we chase and more like something that rises gently to meet us.



This season reminds me how fortunate I am to serve as your president this year. Being part of this community—one that shows up with heart, curiosity, and generosity—has been a true honor. Every workshop, exhibit, and shared moment reflects the spirit that makes the Valley Art Association so special.

I'm especially looking forward to our Summer Picnic on the Porch on June 25. There's something timeless about gathering in the warm air, sharing food and laughter, and celebrating the friendships and creative energy that carry us through the year. I hope you'll join us for an afternoon that feels like a breath of summer itself.

As the season unfolds, may you find inspiration in small, quiet places: shifting light, open windows, familiar paths, or the simple joy of making something with your hands. Let this be a time to explore, to play, and to let your creativity bloom in its own way.

With gratitude and warm summer joy,
Donna Crow
President, Valley Art Association

Dates to Remember

May 11, 5:30 pm: Board Meeting on Zoom

May 27, 7 pm: General meeting at Mansion House and on Zoom. Lynn Ferris - Watercolor Painting demonstration. Dianna Basile, and Gwen & Larry Bergy will provide refreshments.

June 8, 5:30 pm: Board Meeting on Zoom

June 11, 10 am-3 pm: Gallery Members' wall changes and new contracts/payments for gallery spaces and dues renewals. Please pay with cash or check if possible. Contact Denise Ruby with questions. (Information with agenda will be emailed to gallery members).

June 25, 6 pm: Members Picnic on the Mansion House porch. VAA will provide chicken & 2 sides from AC&T plus water. Members are asked to bring a dish or dessert to share. (Free for members and \$5 for a member's guest). Volunteers to help set up or clean up appreciated. Contact Julie Gottlieb, Social chair.

July 1: Members' dues renewal \$30 are due for the new fiscal year. (Can pay at the picnic on June 25). Please pay with cash or check if possible.

August 8, 10 am - 4 pm : Plein Air Festival in City Park, themed "History is in Our Nature"

August 9, 10 am - 4 pm: Rain date for Plein Air Festival - Mansion House is open 1 - 5 pm

September 19, 11 am - 4 pm: City Park Fall Fest

September 23, 7 pm: First General meeting for new fiscal year at the Mansion House

VAA Member News

John Mullican's Chamber of Commerce April-May Exhibit: "People and Places": John Mullican has 23 paintings on display in the Training Room. He has a lifetime of dedication to art, and the love of nature form the foundation of his work. He studied with the masters at the Schuler School of Fine Art developing his classical realistic style. His subjects come from the broad spectrum of wildlife, nature and the environment. He has achieved acclaim in the mediums of sculpture in bronze and wood, oil, and opaque watercolor. His professional accomplishments include public, corporate, museum, and private commissions, and major exhibitions nationally and worldwide. He has done major site design work for government, corporate, and private organizations. For more information, email: JohnNMullican@gmail.com.



Sandi Polvinale: "Hard work pays off - looks like I won 5 national awards and placed 4 in the PPS Inc. anthology book! Pennsylvania Poetry Society 2026 annual writing competition winners: *Rhyming humorous category*: 3rd place ~ "The Prima Dona," About the biggest know-it-all on earth. *Rhymed and metered, Environment category*: 3rd place ~ "Feathered Spirits," A mystical experience on my farm. *Humorous any form 20 lines*: 3rd Honorable Mention ~ "A Walk On The Wild Side," About a sleepover with my east Baltimore Grandmother going to bingo. *Love poem with a fresh perspective, nothing trite or over sentimental*: 2nd place ~ "I Want You Always In My Bed," about wanting to marry my CPAP machine. *Pets category*: 3rd place ~ "A funny cat Haiku," About my cat laying on my arm as I typed."

Election of VAA Board Members: Nominations for Board members were made at the April 22, 2026 general meeting. The nominees' elections to the Board will take place at the May 27, 2026 general meeting. Newly elected Board members will take office on July 1, 2026; their terms will end on June 30, 2027. Interested members in a Board position should notify the VAA Nomination Committee (Roy Tressler or Hal Mason), or they may nominate themselves at the April or May meeting prior to the elections taking place. For questions about these Board positions, please talk to Roy or Hal, or to a Board member.

VAA Website Member Page: VAA members can have, at no cost to them, a member page on the VAA website. This page can serve as a web presence for those who don't have or want to maintain websites, or an additional presence for those who do. The VAA website is structured to have the member page move to the "Past Member" section when the member leaves. This should ensure a web presence even after the member's own page is taken down, and remain available as long as VAA has a website. To see the member pages, just go to the VAA website at valleyartassoc.org and then to the "**Members and Community**" section from the menu. To have a member page, just email up to one page of text about yourself and your art and up to 8 good quality images of your work to Sue Parker at valleyartinfo@gmail.com.

Special Event to Honor Founders of the Mansion House and the Present VAA Members: VAA is looking for members who can volunteer with the planning and the implementing of this special event. Please contact a VAA Board member if you would like to help! (See contact information on the back of this newsletter).

On 8/13/1991 the Daily Mail in Hagerstown MD reported that the Valley Art Association (VAA), an art club formed in 1938, will be moving into the 150 year old Mansion House in City Park and it will be “opening August 30th as a museum following a year-long refurbishing process, with 25 members who pitched in to spruce up the mansion’s rooms using paint provided by the city”. It is now 35 years later and the VAA, which is presently a 501C3 non-profit organization with 160+ members, would like to celebrate their anniversary year with the public!

They will be doing this sometime in October 2026 with a special event to honor the founders of the Mansion House and the present VAA members who are keeping this working Mansion House Art Center & Gallery open and viable!

Misplaced painting from December/January North Gallery Show: Charlotte Loveless’s sister, Lue Krick, exhibited an oil painting “Winter’s Scene”. If you had a painting in the show, would you check through your stash of painting to see if you picked it up by mistake. Charlove288@gmail.com or 301-733-7611 (call or text)

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**.

Social Committee: Volunteers are being recruited to help with meetings, planning and setting up special events, etc. Contact Julie Gottlieb at 240-707-6271(h) or email julgot6@gmail.com.

Workshops Committee: If you would like to be on the committee to assist artists who want to set up workshops, contact Elaine Wolfe or Denise Ruby.

Upcoming Member Activities

North Gallery Exhibits and Sales

Month	Exhibition Title	Drop Off (Sun/Tues)	Opening Date(Friday)	Closing Date (Sunday)	Pickup (Sun/Tues)
May 2026	Amanda Taylor's students' artwork. Art Enabled: A Creative Chance Showcase	Apr 26, 28	May 1	May 24	May 24, 26
	Creative Chance Showcase Reception		Sat, May 2, 12 - 3		
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 30	Aug 30, Sep 1
September 2026	History is In Our Nature (Plein Air Artists)	Aug 30, Sep 1	September 4	September 27	Sep 27, 29
	Plein Air Exhibit Reception		Sept 5, 1-3 pm		
October 2026	It's Fall Again	Sep 27, 29	October 2	October 25	Oct 25, 27
October 2026	Founders' Celebration MH's 35th Anniversary		TBD		
November 2026	Wonderful World	Oct 25, 27	October 30	November 29	Nov 29, Dec 1

Art in the Hallway at Meritus Healthcare Center Exhibitors

May 2026	Gwen and Larry Bergey	November 2026	Rick Gottlieb
June 2026	Dianna Basile	December 2026	Amelie Lavenant-Wink
July 2026	Tarah Reynolds	January 2027	
August 2026	Nicole Abuhamada	February 2027	
September 2026	Lori Bell	March 2027	Donna Crow
October 2026	Chris Shingler	April 2027	Carol Miller

Chamber of Commerce Exhibitors

April/May 2026	John Mullican	Oct/Nov 2026	Cathie McCormick
June/July 2026	Elaine Cooper	Dec 2026/Jan 2027	Trish Suder
Aug/Sept 2026	Nicole Troup		

Figure Drawing at the Mansion House

Mondays from 10 am to 1 pm in May and June 2026, with May 4 being a clothed portrait session. 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 - 2026

Amy Lindenberger - "Basic Botanical in Colored Pencil" - Thursday, May 7 from 9 am - 4 pm:

Techniques for start-to-finish botanicals with colored pencil, including underpainting grisaille or complement, use of wax resist, and smooth color gradations for maximum depth.

CONTACT: Denise Ruby at valleyartinfo@gmail.com or denise7231@aol.com or 240-818-7547 text/call.

COST: \$75 for VAA/Museum members, \$85 non-members. Lunch included in the workshop fee.

PAYMENT: By check payable to Amy Lindenberger, mail/drop off: Mansion House, Attn: Denise Ruby

MINIMUM: 7 artists / Maximum is 12

LiiLii Seniura - "Modern Still Life" - Friday, May 8 from 10 am - 4 pm: A comprehensive one day course in design and composition of The Modern Still Life - "Thinking outside the Table".

CONTACT: LiiLii Seniura via email liliifish.llc@gmail.com.

COST: \$80 for VAA/Museum members and \$95 for non-members.

PAYMENT: By check or credit card: Venmo@liliifish or Zelle 410-412-004, or drop-off/mail check payable to LiiLii Seniura to the Mansion House, Attn: LiiLii Seniura.

MINIMUM: 2 artists, maximum 8

Erin Nelson - "Paint like a Ross" - Friday, May 15, from 12 - 3 pm:

Learn to paint like Bob Ross using techniques demonstrated in his "Joy of Painting" series - this is the first of several classes this summer: June 19, August 7 and September 11.

COST: \$60 for VAA/Museum members, \$75 non-members. All required materials included in the cost.

PAYMENT: By Paypal, credit card or check: By Paypal (ekadstudio@gmail.com) or if by credit card payment with 3% fee, please call 443-244-0966. Or drop-off/mail check payable to EKAD Studio to Mansion House, Attn: Erin Nelson.

REGISTER: Please use the Eventbrite link below or email Erin (ekadstudio@gmail.com). When using Eventbrite to sign up, please text or email Erin for VAA promo code

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paint-like-a-ross-with-erin-tickets-1986988125973?aff=oddtcreator>

MINIMUM: 5 artists, maximum 18. DEADLINE: May 13th, 2026



Hans Guerin - Figure-Drawing Workshop - Thursday, June 4 from 10 am - 3:30 pm:

CONTACT: Elaine Wolfe or Denise Ruby at valleyartinfo@gmail.com

COST: \$80 for VAA/Museum members, \$90 for non-members. Lunch included in the workshop fee.

PAYMENT: By check payable to Hans Guerin. Mail/drop off: Mansion House, Attn: Elaine Wolfe.

MODEL FEE: The model fee is \$25/hour and will be shared equally by the artists. Cash payment is usual, but if paying by check, the check would be made out to the model. Elaine Wolfe will be responsible for collecting model payments. MINIMUM: 8 artists, maximum 12

Lesla Cook - Low Relief Sculpture Workshop - Thursday, June 18, 10:30 am - 4:00 pm:

CONTACT: Elaine Wolfe or Denise Ruby at valleyartinfo@gmail.com

COST: \$70 for VAA/Museum members, \$75 non-members. Plus clay supply fee (clay supplied by instructor) \$20. Lunch (half-hour break) is included in the workshop fee.

Sculpture stands and sculpting tools loaned by the instructor for the workshop.

PAYMENT: By check or credit card: via Venmo @ Melissa Avera-Cook, or drop-off/mail check payable to Lesla Cook, to the Mansion House, Attn: Elaine Wolfe. MINIMUM: 6 artists, maximum 12

Lynn Ferris - 2026 Watercolor Classes - Thursdays, July 9 - August 13, from 9 am - Noon:

Six weekly watercolor classes.

REGISTER: Contact Lynn directly at ferrislynn@yahoo.com. Information on her 2026 exhibitions and workshops is on her website: waiting list only. <https://www.lynnferris.com>

Further workshops with **Hans Guerin** (figure-drawing), **Pam Wenger** (watercolor portrait) and **Lesla Cook** (sculpture with live model) are in the planning stages. 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 to set up workshops.

Off-site Workshops and Classes

Sandi Polvinale-Cherry Blossom themed Watercolor Class: Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm: This is the final scheduled class of **A Series of ART, EAT & DRINK Classes** by VAA members Erin Nelson, Donna Crow, Julie Gottlieb and Sandi Polvinale at Café Roma Ristorante, 14224 Pennsylvania Avenue, Hagerstown, MD. Contact Julie Gottlieb julgot6@gmail.com/240-707-6271(h) (no text). *These are not VAA sponsored classes.*

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

Call for Artists

Program available for VAA members to display and sell their artwork: Are You Aware that the VAA is in partnership with Cafe Roma Ristorante, 14224 Pennsylvania Ave, Hagerstown, MD 21742 AND we have an artists program that allows VAA artists to display their artwork in the restaurant to sell? We have an average of 30 artists who participate on a rotating basis. If you would like to display your artwork there & need additional information on the program, please call Rick or Julie Gottlieb, 240-707-6271 (h).

Exhibitions

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts wcmfa.org "The Scandinavian Home," an exhibition organized by The Frick Pittsburgh, art and design of Scandinavian culture 1880-1920, through May 17.

Washington County Arts Council www.washingtoncountyarts.com

April - May 2026 - Potomac River Artists Guild: "Line, Shape, Color and Form"

Message from our Historian, Roy Tressler

Thank you for your contributions to the VAA archival scrapbooks which are displayed at select VAA events. Please put any art-related information and materials at the Mansion House desk with your name on them.

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