

# PWCS Half Sheet

A Publication of the PHILADELPHIA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1900

Cheryl Schlenker, President

Joe Grubb, Editor

## President's Message

You can't win if you don't try. If you don't shoot for the moon, you'll never land among the stars. Well, we did try, and we ended up with some stars. Our online Members Show yielded 139 entries from all over the US and elsewhere, even as far away as Turkey. There were a few glitches (of course), and we hope to work them out before the next online show. **Mick McAndrews** and **Nick Mohler** worked very hard to create an easy-to-use system for you to submit entries, pay dues, and even sign up for new membership. A jewel in the crown is **Annie Strack**, our fabulous tech support genius, who a few of you got to know. She even worked her magic with a grumpy husband. Our Judge of Awards, **Mark Mehaffey** (see his choices elsewhere in the newsletter) said he was moved by the emotional content that went beyond skill and technique. Enjoy the show, and we welcome your feedback on it, as always.



Are you a fair weather plein air painter? Have you been suffering from cabin fever? PWCS is trying to set up a more active schedule of paint-outs this spring. **Donald Leong** has been consulting with a few hardy souls and hopes to be able to offer our membership some places to go with a group or on

your own. Look for his suggestions and information within the *Half/Sheet*.

We are grateful to our new Board member **Joe Grubb** for volunteering to take over organization of the *Half/Sheet*. You can send news to him at [JoeGrubb3@gmail.com](mailto:JoeGrubb3@gmail.com).

I have downloaded a free app that might interest you. "**Daily Art**" sends your phone a historic painting every day along with a few paragraphs discussing its style, significance, and artist. You will learn quite a bit in just a few minutes per day. For example, did you know that **Gauguin** and **Van Gogh** painted the same café in Arles during the same month in 1888? Van Gogh painted it while staying up all night for three nights. He and Gauguin did not get along, to put it mildly. This app helps me meet my goal of thinking about art every day.

Many of our older members have complained about everything going online. But younger members know no other way to live and communicate. The transition may be difficult, but it has been fun for me to observe the miracles the internet can provide. We will not stop offering help and paper products to those who need them. But, as **Aristotle Onassis** said, "We must free ourselves from the hope that the sea will ever rest. We must learn to sail in high winds." Just saying. Happy sailing, everyone!

Cheryl

# Plein Air Plans Emerge: Kuerner Farm First Up

(From Board Member Donald Leong)

Through this unusual cold and wet winter your Board and Members of PWCS have not forgotten proposals for a series of plein air events in the warmer weather. Choosing sites is crucial. Not every site, no matter how picturesque, can be considered. Ease of access, the availability of parking or public transportation, existence of restroom facilities, and basic safety concerns all must be suitable.

PWCS Member **Bruce Poulterer** is a plein air painter and has been working on a number of locations to kick off the season. Under consideration among others are: Ridley Creek State Park; the Haskell Farm in Chadds Ford; Valley Forge National Park; Logan Circle in Philadelphia; the Ben Franklin Parkway in Phila.; Boathouse Row in Phila.; and the patio around 30th St. Station in Phila.

While many of the areas are public, PWCS will need to schedule access dates and notify local authorities of the planned activities. Some locations require pre-registration, limit numbers, and/or charge a fee to enter the grounds on a first-come-first-served basis. Other sites will be free and open to the full membership of PWCS.

**I'm pleased to announce that the first PWCS plein air event of 2015 will take place Wednesday, May 27, 9:00 AM—5:00 PM, at the iconic Kuerner Farm in Chadds Ford, PA. Unfortunately we are limited to the first 20 sign-ups at \$10. each. You must contact Donald Leong at [donaldleongart@gmail.com](mailto:donaldleongart@gmail.com) if interested. Details on parking and other need-to-know information will be provided to the first 20 applicants. Payment details will be posted on the PWCS website in April.**

## Plein Air, Continued

Bruce Poulterer comments, "For almost eight decades Andrew Wyeth walked the grounds and explored the inside of the house and barn of this iconic farm, creating over 1,000 sketches, drawings, and watercolor and oil paintings of its images. To have the opportunity to paint in the footsteps of Andrew Wyeth for an artist is really an historic opportunity. Andy said to Karl Kuerner III that as many times as he painted there, he would never run out of things to paint and we know you will find this to be true."

[Editor's Note: Wyeth's "Evening at Kuerners" is the most powerful painting I have ever seen in person, and is certainly one of the reasons I started painting.]

Donald adds: "We welcome suggestions from all members for potential plein air sites. Individuals with 'inside access' to great sites are particularly encouraged to contact me. Again, [donaldleongart@gmail.com](mailto:donaldleongart@gmail.com)."

## PWCS Membership Categories

### Associate Membership

Having paid annual dues.

### Signature Membership

Having paid dues as an Associate Member and been accepted into **two** annual PWCS International Exhibitions.

### Honorary Membership

Bestowed by the Board on any individual for special service to the PWCS.

### Life Membership

Having paid dues for ten years, Members can purchase a Life Membership for \$500.

### Honorary Life Membership

Having paid dues for the past ten years and upon attaining age 72, a Signature Member can request Honorary Life Membership.

## Members' News and Notes

- **Pat Wilson-Schmid** will be presenting her abstract paintings at the Valley Lake Gallery at 3 Village Rd., Horsham, on April 25. A talk at 11 AM will be followed by a reception from 1-3 PM. Call 215-260-5631 for more info.
- **Riva and Bill Brown** participated in the Spring Art Show at the Hagley Museum in Wilmington. Riva also just completed an exhibit of her work that ran March 6-24 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington.
- **Virginia Rosa** was awarded 2nd prize out of 232 works entered in the Central Bucks Fever 28th Anniversary Art Exhibition last summer. The show was juried by three nationally known figures, Nelson Shanks, George Anthonisen, and Lisa Hanover.

**Our apologies to Carmella Tuliszewski for misspelling her name in the list of new Signature Members in the last Half/Sheet.**

- **Judi Oser** had a large one-person show at the Polk State Lake Wales Art Center in Lake Wales, FL for the month of March.
- **All Members** are invited to participate in the Fairmount Park System's "Rooms in Bloom" event at the Park houses May 17 thru 24. Artists may show one or two paintings in one of the six participating historic houses. Contact Toni DeGeorge ([tdegeorge@gmail.com](mailto:tdegeorge@gmail.com)) or Beth Kowalchick ([strawberrymansion@me.com](mailto:strawberrymansion@me.com)), co-chairs, for show specifics.
- **Deborah and Philip Zuchman** of Zuchman Studios have been busy. Deborah's painting "All or None" is included in a national traveling exhibit of posters sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee. The exhibit will appear between March and June at locations in Indianapolis, NYC, and Chicago. Philip has carved a Yad (Torah Pointer) that is

now in the collection of Kol Tzedek Synagogue, Phila.

- **Joe Grubb** was awarded 2nd prize for painting at last summer's 51st Annual Havre de Grace Art Show in MD.
- **Angela Barbalace** received the Elizabeth Ruggles Memorial Award at the 45th Garden State Watercolor Society Annual Juried Exhibition.
- **Maria Morales** had a two-person show with her photographer son at the Chester County Art Assoc. last summer, and was accepted into the Bryn Mawr Rehab Juried International Exhibition in the fall.

**In Memoriam: James J. Riley**

## Congratulations!

**These Members had work accepted in the 148th Annual International Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society**

**Denise Athanas, AWS**  
**Denny Bond, AWS**  
**Louis Gadai, AWS**  
**Jean Gill, AWS**  
**Chandler Kissell**  
**Doug Lew**  
**James Maria**  
**Antonio Masi, AWS**  
**Jinnie May**  
**Mick McAndrews**  
**Laurin McCracken, AWS**  
**James McFarlane, AWS**  
**Pam McLaughlin**  
**Catherine O'Neill, AWS**  
**Carole Pickle, AWS**  
**Diane Schmidt, AWS**  
**Susannah Hart Thomer, AWS**  
**Frank Webb, AWS**  
**Susan Weintraub**  
**Sarah Yeoman**  
**Barbara Yoerg**

# 2015 Online Members Show is Up and Running, Prize Winners Announced

The 2015 PWCS Online Members Show went "live" April 1. 139 entries were received and reviewed closely by the Juror of Awards, Mark Mehaffey (see his profile opposite). Mark commented, "I'm always honored to be asked to jury a show. It's always fun and I take the responsibility very seriously. While it is difficult to see every subtlety on a computer monitor it is possible to make the viewer linger and wonder. It is that emotional connection that supplied the major criteria for my selections. Design and technique were secondary considerations. Congratulations to all who entered, keep at it!"

Here are the prize winners as selected by him:

**First prize: Denny Bond**

**Second prize: Robert Burridge**

**Third prize: Kass Morin Freeman**

**Merit Award**

**(in no particular order)**

**Jinnie May**

**Susan Weintraub**

**William McAllister**

**Sarah Yeoman**

**Kathy Ruck**

**Honorable Mention**

**(in no particular order)**

**Cheryl Schlenker**

**George Schoonover**

**Gwynn DiPilla**

**Denise Athanas**

**Riva Brown**

**Mark Kaufman**

**Michael Adams**

**Rhoda Yanow**

**Mary Smith**

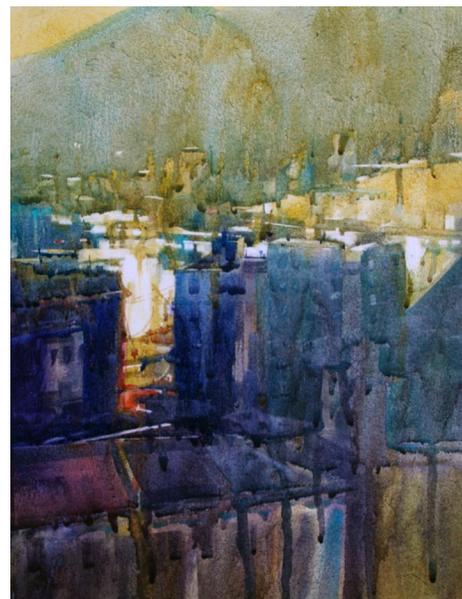
**Linnie Greenberg**

## Meet Our Juror of Awards Mark Mehaffey

Nationally recognized artist **Mark E. Mehaffey** is a signature member of the National Watercolor Society, the American Watercolor Society(df), and the Transparent Watercolor Society of America. He's also a Signature Life Member-Master Status of Watercolor West and the Rocky Mountain Watermedia Society, and Signature Life Member of the Louisiana Watercolor Society.

Mehaffey has won major awards in juried exhibitions across the country including the Beverly Green Memorial Purchase Award from the National Watercolor Society, the Silver Medal of Honor and the Arches Paper Co. Award from the American Watercolor Society, the M. Grumbacher Gold Medal from Allied Artists of America, and the Skyledge Award from the Midwest Watercolor Society. Mehaffey's work has appeared in many publications; most recently in *The Best of Watercolor*, *Splash 5: The Glory of Color*, *Splash 10: Passionate Brush Strokes*, *Splash 11: Places in Watercolor*, and as a featured artist in a step-by-step guide and showcase, *Creative Watercolor*, published by Rockport.

Mark has been a committed public school art instructor who believes our art future is with the young and is dedicated to building that vision. A popular juror, Mark is also a workshop instructor and lecturer around the country and is listed in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" and "Who's Who in America."



**"Morning Harbor" by Mark Mehaffey**

# Details Finalized for 115th International Exhibition of Works on Paper

After months of hard work by Board members **Donald Leong** and **Terry Boyle**, all of the elements of PWCS' signature event, the 115th International Exhibition of Works on Paper, have come together.

The show will be held at GoggleWorks (as in "safety goggles") Center for the Arts, an abandoned factory in the heart of downtown Reading (201 Washington St.) that has been adaptively transformed into 145,000 sq. ft. of galleries, classrooms, studios, and other spaces devoted to its mission as a community arts and cultural center for Berks County and central and Southeastern PA (go to [GoggleWorks.org](http://GoggleWorks.org) for the complete story).

**Members should have received (or will shortly receive) by mail the Prospectus for the show. Links to the Prospectus will also be posted in our website, [PWCsociety.org](http://PWCsociety.org). Important dates/times are detailed in the Calendar on the last page of this *Half/Sheet*.**

Since this location is a bit of a long drive for Philadelphia-area artists, the dates of certain events within the show have been cleverly combined. Specifically, our gallery talk, to be given by **Dick Ressel**, NWS, PWCS (CA), and our demonstration, by **Kass Morin Freeman**, AWS, PWCS (CA), will be offered back-to-back on Sunday, Sept. 20. Similarly, after the awards reception on Sunday, Oct. 25 (the last day of the show), artists may pick up their paintings (or the next day, Oct. 26, as well).

We are thrilled to announce the jurors for the show. **Elaine Daily-Birnbaum**, AWS df, NWS, ([www.dailyart.us](http://www.dailyart.us)) will be Juror of Selection, and **Jeanne Dobie**, AWS, NWS, ([jeannedobie.com](http://jeannedobie.com)) will be Juror of Awards. Both are popular and experienced jurors — see more about them later in this article.

## International Exhibition, cont.

We have added another award to our long list. The Baltimore Watercolor Society has invited us to offer a reciprocal award of \$250. during our respective Anniversary Exhibitions. Thus, each organization will offer a \$250. award in the other's name in their show.

### Meet Our Juror of Selection Elaine Daily-Birnbaum

Award-winning artist **Elaine Daily-Birnbaum** has no formal art training. In her own words, "I am not formally trained in art, although I've had the opportunity to independently study with numerous talented and respected artists. My lack of formal training in art may contribute to my willingness to abandon fixed ideas and rules regarding the painting process. This leaves the excitement of unlimited possibilities ever open to me."

Ms. Daily-Birnbaum has been in 101 juried exhibitions, collecting 76 awards in the process, including four international invitational venues. She is a Signature Member of the American Watercolor Society, National Watercolor Society, San Diego Watercolor Society, California Watercolor Society, and the Northwest Watercolor Society. She holds awards and recognitions far too numerous to mention. PWCS is honored to have such an esteemed artist as juror of selection.



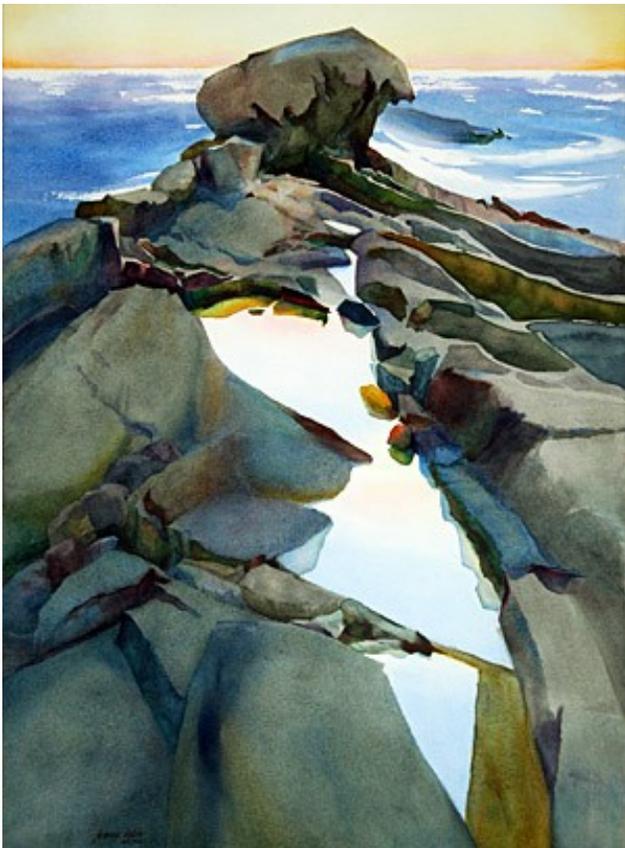
**"Seaside Shanty" by Elaine Daily-Birnbaum**

(Article continues on page 6)

## International Exhibition, cont.

### Meet our Juror of Awards Jeanne Dobie

Nationally known watercolorist, juror, educator and author **Jeanne Dobie** is noted for her paintings, prints, DVD *7 Lesson Workshop*, and book *Making Color Sing*. Jeanne was one of 16 international artists profiled with her prize-winning paintings in the French magazine *L'Art de l'Aquarelle No. 9*. She has won numerous medals and awards from National exhibitions, the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society, the Transparent Watercolor Society of America, and the Watercolor USA Honor Society. She has been featured on the covers and in articles in *American Artist* and *The Artist's Magazine*, as well as in many other US and European publications. She's a Signature Member of AWS, NWS, TWSA, WHS-USA, PWS, and FWS, and is a frequent juror of awards in major national exhibitions. Her paintings are represented in prominent collections, including the Frye Museum, Seattle. Most currently she was the Juror of Selection for the Watercolor Society of Alabama National Exhibition, which just concluded in Fairhope, AL.



**"Tide Pools" by Jeanne Dobie**

## Thoughts of the Greats

- "Creativity takes courage."  
**Henri Matisse**
- "The position of the artist is humble. He is essentially a channel."  
**Piet Mondrian**
- "To create one's own world takes courage."  
**Georgia O'Keeffe**
- "Great art picks up where nature left off."  
**Marc Chagall**
- "The main thing is to be moved, to love, to hope, to tremble, to live."  
**Auguste Rodin**
- "Every good painter paints what he is."  
**Jackson Pollock**
- "Don't be an art critic, but paint, there lies salvation."  
**Paul Cezanne**
- "A good artist has less time than ideas."  
**Martin Kippenberger**
- "Don't think about making art, just get it done. Let everyone else decide if it's good or bad, whether they love it or hate it. While they are deciding, make even more art."  
**Andy Warhol**
- "Colour is my day-long obsession, joy and torment."  
**Claude Monet**
- "Art is the only way to run away without leaving home."  
**Twyla Tharp**

## Our Ancient History

By Cheryl Schlenker

In order to save about \$1,000. per year in rental fees, **Dee Casner** (our fair Treasurer) and I recently travelled to Elkins Park to empty out our safe deposit box of records dating back to the early 1900s. **Howard Watson** has retired from his position as Archivist, and had put the records into the (very) large safety deposit box for us.

In lieu of finding another archivist to take over the responsibility, the Board decided to donate the records to the **Historical Society of Pennsylvania** (HSP), who will take good care of them and make them available to our members for viewing and copying. I have been reviewing these books of minutes, letters, photos and programs, and have a deepened respect for the work of our forefathers and foremothers. Hand-penned minutes, newspaper accolades, and lists of accepted and rejected artists are included in the inventory. I learned that **Georgia O'Keeffe** was accepted in 1950, and that before **Edward Hopper** was accepted, he was initially rejected for his "bad attitude."

PWCS also used to purchase paintings and had acquired up to 250 of them. Among artists whose work was acquired were **Cecilia Beaux, George Bellows, George Walter Dawson, George Ennis, J. McClure Hamilton, W. Emerton Heitland, Henry McCarter, Thornton Oakley, Violet Oakley, Maxfield Parrish, Joseph Pennell, Howard Pyle, Arthur Rackman, Robert Riggs, John Singer Sargent, Benton Spruance, Andrew Wyeth, Henry Pitz, and Pablo Picasso**. All of the paintings have been donated to the Philadelphia Museum of Art and are being stored by them. Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA) at various times has had a close relationship with PWCS and used to host our annual international exhibitions.

## Our Ancient History, Cont.

We plan to use the savings in rental fees to increase awards and/or scholarships in the coming years.

All Members will be able to visit HSP at no cost to peruse these records at some point later this year. They are located at 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Their phone is (215)732-6200, and website [hsp.org](http://hsp.org).

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# Please Don't Miss The Upcoming 2015 Chester County Studio Tour

## Saturday May 16

10—6

## Sunday May 17

11—5

100 artists exhibiting at 47 sites around Chester County. Many PWCS Members are participating.

See

[Chestercountystudiotour.com](http://Chestercountystudiotour.com)

for complete information.

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**Calendar**

**Members Online Show**

Beginning April 1 available for viewing.

**115th Anniversary International Exhibition of Works on Paper**

Site: Goggleworks, Reading, PA  
 Show dates: Sat. Sept. 5—Sun. Oct. 25  
 Prospectus to be available April  
 Entries due: June 15  
 Notification: July 15  
 Shipped works due: Aug. 24—28  
 Hand-delivered works due:  
 Aug. 31, 11 AM—4 PM  
 Gallery talk: Sun. Sept. 20, Noon  
 Demonstration: Sun. Sept. 20, 1 PM  
 Awards reception and pick up of works (after awards presentation): Sun. Oct. 25, 1—3 PM  
 Additional pick-up of works:  
 Mon. Oct. 26, 11 AM—4 PM

**Philadelphia Water Color Society Board of Directors**

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The *Half/Sheet* is published in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Please email relevant information to Joe Grubb at [joegrubb3@gmail.com](mailto:joegrubb3@gmail.com). Submissions are accepted and/or edited at the discretion of the editor.