



## Calendar

### Next Member Program

**Luana Luconi Winner (Zoom)**

**“How Would Sargent Paint**

**Them: The Color of People”**

March 8, 2025

[Get more information](#)

### Aline Ordman Workshop

*Creating Dynamic Pastels*

May 9-11, 2025

[Get more information](#)

### The Center at Belvedere

**9th Annual Judged**

**Members Exhibit**

*Expressions in Pastel*

May - June 2025, 2022

[Get more information](#)

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*Expressions* newsletter will feature member's pastels each issue. Artwork for this issue is by **Betty Hudson, Arizona Peace.**

## ■ From the President

### Finding Joy Beyond Competition

As we look ahead to our March program with Luana Luconi Winner, a thought she recently shared in an email has resonated deeply:

*“I, for one, was never interested in ‘competing in art.’ My art was heartfelt, depicting people at particularly important times in their lives... Then we all found ourselves thrust into this method of ranking... so silly... Even after competing some, I stopped... My free time was then spent painting still life and narrative paintings without the self-imposed pressure of competition looming in the background.”*

What a powerful reflection. The pressure to compete—to measure success through sales, awards, and recognition—can easily overshadow the simple joy of creating. It’s a tough balance: using competition as motivation without letting it dictate our worth as artists.

Maybe it comes down to reminding ourselves why we started in the first place. The freedom to explore, to get lost in color and form, to express something only we can—there is so much value in that alone. Art is, at its core, a privilege to create. When we step back from external validation and just paint, our work often feels more honest and fulfilling.

*Continued on page 2*

## Paintings by Luana Luconi-Winner



*President's Letter continued...*

Do you ever find yourself needing to reset, to step away from the pressures and reconnect with that initial joy? We'd love to hear your thoughts as we continue this conversation.

Paint what you love. No pressure, just joy!

Warmly,

Joan Dreicer

MAPS President and Workshop Chair

## ■ Upcoming Program

**Saturday, March 8, 2025**

Luana Luconi-Winner (Zoom)

*The Art of John Singer Sargent*

12:30 pm: Business Meeting

1:00 pm: Presentation



Portrait artist, master pastelists, and

instructor **Luana Luconi Winner** will present a program inspired by the 2023-24 "*Fashioned by Sargent*" exhibition at the **Fine Arts Museum of Boston** and at the **Tate** in London.

Luana will focus on Sargent's extraordinary handling of skin tones, and how he depicted the blue bloods of Europe, the creamy debutants of the United States, and the country people. She will show how some of his favorite subjects might have been created in pastels with five different skin tones in miniature copies of Sargent's portraits. Luana will follow with a short portrait demonstration.

Luana is a founding member of the Portrait Society of America, a Juried Member of the Portrait Society of Atlanta, an elected Master Circle member of the International Association of Pastel Societies, and a Signature Member of the Pastel Society of America. Learn more about Luana Luconi-Winner by [clicking here](#).

## Workshops

**Aline Ordman**  
**May 9-11, 2025**



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**Karen Margulis**  
**November 7-9, 2025**



## Upcoming Workshops

**Aline Ordman**

***Creating Dynamic Pastels***

Richmond, VA - May 9-11, 2025 (In-Person)

Painting is learning to see. Often, we paint what we think we see because we all have preconceived notions of what something looks like. However, to really paint what you see, you must break down everything you are looking at into just abstract shapes. Don't see a "house", see a series of interlocking shapes.

Working from their own photo references, students will transform these into pastel paintings using the principles of color, value and design. Aline will talk about understanding color in terms of temperature, intensity and value while translating those ideas using pastel technique. She will also emphasize the concept of creating shapes and carving back on them in order to achieve a painterly finish.

Aline is a Master Pastelist with the Pastel Society of America, an Eminent Pastelist with the International Association of Pastel Societies, A Signature Member of The American Impressionist Society and a Signature Member of the Oil Painters of America. Her website is [www.alineordman.com](http://www.alineordman.com)

**Karen Margulis, PSA-MP IAPS-EP**  
**Workshop**

Richmond, VA - November 7-9, 2025 (In-Person)

Karen is a contemporary landscape painter and art educator. She is a Master Pastelist member of the Pastel Society of America and Eminent Pastelist status with IAPS. She has been a faculty member at the prestigious IAPS Convention, the Plein Air Convention and the online Pastel Live conference.

Karen enjoys the opportunity to share her techniques and approach to making art in her workshops. She is known for her ability to make art simple, accessible to all and fun. Karen is also an avid Daily Painter and online instructor. She paints everyday and shares her work, art tips and inspiration in her daily posts in her Patreon group 'Pastels Made Simple'. Karen looks forward to helping others share their own artistic vision.

For more about Karen, visit her website at [www.karenmargulis.com](http://www.karenmargulis.com).

## Member Spotlight



*Arizona Peace*



*Autumn at Potato Creek*



*Letters from the Bay*

## Member Spotlight

### Betty Hudson

I was blessed with a small amount of artistic ability and with many people who loved and encouraged me.

A commercial artist across the street picked out oils for my parents to give me and taught me how to use them when I was 12. My mom took me to Lynchburg Art Center each week to study under a college professor. My high school art teacher, Jack Fanfani, inspired me to dream big before

he went on to work on the Washington Cathedral as a painter and sculptor. When I had pastels done of my children, I inspired a friend who painted them by accepting his large fee for my third son. He went on to a very successful career charging \$9,000 for portraits. He blessed me by spending days teaching me his techniques.

Looking back on my busy life I had little time to paint. I was only able to admire colors, clouds, and the beauty of my surroundings. I could only wonder what colors I would use if I had the opportunity. I enjoyed art through my children. Now they are very creative and are working with their children. My grandson, Henry, creates art even before he goes to school and mails me pictures and videos of his paintings and collages of found objects.

I enjoy watercolor, oils, and pastels. My biggest love is color. This shows up in the crazy clothes I wear. I find the best fix for instant color in vivid form is pastel. I enjoy painting things that have meaning to me and my family. I was blessed to meet and marry a sweet artist and we start each day watching YouTube pastel instructions. I'm thankful for my blessings.

Enjoy your gifts and teach a child to paint!  
Betty Hudson



*It's Cold Outside*

## Workshop Paintings



## Adrian's Guiliani's Workshop

Observation and Play, Exploring the Artistic Possibilities  
Joan Dreicer - Workshop Chair

What a fun two days of painting. Adrian's approach to painting is so unique and from what I heard, took many years of success and failure to bring her to a place of joy in her painting process.

Some thoughts I took away from the time spent with her.

- Play, play, play.
- Paint over old paintings, sideways or upside down. Use what is there in your painting.
- Feel free to splash some water on your painting. Something really interesting may come out of it.
- It is okay to put this mark here, in this shape/color because, this is what I want to do right now. It may change but right now.....
- Move around the picture plane and see what excites you, what you want to express in the painting.
- Turn your painting upside down and just add some marks that make you happy.
- "I really don't care if anyone else likes this painting because I do"
- "Dance while you paint"
- I don't ask if what I am doing is right or wrong. If I want to do it, I do it without judgement.
- No matter what you paint, even if you don't like it, you always learn something.
- I don't worry about what the final result is I just enjoy the process.
- Be brave and take chances. That is how you grow.
- When confused, slow down and just observe what is happening.
- Don't forget about the negative space.

I think all who participated were able to feel good about having fun and expressing themselves with no judgement. Such an important lesson!



## Member News

Tricia Shands' pastel painting *Summer's Soliloquy* has been accepted into the **2025 Spring Members Juried Exhibition All About Pastels** through the Southeastern Pastel Society at the **Alpharetta Arts Center** in Alpharetta, GA.

Her pastel painting *Shades of Summer Sunsets* is in the 2025 Frank Stick Memorial Art Show at Dare Arts Gallery in Manteo, NC.

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Maria Andrade's painting *The Mark You Leave Matters* will be showing in the **Soho Pop-Up** exhibit in Nashville, TN.



*The Mark You Leave Matters*

## Member News

### Trees, Rocks, Skies, and Water Workshop with Jacob Aguiar

By Patti Jeffries

I recently attended a workshop titled *Trees, Rocks, Skies, and Water* with the talented landscape artist Jacob Aguiar. The objective was not to do a finished painting each day, but to practice specific objects in the landscape. My goals were to handle all that green better and to work on my color harmony.

After 3 busy days of painting, what I learned is that its not just value creating those trees and rocks, but color saturation and temperature as well. Simplifying all the details in the landscape helps make the scene more organized and readable. Tree edges soften and drift into each other, the inside of a tree also reflects warmth from the sky as light filters through the branches. Color is reflected up from the ground and water onto objects like rocks and tree trunks. All of these, along with mark making, help bring the landscape to life.

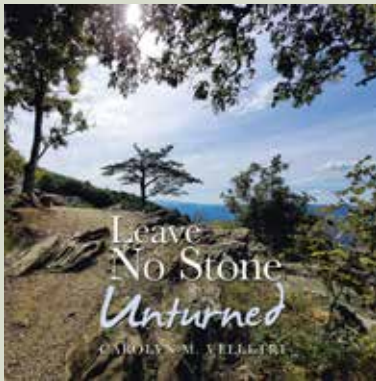
I brought away lots of tools for my landscape journey. I also enjoy being an online patreon of Jacob's. For more information about Jacob [click here](#).



*Trees, Rocks, Skies and Water*



## Carolyn's Book



Cover



Madison



Andy's Sunrise

# ■ Leave No Stone Unturned

## By Carolyn Velletri

In the basket next to my chair is the “huggable copy” of my recently published book! When I first saw it, I could not believe all the creative work and sweat equity was bound and beautiful. My book, *Leave No Stone Unturned* is a compilation of illustrated reflections exploring nature from a unique perspective. I wrote the reflections for the Nature Foundation of Wintergreen's weekly newsletter over a period of several years. Each image is one of my original paintings or a photograph. Photographs were taken by my husband Rich, friends, or me.

The original paintings are either soft pastels or watercolors—equally divided. Organized into four sections—one for each season, the book includes fifty-two reflections. As a nature lover, I keep nature journals, produce artwork and photography—all reflecting my keen vantage point. The reader is invited to contemplate one reflection and its corresponding image each week of each season during the year.

*Madison* and *Andy's Sunrise* remind of us of the upcoming spring and summer. The daughter of a friend, Madison illustrates a glorious day. “Moments like these can be active or quiet, small scale or expansive, but there is a beauty and inner peace we associate with glorious nature.” (p. 107) Although we did not participate in the official exhibit, my cousin took a photo, and I painted *Andy's Sunrise*. The exhibit showcased the photo and corresponding painting. This soft pastel served to illustrate the reflection 5:24 AM. “If attuned to the (Circadian) rhythm, we awaken to the first light of day...” (p. 23)

I still hug *Leave No Stone Unturned* in pride, and I hope you will look at my book sometime. It is available from **LifeRich Publishing, Amazon,** and **Barnes and Noble,** as well as from me. After reaching this important goal, I am in my studio painting and learning and growing as I hope are each and every one of you.

## Member News

**Patti Jeffries** pastel painting *Mmm! Mmm! Good!* has been accepted into the **2025 Spring Members Juried Exhibition All About Pastels** through the Southeastern Pastel Society.

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Welcome  
New Members!

John Ball  
Susan Macintire  
Ann Steele

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## ■ Upcoming Exhibits

### **9th Annual Judged Members Exhibit** **The Center at Belvedere** *Expressions in Pastel* **May - June 2025, 2022** **Aline Ordman, Judge**



Our annual member exhibition will be in the spring for 2025 at **The Center at Belvedere** in Charlottesville, VA. The exhibit will be judged by **Aline Ordman**, an award winning pastelist and oil painter. It's never too soon to start painting and be ready to put in something wonderful. We will host a reception at **The Center** on May 15 from 5-7 pm. For more information go to [thecentercville.org](http://thecentercville.org).

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### **Fall Exhibit** **The Montpelier Center for Art & Education** **Oct 1 - Nov 21, 2025**



Our upcoming fall exhibit will be held at **The Montpelier Center**. Located on historic Route 33, the Montpelier Center is a cornerstone of country living in western Hanover county. Surrounding spacious, light-filled atrium ballroom are three gallery walls which are home to rotating art exhibits. The Montpelier Center gallery hosts local and internationally known artists. For more information go to [www.montpeliercenter.org](http://www.montpeliercenter.org).

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“Experiment fearlessly. Play with color, a lot. Learn the basics of color theory even if it’s just using a color-wheel. Do less worrying that you might make ‘mud’ and just see what happens when you combine colors or place them next to each other.”

–Lyn Asselta, pastel artist



## 2024-2025 Executive Board Members

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## Board Happenings

**Membership** - We now have 121 members.

**Workshops** — The registration for Aline Ordman's workshop is coming soon. See more about her on our website.

**Programs** - There was discussion about the format of Member Meetings for next year. With our in-person programs there is a lot of enthusiasm for getting together but there are many members who are unable to make the trip to Richmond for an in-person meeting. We have tried hybrid meetings, but it is difficult to feel involved if you are participating virtually. It also does not really make sense to have an online presenter viewed at a large meeting room, when it is also available from your home. It was decided to keep the meeting arrangements as we did this year with three Zoom meetings and two in person meetings, but we will also offer an additional activity/program for those who are local to participate in. For example a paint in, paint out, field trip, etc.

**Exhibits** - Our upcoming judged exhibit is scheduled for May of this year with the award announcements at our End of Year Member Meeting and reception. We are also going to host a reception in Charlottesville at The Center at Belvedere on May 15th from 5-7pm. During that reception the Charlottesville Garden Club will have their lovely floral arrangements set up with select paintings in our exhibit.

**Technology** - Lisa Lowenstein is now assisting Sheila Chandler with duties of the Technology Chair. Thanks so much to Lisa for stepping up.

**Treasury** - A portion of MAPS monies have been invested in a money market account to earn a small bit of interest to contribute to our treasury.

## Share with Us!

We'd love to hear about your news or anything that interests you creatively; a workshop, an award, a blog or an exhibition of your work. Send images and details to [patti.jeffries@gmail.com](mailto:patti.jeffries@gmail.com). Thanks for reading the MAPS *Expressions* newsletter.