



BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2021

Website: www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Member Meeting

Virtual Zoom meeting
Friday, Jan. 8, 2021
12:30 pm Business Meeting
1:00 pm Mike Beeman Demo

MAPS Board Meeting

Friday, Feb. 12, 2021
1:00 – 3:00 pm

Exhibits

Montpelier Center for Arts &
Education
All Members Exhibit
“Positively Spring”
Mar. 8 – Apr. 30, 2021

Workshops

Tony Allain

Feb 6, 2021 10:00 am-4:00 pm, or
Feb. 20, 2021 10:00 am-4:00 pm
“Creativity Untamed –
From Sketch to Frame”
Zoom platform

Laura Pollak

May 21-23, 2021
“Abstracting the Landscape –
Getting the Glow”

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Happy New Year everyone!!! I am hopeful that this year will bring us much joy and appreciation for some renewed freedoms.

When my neighbor dropped a holiday gift off yesterday with her mask on, it reminded me how odd those masks make me feel. In a different world, I would have smiled broadly and given her a big hug. In our current world my guard and my mask went up and, of course, my greeting to her felt hollow and distant. 2021 is a new year and I celebrate its arrival with open arms!!!

I am wondering what everyone has been up to the last couple of months. Having my children and grandchild in my circle, has given me some much-needed happy moments during these otherwise, unusual holidays. My time in the studio has been limited to purging and cleaning. I have an open slate before me for some new creativity and exploration ahead. I plan to create a new piece for our upcoming exhibit, “Positively Spring” at the Montpelier Center for Arts and Education. You should have received the email announcement recently. The link to register is <https://www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com/workshops.html> If you have any questions contact Carol Cullinan at chcullinan@gmail.com.

Coming on Friday, January 8th, Elizabeth Hood has arranged another fabulous program. Following a brief meeting, we will be hosting Mike Beeman, PSA, OPA, AIS, IAPS-MC. He will do a 2+ hour virtual demonstration - painting a bird and using his Terry Ludwig special edition Snowbird set of pastels. This set will be our January meeting door prize! Mike will select the winner prior to the demo. You must be Zoom-present to win. You will soon be receiving an email from MAPS with a link to this meeting.

In February, Tony Allain is scheduled for a one-day workshop. Due to its popularity, the February 6th workshop filled quickly and we
(Continued on page 4)

MAPS PROGRAMS

Friday, Jan. 8th **Mike Beeman Pastel Demo**

12:30-3:30 PM – Zoom Business Meeting for members and Demo

We will have a short Zoom business meeting with important information about MAPS plans for the coming year for programs, workshops and exhibits.

Following this Mike Beeman will be doing a live 2.5-3-hour demo via Zoom. He will demo preparing gator board for pastels, doing an underpainting on the prepared board, then the actual pastel painting of a bird. He will also have a short discussion/demo on framing passé partout. Members will be able to ask questions via "chat" during the demo.

“Mike Beeman of Cheyenne, Wyoming, works in pastel and oil, in studio and on location, to paint a variety of subjects, including landscapes, still life and figures. He is a signature member of the American Impressionist Society, Pastel Society of America and a Master Circle artist in the International Association of Pastel Societies. His work has appeared in numerous juried exhibitions and competitions and he has received many honors, including the Pastel Journal Silver Award in the 14th Annual Pastel 100 in 2013.” - *from About Mike Beeman*, www.mikebeeman.com.

Immediately before the demo, we will be giving away a Terry Ludwig special edition Songbird pastel set as our door prize. This set is based on Mike Beeman's palette, which was a limited time only offering, not regularly available. Mike will be using that set for his bird demo for our program.



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Saturday, March 13th **Amy Shawley-Paquette Demo**

12:30-3:30 PM – Zoom Business Meeting for Members and Demo

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Friday, May 14th **TBD**

12:30-3:30 PM

Carolyn M. Velletri

In my mind, artists are destined to be artists. They may not think they are or ever could be, but over time with encouragement I have watched so many individuals become one. The urge to take a class, the support of a friend, the right teacher – these influences on an artist change the person over time and go into each work of art. This is certainly true for me.

When I was a child I loved to color. Throughout school I took art classes favoring black and white media. When I was 23 years old, I asked an astrologer WHEN was I really going to “get into art.” She said it would probably be when I was around 40 to 45 years old. Well...she was right!

At age 43 I took a portrait drawing class with my friend. She really wanted to take a painting class, but I insisted, “I don’t do color.” Each time we passed by the watercolor artists my friend Jayne reiterated that was the class she really wanted to take. We did. I loved it!

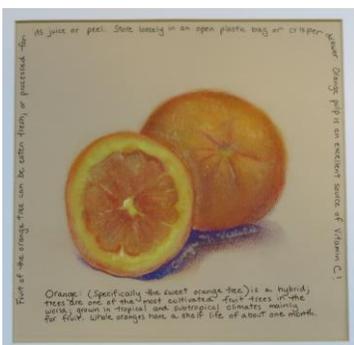
I took another and another class with Shelly Bechtel Shepherd. I learned so much from her! I continued to paint in watercolor and took many other workshops. Another friend Cathy and I painted regularly. I showed my work and won several honorable mentions with Richmond City Art’s Emerging Talent Shows and exhibited with the Hanover Art League. Somewhere along the way I became an artist in my own mind and envisioned having my own show one day.

Meanwhile, in 2008, my friend Dianne wanted me to take a pastel class with her at The Cultural Arts Center - Glen Allen (CACGA). “Why not?” The first night was a disaster, however our teacher, Linda Wolitz, was very patient. Honestly, I almost never went back but did. As time passed, I learned new techniques and continue to do so taking various workshops. Just as I love watercolors, I love pastels. My subjects remain similar with the addition of portraiture.

Finally, my dream of a one-person show came true. In 2011 I told my story at the Cochran Rockville Library in “The Evolving Artist,” Supportive friends enjoyed my story and artist statements of the nearly 30 black and white, watercolor, and pastel artworks displayed.

My art takes note of the beauty in the natural world around us. Most of my creations involve subjects from nature – landscapes, flowers, fruits and vegetables, people, and animals. Some of my paintings, like the Citrus Series, are in-depth studies of the subject. For example, the orange is placed in front of my easel in the studio; another one is

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued)

opened registration for a second day on February 20th. The focus of the workshop will be to take a landscape, figure, still life and using sketches and thumbnails along with our reference material, he will help us bring some fresh color and a more painterly feel to our works. We still have some openings available for February 20th, if you are interested. (You can also sign up for the waitlist on February 6th.) The cost is \$80. The workshop runs from 10am to 4pm with breaks for tea and lunch. To register and for more information go to <https://www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com/workshops.html>.

For those looking for some artistic motivation, Alain Picard is hosting a 90-day painting challenge. In this challenge he is asking participants to create 30 paintings in 90 days. It provides an opportunity to, perhaps, take a little more time with a painting. I plan to participate. I learned so much from the 60 day challenge I took part in last April/ May. We have all heard it, but it is true, daily painting leads to leaps and bounds in your confidence and skills. If you are interested in signing up I have provided the link here. <https://mailchi.mp/a6d8a5d1cb69/create30challenge2021>.

At our last board meeting, we talked about boosting our Facebook page with a little more member activity. If you have any news, paintings, experiences, inspiration you would like to share, you can forward it to any of the board members or to the MidAtlantic Pastel Society email and we can circulate the information to our followers. Also, **please, share our Facebook page** on your page and help us increase viewership!

Looking forward to the year ahead and oping to **see you ALL** in 2021!!! Wishes for peace, inspiration and good health to you.

Joan Dreicer
MAPS President

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (continued)

sliced (oh the aroma!) and placed next to it. Through the painting comes a close examination of the features of the fruit inside and out. The beauty in a simple orange appears as I take note.

This careful consideration extends to flowers, people, animals, and landscapes. I prefer to paint the subject from “real life” and the landscapes en plein air. It makes the relationship more immediate and personal for me. My use of color and technique leads to a realistic interpretation of the natural world in all its beauty from the petal on a flower to an expansive landscape.

In 2015 I showcased my works in “Natural Complexions” at the CACGA. I am a Charter Member of the MidAtlantic Pastel Society and exhibit regularly with my two art friends, Jean Kleeman and Terry Atkinson as “Three Friends Painting.”

With the seriousness of everything in our lives this past year, I have discovered new freedoms in artwork – play and joy! I am open to new media and techniques as I continually learn and evolve as an artist. I am thankful to my teachers and my friends for their influence on me. Occasionally someone will ask how long it took to complete a painting and I reply, echoing one of my mentors, “Sixty-six years.”

CURRENT MAPS MEMBER EXHIBITS

All Members Exhibit "Positively Spring"

March 8 - April 30, 2021

The Montpelier Center for Arts & Education

17205 Mountain Rd, Montpelier, VA 23192

(804)883-7378

www.montpeliercenter.org

Important Dates

12/28/20	Open Online Registration
2/15/21	Registration closes & painting images due
3/8/21	Deliver paintings 11-12 pm
4/30/21	Pickup paintings 11-12 pm

The MidAtlantic Pastel Society (MAPS) is sponsoring an exhibit entitled "Positively Spring" at the Montpelier Center for Arts & Education from March 8 through April 30, 2021. While it is not meant to be prescriptive, the theme "Positively Spring" may show the renewal of spring in everything from plants and animals to the positivity and freshness in the world after the cold winter months.

The Montpelier Center for Arts & Education is a 501c3 organization whose mission is to encourage creative expression and lifetime learning through a wide variety of artistic and education opportunities. The Montpelier Center is located at 17205 Mountain Road, Montpelier, Virginia 23192. More information about the Montpelier Center for Arts & Education and directions to the Montpelier Center can be found at www.montpeliercenter.org.

Registration for the exhibit is open. There is no entry fee to register for this exhibit, but you must be a paid MAPS member for 2020-2021. Each artist may register up to two paintings until gallery capacity is reached.

Further details about this exhibit, the prospectus, and the online registration form may be found at: <https://www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com/exhibitions.html>

UPCOMING MAPS MEMBER EXHIBITS

All Members Exhibits:

February – March 2022

Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center

110 Westover Ave, Williamsburg, VA 23185

(757) 229-4949 visitwcac.org

Fall 2022

The Center at Belvedere

540 Belvedere Boulevard, Charlottesville, VA 22901

(434) 974-7756 thecentercville.org

Tony Allain Workshop

Feb. 6, 2021 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, or

Feb. 20, 2021 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Creativity Untamed - A one-day Zoom workshop designed to help you go beyond your photo reference in your painting



Our February 6th Workshop is full!

We're opening a 2nd workshop on Feb. 20th, and you can either register on the waitlist for Feb. 6th or register for Feb. 20th.

"Have you ever wanted to bring a looser and more painterly feel to your work loaded with juicy colour and flooded with light? Join me and I will share some of my working methods concentrating on painting landscapes, seascapes, figures and still life subjects that delight you and excite the viewer. Using ... sketches and thumbnails along with our reference material we can bring some fresh colour and a more painterly feel to our works." - Tony Allain

Award winning painter, instructor and author Tony Allain has been painting for over 40 years. A self-taught painter of colour, light and movement with a complete understanding of his surroundings. Born and raised on Guernsey in the Channel Islands he moved to paint and live in Cornwall, UK to capture the unique clarity of light living on the peninsular of the West Country. Tony has exhibited extensively over the years; his work can be found in many leading galleries as well as private and corporate collections worldwide, including the Maritime Museum, Guernsey and Queen Mary 2, Cunard Ocean Liner. He has exhibited with The Pastel Society of America in New York, the Royal Society of Marine Artists, London, The International Pastel Exhibition, Suzhou, China and the Pastel Society, Mall Galleries, London. A move to New Zealand in 2006 proved to be a turning point in his career with the acceptance as a **Master of the Pastel Artists of New Zealand**. His work is regularly featured in The Artist Magazine, the Pastel Journal and the Practique des Arts. He is a member of **The Pastel Society**, London,UK, the **Master Circle** of the International Association of Pastel Societies, the **Pastel Society of the West Coast**, the **Red Rocks Pastel Society**, the **German Pastel Society**, a Signature member of the **Pastel Society of America**, and an Associate member of **The Royal Society of Marine Artists**, London, UK. Tony now lives and works from his studio in Scotland. Visit [his website](#) to learn more.

"My passion will always be the landscape; it is why I became an artist. I want to share my vision of the world I see. Colour and light is my motivation for choosing a subject. The light sparkling on the water, the colour reflected in the landscape. I favour the early morning or late afternoon to capture these effects. I think an artist has to allow their surroundings to firstly reveal itself in a way that helps them share their vision with others. The quest for perfection can bring with it fear of making mistakes and can result in a style which can seem inhibited. I am not interested in pure representation; my work is about responses to the moods and atmospheres generated by landscape, still life or interior. The most precious thing we artists have is our visual language."

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Laura Pollak: "Abstracting the Landscape-Getting the Glow"

May 21-23, 2021, 11-5 PM Daily, Eastern time via Zoom

This is a fast paced 3-day workshop filled with valuable information on taking a landscape and making it uniquely yours by pushing the boundaries of reality into abstraction. There will be units moving from 'local color' to the colors that Glow." For more information go to our website, www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com.

"Laura is an award-winning Fine Artist, showing her works in galleries and museums across the nation. Her works have been juried into National and International Shows. Most recently Laura won Second Place in the Pastel Society of the West Coast Online Show in the Signature Category, won First Place in the North Carolina Statewide Show, Honorable Mention in the Pastel 100 and Best of Show in the FASO online show. She has been featured in Strokes of Genius, had articles in Pastel Journal and is currently featured in the French Magazine, Pratique des Arts. Laura is the Past President of the Pastel Society of North Carolina, is a PSA Signature Member as well as Signature Member in PSWC, PSNC and SPS." See more information on Laura on her website: www.laurapollakartist.com.



• From photo • to Local Color • to Looser • Abstract • to Minimalist

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Elaine Bankston
Linda Brenegan
Rebecca Griswold
John Miller
Julie Nelson
Jan Pini
Jan Priddy
Judy Stone
Patricia Volp
Hilary White



There is no recipe for embellishing
nature. It is a question of seeing
Rodin

CLASSES AVAILABLE

Emily Christoff is offering Zoom classes on **Drawing with Pastels**. The focus of these classes will be on materials, techniques, design, subject matter, and personal expression using pastels. You can take one or all 8 of these classes since each is unique. She is also offering **Freestyle Mentoring**. Call Emily @ [757-856-3855](tel:757-856-3855) if interested.

CLASSES AVAILABLE

Judy Leasure is offering live pastel classes on request over the internet using Skype. Prerequisites are a Computer with webcam, high-speed internet and a Skype account. Payment via Paypal. Contact Judy @ leasure.judy@gmail.com

MEMBER NEWS

Judy Leasure shared a bit of winter reading that might interest you. "I am reading a book called "I Always Loved You" by Robin Oliveira. It is the story of Mary Cassatt's time in Paris and her relationship with Degas. Of course, there are appearances by all of the other major Impressionists as well since they are all part of the story. Scattered throughout the book are insights into how she and the others worked." You can purchase on Amazon as a Kindle book.

MEMBER NEWS

Hi Fellow MAPS' members,

While searching for a prototype to make one, I came across this **Charcoal Pastel Sharpener with Recycling Container**. I found it at [artistsline.etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/listing/837923179/charcoal-pastel-sharpener-with-recycling?ga_order=most_relevant&ga_search_type=all&ga_view_type=gallery&ga_search_query=charcoal+pastel+sharpener&ref=sr_gallery-1-1&organic_search_click=1&frs=1) for \$12.99. Measuring 4" x 2 1/4" and 1 1/4 inch deep, it features a screen with a tab for easy removal and a space for the shavings. Voila! Reuse your shaved pastels! This is a new and unique gift for pastel artists! Artists Line generously gifted MAPS one of these for our raffle prizes. Please check it out.

https://www.etsy.com/listing/837923179/charcoal-pastel-sharpener-with-recycling?ga_order=most_relevant&ga_search_type=all&ga_view_type=gallery&ga_search_query=charcoal+pastel+sharpener&ref=sr_gallery-1-1&organic_search_click=1&frs=1

Carolyn Velletri, Charter Member



2020/21 EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICERS

President: Joan Dreicer
VP/Program Chair: Elizabeth Hood
Treasurer: Sheila Chandler
Secretary: Judy Leasure

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Shavon Peacock
Workshops: Joan Dreicer
Exhibits: Carol Cullinan
Hospitality: Regina Tune
Technology: Elizabeth Hood
Newsletter: Vickie Knick

ART RESOURCES LINK ON WEBSITE

Check out the page on our website with links to art resources of interest to MAPS members: <https://www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com/art-resources.html>.

MEMBER NEWS

Have something artfully newsworthy you wish to share, please email Vickie Knick @ vknick30@gmail.com, or see link on our website, www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com