

# CLEAR CHOICES

## TRANSPARENT WATERCOLOR SOCIETY OF AMERICA



TWSA will be recognized as the preeminent transparent watercolor society. We will offer and expand awards, services, education and exposure to an ever-growing membership of professionals, amateurs, students and patrons.

### Spring 2013

## Calendar 2013

*May 4 - August 4*

**TWSA 37th National Exhibition**  
*Kenosha Public Museum*

*May 5, 2:00 pm*

**TWSA 37th National Exhibition**  
*Opening and Gallery Walk*

*June 10-14*

**Celebrate Watercolor Workshop**  
*with Robin Berry, published author and professional artist for nearly 40 years*

**Celebrate Watercolor workshop**  
*with Paul Jackson, MFA, AWS, NWS professional artist and published author*

*June 15*

**Celebrate Watercolor Events**

**10:00 Watercolor Demonstration**  
**with Robin Berry**

**3:30 pm Watercolor Demonstration**  
**with Paul Jackson**

**4:45 pm Cocktail Party at Mezzanine Level**  
**for all Dinner Attendees (open bar)**

**6:00 pm Celebrate Watercolor**  
**Dinner/Annual Meeting**

*June 17-21*

**Another wonderful week of**  
**Watercolor Workshops**  
**with Robin Berry and Paul Jackson**

*August 4*

**TWSA Exhibition Closes**

[www.watercolors.org](http://www.watercolors.org)

Dear Members and Friends,

We have had plenty of activities since we closed out our 2012 exhibit. At our dinner last year I shared with you that we are going to move to online entries.

Debbie Cason-Rankin is doing a great job of coordinating this effort. We will be online before our next call for entry! We will still accept snail mail next year. However, once you see how easy online is, you'll save yourself the headaches and postage and just send it in from your computer. More to come on this. Look for an e-blast over the summer with an update.



Gayle Mondie, *President*

We are not the only ones that have been busy, many of you have been busy as well! The board has reviewed the entries to this year's exhibition, as well as the other submissions. In a word: Wow! All of you dear artists have much to be proud of, your work is beautiful, we just wish we could hang more of it! Congratulations to all of you who were selected. Our Jurors, Robin Berry and Paul Jackson, did a beautiful job. Many thanks to Sheryl Coon and Julie Skoda for all their work on receiving, logging, organizing, inputting into powerpoint, and keeping in touch with all members who entered this year. What a big job, and really well done!

In addition to all the painting that's been going on, lots of checks have been written this year too. We want to thank all who included a financial gift with your membership again this year, including those dedicated life members that make a special effort to send gifts toward our awards. It's heartwarming to see artists contribute to this fund which recognizes the finest works amongst us all. Additional awards funds come from many of our friends in the art world. We are indebted to Dorothy Mellon for her generosity and commitment to the arts through the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation. Of course award dollars are also adding up via the James D. Michael TWSA Master paintings which we have been auctioning off online with much success. These paintings were donated by Jim's estate, with our thanks going to Betsy Jones Michael for reaching out to us and being so gracious in sharing our vision of elevating the work of all watercolor artists, here and beyond.

As we think of the great beyond, we lost a dear friend and board member in February of this year. **Frank Nash** was not only a supportive husband to his watercolor artist wife, Cathy (Cathy is soon to be our president), but he supported all of us by joining our board when we needed a membership chair. Frank had the wonderful ability of sharing his vision and working to bring it to fruition. He did this for us with membership (a new database) and with our marketing efforts. When it came to marketing, before Frank got involved, we had great opportunities to improve our ability to be a consistent presence

*continued overleaf*

Continued from page 1

across the country in various magazines, museums and art organizations. He made sure we not only connected with various organizations but that those efforts were implemented with consistency. We all loved Frank, and miss him, and somehow we sense his presence in much of what we do. Frank's work remains part of our fabric. Yes, I've sent along his marketing spreadsheet to a volunteer who, like Frank, stepped forward when we needed him. Dan Simoneau is our new Marketing Committee Chair. Thank you, Dan, we all appreciate you reaching out to help us at this time. And now we all continue our work; painting, organizing, preparing, and looking forward with great anticipation to our time together. Until then, keep those brushes wet. Gayle

TRANSPARENT WATERCOLOR SOCIETY of AMERICA INVITES YOU to

## Celebrate Watercolor 2013

Our 37th Annual Presentation, Dinner and Awards Event **Saturday June 15, 2013**

**Kenosha Public Museum, 5500 First Avenue, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140**

**10:00 am** Painting Demonstration by Robin Berry

**3:30 pm** Afternoon Painting Demonstration by Paul Jackson

**4:45 pm\*\*** Reception on the Balcony with Open Bar (Premium Beer, Wine and Soda)

**6:00 pm** Dinner

*\*All dinner guests are cordially invited to attend the reception before dinner on the 2nd floor with hors d'oeuvres and open bar (beer/wine/soda).*

A video of our past award winning paintings will be streaming for your viewing pleasure.\*\*

Dinner Menu

\*Hearth Baked Bread & Rolls with whipped butter, Fresh Spinach Salad with crushed candied pecans, dried cranberries and bacon bits topped with garlic/olive oil/lemon juice dressing and mandarin oranges.

Entree of your Choice:

1. Boneless Prime Rib with Twice Baked Potatoes and Steamed Mixed Vegetable.....\$60
2. Cranberry Sage Stuffed Chicken Breast, with Twice Baked Potatoes and Steamed Broccoli Florets...\$55
3. Cheese and Mushroom Meatless Lasagna with Steamed Broccoli Florets...\$50

Dessert - Fresh Key Lime Pie, Coffee and Tea • Choice of Red or White Wine served at the table

Make your reservation by **JUNE 4th ONLINE** with a credit card at

[www.watercolorsofamerica.org/2013dinner](http://www.watercolorsofamerica.org/2013dinner)

Or kindly send in your check with the form by **MAY 20th** via regular mail to:

**TWSA 2012 Dinner, c/o V. Kwasny, 325 54th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Entree # 1, 2 or 3 (circle one)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Entree # 1, 2 or 3 (circle one)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Entree # 1, 2 or 3 (circle one)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Entree # 1, 2 or 3 (circle one)

Number of Guests x Entree amount

Entree #1 = \$60 \_\_\_\_\_

Entree #2 = \$55 \_\_\_\_\_

Entree #3 = \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Any Dietary Restrictions?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Sad News

It is with a deep sense of sadness that we inform you that our dear friend and fellow board member, **Frank Nash**, passed away February 14, 2013.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Cathy and their children and grandchildren during this most difficult time.



## Kenosha Public Museum

5600 First Avenue  
Kenosha, Wisconsin

*Nearby Accommodations:*  
Kenosha Best Western, Harborside Inn  
(262) 658-3281

## Remember These Award Winning Paintings from Past Years?

Lenox Wallace, our historian, is putting a DVD together for this year's "Celebrate Watercolor" event. It will include years 11 (1987) through 15 (1991) of the Midwest Watercolor Society exhibits. If you are coming to the dinner, you will enjoy seeing this added attraction!!

Our organization has had a wonderful history of displaying fantastic watercolor images, selected by top jurists, submitted by some of the nation's top watercolor painters and also, some of our more recent top watercolorists, when they had just started entering shows!  
Come and be amazed!





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# 2012 Skyledge Winner, John T. Salminen, TWSA Master



*John has won over 200 major awards in national and international exhibitions including the AWS Gold Medal twice, the Allied Artist Silver and Gold Medals, the NWS Silver Star Award twice, the TWSA First Place Award three times and the Shanghai International Biennial Award.*

*John has been an invited artist in 14 exhibitions in Asia and Australia. He's a frequent Juror/Judge of national and international exhibitions. His work is featured in many national and international books and magazines.*

*John's a signature member of several art societies including AWS, Allied Artists, TWSA and NWS. He's a member of the Jiangsu Watercolour Research Institute in China and he's the first American member of the Australian Watercolour Institute.*

*In retrospect, what advice were you given entering the field of watercolor that has lasted and served you well? For instance, what in the work of other watercolorists attracted you and how have you incorporated what you learned into your work?*

The lesson I took from my early inspirations (Cheng Khee Chee, Robert Wood and Morris Shubin) was the importance of design as a foundation for a successful painting, regardless of style. I had learned about design in college art classes but it was never expected that I would actually apply any of the newly-digested information when I actually painted in the studio. Edgar Whitney's design approach to watercolor painting showed me a consistent methodology in the work of the painters I admired and it also gave me a systematic approach to my own work. Having been trained as an abstract expressionist, I was used to painting intuitively and every time I began a painting I had to re-invent the wheel. An understanding of design gave me a way to create more successful paintings and to better critique the paintings I completed.

*What suggestions do you have for watercolor artists who want to raise the bar for their paintings?*

We are all artists who want to raise the bar for our work whatever our current levels of achievement. Having said that, my best advice would simply be to paint more. If we increase the time we spend painting and continue to challenge ourselves, moving out of our comfort zones when they become TOO comfortable, our work will improve. By producing more work and looking at our paintings honestly and with a critical eye we will begin to see evidence of both strengths and weaknesses. We all make some failed paintings but these can provide information for us to take to our next paintings. We need to be honest and ask ourselves "Why did this not work and how could it be improved?" We also need to recognize the strengths in the paintings that do work, pat ourselves on the back and take those new understandings with us to our new paintings.

*What are the lasting qualities of transparent watercolor that*

*still intrigue you and call for more exploration?*

The challenges of the medium keep me interested. The luminosity of transparent color on white paper is our medium's greatest strength. It is capable of creating astounding subtleties of light and shadow.

*As a juror, what advice do you have for artists submitting to an exhibition for the first time?*

Paint from your heart and don't try to second-guess the juror or judge. Submit your best work and learn from the process. Chart your progress in 5 year increments and don't be discouraged if an individual judge fails to see the merit in your work - quite possibly the next judge will.

*Beyond the basic principles of good art, how do you choose a specific watercolor to submit for exhibition? Are there intuitive or personal considerations? Can you share your thoughts on "The Mall", what inspired that piece, and at what point did you decide you would submit it to the TWSA 2012 exhibition? (Do you set out knowing that the piece you are going to start is for a particular exhibition, and if so can you share your selection of subject, timing on starting the piece and other thoughts around that process?)*

Being in Central Park immediately following a winter storm and experiencing the pale winter light filtered through the ice-covered branches inspired me to paint "The Mall". I was very pleased with the resulting painting and decided to save it for submission to the TWSA exhibition. I have a long relationship with TWSA, starting with participation in the very first show (then Midwest Watercolor Society) at the Tweed Museum in Duluth. Because of this long history and my high regard for the quality of the exhibitions, I always try to submit a painting I feel is one my strongest and one that I'm excited about. The competition is tough and it's a great honor to have a painting chosen.

*You have said that value is the most important aspect of a painting, do you think it's possible to "fix" a painting that is lacking in values? Generally speaking, where would you start? (This is for those of us who have just about finished a*

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# John Salminen Answers continued

*painting and find it is lacking.)*

The last step in my painting process involves adjusting the value to help create a spotlight, or part of the painting that is given top priority. By dropping other parts of the composition into varying degrees of shadow, I can direct the viewer's perception of the piece. As visual artists, we organize the content of our work in the same way an author organizes a novel or a screen writer organizes a movie. There are major characters and secondary characters. All of the parts contribute in specific ways, determined by the artist. Value is an important tool to use in creating that organization and guiding the viewer. The mood and emotional content of a painting is often the result of good value decisions.

Because these value adjustments are often made as the painting nears completion, it's always possible to change them in a painting that has some problems, adding a wash or using a mouth atomizer to deepen values where needed.

*In workshops, how does the energy of other artists affect your painting? Any advice for a new artist attending a workshop?*

Artists taking workshops are there to learn as much as they can

from another artist. They should leave their pre-conceptions at the door and give themselves fully to the process being shared. Once the workshop is over, they can take time to absorb what they have learned and sort through the ideas presented to see which ones can be most useful in their own painting. If at the end of a year something significant has been added to their own painting process, it was a successful workshop.

I have learned a great deal from the process of teaching and from participants. For example, I use a mouth atomizer in many of my paintings and I was introduced to the technique by Lynn Zajicek, a student in the TWSA workshop I taught in West Bend. I had only used the tool before to apply fixative. I'm also inspired by the incredible dedication of the artists I meet in workshops. We're all engaged in the same challenge - to become the best artists we can - and when I see other artists who are deeply committed to learning and improving, it reaffirms the importance of what we do. Keep Painting!

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## TWSA's 2013 On Line Mini Painting Auction

Own a piece of original art from one of our talented TWSA artists. All 6"x6" paintings are matted and framed.

Bidding is easy.

**On line bidding starts April 1st and continues through June 15 at 5pm CDT. You will be notified if you are out-bid.**

Who wouldn't be able to find just the right spot to hang these artistic treasures.

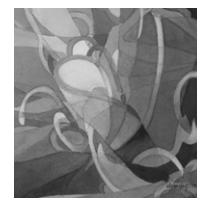
In addition, the auction helps fund our awards program for our members



Catherine Nash



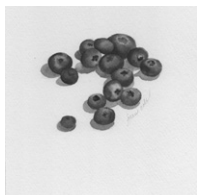
Ratindra Das



Catherine Wilson Smith



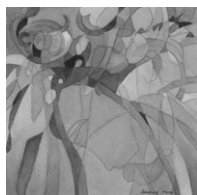
Ratindra Das



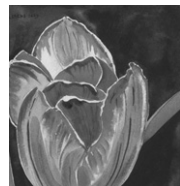
Jean Cole



Jean Cole



Martha Deming -



Melanie Lacki



John Salminen



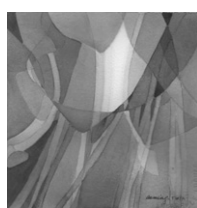
Dean Mitchell



Kay Ornborg



Kay Ornborg



Martha Deming



Ted Nuttal



Judi Betts

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# Member NEWS

**Carol Z. Brody NWS** was awarded Second Place in the *Palm Beach Watercolor Society's* Exhibition at the Coral Springs Museum in FL, and the *Blick Artist Materials Award* in the *Missouri Watercolor Society's* Annual Exhibition. Carol's paintings were also accepted into the *National Watercolor Society's* 92nd Annual Show in San Pedro, CA, *Watercolor West*, and the *Kentucky Watercolor Society's Aqueous 2012*. In addition, her work was included in the book, *'Journeys to Abstraction,'* by Sue St. John, North Light 2012.

**Donna Morrison, FWS**, was selected in the December issue of *Watercolor Artist Magazine* to be showcased in the annual feature article *'Ones to Watch'.*

**Irina Sztukowski** received an *American Art Award* in *2012 Competition Realism* Category for her watercolor. It was judged by 25 famous art galleries across the U.S. and earned fifth place in a competition between many artists from a variety of countries around the world..

**Betty Lusk Hughes** reports that her painting was selected to appear in the March, 2013 issue of *The Artists' Magazine* feature *'Artists over 60'.*

**Denny Bond** received a First place, Works on Paper, in the *Art of the State* exhibition at the State Museum in Harrisburg, PA. He was also the recipient of the *Best of Show Award* for his painting, in *Watermedia Showcase* sponsored by *Watercolor Magazine*, featured in the February, 2013 issue. Denny received a merit award in the *Miami Watercolor Society* Online Exhibition and the *Georgia Newton Memorial Award* and *People's Choice Award* in the *Transparent Watercolor Society's 36th National Exhibition*.

**Grace Haverty** had her painting accepted into the *38th Annual Western Federation of Watercolor Societies Exhibition*. The federation consists of 12 art organizations in the western part of the United States. The exhibit will be held at the Irving Art Center, Irving, Texas

from June 1 through July 7th Watercolors by **Janet Flom, NWS**, have earned several awards and recognition this year:

- 1st place in *Northwest Watercolor Society's* 72nd International Exhibition (juried by Thomas Schaller) and a featured interview in the July/August newsletter *"Hot Press"*
- 1st place in *North East Watercolor Society's 36th International Exhibition* (juried by Mel Stabin)
- 2nd place in *Red River Watercolor Society's 19th National Watermedia Exhibition* (juried by Donna Zagotta)
- the Chuck & Cheri Mills Award at the *San Diego Watercolor Society's 32nd International Exhibition* (juried by Nicholas Simmons)

**Jennifer Hunter's** painting has placed in the top 101 paintings in the 2013 Inaugural *America's Parks Through the Beauty of Art* Exhibition. She was also juried into *WAOW (Women Artists of the West)* this year.

**Marilyn Liedman, TWSA** Participating Member, has received the *IFEA (International Festivals & Events Association) Silver Award for Best Commemorative Poster* (Budget over \$1.5 Million) for her 2012 Poster for the *Coconut Grove Arts Festival*.

**Roland E. Stevens III, AIA, NWS** had paintings accepted into the following juried exhibits: *The Maryland Plein-Air Exhibit, The Invitational Exhibit* at the Oxford Gallery in Rochester, NY, *Watercolor USA 2012* at the Springfield Art Museum, *The Adirondacks National Exhibition of American Watercolors* in Old Forge, NY, *The Rochester Art Club at St. John Fisher College*, and the *American Society of Marine Artists War of 1812 Commemoration*. Another painting, " was accepted and will hang in the *Shanghai Zhujiajiao International Biennial Exhibition* in China.

**William Rogers TWSA** won an award for *Outstanding Watercolor on FASO's Online Boldbrush painting Competition*, for January. He also has been juried into a *Plein Air Event*

as one of 30 participating artists at Calloway Gardens in Pine Mountain Georgia, in April.. He also was one of 60 Plein Air artists juried into the *Carmel Art Festival* in May, where he'll teach a watercolor workshop for the Carmel Art Institute.

**Kris Preslan, TWSA, announces** transparent watercolor has been accepted into the *146th Annual International Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society* this April in New York. Her painting is "Cars I'll Never Own, #13, judged by four jurors and two awards jurors and headed by Jim McFarlane, president of AWS. Also watch for the 14th edition of "Splash" publications for her acceptance into the book, available this summer, 2013.

**Pat Dispenziere's** watercolor was juried into the *Kansas Watercolor Society National Exhibition* by Donald Lake. The show is at the *Wichita Center For the Arts* from November 30, 2012-January 6, 2013. Pat's watercolor "View From My Kitchen" has been juried into the 4th Annual Signature American Watercolor Exhibition by Cheng-Khee Chee to be held at the *Fallbrook Art Center, Fallbrook, CA*. Another of Pat's watercolors won First award in the 2012 *Watercolor West Exhibition* in Brea was voted 2nd place in the *People's Choice Award* and the painting is in the *Best of the Best* article in the Feb 2013 issue of the *Watercolor Artist* magazine. Pat also has a painting published in the book *The Artistic Touch 5*.

**Ratindra Das TWSA master, AWS/DF/NWS** received "*Jan Gary and William D Gorman Memorial Award*" at the 2013 *American Watercolor Society's Annual Exhibition* in NYC. Also, received the *Bill and Sandi LeMasters Award* at *Fallbrook Art center's 2013 4th Annual Signature Watermedia Exhibition*. Ratindra just returned from teaching a workshop in Mexico and will be leading one with TWSA signature member Dick Helland in June in Tuscany.



## Michael Painting to be auctioned during Silent Auction at Celebrate Watercolor

We are honored to present to you for silent auction the watercolor "Shadowland", and grateful to the estate of the artist, the late Dr. James D. Michael, TWSA Master, and the generosity of his widow Betsy Jones Michael for the donation of this full sheet painting along with over 40 of his delightful, smaller watercolors which we have been and will continue to be offered to the public via online bidding. All the proceeds from this generosity benefits our membership through our awards program.



This 35 1/4" x 28 1/4" framed watercolor shown here, "Shadowland", will be on silent auction the evening of the artists reception (June 14) at the Mezzanine Level of the Kenosha Public Museum, and again the evening of the Celebrate Watercolor dinner (June 15). You won't want to

miss this special opportunity to own this full sheet painting of the late Dr. James D. Michael, TWSA Master.

For those who didn't know James D. Michael, he held more than one career in his lifetime. After 29 years as a physician in the Internal Medicine Department at the Sheboygan Clinic, James retired to paint full time and ultimately to teach watercolor painting at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Plymouth Arts Center, and the Clearing in Ellison Bay, Wisconsin. He exhibited locally and nationally. In addition to holding a master status with the Transparent Watercolor Society of America he also held signature memberships in the Wisconsin Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society and the American Watercolor Society and was the recipient of numerous awards. More than a thousand of his paintings hang in private and corporate collections and many were donated to local charity benefit auctions. James and Betsy Michael have had a long history of support for their local community, and we are grateful for their support of the Transparent Watercolor Society of America, our artists and mission

### *Ballot for Directors*

#### YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

This year members may vote for (3) Directors.

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN THREE (3) PERSONS

Nia Pirnat \_\_\_\_\_

Marie Murrell \_\_\_\_\_

Vickie Kwasny \_\_\_\_\_

*Last 2 lines are available for write-in candidates  
Write in your choice of candidate*

Send to: Becky Kraft, TWSA Secretary,  
25 Honey Lake Rd., Barrington, IL 60010



## Officers & Directors

### *Officers:*

**Gayle Mondie**

President

**Catherine Nash**

1st Vice President

& Signature Screening Chair

**Sheryl Fletcher Coon**

2nd VP & Exhibition Chair

**Bob Haskins**

Treasurer

**Becky Kraft**

Secretary

### *Board of Directors*

**Lenox Wallace**

Historian

**Suzanne Hetzel**

Workshops

**Nia Pirnat**

Life Membership

**Marie Murrell**

E-Newsletter

### *Committees*

**Julie Skoda**

Entry Receiving

**Joye Moon**

Awards Chair

**Linda Christiansen**

Final Screening

**Mary Merz**

Newsletter

**Dan Simoneau**

Marketing

**Vickie Kwasny**

Dinner & Hospitality

**Sue Wolff**

Awards Committee/Wisconsin Liaison

**Pat Rodell**

Mini Paintings

**Lynn White**

Marketing & Wisconsin Liaison

**Jean Thielen**

Wisconsin Liaison

**TWSA**

249 US Rte. 6 #209

Morris, IL 60450



Morris, IL 60450  
242 US Route 6 #209

TWSA



### New Gift Awards

We have received a \$5,000 commitment from Weber & Co. for gift certificates at their art supply company which we will present to selected deserving artists.

We are so grateful to their chairman, Dennis Kapp for his generosity!

You can download our membership form, newsletter, workshop application or dinner invitation from our website [www.watercolors.org](http://www.watercolors.org)

### Exhibition Venue

We are currently working on the 2015 and 2016 Contract with Kenosha Public Museum.

### Membership Renewal Time!

Life Members, if your contact information has changed, kindly update us with your new information on the member renewal form.

### Benefits of TWSA Membership

*In addition to the satisfaction of supporting YOUR watercolor society,*

*you also receive the following benefits.*

- Catalog of Annual Exhibition
- Newsletters and e-blasts
- Notification of any special offers (bids) on our website
- Access to Masters on Call
- Prospectus for the Annual Exhibit
- Workshop priority and discount
- Listing of Member Workshops in the Workshop Newsletters
- Voting Privileges

*Please join or renew your membership now!*

*The form can be found on our website at [www.watercolors.org](http://www.watercolors.org)*