



January - February 2024  
Newsletter

Shenandoah Valley Watercolor Society  
P. O. Box 2744  
Harrisonburg VA 22801  
[ShenandoahValleyWatercolorSociety.org](http://ShenandoahValleyWatercolorSociety.org)

Officers:

Barbara Gautcher

[BGautcher@gmail.com](mailto:BGautcher@gmail.com)

Lois Kauffman

[LRKauffman111@gmail.com](mailto:LRKauffman111@gmail.com)

Kevin Updike

[Kevin7Updike@gmail.com](mailto:Kevin7Updike@gmail.com)

Donna Detrich, Treasurer

[DonnaDetrich@gmail.com](mailto:DonnaDetrich@gmail.com)

## Welcome to a New Year!

As 2023 closes, I've taken a little time for reflection. No matter if you're a "newbie" or an experienced painter, we've grown this year in our abilities, we've exhibited in more places, we've learned new skills from workshop leaders and friends, and we've developed friendships with each other. We have much to be thankful for: warm homes with no fear of bombing, enough to eat, friends to share our joys and sorrows with, and time to paint. What a year this has been. Let's continue to carry thanksgiving into 2024. Make "gratitude" our attitude for the New Year!

Barbara Gautcher

*Close the chapter of last year with a smile and reflection.  
Allow excitement and joy to bring in your new tomorrow.*

## Our Featured Artist: Leigh Crumrine

### “Let’s Play!”

By Mindy Morrison



*Nuts and Bolts on Yupo by Leigh Crumrine*

Recently, I wrangled a painting into submission; it was an epic battle. Although it had the best of me time and again, I finally set my paints aside and forced a draw. At a Friday Paint Party, Leigh Crumrine sidled up, and in her gentle manner, said, “You are your harshest critic. When something isn’t working, try to deconstruct. Paint the idea in your head in a different perspective, on a horizontal or vertical plane, from above or down low, with different tools or toys.”

Peg Sheridan said something similar in her November workshop. “Don’t copy the photo. Make it better. **Play** with the composition.”

I’ve painted with Leigh several times. The girl knows how to have fun, to **play**. Joyfully!

In a phone call, I asked what she was doing. “Oh, **playing. Having fun.**”

Her art is recognizable for its unique subjects – a pile of old tires, screws, a neurological drawing – and her one-of-a-kind, signature color palette, based on Opera Pink, Peacock Blue, and Gamboge. She never met a painting tool, or toy as she calls them, she didn’t want to try. She takes regular road trips through YouTube’s “rat holes” (her words), discovering new challenges in painting. Betsy Dillard Stroud and Karen Knutson inspire



*Industry IV: Retired by Leigh Crumrine*



*Retired by Leigh Crumrine*

Leigh, although she only uses their videos as jumping off points for her own ideas. She incorporates pen & ink, and will use Zentangle anywhere in any color, with a glitter pen if that's what a painting needs. She flexes her creative muscles, using all sizes of papers, from small pieces to full sheets.

Leigh never starts with plain white paper. She especially likes Gesso and pouring. She will pour a color onto the paper, and then figure out how to make the puzzle work.

Notice this in the painting of the abandoned bicycle. With her pile of tires painting, she first poured pink onto the paper, and then thought she could use a photo she took of old tires. Yet, pink was the inspiration.

She advises, "Follow your own bliss, don't paint for others or to sell a painting. You won't have nearly as much fun."

## **Member News**

**SVWS Dues** of \$30 are due at our January 2 monthly meeting. After January 31, dues are \$35. Donna Detrich will be collecting your payments. Checks payable to SVWS.

You may also mail your payment to her at her new address:

3450 Lairds Knob Drive  
Keezletown, VA 22832

### **From Kevin Updike:**

Happy New Year! As your membership coordinator, I just want to say I am very encouraged in my endeavors and interest to paint, discuss our interests and receive constructive feedback from many of you on the paintings I shared with the society this

past year. I had the good fortune to join SVWS at the first of the year and experience seeing others like myself visit the society and quickly join soon after.

Of the 50 persons on the membership list to-date, 5 of those members joined this past year. We had several visitors and others who expressed interest in SVWS via the social media sites. On average, 24 members attended the monthly meetings during 2023.

Way to go! I have found attending SVWS keeps me accountable to paint each month and bring something to share and be critiqued as well as seeing your very creative and beautiful works of art. I hope that is true for you too and I look forward to seeing you in the new year with works of art in hand.

If you know other water media enthusiasts, no matter their skill level, invite them to join us!

**Peg Sheridan** regularly updates her website and Facebook page about classes she is offering. Your art will improve by attending her classes and workshops so check out [www.pegsheridan.com](http://www.pegsheridan.com) Her January class filled in 3 days, with 3 more on a waiting list. Email her at [PSheridan99@comcast.net](mailto:PSheridan99@comcast.net)

**Our website** [ShenandoahValleyWatercolorSociety.org](http://ShenandoahValleyWatercolorSociety.org) continues to add to the Gallery page, due to the great participation of our members. Send her a painting image of yours to add to the Gallery. Check out the website and let Lynda Chandler know if there is a misprint. Our website receives on average 2 new member inquiries per month.

## Upcoming Events & Exhibits

**VMRC Juried Art Exhibition** announced its Call for Entry for the 2024 show. Here is the link to that Call.

<https://vmrc.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2beefb796d8dcdd205d9ef30a&id=a2dfe98174&e=7b68eef33> A full schedule is included, as well as a description of the awards, requirements, and eligibility.

**Reminder:** SVWS monthly meetings are always the first Saturday of every month from 10 – 12 at 700 West Market Street in Harrisonburg.

**January 5, 12, 19, 26: 10 am ‘til noon, Paint Party every Friday,** Westover Park’s Price-Rotary Senior Center in Harrisonburg. Bring your paint and current project. We paint together and help each other. In case of poor weather, if Harrisonburg schools are closed, we will not gather.

**January 6: 10 ‘til noon** SVWS monthly meeting.

**February 2, 9, 16, 23: 10 'til noon.** Paint Party at Westover Park's Price-Rotary Senior Center in Harrisonburg

**February 3:** 10 – 12 SVWS monthly meeting at our usual meeting place

**March 4 Gallery Day:** SVWS Signature Members are invited to show and sell their work at three locations in Harrisonburg. Paintings are changed every three months on the first Monday following our regular monthly meetings.

- Taste of Thai restaurant, 917 S. High St. - Contact Lois Whitecotton
- The Rocktown Gift Shoppe inside the Hardesty-Higgins House Visitor Center, 212 South Main St. - Contact Kelli Hertzler
- OASIS Fine Art and Craft, 103 S. Main St. Contact Donna Detrich

## **Brushstrokes**

Janina Greene sold two paintings

Martha Mobley reported great success with her open studio Christmas sales with 16 buying customers.

**News for the SVWS March - April newsletter?** Send it to me, Mindy Morrison, at [MJDM@comcast.net](mailto:MJDM@comcast.net). Please specify in the Subject line it is for that edition.

This bimonthly newsletter's color theme is Garnet Red, a signature color for January, and Amethyst, for February.



*Savanna Stump by Leigh Crumrine*

*You're off to Great Places!  
Today is your day!  
Your mountain is waiting, So ... get on your way!  
Dr. Seuss*