

St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society Newsletter

January 2026

January General Meeting

Sunday, January 25

1:00-1:15 pm Snacks & Social

1:15-1:30 pm Meeting & Announcements

1:30-3:00 pm Presenter

South Bend Museum of Art

Presenter: Irina Tikhonova

Dear St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society Members,

I hope each of you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and found moments of rest, joy, and creativity. As we step into 2026, I hope you'll join me in gifting yourselves something truly meaningful—more time to paint, explore, and nurture your artistic spirit in the year ahead.

I'm delighted to share that once again, the SJVWS will be sponsoring two \$100 merit awards for the Scholastic Art Awards. This prestigious program celebrates the power of young voices in the arts, encouraging the next generation of creatives while strengthening our community's connection to the arts. Each year, SBMA dedicates significant resources to ensure the Scholastic Art Awards are a transformative experience for these emerging artists. From communication and adjudication to hanging the artwork, hosting the celebratory reception, and monitoring the galleries, we are proud to support and uplift their artistic journeys.

As we begin this new year together, I'm grateful for the passion and generosity that define our society. Your creativity continues to inspire, and I look forward to all the ways we'll grow, paint, and connect in the months ahead.

Warmly,
Anne Marie Peck

St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society Board Members

President

Anne Marie Peck

Vice President

Diane reader Dorn

Treasurer

Nancy Turner

Secretary

Judy Rossow

Exhibits

Marta Francis

Hospitality

Beverly Watkins

Historian

Renee Keller

At Large

Gina Mitchell

SBMA Liaison

Dee Thornton

Leeper Park Art Fair

Hedy DeNolf

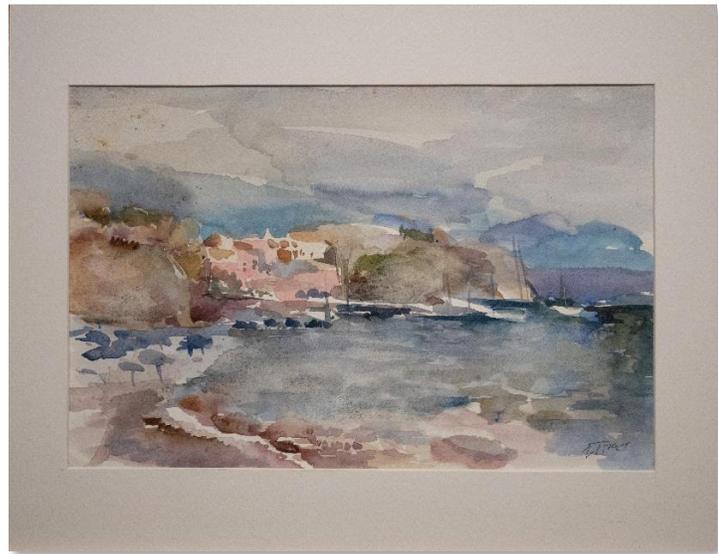
Publications

Judy Nemeth

Past President

Diane reader Dorn

January Presenter Irina Tikhonova



Art has always been a central part of my life. While living in Russia, I first graduated from a children's art school and then went on to receive my bachelor's degree in graphic design. Later, throughout my time living in emigration, I have been strengthened by my love of art. I have never stopped drawing and painting, experimenting with different mediums, pigments, and techniques.

I mostly work in watercolor, and it is my favorite way to paint. I can quickly capture a moment outdoors by avoiding detail and building form with the help of chiaroscuro, the contrast between light and dark. This is why I love watercolor: for its freshness, spontaneity, and lightness. But when I am in the studio, I am able to work more slowly and use different techniques. The focus of my work is primarily landscapes inspired by my trips to the sea, and sometimes architecture and still lifes. At times, I like to paint from memory, which often leads to more abstract works where I recognize familiar elements from my past or even from my dreams.

~ Irena Tikhonova

SJVWS Artist News

Dan Slattery

Dan will be offering a six-week class in **Watercolor Landscape** painting at the South Bend Museum of Art, beginning January 26.

The class runs from 1 – 4 pm on Mondays. To register, go to southbendart.org.

Some recent paintings by Dan Slattery



Sallee Field

Sallee has three paintings on display at **Glance Eyewear Gallery** in Heritage Square, Granger.



Anne Marie Peck

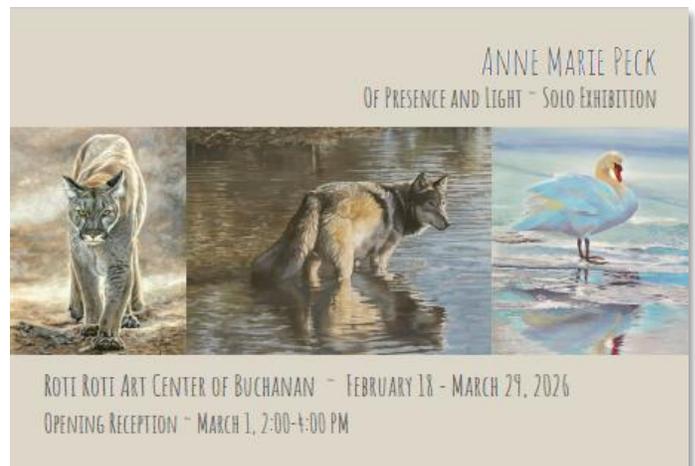
Of Presence and Light – Solo Exhibition

A collection of paintings that explore the serenity and soulfulness of nature through wildlife portraits and landscape studies.

Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan

February 18 - March 29, 2026

Artist Reception: Sunday, March 1, 2-4 pm



SJVWS Announcements

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's time to renew your membership for 2026! If you pay the annual dues of \$35 by January 31, 2026, you will enjoy the privilege of exhibiting your paintings in all the Society-sponsored shows and receive a reduced entry fee for space in the annual Leeper Park Art Fair held in June. Make your check for \$35 to the St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society. You can pay Nancy Turner at the January 2026 general meeting or mail your check to her:

Nancy Turner
14320 Northampton Dr.
Granger, IN 46530

Urgent Call for Leadership!

At the end of this season in May 2026, the St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society will be without a President, as I am unable to continue for another term. Founded in 1959, our society has thrived for decades through the dedication of its members, but we cannot continue without someone stepping into this leadership role.

We sincerely ask for a volunteer to help guide us forward so our exhibits, meetings, and community can remain active.

If you are willing to serve or would like more information, please contact Anne Marie Peck at ampeck505@gmail.com.

Marta Francis

A new painting by Marta Francis.



Leeper Park Art Fair 2026

Applications for the Leeper Park Art Fair are now open. Apply now at zapplication.org

