

St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society Newsletter

March 2026

March General Meeting

Sunday, March 22

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: Donna Virnig

Dear SJVWS Members,

I'm very much looking forward to seeing everyone this month, especially since our January meeting was canceled due to the extreme winter weather. It will be wonderful to reconnect, share what we've been working on, and enjoy the creative energy that always fills the room when we gather.

As we move toward the end of our season, I do need to share an important reminder: **several key Board positions must be filled before next year**, or we may be faced with the difficult possibility of disbanding the organization. The most urgent need is for someone to step into the role of President, as I am unable to continue in this capacity next season. We are also seeking volunteers for Exhibits Coordinator and Publications Coordinator to help carry forward our exhibits and newsletter.

Our society has always thrived because of its dedicated members. If you feel called to serve, we would be deeply grateful. If you are interested in helping with any of these positions, please contact me directly.

Kind regards,
Anne Marie Peck
ampeck505@gmail.com
(505) 660-6939

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

open

Past President

Diane reader Dorn

March Presenter Donna Virnig



At age 5, I began my watercolor career when my parents gave me my first Prang set for my birthday. Unfortunately, those early masterpieces no longer exist. Later, in college, I earned a degree in Art and then taught K-12 before transitioning my art skills into Mechanical Drawing and eventually a degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After a 30+ year career of engine design, Management, and forensic IT, I have now retired and come full circle back to my watercolor origins!

My engineering skills have enhanced my ability to see and express detail in my creations. I rarely use brushes larger than #2 when I work and I prefer to use a mostly dry technique for control of the medium. I use a variety of paper types and occasionally canvas to simulate texture. I use interplay of light and shadow to create three-dimensional images of flora, fauna and landscapes. My paintings are intended to create a calming atmosphere and to connect people to the natural world. I sometimes introduce a bit of whimsy to create rapport between my subjects and those who see my work. I am fascinated by water and reflections in particular. I frequently collaborate with my husband who is a photographer, using images he has taken in my work.

My husband, James, and I are avid travelers who have visited every continent collecting enough subject matter for a lifetime!

~ Donna Virnig ~ djpix@sbcglobal.net ~ 812-927-0385

SJVWS Artist News & Announcements

Dan Slattery

Dan will be offering a six-week class **Weather in Watercolor** painting at the South Bend Museum of Art, beginning March 15.

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

Leeper Park Art Fair 2026 Member's Booth

Leeper Park Art Fair is known as one of the premier fine art fairs in the country! This year the fair will take place on Saturday, June 20, 10am - 6pm and Sunday, June 21, 10am - 5pm.

The St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society sponsors a booth for our members. It's a great opportunity to be part of this nationally acclaimed art fair! Applications and information for this will be at our March and May general meetings and are also available on our website: stjoevalleywatercolor.com.

The deadline for applications and payments to be received is Sunday, May 24.

Hope to see you at the Leeper Park Art Fair!



Anne Marie Peck

Anne Marie will be teaching a six-week class **Painting with Gouache: Exploring a Versatile Medium** at the South Bend Museum of Art, beginning March 22.

The class runs from 9am - noon on Sundays. To register, go to southbendart.org.



Of Presence and Light – Solo Exhibition
Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan
February 18 - March 29, 2026

Call for Artists:

Around the Bend 2026

Submission Deadline: March 27, 2026

<https://southbendart.submittable.com/submit>

Michiana Annual Art Competition (MAAC)

Submission & payment deadline: April 5

<https://boxfactoryforthearts.org/maac/>

Small Wonders 2026

The deadline for submissions is April 18th.

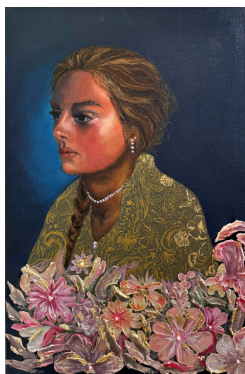
<https://heartlandartgallery.com/small-wonders-2026/>

SJVWS Announcements

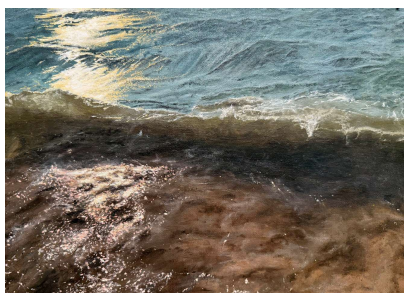
Scholastic Art Awards

The 2026 Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition at the [South Bend Museum of Art](#) is currently on display through **April 13, 2026**. As the regional affiliate for Northwest Indiana and Southwest Michigan, the museum features over **500 award-winning student works** from grades 7–12, selected from more than 3,400 regional submissions.

The St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society has a tradition of giving a \$100.0 award to two of these students. This year our two winners are:



Mary Glenn, painting titled **“Growth”**
Saint Joseph High School, IN, grade 11
She also received a silver award from the Scholastic Art Awards.



Lucas Silva, painting titled **“Ebb and Flo”**
Saint Joseph High School, MI, grade 11
He also received a silver award from the Scholastic Art Awards.

Art Supplies Available HIMI Gouache Set

A brand-new **HIMI gouache paint set** from the collection of Rex Edwards is available to anyone in the Society who would enjoy using it. It's a **24-color set with brushes in an orange box**, completely unused. These sets typically retail for **\$25–\$30**, and while there is **no obligation to purchase it**, anyone who wishes to make an offer may do so. Any amount offered will go directly to Mrs. Edwards.

If you're interested in giving this set a good home, please contact Cathy McCormack, camccorm@aol.com, for more details.

Leeper Park Art Fair

Seeking volunteers for the Information Tent and for booth sitting.

Contact Joan Spohrer at jfspohrer@ameritech.net

