

Sangamon Watercolor Society Newsletter

January 2009

SWS Monthly Meeting----- January 22: An Artist's View of Japan

Following the 7 pm business meeting, our program this month will feature as speaker member Aneita Atwood Gates. She will present a DVD overview of photos and sketches made during her recent trip to Japan with a group led by watercolor artist/teacher, Judi Betts. Aneita combines on-site sketching with soft watercolors to share her experiences with the viewers in a unique and often humorous way. Hoogland Board room, third floor.

Dues Due in Due Time

Treasurer Jan Sorenson issues this timely reminder: **“It is now time to pay \$25 membership dues to the Sangamon Watercolor Society.** The \$25 from each member nearly covers the cost of rent paid to the Hoogland Center for the Arts (\$96 a month). The CFTA provides us with a room for our monthly meetings, ample bright location for our workshops during the year (we had 4 in 2008), referral on the CFTA web site to the SWS web site and a permanent mailing address for SWS, to name a few benefits.

For members who wish to display their recent watercolor paintings in the Board Room Gallery, the check should include an additional \$10 gallery display fee for a total of \$35. If a member sells a painting from the Gallery or from another SWS sponsored exhibit (like Chase Bank), SWS collects 20% commission. In 2008, about \$1,500 worth of paintings were sold! In 2008, the collection of gallery fees and commissions from sales only covered about 1/4th the costs to update the Board Room with a beautiful new hanging/display system.

For any member who will be a featured artist in 2009, they owe an additional \$10. Check should be written for \$45 (\$25 SWS membership, \$10 Gallery display fee and \$10 featured artist fee). Attendance at our bimonthly receptions has continually grown. The extra \$10 fee helps to defray some of the costs for the postcards that are mailed out.

The optimist in me reminds you that if any one wishes to write a check for any additional amount, SWS gladly accepts donations. In 2008, SWS received nearly \$200 in donations- which just about covered the cost of adding wonderful new DVDs to our library collection.

Please make your check **payable to SWS**, and send to me, **Jan Sorenson at 910 Osborn Ave, Springfield, IL 62702.**”

News From Our Members

Carolyn Owen Sommer shares this observation; “While visiting my mom in FL, I looked at a painting on her wall and found an **original BRIDGET AUSTIN!** I have been looking at that painting for years, but hadn't checked the signature. Now I will be taking a class with her! That's cool!”

Plein Air Opportunities

Janice Chan Hahn has submitted a listing of upcoming and proposed Plein Air activities. This list will be printed in two-month segments which you may wish to add to your calendar. We welcome all SWS members to paint with us on location at any of these sites. We also welcome suggestions for future locations! Most sessions begin at 10am and are followed by a group lunch at a nearby restaurant.

January 17: 9am: Hang paintings at Hoogland Center for Arts for the Opening that night. Then we will leave Hoogland at 10:45 for Lincoln IL for a Plein Air event - Ellie will drive

Jan 24: Work on mural at First Presbyterian Church

Jan 31: Paint at Illinois State Museum

Feb 7: Meet at Old State Capitol to demonstrate watercolor painting during “Amazing Grace” choir groups’ performances

Feb 14: Meet at restored train station across from Presidential Museum/ Library

Feb 24: Washington Park Botanical Garden/ Arboretum

Feb 28: (This date is open for suggestions)

A New Year Opening

A combined Art Opening with the Prairie Art Alliance will be held from 5:30-7:30 pm on Saturday, January 17 in the third floor Board room. Our SWS all-members exhibit is titled “**OLD FAVORITES**”. Dig around, look at your walls or under the bed for an oldie-but-goodie that you would like to share, “as you were”! See hanging schedule above. Title, price, and other info should be sent to the label-maker, Fran Byers, fbyers1@earthlink.net before Saturday.

ArtScapes

MarySue Farmer has begun an art study group for the local Branch of the AAUW. She will teach a morning workshop on “LINE” on Saturday, January 17. Future meetings of this group will feature as guest-speakers, SWS members Aneita Gates and Janice Chan Hahn. Meetings are open to members of the AAUW and their guests.

Commentary

“At times like this, when things are not good, we look to the artistic communityto remind us of what’s important, what really in the end has value, and what makes us ask.....what beauty is.” ---A quotation by MA State Senator Rob O’Leary, speaking at the Opening Reception for *ROYGBIV: Exploring the Color Spectrum*, Cotuit Center for the Arts.

Your NEWSLETTER can be as interesting as *you help* make it! Please send your info to me at admsfarmer@comcast.net by the 15th of each month. -MarySue