



# TWS ARTLINE

DECEMBER 2022



## CO-PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

What a glorious fall we have had in the Toronto area: beautiful weather and the stunning, radiant colours of the trees everywhere! I hope many of you were able to get out on location to paint or were able to walk in our many parks to absorb the atmosphere, crunch the falling leaves or take superb pictures to use at home as references for some wonderful paintings for your collection.

TWS has been very busy this fall presenting our **38th Fall Aquavision Show at Todmorden Mills**. Under the incredible direction of Co-President **Nancy Newman**, with input from **Margaret Roseman** and a number of diligent TWS show volunteers and artist members, we had a great success, with many people coming to view this wonderful art show.

On Saturday October 29th we had our first in-person opening reception in three years at Todmorden. Eight TWS volunteers helped to put out a delicious spread of cookies, other sweets and beverages to celebrate the show and the presentations to all the award winners. There was a very large turnout of members, friends and families, as well as new and long-time avid watercolour patrons. It was delightful to all meet together and talk to so many people in-person again!

Our **Wednesday December 14th** meeting will be our last in-person meeting at the Burgundy Room at the North York Civic Centre this year. We will hold our **Annual Holiday Meeting** with our **Miniature Painting Contest** with prizes for the top three winners, draws for many art prizes including a one year free membership, and refreshments supplied by TWS.

Enjoy a walk around the room and be amazed and entertained by the abundant talent as several of our members display their work and demo their style of painting.

### You will not want to miss this evening!

As you will see in this newsletter, the programs for the winter months will be on Zoom! This way, you will not have to drive through potentially stormy weather. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces on line and enjoying our line-up of three well-respected artists from Canada and the USA. More information on these programs is given in this Newsletter.

With the new year of 2023 approaching, you will be receiving a new application by email for joining TWS by March 1st. Your application with all the details will be sent to you soon. One of the things we ask on this application is for each member to volunteer in two areas of interest for TWS. We need our volunteers to help TWS go forward into the future.

To paraphrase a famous quote from the 1960's American President, J.F. Kennedy: **"Ask not what TWS can do for you, ask what you can do for TWS!"** If you want to join the TWS T-E-A-M, remember: **"Together, Everyone Achieves More!"**

I can tell you, that volunteerism opens the doors to rewarding friendships, new experiences, growth as an individual and many memories that last a lifetime. Seize the opportunities presented to you with your membership!

On behalf of **Margaret Roseman, Nancy Newman** and myself, we wish you a very Happy Holiday season with friends and family, and a very creative, artistic New Year filled with new beginnings and the Joy of Painting!

**Carolyn Pascoe**

## BRINGING BALANCE INTO LIFE THROUGH PAINTING

by Beth Parker



Maintaining a balanced life in our fast-paced world has taken on even greater importance these days. TWS member, Stella Dai, lives this philosophy every time she picks up a paint brush. Behind the creation of her paintings is a strong desire to keep an equilibrium between the emotional and rational aspects of life.

“By bringing watercolour into my life, I bring balance into my life,” she says, “My job is based on all things rational, and watercolour is emotional. When I’m painting, I can immerse myself in the activity. It releases any work stress.”

Many of us are familiar with Stella’s luminous watercolours. Her style combines realism and impressionism, with bold brush strokes and a sensitive feeling towards her subject matter. You can tell that she loves the looseness of the medium and the unexpected way colours blend and flow.

Stella’s talent was recognized early. When she was growing up in Shanghai, China, her best subject in grade one was art. While in public school, she was referred to the Children’s Palace, a well-known community centre where children were invited to develop their skills in art, music and dance. Stella continued her art studies through middle school in her spare time. But when she entered

university, it was time for the rational part of life to take over! At East China University of Science and Technology, she studied chemical engineering of polymer material science. It was a subject that would take her into the world of science, research, and analysis.

In 1998, there was another big change in Stella’s life. She and her husband emigrated to Canada. With no family here in Toronto, and limited English language skills, Stella focused on her new life, further studies, and their young son. Her experience and education landed her a job at Telus, first as a programmer, and then as a database administrator. She’s been at the company now for 20 years.

But Stella knew she had to get back to her art.

“My professional job was stressful,” she explains. “I needed to find something relaxing. With so much pressure, I looked for a channel of release, so once again, I started to paint. When my son turned five and was in school, I looked for an art teacher. I studied with different teachers to learn acrylic, traditional Chinese painting and watercolour. For the past ten years, I studied with Yan Yaohua, an artist who was also born in Shanghai.” (Members of TWS may remember when Yan did a workshop in June 2017.) Although her long-time teacher was Yan, she has also taken workshops from Margaret Roseman, Xuewen Chen, Alvaro Castagnet, Joseph Zbukvic, Janet Rogers, Ping Long and Didi Gadjanski.

In 2014, Stella joined TWS. Since then, she’s been an active member, including being Show Chair. She has presented a demo (2016) and her art has been juried into many TWS shows, winning awards in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Stella’s interests extend outside painting. In the artistic vein, she loves anything creative, including flower arrangement and interior design. She is an avid badminton player, and dreams of being part of the world senior badminton tour! During the pandemic, Stella took advantage of the time to learn piano online and practise daily. “I know that so many people felt isolated,” she says, “but I used the time to enrich myself.”

**Member Profile, continued...**

Departure

For Stella, it's always about the process of learning, which can be as rewarding as the end result. She notes that, after a lot of practising, there's often a "jump" in mastery that happens.

"You need a good foundation," she says, "and a good tutor. Then, you need to extend the boundaries of yourself. There's no right or wrong way in art. Just keep yourself curious, and you will succeed".

*Stella is a signature member of the Toronto Watercolour Society and an elected member of the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour. Her paintings were selected for CSPWC "Open Water" shows in 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2022.*



# FALL AQUAVISION 2022

by Nancy Newman

The Fall Show has been a great success. **Logan Bales**, our juror, curated a show that impressed participating artists, gallery staff and viewers with its high quality and variety of work. Logan commented, “The Toronto Watercolour Society 2022 Fall show is one not to be missed. The diversity and talent exhibited in the show are exceptional. The artists in the show exhibit quality work and technical skill in the medium of watercolor.”

The gallery show ended on November 6th. The online show continued until December 6th.

At the reception on Saturday, October 29th, the gallery was filled with artists, friends, family and members of the public. Refreshments provided by our Social Committee added to the festive atmosphere.

And the awards went to:



**Calabrian Laneway**  
Emilia Filicetti-Videka



**Behind Glass**  
Ziona Bordan



**Elegance in White**  
Bev Morgan



**Awaiting Excitement**  
Jen Nolan



**Waking Up**  
Pam Portanier-Tong



FALL AQUAVISION 2022, continued...



HONORABLE MENTION

**The Joy of Flowers**  
Christl Niemuller



AWARD OF MERIT

**Where the Gentians Hide**  
Barbara Eguchi



AWARD OF MERIT

**Between Seasons**  
Margaret Roseman



AWARD OF MERIT

**Bus Driving on a Rainy Day**  
Perry Chow



AWARD OF MERIT

**The Avenue**  
Tony Xu



FALL AQUAVISION 2022, continued...



**Foothills of Rocky Mountains**  
Kim Yong



**Happiness in One Frame**  
Rani Satpute



**Canadian Maples**  
Nancy Newman



**After Work**  
Adam CX



**Glory Days**  
Sherrill Girard



## SPRING SHOW – PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARDS



1. Perry Chow for **Bus Driving on a Rainy Day**, 25 votes

There were 424 People’s choice votes. Votes were quite well spread amongst the paintings. Congratulations to these artists who received the greatest number of votes for a specific painting:



2. Sherrill Girard for **Glory Days**, 21 votes



3. Pam Portanier-Tong for **Waking Up**, 20 votes

The Fall Show continued online

<https://torontowatercoloursociety.com/current-exhibition/> until December 6th.

Paintings could be purchased with a new “**Buy Now**” button under each painting, linked to online payment. Sincere thanks to Ana Jurpik our new Administrator, for persevering through many hours of research and varying technical support.

Congratulations to all on a wonderful 38th Annual Fall Show!

Nancy Newman.

## PAINTING THE BLUES

by Beth Parker

Next time you run out of ultramarine blue, remind yourself that there was a time when the ultramarine blue pigment was so expensive, no one could afford to buy too much of it! Johannes Vermeer, for instance, used so much ultramarine to paint “Girl with a Pear Earring” that he put his family into debt. And art historians believe that “The Entombment” was never finished because Michelangelo couldn’t afford to buy more ultramarine blue.

A fluke accident, however, changed everything for painters in search of an affordable blue pigment. The year was 1703. A colour maker in Berlin, Johann Diesbach, was busy mixing up a batch of standard red lake paint, made from cochineal, iron sulfate and potash. The poor man apparently was rushing to complete a customer’s order. In his haste, he grabbed some contaminated potash. To his surprise, the mixture turned blue instead of red.

Diesbach wasn’t sure what had happened, but he loved the colour. Today we know that there must have been some animal blood in the potash, which contained iron. The resulting chemical reaction produced iron ferrocyanide—a synthetic chemical that we’ve known ever since as Prussian blue.

Our intrepid colour maker tried to keep the formula a secret but before long, his customer figured it out and started selling the colour himself. The new blue was an instant hit. No wonder. It was an intense blue, with great transparency and strength. Only a small amount was required to impart a strong tint to other colors. It also was a tenth of the price of ultramarine blue, and if you ran out, it was easy to make more.

By 1710, Diesbach’s blue was being used by so many artists in the Prussian court that it began to be known as Prussian blue.



Hokusai’s famous “Great Wave off Kanagawa,” from 1830, for example, used the new Prussian blue, in combination with the traditional indigo.



## PAINTING THE BLUES, continued...

As its popularity spread through Europe for both oil and watercolours, painters loved it. Its unique properties allowed painters to work more spontaneously as well as mix a wider variety of colours on their palettes.

Artists such Monet, Constable, Gainsborough, Van Gogh and Picasso were inspired to use Prussian blue in their work. Prussian blue is the blue in Picasso's famous "Blue Period," the blue that Van Gogh used in "Starry Night" and the blue that makes "Blue Boy" – blue. It then spread to Japan, where it was used by Hokusai in his famous woodblock painting "The Great Wave off Kanagawa."

Prussian blue is credited as being the first truly synthetic color. A couple of years after its discovery, Diesbach created a less intense version, known as Antwerp blue. However, art historians eventually discovered that both colours tended to fade over time. In the 1930s, a substitute blue was created out of copper

phthalocyanine. It was named by the company that created it: Winsor Blue (green shade). By the way, "Phthalo Blue" is the same colour.

Some artists still prefer Prussian blue. It is less staining than Phthalo and more transparent. If you're one of these artists, take heart: fading is limited when Prussian blue is mixed with other colours and UV coated glass is used when framing. In addition, certain brands promote better lightfastness in their formula (so read the labels).

Even if you're not keen about Prussian blue when painting, there are still lots of reasons to love the pigment. Because of its light-sensitive properties, 19th century astronomer John Herschel used Prussian blue to produce the world's first blueprints. Better still: Prussian blue is an effective chemical treatment for radiation poisoning (always good to know!).

## MEMBERS' NEWS

by Carolyn Pascoe

Every fall brings a number of art shows to the GTA and beyond. This is a summary of the shows that our members participated in. Some of our TWS members sold art work in these shows and some were honoured with an award from the organization which hosted the show.

**The Society of Canadian Artists (SCA)** held their 54th Annual Open International Show in August at Todmorden Mills and two TWS members had paintings selected: **Doreen Renner** (two paintings) and **Adam CX** (one painting.) To see the show go to: <https://societyofcanadianartists.com/2022-54th-open-ije/>

**The Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour (CSPWC)** held their 97th "Open Water" Juried Transparent Watercolour show from October 14th to December 16th. Sixty paintings were chosen from 354 submitted from 12 countries. **Adam CX** and **Stella Dai** each had a painting selected for this large international show. To see the show, go to: <https://cspwc.ca/open-water-2022/>

**East Central Ontario Art Association (ECOAA)** held their **30th Annual Mystery of the Park** show at the Algonquin Park Visitor Centre from September 30th to October 30th. Four TWS members took part in this show: **Susan Ware, Margaret Richards, Carolyn Pascoe** and **Margaret Roseman**. A number of paintings were sold by our members, all depicting Algonquin Park. The virtual show continues on line at: <https://www.ecoaa.ca/exhibitions.html>

In October, the **Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA)** held their Annual Fall show in Aurora at the Patrick House Gallery, October 15th and 16th. **Nancy Newman** won an Award for her Painting "Carpe Diem" for the best depiction of the "Year of the Garden 2022."

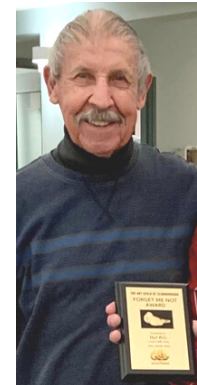
**The Pine Ridge Arts Council** held their first Annual Show since the pandemic at the Ajax McLean Community Centre from November 4th to November 27th. The following TWS members' paintings were accepted into the show of 60 works: **Cheryl Bannister, Hi-Sook Barker, Sherrill Girard, Garry Herridge, Carolyn Pascoe** and **Valerie Russell**. Carolyn Pascoe received an award from the Ontario Power Generation for her abstract painting "Avalanche."

**The Art Guild of Scarborough** held their annual fall weekend show at Centennial Recreation Community Centre on November 5th and 6th. A number of TWS members displayed their paintings at this show: **Sim Wong, Garry Herridge, Machiel Scholte, Hal Bilz, Sherrill Girard,**

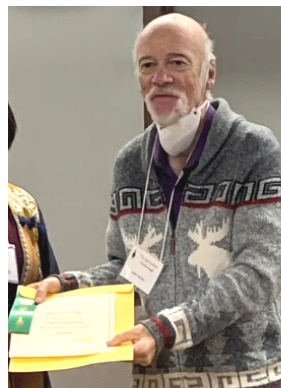
**Carolyn Pascoe, Valerie Russell, Andrew Farinha** and **Perry Chow**. Sim Wong won the award for best watercolour. Garry Herridge and Machiel Scholte each won an Honourable Mention Award and the watercolour by Hal Bilz won the Forget-Me-Not Award for the best painting in the show.



Sim Wong



Hal Bilz



Garry Herridge



Machiel Scholte

From November 9th to November 20th, **Don Valley Art Club** followed our show with their Holiday Show and Sale at Todmorden Mills. The following TWS members took part in this show: **Eric David, Anne Fountain, Ioana Bertrand, Jenny Reid, Jo Baumann, Carolyn Pascoe** and **Patricia McFarland**. The paintings were displayed at the gallery and online.

**Larry Kavanagh's** painting, "Autumn Riot" and **George Eadie's** painting "Killarney Lake Sunset" are among 65 works accepted into the annual "Art à la Carte" show which appears until August 2023 in the *In Camera* dining room at the **Ontario Legislative Assembly** at Queen's Park. Larry's painting had won an Award of Merit in our 2018 Fall Aquavision Show.



## TWS VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2021-2022

by Carolyne Pascoe

photos by Barb Eguchi and Eric David

After a number of production delays at the trophy company used by TWS, some of our hard-working volunteers received their Volunteer Recognition Awards at the October 12th in-person meeting and at the November 9th in-person meeting.

Congratulations to **Doug Geldart** for being TWS's President for 2020-2022. He received the President's Trophy and a cash award.



Congratulations to **Nancy Newman** for achieving the Volunteer Achievement Award for her Significant Service to TWS over 10+years.



Congratulations to **Patrick Donohue** for being a TWS Director for 10 years. He received the Crystal Paperweight Award



Congratulations to **Carolyne Pascoe** for achieving the Volunteer Achievement Award for serving on the TWS Executive for 25+ years in a variety of positions and capacities.



## PROGRAMS

September 14th: **Michael Solovyev**

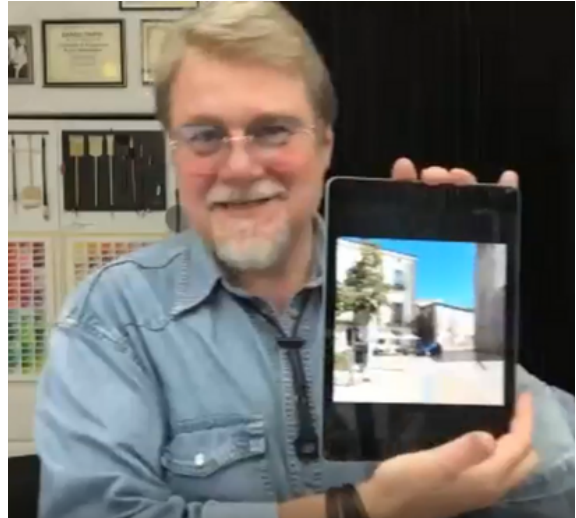
Michael lives in Lachine, Quebec, but was able to join us via Zoom. He is a Signature Member of the SCA (Society of Canadian Artists), the NWS (National Watercolor Society, USA) and the NEWS (North East Watercolor Society, USA).

Michael is a Daniel Smith Brand Ambassador and a Country Leader for Fabriano in Acquarello.

Known as the “sunny watercolourist”, Michael does work that is airy and transparent. If you would like to find out more about Michael, visit his comprehensive website. <https://www.watercoloronline.com/>

Michael engaged us with his welcoming and cheerful personality. He demonstrated a street scene from Spain. Starting with light washes, he developed main shapes and values to capture the sense of light streaming across the painting. His style is captivating, and his clear explanations as he painted added to the learning experience. If you missed this wonderful demo, you can access it on our private TWS YouTube channel. Please email [nancynewmanart@gmail.com](mailto:nancynewmanart@gmail.com) or [Wendy@wendymarsh.com](mailto:Wendy@wendymarsh.com) for the link.

– Nancy Newman





**PROGRAMS, continued...**

October 12th: **Doug Mays, CSPWC**

In the Burgundy Room at the North York Civic Centre, many TWS members were thrilled by Doug's wonderful demonstration of the "Colour and Light of the Fall Forest."

Doug has been a well-known artist and teacher in Ontario for many years. His daily demonstrations on Zoom and in workshops as well as his lessons and critiques utilize the Principles of Design. His painting with a light hearted approach leads to a spontaneity in his subject.

Using a photo of a forest scene of bright yellow and orange trees in full glorious colour, Doug showed his value sketch. He often does one before he paints, to make it easier to paint with direction. Doug quickly painted washes of colours to establish his background, leaving the white of the paper for the forest trail and portions of the sky. Building another wash and darker value of many of the same colours, he emphasized the trees with definition of leaves and accent colors. After drying his background, he used his darkest colours and values for tree trunks, which gave a real punch to the painting. His last executions with his brush were to add shadows to the forest road and grasses along the road.

The audience engaged Doug with many questions on the fall subject matter. He shared other tips on a variety of painting questions, including how to achieve his colour variations.

If you would like to see Doug's paintings, go to his website: [www.arrowsinthequiver.com](http://www.arrowsinthequiver.com)

– Carlyne Pascoe  
(photo by Barb Eguchi)



**PROGRAMS, continued...**

November 9th: **Jacintha Krish**

Jacintha is a multi-media artist who teaches extensively and whose works hang in many galleries. At our in-person meeting in the Burgundy Room, Jacintha painted a winter scene in acrylics on canvas paper. At the outset of her demo, Jacintha emphasized that her paintings are all about colour. She especially enjoys winter scenes because the contrast between the white snow and the colours makes them stand out all the more.

Jacintha says she always paints her main subject first; she does the background later. To get the effects she wants, she applies the paint thickly, in many layers. After she had blocked in the main elements of this painting – using marvellous combinations of pigments – she came back in to provide highlights such as more bright spots in the sky and on the snow, and “sky holes” in the trees. To create the reflections in the water, Jacintha pulled the wet paint down with a dry brush. Jacintha reminded us that putting the largest tree in the foreground helps to give depth to the painting. For the bare tree trunks, Jacintha used a palette knife, alternating between the dark and the white pigments, a process that she described as “lots of fun.”

In response to a question from Margaret, Jacintha explained how she mounts her paper paintings. She sands a pine panel to make sure it's smooth. Then she spreads gel medium on the surface of the board and on the back of the painting. Using a paint roller or a rolling pin, she presses the painting onto the board.

To see more of Jacintha's art go to:  
[www.jacynthakrish.com](http://www.jacynthakrish.com)

– Patrick Donohue  
(photo by Daniel Mateescu)



## OUTREACH

by Cathy Gifford

On August 23rd, several of us visited Nancy Newman's watercolour show at the Aurora Town Hall. Members admired Nancy's display of 28 paintings (landscapes, florals and a few abstracts).

It was lovely to get together with Nancy and ask her about her paintings and techniques. Thank you, Nancy, for this visit and joining us for lunch after.

On November 2nd, I invited an "Arts Around Toronto" group of women to our Fall Aquavision Juried Show. This group is part of the University Women's Club of North York. Sixteen members of this group came with me to see our show.



(left to right) Cathy Gifford, Adam CX, Nancy Newman, Marion MacDonald, Perry Chow and Stella Dai.

These women were very impressed by the calibre of our artwork. The leader of this visiting group asked me for a brief history of our Society and what activities we provide for our members. I showed them various samples of work done in this past year - workshop samples from Zoom meetings, Artline Newsletters, Summer Presidents' Paintouts, Brush with Memory writeups and New Members' Showcase samples.

Some members of this North York Club are interested in joining our Society or telling friends and families about our organization.

It was a pleasure for me to show these ladies what all our TWS members do.

Another enjoyable aspect of my Outreach initiatives has been taking Irene Goldstein, a lifetime member of TWS, to the last four TWS Juried shows at the Papermill Gallery. Irene has done numerous commissioned paintings on silk with French dye, in addition to florals, landscapes and abstracts in watercolour and acrylic.



(left to right) Irene Goldstein, Cathy Gifford



## HEARTS & FLOWERS

by Carolyne Pascoe

A joyous birthday card on behalf of TWS was sent to **Hal Bilz** in celebration of his **90th Birthday** on November 27th. Hal has been a constant volunteer since joining TWS in 2009. He has served on the technical team at all our in-person meetings, helped with hanging our art work at many shows and helped with the signage for our shows at Todmorden for many years.

Our condolences to one of our 38-year members, **Don Baxter**, on the death of his older brother **David John Baxter** who lived in the Kitchener-Waterloo Region. Cards of sympathy have been sent on behalf of TWS members and the Executive to Don and his family.

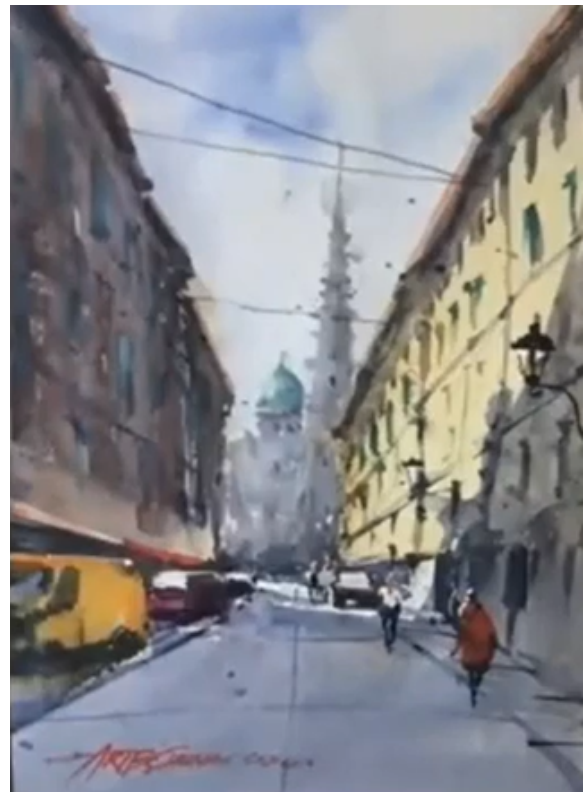
In the summer, “Get Well” cards and “Thinking About You” cards were sent to **Peter** and **Wendy Marsh** as they continued to be challenged by health issues.

“Thinking About You” cards have been sent to **Eva Johnson** as she continues to have health issues.

Sympathy cards and email messages were sent to TWS member **Holly Blefgen** and family on the passing of her dear father, **Ralph Blefgen**, a 33-year TWS member, on October 28th. A number of TWS members attended his Celebration of Life on Saturday, November 12th. Margaret Roseman and Pauline Holancin were among the many people who gave tributes to Ralph. [See “In Memoriam” in this newsletter.]

In September, I found out that one of our most popular teachers, **Art B. Cunanan**, who did a number of workshops and demonstrations and acted as a juror for TWS, is very ill. On behalf of TWS, I have sent a number of cards to him to encourage him and to let him know he is in our thoughts with his health issues. (Art was our demonstrator, most recently, at the AGM meeting, on Zoom in April 2022.) If any member wishes to send an “Encouraging Card” or “Thinking About You Card” (especially if you were a past student in any of Art’s workshops), you can send a card to him at his home: **Art B. Cunanan, 137 Pick Road, Rockwood ON N0B 2K0**.

If you know of any TWS members who are ill, being challenged by health issues or in the hospital, please phone or email the Hearts and Flowers Chair – **Carolyne Pascoe**: 905-509- 5224, carolynepascoe@rogers.com



Art Cunanan's demo at our 2022 AGM

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS



### **In-Person 2022 WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY**

December 14, 2022

Burgundy Room 7:30pm

Come and let's celebrate together as we vote for our favourite miniature painting. Join in the fun art activities, enjoy the delicious goodies, and just catch up with friends at our December Holiday Party. Door Prizes too!



January 11, 2023: **Marc Grandbois**  
**Zoom Meeting**

"Nature has been my favorite subject for 25 years and I will never get tired of it. It's an inexhaustible source of inspiration that spans the ages and transcends all schools of painting. All these years of observing the landscape and painting it have made me realize so much about its dizzying complexity and developed in me the desire to express more than just its inherent beauty."

Marc will be our guest demonstrator in January via Zoom, painting a mixed media landscape. To view Marc's work, please visit his website at:  
[www.marcgrandbois.com](http://www.marcgrandbois.com)



February 8, 2023: **Gord Jones**  
**Zoom Meeting**

Back by popular demand, Gord will work his magic painting in a winter landscape. Not to be missed! Enjoy paintings by Gord by visiting his website:  
[www.watercoloursbygordonjones.com](http://www.watercoloursbygordonjones.com)



March 8, 2023: **Birgit O'Connor**  
**Zoom Meeting**

Birgit is an award-winning master watercolour artist, best selling author, and sought-after instructor. Based in California, Birgit has been included in over 60 national and international artist publications. She will demonstrate her expert approach in painting a floral subject. See more of Birgit's work at:  
[www.birgitoconnor.com](http://www.birgitoconnor.com)



## IN MEMORIAM

by Carolyne Pascoe



As many of you know, Ralph Blefgen, 99 years young, our most senior TWS member, passed away on October 28th, peacefully, at his home overlooking his beautiful ravine in Don Mills.

Ralph joined the Toronto Watercolour Society with his artist wife Dorothy in 1989 after they attended a TWS show where they met our founder – Margaret Roseman. Interested in pursuing painting again, they joined TWS and enrolled in Margaret’s watercolour classes at her home. To quote Margaret, “It became obvious to me that it was I who was to be the student, as they had so much to teach me! I observed Dorothy paint effortlessly, blending and mixing her colours and Ralph capturing the design of the painting with a few quick lines – in perfect perspective, I may add. We had several happy years together in these sessions. The classes were like a family get-together.”

Soon this artistic couple started to volunteer for many TWS jobs including social arrangements and the operation of our shows. Ralph initiated the rental of their church’s gymnasium (Donway Covenant United Church) for our twice-yearly show jurying of members’ art. Besides serving as a wonderful central location for these juries, it became a social event for our members. Twice each year, after all the paintings were delivered, we could all walk around to view the art submitted, catch up with fellow members and then go out for a coffee before returning for the results after the jurying. Ralph arranged for a number of our larger workshops to be held there and also helped with the setup and takedown of the tables and chairs for these events.

Ralph was a member of our first technical crew that helped with the monthly set up of the North York Library Auditorium for our demonstrations, with audio, lights and overhead mirror for each meeting. For all this and for Dorothy’s contributions to TWS, this dynamic couple were the first recipients of the “TWS Volunteer of the Year” award.

Ralph, a 33-year member, entered many TWS shows, won numerous awards for his paintings and earned his TWS Signature Membership and Silver Level of Distinction by being juried into 25+ shows. No matter where we were exhibiting, Ralph was always ready to help everyone with his kind manner, his wonderful smile and caring for others. He was a true gentleman to everyone he met!

At the Celebration of Life held on Sat. November 12th, five TWS members attended - Margaret Roseman, Pauline Holancin, Nancy Newman, Patrick Donohue and Carolyne Pascoe. Through the tributes from long time friends, relatives, Margaret, Pauline and his three daughters, we learned about the remarkable life of Ralph: from his early years in Western Canada, his life-long friendships, his early interest in art, his years serving in WW II with the RCAF, his days at the Ontario College of Art (where he met his wife Dorothy), his successful award-winning career as a commercial artist, his many interests, his wonderful relationships with so many people and his extraordinary energy and interests in so many things. Ralph loved learning, reading, flight, nature, architecture, history, art, travelling with Dorothy, his wife of 55 years, and sharing their mutual passion for watercolour painting.

He leaves behind many good friends, his beloved daughters and sons-in-law – Holly, a TWS member since 2007 (Steve Kahn), Laura (late Kotaro Togashi), Ellen (Gary McKay) – and four cherished grandsons and five nieces.

When Dorothy passed away in 2010, the Blefgen family established an award to be given every year in her memory. The award is for Best Use of Colour. With Ralph’s passing, another award will be set up in his name (theme of the award to be determined) with donations from members, family and friends. If you wish to donate, contact Margaret Roseman, Carolyne Pascoe or Nancy Newman (Co-Presidents 2022-23). An email has been sent to all members (via Perry Chow) concerning how you may donate to this award to honour this remarkable TWS volunteer and artist member.

## NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRIBUTORS



*PATRICK DONOHUE*



*CAROLYNE PASCOE*



*MARGARET ROSEMAN*



*NANCY NEWMAN*



*CATHY GIFFORD*



*BETH PARKER*



*PERRY CHOW*

Thanks to Barb Eguchi, Eric David and Daniel Mateescu for photos in this issue.

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW TREASURER

by Beth Parker

Growing up in Poland, **Monika Ignacak** found that painting and drawing were her favourite activities in preschool. She even had an aunt who was a locally recognized oil painter and held various solo exhibitions.

Monika’s career, however, took her in quite different directions: finance and science. After graduating with degrees in biotechnology and molecular biology, she taught molecular biology and molecular genetics at universities in Poland. Then she lived in the USA for six years where she was a visiting scientist at the University of Cincinnati. For the past ten years, she’s been

working at the University of Toronto as a research projects administrator, financial assistant and project manager.

Having taken watercolour and drawing classes at Visual Arts Mississauga, Monika has been painting the beauty around her in Ontario, with particular interest in ponds, rivers, stones, and the way in which trees are reflected in water. “I am inspired by landscapes of Ontario,” she says. “I spend many beautiful weekends with the hiking group I belong to. We hike the Bruce Trail and the parks surrounding the GTA.”



TWS is delighted to have Monika’s skills and talent in both finance and art.

And we’re very grateful to John Frascchetti, our previous Treasurer, for valiantly helping to steer us through some difficult transitions to online payment methods!

- Editor



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