



# Newsletter

## President's Message

May 2026

### It's May! It's May!

I don't know about you, but I'm thrilled to finally see the signs of spring! As someone who loves painting florals, I'm itching to visit my favorite garden center to gather new reference photos — and to get my hands in the dirt as well as the pastel dust.

What a wonderful response we had to our February painting challenge! It was so much fun to see the incredible range of subject matter, and congratulations to **Paula Fraser** on her prize-winning painting! Stay tuned — **Lori Arel**, our Activities Chair, is planning another fun engagement activity to help kick off the summer.

Did you receive your latest issue of *Pastel Journal* magazine? What a fantastic edition showcasing the talents of so many New England pastel artists! Last year's Member Show juror, **Jeanne Rosier Smith**, was not only featured in an article on painting water, but also graced the cover. **Alison Krajcik** had a multi-page feature on color harmony, emotion, and light; **Janet Schwartz** shared insights on using composition and contrast to create dramatic effects; and **Heather Quay** wrote a touching feature on generational creativity, interviewing her 89-year-old mother, **Joyce Lister** — a Signature Member of PSA and the Maryland Pastel Society, as well as an active member of their board of directors.

Heather herself serves on the board of the Connecticut Pastel Society and is also a Signature Member of both the Connecticut Pastel Society and the Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod. Well done to everyone! I was so proud to personally know so many of these accomplished artists.

If any of you are attending **IAPS** next month, please share your photos with **Terri Brooks** and/or submit them for the Fall Newsletter!

We still have spots open in our three-day workshop with **Michael & Julie Freeman** in June. In fact, we're only a couple of attendees away from reaching the minimum enrollment needed to hold the workshop. If you've been on the fence, now is the time! Details are posted on our website. Michael and Julie have shared that this may be one of the last pastel workshops they offer in the United States, so if you admire their work and teaching style, don't miss the opportunity.

In closing, I'd be remiss if I didn't give our upcoming **Annual Members Show** a shameless plug! The deadline for entries is **June 12th** — but why wait until the last minute? Take a moment now, head over to ShowSubmit, and enter your work! Our own **Maryann Mullett** will serve as Awards Juror this year, so on your marks...

**Get set... GO!**

Warmly,

**Susanne Larkham**

President, Pastel Society of New Hampshire

## Time to Renew your Membership for 2026!

GO TO [WWW.PASTELSOOCIETYNH.COM](http://WWW.PASTELSOOCIETYNH.COM) AND PAY VIA PAYPAL, OR SEE THE FORM AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND SEND WITH A CHECK TO PEGGY VAN VALKENBURGH (ADDRESS ON FORM)

### ***We would love to have fresh work featured on the website!***

- 1) Please submit 1-2 new works of art for our member gallery.
- 2) Would love to see more Signature Circle Members activate their pages.

You can send pictures to:

[selarkham@msn.com](mailto:selarkham@msn.com) or [pastelsth@gmail.com](mailto:pastelsth@gmail.com)



**PSNH is on Instagram!**  
Follow us and post your paintings to:  
#pastelsocietynh

## ***Plein Air Groups & Events***

**Plein Air Painters of Maine (PAPME)** Welcomes all artists. Contact [cmcintyrepaintings@gmail.com](mailto:cmcintyrepaintings@gmail.com)

### ***NH Plein Air***

In NH Plein Air Artists we have members that work at all levels and in all mediums, including pastels. Membership in the group is absolutely FREE. Find us at Yahoo! Groups listed as "NH Plein Air".

## **PSNH July Painting Challenge**

July Painting Challenge Theme-  
"Celebrate America"

Submit your painting representing this month's theme by July 31 to Lori Arel at [lov2techart@gmail.com](mailto:lov2techart@gmail.com).

Your name will be entered in a random drawing for a \$50 Dakota Pastel gift certificate and your painting will be featured in our social media posts during the month of July.

## **PSNH Plein Air Group**

If you are interested in painting Plein air and don't want to go alone or you have never painted en plein air and would like to give it a try, please reach out to Lori Arel. We would love to try to form a once a month Plein air painting group. Suggestions for Days times and locations would be helpful. You can email Lori at [lov2techart@gmail.com](mailto:lov2techart@gmail.com). Not sure what to bring? A supply list will be emailed to you if you need one just let Lori know.



**PSNH February Painting  
Challenge Winner –  
Paula Fraser (left)**

**Charlene Knight (bottom left)  
Jennifer Harlow (bottom right)**





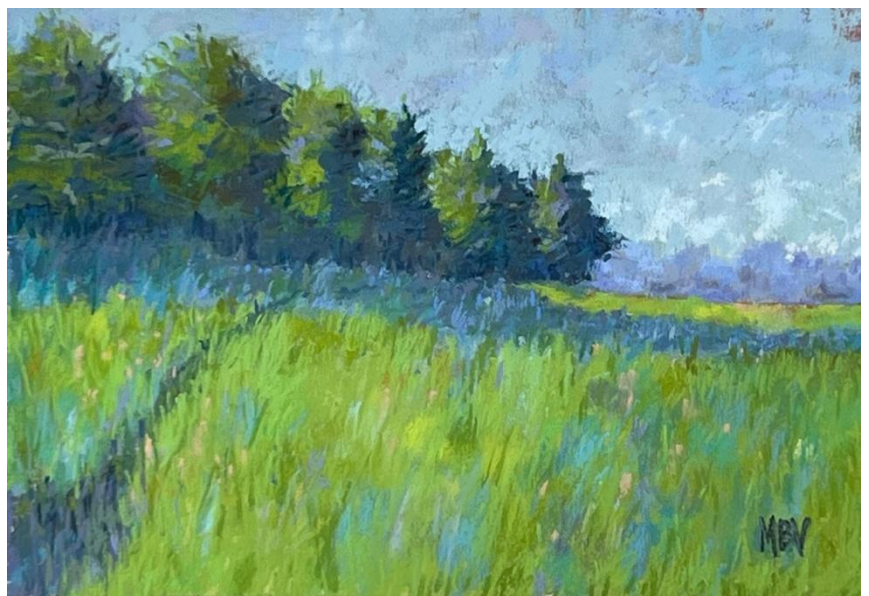
**“After the Big Storm” Mary Ann Eldred  
(left)**

**“Crimson Shore” Sharon Boisvert (below)**



**“A Midwinter Night’s Dream”  
Terri Brooks (above)**

**“Fernald Field Walk” Peggy  
Van Vaulkenburgh (right)**



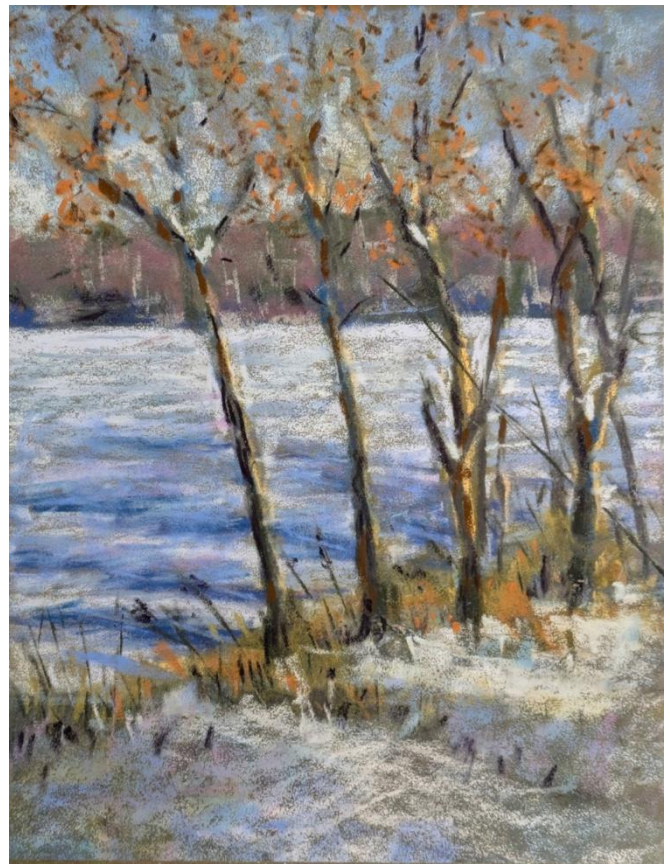


**“At Rest for the Winter” Joelle Feldman  
(above left)**

**Mia Houlman (above right)**

**“Ice Cold” Phyllis Willey (right)**

**“Calm” Debb Codd (below)**



## Pawsitive Energy!



Artwork by Violet Henderson, Darbster staff member

### Call to Artists

### Juried Art Show

### Juror: Susanne Larkham

This “loosely juried” art show is a fundraiser for Darbster Kitty with a theme of “Pawsitive Energy!” Artwork will be displayed from **Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> until Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>** at the Darbster Kitty location, 332 Kelley Street in Manchester. Reception attendees will be able to vote for the “Best in Show” for both the adult and children’s show.

The submission fee is \$25 for up to three pieces of artwork; this is a non-refundable jury fee. All artwork must be sent in a digital JPG format to [rmccune@darbster.com](mailto:rmccune@darbster.com) no later than **May 15, 2026** to allow ample time for jurying.

The artist reception will be held on **Thursday, June 4, 2026 from 5-8PM** at 332 Kelley Street. Parking for the reception is on street parking.

- **Original Owned Artwork:** By signing this form, you are stating that this artwork is yours and yours alone, is completely original and does not violate any copyright. If your work was based upon an existing photograph, make sure you have permission from the owner of the photo to use it.
- **Appropriate Mediums:** Accepted artwork will be two-dimensional in nature and can be oil, acrylic, watercolor, pen and ink, original prints, pastels, charcoal, pencil, photography and/or mixed medium.
- **AI:** Artwork generated by AI will not be accepted.

- **Digitally altered:** Digital technology may be used to enhance an existing piece of artwork but cannot be used for the primary design. Photographs digitally altered must be labeled as such.
- **Hanging:** All work must be ready to hang, with recessed eye hooks and braided wire.
- **Labeling:** Work must be properly labeled on the back in this format:  
Artist Name  
Medium  
Title  
Price
- **Drop off dates and times:** After jurying has been completed, artists will be notified by email if their work was accepted. Artwork must be dropped off at Darbster Kitty, 332 Kelley St in Manchester on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> between the hours of 10-4pm.
- **Refunds:** There are no refunds for entry fees, including if the work does not make it into the show, or artwork is not delivered on the above-mentioned dates and times for the show.
- **There is no storage of artwork.** Please pick up artwork on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 10-4pm. Artwork not picked up by 4pm on 6/7/26 will be considered a donation to the Darbster Foundation.
- **Denial of artwork:** After jurying takes place, if the physical artwork is not in compliance for hanging, framing, or if any of the subject matter is considered inappropriate for the show, the Darbster employees, and/or Susanne Larkham have the right to refuse the work for the show.
- **Sales:** This is a fundraising event. By acceptance into this event, you agree and understand that sales will be split, 70/30 with 30% of the sale being paid to and considered a donation to the Darbster Foundation.
- **Hold Harmless:** All artwork will be handled with care, unfortunately accidents can happen. All artists hold Darbster Foundation and Darbster Kitty, as well as all Darbster employees, volunteers and juror Susanne Larkham harmless from any claim of damage or theft.
- **Waiver for Pictures:** As this is a fundraiser, photos of the event may be taken for promotion and/or news coverage. By entering this event, you are giving permission for Darbster Foundation and Darbster Kitty to utilize photos of the entries for these purposes.
- **Children's Art Show:** Additionally, we will have a children's art show (ages 2-12 years) at the same time. Artwork to be entered into the children's show will be \$5, and should be framed with a hanging wire as well as labeled with name, age, medium, title, and price.

Artist Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Payment can be made by cash, check, or credit card. For credit card payments, call Darbster Kitty at (603) 856-9233 to make your payment, or online at [darbsterfoundation.com/events](http://darbsterfoundation.com/events) and reference the artist's name and work title(s).

Please contact Robin McCune, Development Director at [rmccune@darbster.com](mailto:rmccune@darbster.com) for more information.



### **Juror's Bio**

**Susanne Larkham** is a New Hampshire-based pastel artist and educator whose work centers on light, color, and lived experience. Rooted in realism and shaped by memory and emotion, her paintings invite quiet reflection and a sense of recognition — moments where viewers feel both grounded and gently seen.

Larkham holds a BS in Secondary Art and Math Education from Taylor University, and her lifelong commitment to learning and teaching continues to inform her practice. She is a Signature Artist with the Pastel Society of New Hampshire and a longtime docent and art educator at the Currier Museum of Art, where she has contributed more than 850 volunteer hours guiding others in close looking and visual inquiry.

Her work has been featured in regional, national, and international juried exhibitions, including the Anderson Museum of Art, the Bristol Art Museum, and the Attleboro Arts Museum. While accolades and exhibition history mark important milestones, Larkham is most interested in how her paintings settle into the rhythms of everyday life — and how they hold space for memory, tenderness, and reflection.

In addition to her studio practice, Larkham is the owner of Bellami Fitness and founder of On a Lark Fine Art, a small gallery space rooted in accessibility and connection. Whether teaching movement or painting, she approaches her work as a facilitator — creating the conditions for presence, curiosity, and meaningful experience.

**PSNH**  
**Board Members**

Susanne Larkham - *President*  
[selarkham@msn.com](mailto:selarkham@msn.com)

Susanne Larkham - *Web Administer*  
[selarkham@msn.com](mailto:selarkham@msn.com)

Annie Halvorsen – *Vice President*  
[anniehalvorsen@gmail.com](mailto:anniehalvorsen@gmail.com)

Carol Corliss – *Secretary*  
[bagel@tpdi.biz](mailto:bagel@tpdi.biz)

Peggy Van Valkenburgh – *Treasurer*  
[treasurerPSNH@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerPSNH@gmail.com)

Debra Codd – *Membership*  
[debcodd@gmail.com](mailto:debcodd@gmail.com)

Terri Brooks - *Retreat Chair*  
[Terri.g.brooks@gmail.com](mailto:Terri.g.brooks@gmail.com)

Terri Brooks – *Publicity and Social Media*  
[Terri.g.brooks@gmail.com](mailto:Terri.g.brooks@gmail.com)

Shuk Susan Lee - *National Show*  
[Sue1404@gmail.com](mailto:Sue1404@gmail.com)

Charleen Knight – *National Show Co-Chair*  
[Charleent760@icloud.com](mailto:Charleent760@icloud.com)

Peggy Van Valkenburgh - *Members' Exhibition*  
[Peggyvan101@gmail.com](mailto:Peggyvan101@gmail.com)

Paula Fraser – *Members' Exhibition Co-Chair*  
[Afraser3@yahoo.com](mailto:Afraser3@yahoo.com)

Robin Hebert -*Newsletter*  
[ArtRaindrop@gmail.com](mailto:ArtRaindrop@gmail.com)

Mia Houman – *Hospitality*  
[mialovesart@gmail.com](mailto:mialovesart@gmail.com)

Maryann Mullett – *Workshops*  
[Maryann.mullett97@gmail.com](mailto:Maryann.mullett97@gmail.com)

Lori Arel – *Member Activities*  
[Lov2techart@gmail.com](mailto:Lov2techart@gmail.com)

We have a new set of PSNH Unison 30 Half Piece Set Pastel:

***"Summer Summits Views" & "Autumn in NH"***

Special pricing for PSNH members!

For more information regarding ordering and shipping please

visit the shop on the PSNH website

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Peggy Van Valkenburgh at: [Peggyvan101@gmail.com](mailto:Peggyvan101@gmail.com)



# Donna Rossetti-Bailey



Donna Rossetti-Bailey was awarded **First Prize in Pastel** at the **Scituate Art Association's 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Show** for her painting "After the Storm" (above). "My Morning Walk" was also juried into the Scituate exhibit.

"Morning Glory" and "The Midas Touch" have been accepted into Serendipity Juried Show at the Helen Bumpus Gallery Duxbury, MA. May 5-June 29, 2026.

Donna's pastel "Flower Frenzy" was juried into the Pastel Painters of Cape Cod 2026 For Pastels Only Exhibit which will be held at the Cultural Center of Cape Cod, So. Yarmouth, MA May 26-June 19, 2026.



**“Morning Glory”**

(left)

**“The Midas Touch”**

(below)



## Andrew Anderson-Bell

I am pleased to have been awarded the Art Supplies Wholesale Award for Excellence In Any Medium for my pastel painting “**Autumn Marsh Grass**” 12”x16” (below) at the North Shore Arts Association Exhibition 1 (April 28—May 21).

Additionally, I have a solo exhibition at the North Shore Arts Association July 18—August 2. The opening reception will be held Saturday July 20 from 3-5 pm (11 Pirates Lane, Gloucester, MA)



# Cindy Rodday

I was accepted into Concord Art's Members 1 Exhibit (juried exhibit) back in January 2026.

It was an in-person exhibit but they also have an online version of the exhibit.

**Pastel: "The Landmark", 5x7", June 2025**

The website is [Members Juried 1: Painting + Sculpture 2026 - Concord Art](#)



# Mena Levit



Red Rock Pastel Society International Online Exhibition "Green" - **"Flowing Garden"**  
(above) - <https://showsubmit.com/galleries>

Pastel Artists of Oregon "Spirit of Pastel" International Online juried Exhibition - "Lilac Tea"  
- <https://showsubmit.com/galleries>

Copley Society of Art Exhibition "Embark"- 3 paintings: "Beyond Stillness", "Stay in Line, Ladies", "Listen to the Ocean" - <https://copleysociety.org/exhibitions/smallworks-embark/>.

Solo Exhibition of 25 paintings "Art of Pastel" at Weston COA Gallery - 25 paintings on display now till May 25, 2026 ( no link)

Copley Society of Art Exhibition "Look Up" - 3 paintings: "Amber Sky", "**Lost in the Foliage**" (below), " Vitamin C...Anyone?" - <https://copleysociety.org/exhibitions/small-works-looking-up/>

North Shore Art Association - Juried Exhibit 1 - "Taste of Maine" (no link) Runs April 29 - May 28, 2026

Pastel Society of Cape Cod National Show 'For Pastels Only' - "When Life Gives You Lemons, Add Pomegranates" Opens May 26, 2026 (no link yet)



# Susanne Larkham

After a winter respite, spring shows have sprung!

All Three Pieces submitted were juried into Variations the National Juried Exhibition of the Marblehead Art Association:



R to L: *Purple Reign Dancer*(16x20), *Fleur de Lys* (24x36) & *Flamenco Fleurish* (16x20)

My work was juried into both spring Open Juried shows at the NHAA at the Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery in Portsmouth, NH



*Come Rain or Come Shine* (12x36) was juried into The 40<sup>th</sup> annual Omer T. Lassonde Exhibition



*Belle Amies* (12x24) was Juried into the Premier offering of the Sue Werner Thoresen Open Juried Exhibition and was previously juried into Women Wise at Mosaic Art Collective in Manchester.

Currently on view in Dover, NH:



*When Dreams Come Blue* (16x20) was juried into Spectrum at the Aplomb Gallery and...



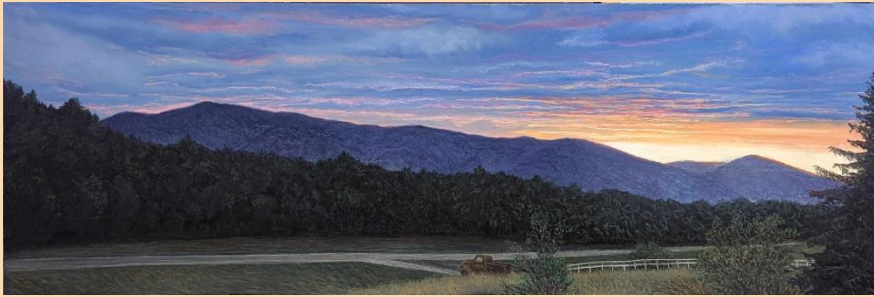
*Early Bloomer* (11x14) & *Dancing in D'Light* (11x14) were juried into Crème de la Crème at the Art Center in Dover.

*Two Breads Are Better Than One* (16x20) was juried into Pastels Only the Open Juried Show for PSME.





*The Abridged Version* (24x36) was selected for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Juried Spring Exhibition at the Jaffrey Civic Center.  
And last but certainly not least... Juried into Exhibition #1 at the North Shore Arts Association in Gloucester, MA



*The Purple Dusk of Twilight Time* (12x36)



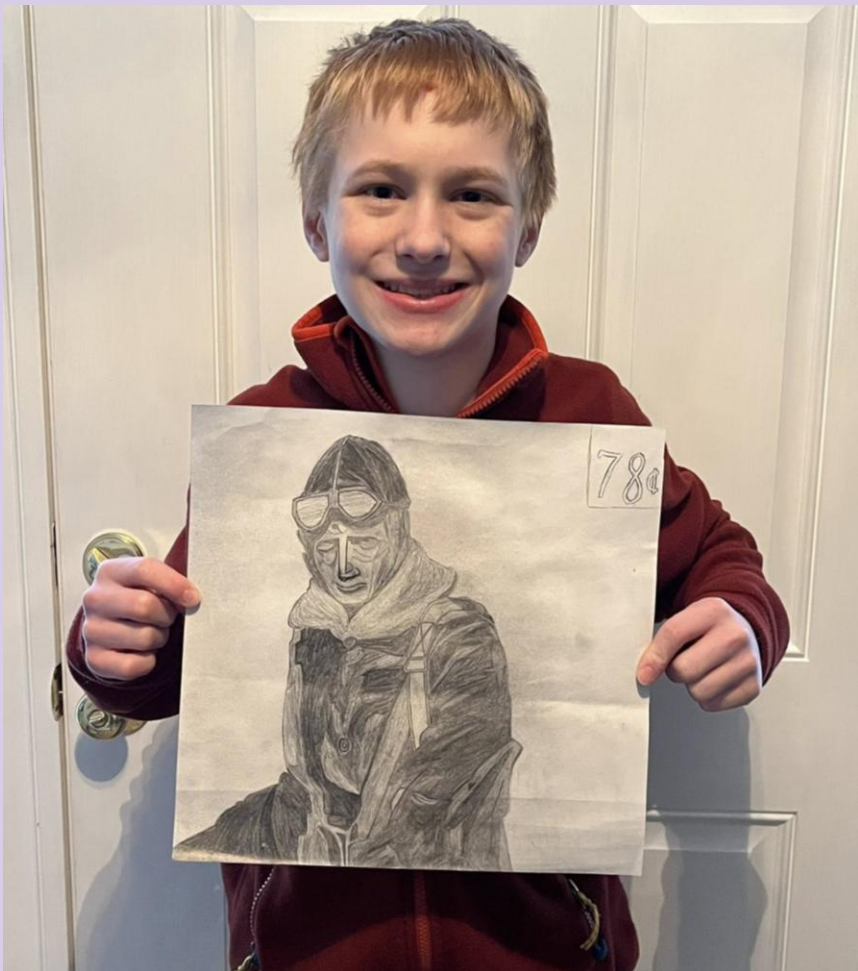
*Two for the Show* (18x24)



*Fresh Off The  
Easel...*

Hope you don't mind,  
but sharing a proud  
Grandmother  
moment.  
Lucas and his drawing  
of Lindberg that he  
did for school.

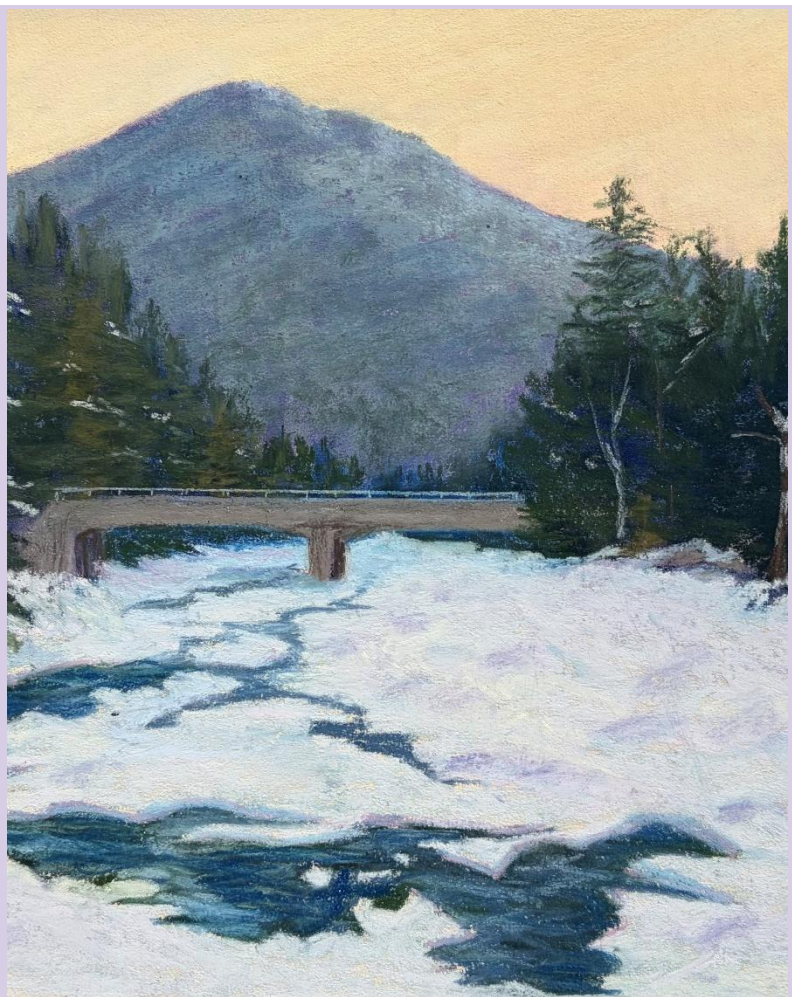
--- Robin Hebert



“The Pemi in Winter”  
(right)

“After the Big Storm”  
(below)

--- Mary Ann Eldred



“Just Stopping By”  
(right)

“Follow Me”  
(below)

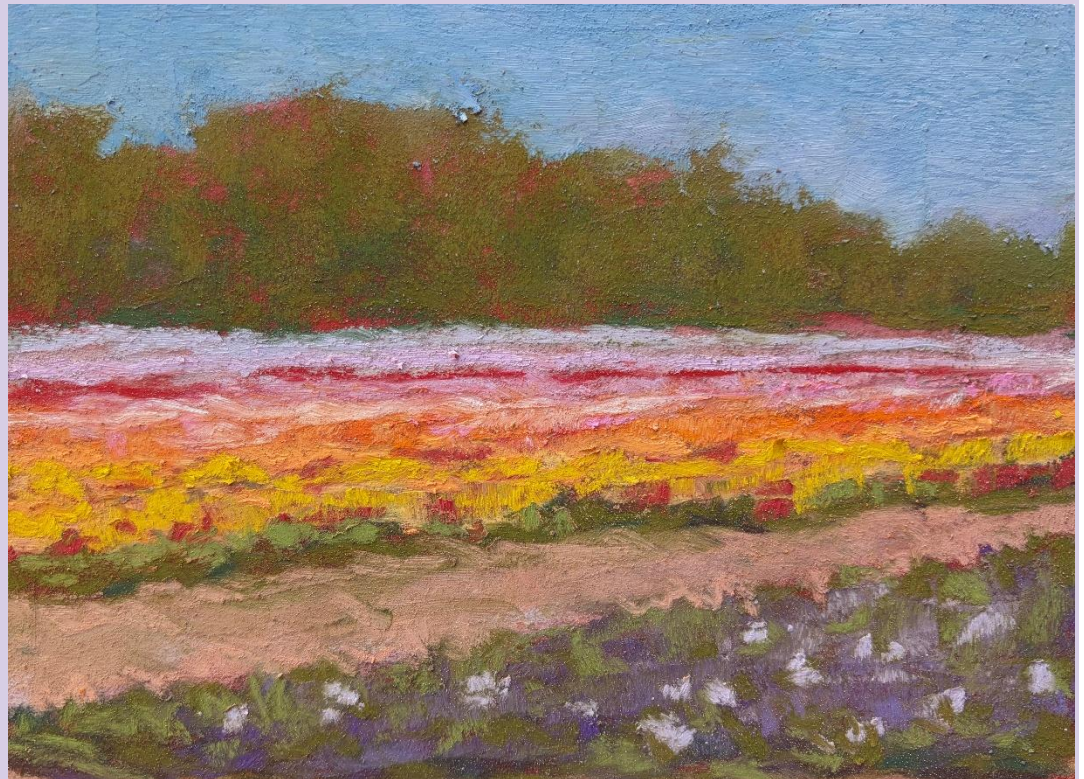
--- Debra Accardi





I went to the Netherlands for vacation (April 18-24). I brought some pastels with me. They are not Plein Air pieces but painted later in the day after visiting various locations. I was doing day trips and you don't have the time to sit and do plein pieces when you're on someone's schedule. *Each Pastel: 5x7", no titles at this time.*

--- Cindy Rodday





## Membership Application 2026

Memberships are for one year and run from January 1 – December 31. Memberships received after November 1 will include the following calendar year.

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

|       |   |         |
|-------|---|---------|
| _____ | Individual  | \$ 40   |
| _____ | Sponsor   | \$ 50   |
| _____ | Patron  | \$ 100  |
| _____ | Benefactor  | \$ 500  |
| _____ | Saint (Benefits for Saints include all the above and an award in their name presented at our annual Juried Exhibition.) | \$1,000 |

The Pastel Society of New Hampshire is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State + Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Art Website \_\_\_\_\_

**1. PAY ONLINE on the [website](#) . If your information needs to be updated, please send the information to [debcodd@gmail.com](mailto:debcodd@gmail.com)**

**2. PAY BY CHECK. Send this form and a check made out to Pastel Society of New Hampshire (PSNH) to Peggy Van Valkenburgh, 101 Cheney Avenue, Peterborough, NH 03458**

*Note: If you do not wish to have your name appear on the website, please check here. \_\_\_\_\_*

If you are interested in helping out PSNH in any way, please contact the Vice President of the Board, Annie Halvorsen, [anniehalvorsen@gmail.com](mailto:anniehalvorsen@gmail.com)

## Interested in becoming a Signature Member of PSNH?

**Signature Membership:** a member in good standing may apply to become a Signature Member after earning 10 points from the following categories:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Best of (PSNH Juried) Show (includes jury into show pt.) . . . . .  | 5 points |
| Second place (PSNH Juried) Show (includes jury into show pt.) . . . | 4 points |
| Third place (PSNH Juried) Show (includes jury into show pt.) . . .  | 3 points |
| Any Award (PSNH Juried) Show (includes jury into show pt.) . . .    | 2 points |
| Juried into Annual PSNH Juried Show . . . . .                       | 1 point  |
| Best in PSNH Members Show . . . . .                                 | 1 point  |
| Juried into another National Pastel Show . . . . .                  | 1 point  |
| (includes Pastel Journal top 100)                                   |          |

Signature Member applicants must apply for Signature Membership. The applicant must keep records and send copies of all documentation of all earned points to the Vice President who will be responsible for Pastel Society of NH Signature Member record keeping.

The applicants must be members of the Pastel Society of NH while earning all points and must have served on a board position for 2 years.

Once approved, they must remain members in good standing to maintain Signature Memberships.

### **Benefits of Signature Members:**

- May use the initials “NHPSA” (NH Pastel Society Artist) on their art work, publications, and biographies as long as they remain a member in good standing.
- May organize and participate in show only for Signature Members.
- May display additional artwork on the Pastel Society of NH’s website in the “Signature Circle Members” section.
- May receive a discount for application fees for all PSNH shows.

### **Responsibilities of Signature Members:**

- Promote pastel painting, mentor and assist newer members
- Participate in a demo or presentation for a members’ meeting.
- Offer critique at paint-outs or PSNH functions
- Organize and participate in Signature Members Show

The earning of points is retroactive to 2009.

## PSNH Signature Members

Linee Baird, Kate Bergquist, Sharon Boisvert, Terri Brooks, Roxane Chardon, Carol Corliss, Suzanne DeLesseps, Keith Demanche, Linda Dessaint, Shelly Eager, Mary Ann Eldred, Wolfgang Ertl, Joelle Feldman, Jeff Fioravanti, Paula Fraser, Robin Frisella, Sandra Kavanaugh, Randy Knowles, Christine Kossow, Susanne Larkham, Shuk Susan Lee, Mena Levit, Deb Luoma, Sandra Machell, Laetitia Macos, Judith McKenna, Maryann Mullett, Gary Ozias, Ellen Pelletier, Lisa Regopoulos, Barbara Scott and Gill Truslow.