



Newsletter

President's Message

February 2026

February Greetings!

While New Year's Eve has come and gone, here on the PSNH Board we are already gearing up for a happy and art-filled year ahead.

I hope you had a chance to see at least one of our two exhibitions last November. Both featured truly spectacular pastel work. A belated congratulations to our **People's Choice Award winner** from *It's Pastel!* — the award went to ***Mood Ignited* by Sharon Boisvert**.

It was also wonderful to host PSNH events across **three different regions of New Hampshire** this past year — from the Monadnock region for our Member and Signature Member Shows, to the Seacoast for the National Juried Exhibition, and up to the White Mountains for our Biennial Retreat.

Winter is a perfect time to both hunker down at the easel *and* plan the year's artful adventures. Our PSNH retreat will be on hiatus this year in lieu of the **2026 IAPS Biennial Convention**, to be held in **Albuquerque this June**. If attending an IAPS convention has been on your "someday" list, this is the year to make it happen — IAPS has announced that this will be their final convention, and I expect they'll go out in a blaze of color. Registration is currently open, and class sign-ups began on January 19th.

[IAPS Conventions – hyperlink](#)

If you're looking to keep your pastel pursuits closer to home, we're also planning a [three-day workshop with Michael & Julie Freeman](#) later this year. The details are now posted on our website! They have said it's one of their very last pastel workshops they will give in the US, so if you're an admirer of their style... Sign up now!

Picasso famously said, "*Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.*" I like to think that pastel dust reveals the very soul of our creativity.

Warmly,

Susanne Larkham

President, Pastel Society of New Hampshire

Time to Renew your Membership for 2026!

GO TO 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 or pastelsnh@gmail.com



PSNH is on Instagram!
Follow us and post your paintings to:
[#pastelsocietynh](https://www.instagram.com/pastelsocietynh)

Plein Air Groups & Events

Plein Air Painters of Maine (PAPME) Welcomes all artists. Contact 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 February Painting Challenge

PSNH is hosting a member painting challenge for the month of February. The theme is "February"

Interpret the month of February in pastel. Submit your painting by February 28, 2026. Email your submission to Lori Arel at lov2techart@gmail.com.

One painting will be picked to receive a \$35 gift certificate to Dakota Art Pastels.

All paintings will be posted on our social media pages throughout the month. Happy Painting!

PSNH Plein Air Group

We're looking to start a monthly Plein Air Group beginning in the Spring. Please email Lori Arel at lov2techart@gmail.com if you are interested in helping form this group or in having regular plain air group to paint with. If you have any experience in leading a plein air group please let Lori know. She's looking for any information on the best way to go about forming one. We hope to make this a state wide experience. From Northern NH to South, East and West. We'd love your input.

PSNH
Board Members

Susanne Larkham - *President*
selarkham@msn.com

Susanne Larkham - *Web Administer*
selarkham@msn.com

Annie Halvorsen – *Vice President*
anniehalvorsen@gmail.com

Carol Corliss – *Secretary*
bagel@tpdi.biz

Peggy Van Valkenburgh – *Treasurer*
treasurerPSNH@gmail.com

Debra Codd – *Membership*
debcodd@gmail.com

Terri Brooks - *Retreat Chair*
Terri.g.brooks@gmail.com

Terri Brooks – *Publicity and Social Media*
Terri.g.brooks@gmail.com

Shuk Susan Lee - *National Show*
Sue1404@gmail.com

Charleen Knight – *National Show Co-Chair*
Charleent760@icloud.com

Peggy Van Valkenburgh - *Members' Exhibition*
Peggyvan101@gmail.com

Paula Fraser – *Members' Exhibition Co-Chair*
Afraser3@yahoo.com

Robin Hebert -*Newsletter*
ArtRaindrop@gmail.com

Mia Houman – *Hospitality*
mialovesart@gmail.com

Maryann Mullett – *Workshops*
Maryann.mullett97@gmail.com

Lori Arel – *Member Activities*
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



Karen Israel

Karen Israel PSA-MP;
IAPS/MC is teaching a 2 day
workshop: *"Narrative in Pastel:
Creating a Story with Figures"* at
the PSA Studio, National Arts
Club, NYC Date:

April 18,19 9:30-4:30

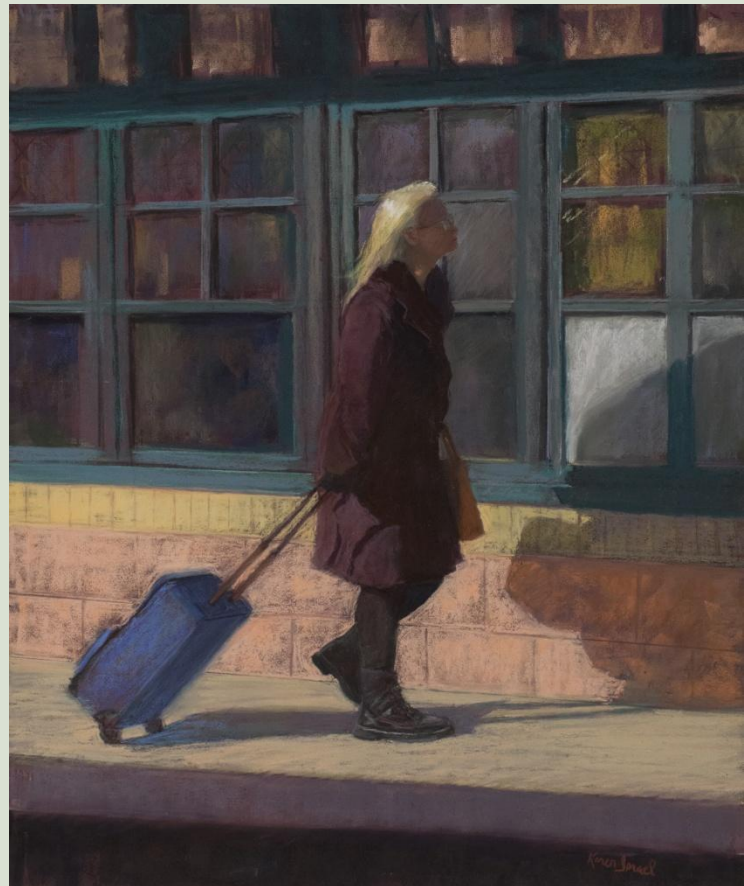
"Uptown Girls" (top)



Awards:

Karen Israel's painting **"Point of
Departure"** (bottom) won the
Diane Townsend Award at the
2025 PPSCC's Signature Member
online exhibit.

This same work won the Ludwig
Award at the 2025 PSNH Its Pastel
National Juried Exhibit.



Donna Rosetti-Bailey

"January Song" (right)

"Before the Thaw" (below)





Art News

Donna Rossetti-Bailey

DLRB@comcast.net

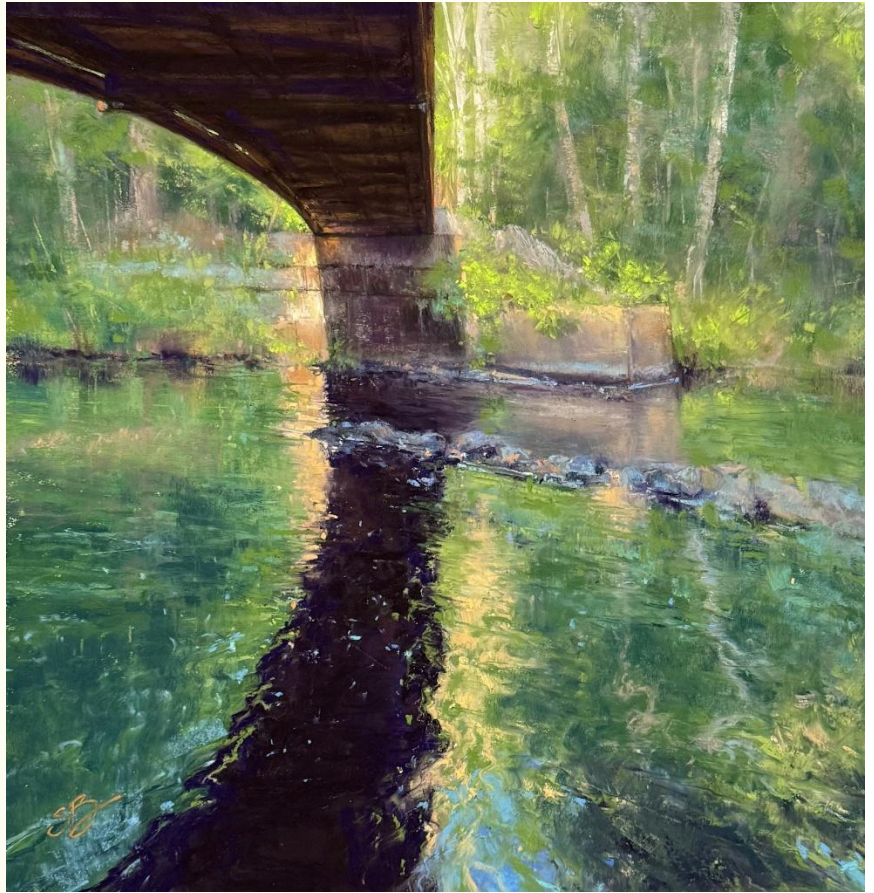
www.DonnaRossetti-Bailey.com

Donna Rossetti-Bailey has two pastels at **In From the Cold Exhibit at North River Arts Society**, Marshfield Hills, MA.

“Before the Thaw” (previous page) and **“Last Breath of Winter”** (above) will be on view from January 17-February 12 at the GAR Hall.

In December **“January Song”** (previous page) was awarded the **“Laurinda Phakos O’Connor Memorial Award”** in the **PPSCC Signature Show**. Donna’s painting **“Down the Road”** was also included in this online exhibit.

Sharon Boisvert





2025 was by far the busiest, most productive, and rewarding year I have experienced as an artist. It wasn't until I compiled a list for the newsletter that I fully realized just how many exhibitions—both online and in person—I entered throughout the year. A total of 12 shows in which I received a pastel society award, a first place award, a second place award, and three honorable mentions from juried shows. I also achieved Signature Membership with both the Pastel Society of New Hampshire and the Pastel Society of America.

For the second year in a row, I exhibited in a group show with seven other artists at Glimpse Gallery in Concord, NH, where I was the only pastelist in a wonderfully diverse and eclectic exhibition.

I managed a quick trip to New York to view the PSA 53rd *Enduring Brilliance* Exhibition (my pastel “Deep in the Shallow” was accepted into this show) and attended the opening reception at the National Arts Club. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow pastelists and immerse myself in the remarkable talent and mastery represented in the show.

Currently, I am participating in a 31-day painting challenge with Jacob Aguilar's online community—an experience that is equal parts exhausting and inspiring. The challenge pushes me to explore new subject matter, substrates, color palettes, and mark-making, encouraging me to step outside my comfort zone.

Looking ahead to 2026, I'm excited to be traveling to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to attend my first—and final—IAPS Convention. There is so much to look forward to.

Cheers, and happy painting!

Sasha Wolfe



To Frame or Not to Frame

By Sasha Wolfe

(photos previous page) **“A Collage of Hydrangea”** (top) almost finished. **“Hibiscus and Hummingbirds”** (bottom) ready for framing.)

I’m continuing to paint floral collages, and while challenging, I’m enjoying this work. However, one issue is I always see things to “fix.” Even looking at finished paintings hanging on the walls, I always see aspects I could have done better.

(Does every artist do this? Sometimes, I even wonder about re-doing a particular scene to see how I’d do it better from the original done years ago.)

Even after starting at the top and working down, I often find myself reaching again to the upper parts to finesse more and make lines sharper. Unfortunately, that means I end up dragging my sleeve or the side of my hand over the lower parts and smudging that area. Then I have to fix those parts... again. (I even created a bridge to rest my hand on, but I still end up smudging.)

The hydrangeas are proving to be a challenge because of all the small petals. I’m not looking at the reference photos much now, and instead, I’m ad-libbing sections. I scribble in more blossoms with soft pastel sticks, then use pastel pencils to better define lines. As I’m working on black paper, I’ll next use a charcoal pencil to better define lines. Then I stand back to see if it looks right. I’m getting there.

Another thing I’ve been figuring out is how to organize all the paintings started but not finished. (I easily get distracted and will work on multiple paintings. I later go back and finish older ones.) Instead of stacking them to later look through and chance messing up work already done, I came up with an idea of trying to hang the works in process (WIPs) in the closet to be able to leaf through more easily.

The first attempt (using string and binder clips to hang the paintings from the closet rod) didn’t work. My neighbor suggested getting pants hangers with clips. So, I picked up a couple of different styles. This is going to work. It’ll be easier to slide the hangers along the clothes rod to look through the various WIPs, but I haven’t tackled it again.

So, about framing... I’m not good at selling. I often say I couldn’t sell a gold brick for \$5. The question becomes; do I waste money on framing costs when my marketing expertise is so pitiful?

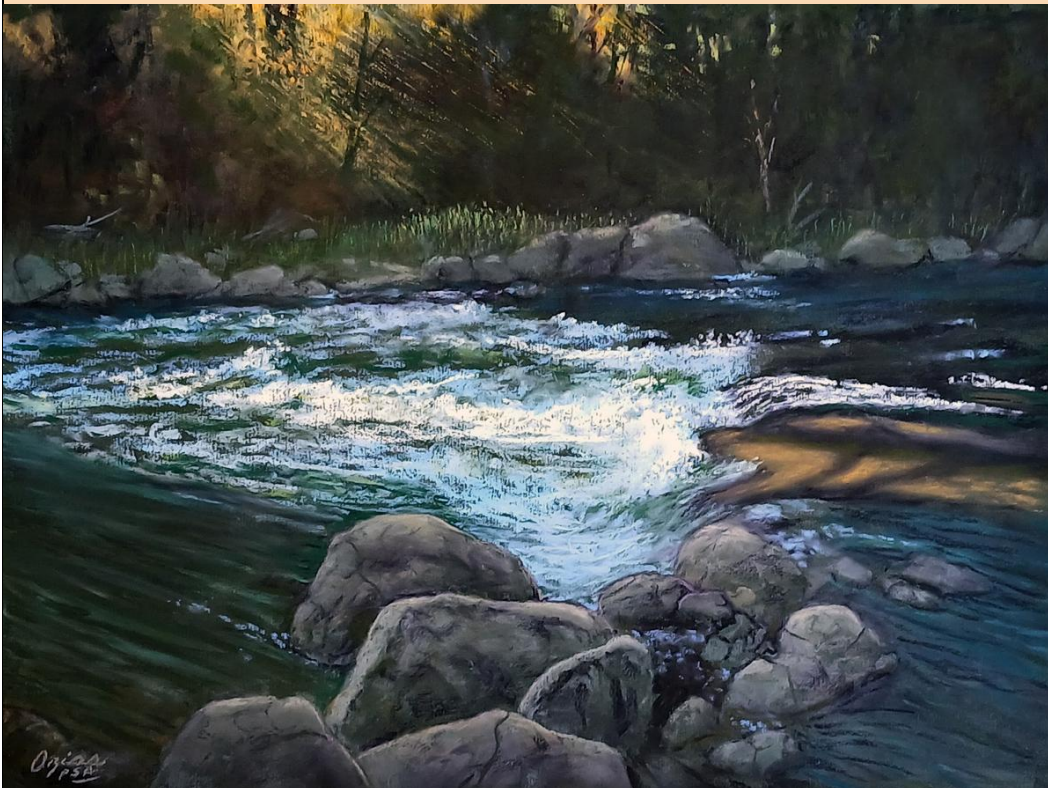
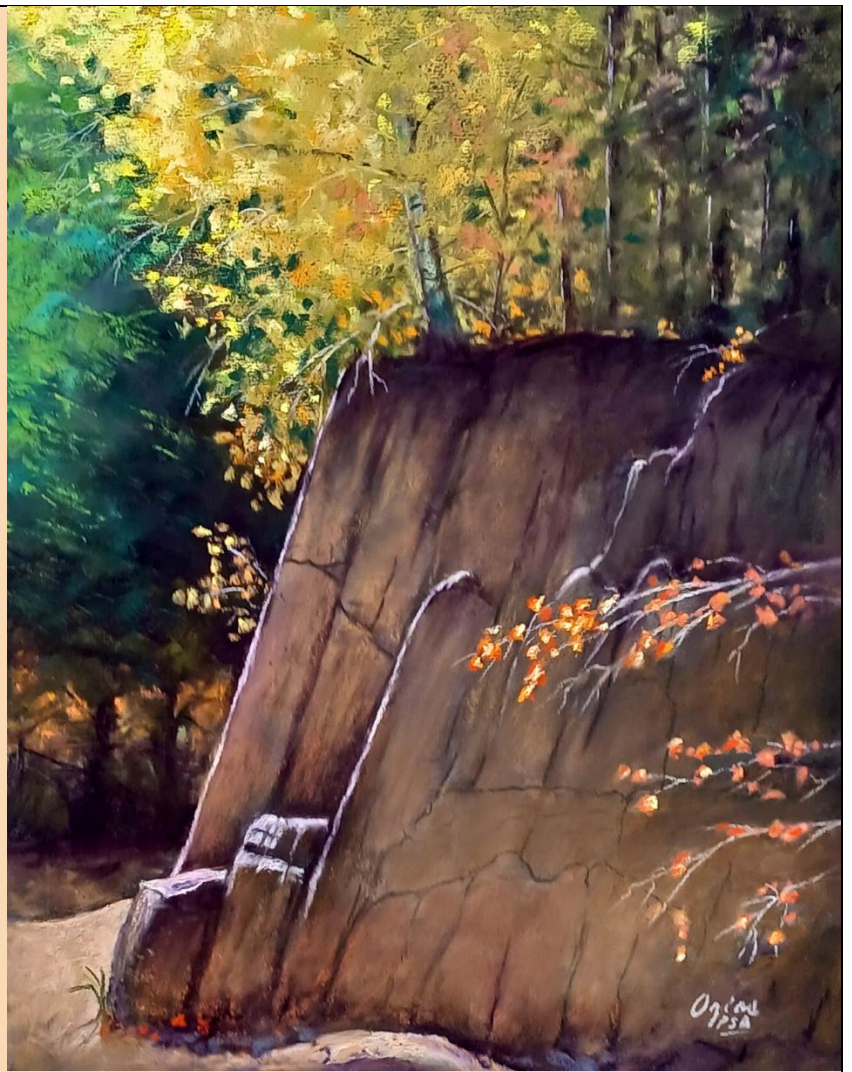
I currently have three finished floral collages ready to frame (approximately 18 x 14), one close to being finished, and three on easels in various stages. Of course, they look amazing when framed, but if I’m not able to sell, should I waste the money? These sizes are not cheap to get framed.

And there’s the question of the type and size of frames. I tend to do skinnier, more simple frames (again, because of costs). Would the paintings sell better if I chose more elaborate frames? I’m never sure.

Gary Ozias

PSNH Signature Member Gary Ozias was pleased to learn that two of his pastels have been juried into the Colorado Pastel Society's "Mile High International Pastel Exhibition" which goes on display from March 20 - April 25 at the Center for the Arts Evergreen in Evergreen, Colorado.

His two pieces include “**Autumn Arrives**” (13" x 10") (right) and “**Blue River Shallows**” (12" x 16") (below).



Allison Krajcik

“Rough Point” (below) was chosen by the patrons of the Copley Society to be included in the exhibition showing February 12th through March 7th at the gallery on Newbury Street in Boston.

“Spin Off” (next page) was chosen for the All Members Exhibition at the Copley Society as well.





I will be teaching a 3 day Floral Workshop for the Connecticut Pastel Society this spring, Friday, April 24 – Sunday April 26th. It will be held at the Southington Community Cultural Arts Center, SOCCA 93 Main St. Southington, CT 06489. Here is the link <https://ctpastelsociety.org/product/workshop-painting-florals-that-glow-with-allison-krajcik/> .

Getting that glow can be difficult when painting flowers! We will begin by discussing and demonstrating what to look for when arranging a floral still life and taking photographs and videos to work from. Since every good painting starts with a strong composition, we will edit these photos and videos and learn how to use the Notanizer app on your cell phones or iPads.

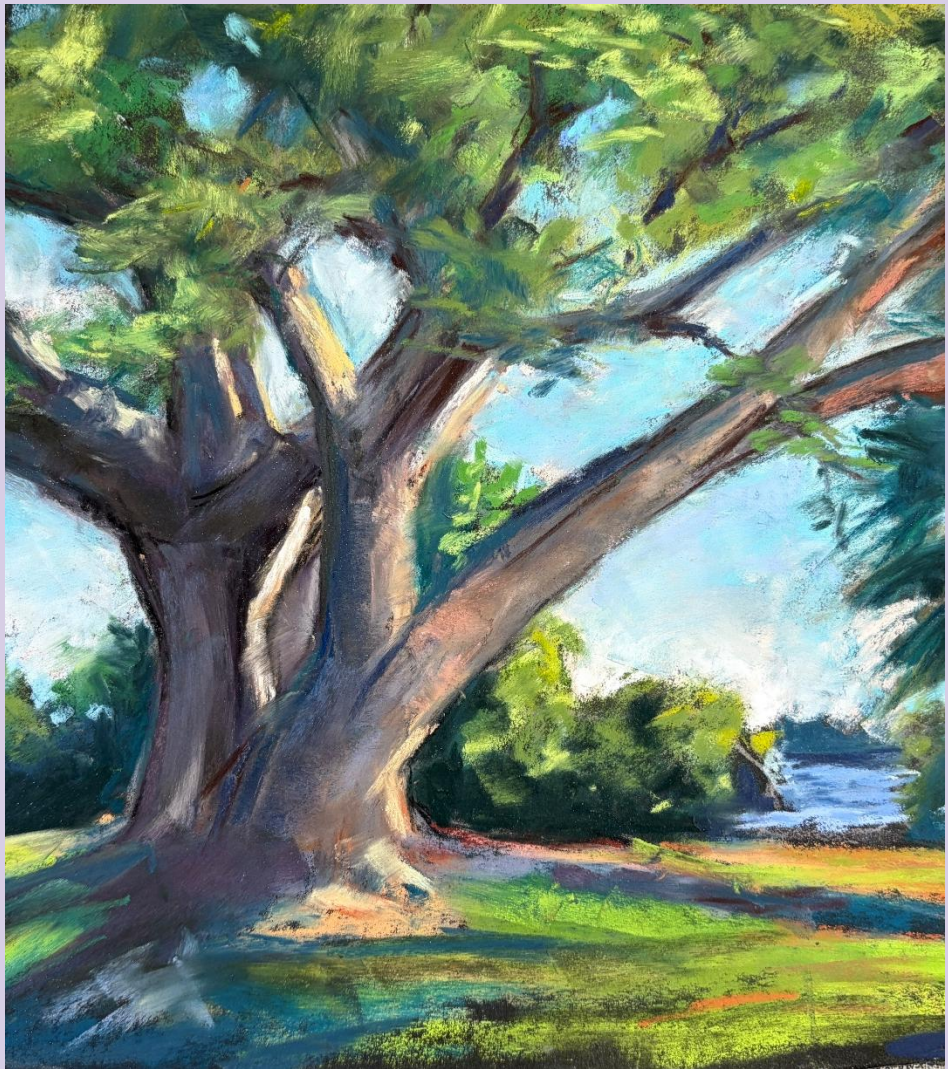
We will explore how to capture flowers, glow with a focus on value and color temperature relationships. Through simple and fun exercises, we will use color charts to practice dominance and the 60/30/10 rule to develop color plans for paintings.

This workshop is open to all levels.



*Fresh Off The
Easel...*

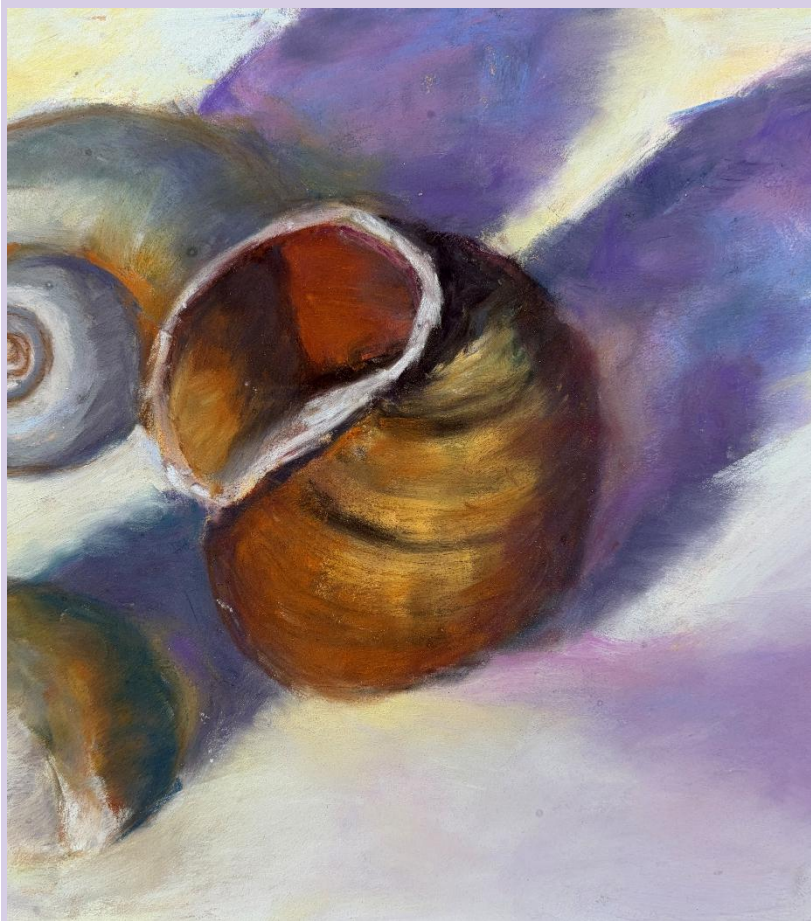
"Rooted in Matlacha
Florida"
--- Lori Arel



“Caloosahatchee
Bridge” (right)

“Snails in Sunlight”
(below)

--- Lori Arel





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

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

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.