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Message from our president

This time last year Linda Maldonado began her “Message from our President” with the words “What a year this been!”. I think that sentiment could equally apply to 2021. The advent of widely available vaccines has meant a return to some semblance of normalcy, but a surging Delta variant has rekindled a sense of caution and blunted some of the willingness and enthusiasm to go back to “business as usual”.



For PVW this has meant that some of the opportunities and events have returned whilst others still have a finger on the pause button. The Spring Luncheon became the Summer Luncheon and the Columbia Country Club allocated us a room with spectacular views for our first in person event. However, as I looked around the room it was clear that the view came in a distant second to the opportunity to catch up with old friends and celebrate the company of fellow artists. It was a lovely occasion and I hope that many of you will plan on attending next year.

Over the last 18 months we’ve all discovered the interesting and sometimes infuriating and perplexing 2021 version of “Hollywood Squares”, also known as Zoom meetings! It’s been a boon for keeping us as connected and safe as possible, but a poor substitute for in person interactions. (Continued next page)

*“If I could say it in words there would be no reason to paint.”
– Edward Hopper*

President's message, continued.....

That said, we've conducted Board meetings, all-member meetings, successfully negotiated on-line voting for officers (big thank you to Sarah Brodnax for her technical expertise and assistance!), and shared wonderful painting demos from Vlad Yeliseyev and Michael Holter. All of this is proof that "where there's a will, there's a way". Additionally, in the absence of a Fall workshop this year, Sarah Andrews has been working on scheduling an online demo with Sandy Maudlin in conjunction with the Fall business meeting. We'll be posting details soon.

Exhibits have continued successfully online. Leigh Fulton and Debby Conn have streamlined the entry process and I hope you have found EntryThingy to be an uncomplicated way to enter shows and upload images. Sadly, the decision was made to move this year's St Andrew's Show online. It was clear that people weren't quite ready to sign up for an in-person, two-day show that is dependent on significant foot traffic to be successful. It's disappointing but I encourage all of you to sign up for the online show. It's a wonderful way to share your latest masterpieces, compete for award and, hopefully, sell a few pieces!

At this point I have a confession to make. Of all the duties the PVW President has to carry out, this one, the newsletter input, is the one I have honestly found the most intimidating! What could I possibly say that hasn't already been said? What pearls of wisdom could I find to share or words of encouragement to pass along? In fact, there have been a few moments this last week when I have asked myself "what was I thinking?"! I asked myself similar questions when Linda called me and asked if I would agree to be nominated for PVW President. I think like most of my predecessors my initial reaction was "Me? No-o-o-o!" However, the more I thought about it the more I realized how could I not. Of all the art organizations I belong to I value my membership in PVW the most. It's the one I feel I truly earned and it's also the one that I have definitely benefitted from the most. The workshops I've been able to take and the shows I've participated in have helped me grow in confidence and skill as an artist and push the limits of what I thought I could do. So, to return to the question of what words of wisdom could I share I think it would be just one word: participate. Enter the shows, take the workshops, join the paint out groups and volunteer when you can. Every event is an opportunity, to make new friends, exchange ideas and most importantly, have fun! These last 18 months have been challenging but I think PVW as an organization has risen to that challenge and found ways to thrive. The most important assets we have are all of you our members. You are a remarkable group and I am honored to count myself a Fellow PVW Member.

Happy Painting! Kate ...



PVW Annual Meeting

At the meeting held on April 17, 2021, held via Zoom,
the newly elected officers were announced:

President - Kate Niner
Vice President - Amy Sabrin
Treasurer - Donna Sturm
Recording Secretary - Noreen Brunini
Program Co-Chairs - Martha Petroff, Marta Legeckis
Exhibits Chair - Leigh Fulton
Membership Co-Chairs - Margitta Hanff, Connie Boland,
Lauren Marcott
Workshop Co-Chairs - Sarah Andrews, Jane McElvaney Coonce

Other board members and contacts are:

Nominating Chair/Parliamentarian - Linda Maldonado
Website/Email - Deborah Conn
Social Media Publicity Chair - Rosa Vera
Print/News Media Publicity Chair - Rosa Vera
Friendship and Care Chair - Linda Staulcup
Hospitality Chairs - Grace Rooney, Ginger Sanaie
Newsletter Editor - Jeane Stetson
Paint Outs - Ginnie Luster & Florence Setzer
AV Library - Linda Maldonado
Photography - Pat Porter & Susan Bradley
Historian - Tony Neville
Graphic Design - Lynda Pitman and Lorrie Herman
External Awards - Christine Heyse

During the meeting, Kate thanked Linda on behalf of all PVW members for her "unfailing good humor and steady leadership" during her term. Linda and the Board found so many creative ways to keep all the members connected and engaged during this very unexpected and unpredictable year of Covid 19.

***THANK YOU, LINDA,
for all your work over the past two years***



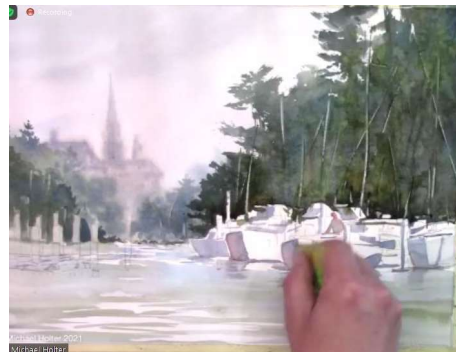
Annual Meeting Demo

After the meeting, we were treated to an amazing demonstration by **Michal Holter**, who explained some of his techniques. Michael Holter is a member of NWS, OPS, SWS, and SWA.



Michael, an *American Impressionist*, is an award-winning artist who works in watercolor and oil whose paintings can be found in private and corporate collections in the US and several foreign countries.

My work is impressionistic. I like to represent people or places and allow the painting to evolve from the structure of what is recognizable. The challenge is to balance the care needed to make the representation interesting... and perhaps believable, with the freedom, looseness and painterly quality that makes painting so unique and expressive.



What's Happening....

The PVW Board met via Zoom on July 22, 2021:

We have a total of 218 members and are always happy to welcome new members.

Meetings/Workshops:

2021 Fall: The Fall Business Meeting will be on Sunday, November 7th from 2.00pm - 4.00pm. Sandy Maudlin will be doing the demo. Sarah will send more information in a separate email.

2022 Spring: has been rescheduled for April 4 - April 8, 2022. Hopefully, Robbie Laird will be able to give us a demo in Spring 2022.

Exhibits:

2021 Spring Online Show: Leigh Fulton noted that the exhibit was a success; four works were sold. Leigh said the online shows have brought participation from members who had never participated in past live shows and she thinks we should continue the online practice.

2021 Fall Exhibition: Unfortunately, there were not enough artists to participate in the St Andrews' exhibition and the Autumn show was cancelled.

2021 Winter Online Exhibition runs from October 8 - December 31, 2021. To date, we have 69 artists participating with 131 works of art. These online shows are very popular and hopefully this pre-holiday show will result in lots of sales.

2022 Future Exhibitions (tentative):

The **Green Spring Gardens** Exhibition will be May 3 - June 26, 2022.

Brookside Gardens is scheduled for Sept 19 - Oct 24, 2022 .

Keep your fingers crossed and keep painting!

(I'm not sure how you hold a brush with your fingers crossed but you get the idea)



What's Happening....

PVW's 50th Anniversary is coming up in 2024!

A book of PVW artist's works was compiled in 2014 for the 40th. Donna Sturm noted the book made about \$10,000 and every month she gets a notice of another sale on Amazon! Kate is looking for ideas on what we should do to mark the **50th Anniversary** so if you have any ideas, please pass them along.



Jane McElvaney Coonce noted that Watercolorist, **Michael Holter**, is coming to Arlington at Art House 7 on January 7-9. It's a 3-day workshop entitled Impressionistic Watercolor: Landscapes/Cityscapes. The workshop is from 10 to 4 pm and the cost for the 3-day workshop is \$375. For more information about the workshop, see [Michael Holter workshop](#).

Do you know anyone who wants to become a member of Potomac Valley Watercolorists? PVW's membership process begins in October of each year. Applicants must provide a completed application, submitted by November 1, that includes proof of acceptance of three separate watercolor pieces in three juried shows by three different judges within the past two years and submission of three framed paintings for a jury of selection. Check our website for details.

Wishing everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!



2021 Summer Online Show...



May 1 – July 31, 2021

We had 82 participating members and over 145 paintings.
Many thanks to all those who helped with the exhibition.



Judge Mark E Mehaffey AWS-DF, NWS

It is an honor to be asked to jury an art show. We share our work in the hope that others will see what we saw and feel what we feel. Sometimes we connect. It's those connections that keep us going.



1st Place

Rosa Ines Vera:
So Many Paths, So Many
Flags



2nd Place

Elaine Nunnally:
Wowzi Red!



3rd Place

Deborah Conn:
Respite

<https://www.potomacvalleywatercolorists.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=775#gallery>



2021 Summer Online Show...

Judge Mark E Mehaffey's Comments - Online Summer Exhibit

What criteria did I use for selecting the awards? First and always, I look for a creative concept. The idea and content of the work must resonate with me. I then consider the design; how did the artist use the elements and principles of design to reinforce their content. I also consider technical excellence but only in relation to creativity and content. There is also a bit of the 'I wish I'd thought of that!'

*There were many paintings in this show that I wish I'd thought of!
Congratulations to all!*



**National
Watercolor
Society Award**
Susan Herron:
Morning in Tokyo



**Southern Watercolor
Society Award**
Christine Heyse:
Pandapaws



**Memorial Award in Memory
of Elinor Morley**
Marni Maree: Praying and Preying

Honorable Mentions

Brenda Barthell- Curve Appeal V
Chica Brunsvold- Driftwood
Mary Eggers- African Dancers
Jean K. Gill- Fallen Fences
Margitta Hanff- Little Balls
Barry Lindley- Dog Walkers on
Devonshire,
After the Storm
Terri Rea- Vivid
Jane Thomas- Love Garlic
Linda Slatterly Sherman- Coral Reef



2021 ~~Spring~~ Summer Luncheon

PVW members met for their annual luncheon (only slightly delayed) on Sunday, July 25, 2021 and the Columbia Country Club measured up to its usual standards and elegant surroundings. 54 members were able to attend.



Since the 2020 luncheon had been cancelled due to the Covid virus, this was a chance to welcome new members and catch up with old friends. President Kate Niner welcomed everyone, and our newest members were introduced and presented with their aprons. She thanked Linda Maldonado for her work as past President. Linda said a few words and presented gifts to her board which were lovely hand-sewn notebooks with Linda's collage art as covers. As you can see from the smiling faces, a good time was had by all. Thanks to Marta Legeckis and Martha Petroff for organizing the event.



Plein Air Paint Out!

PVW held its first paint-out of the year at **Meadowlark Gardens Park** in Vienna, VA on **Thursday, April 15**. The park is enormous and by mid-April there were lots of spring flowers. Artists brought lunch and the usual items for plein air painting – a stool or easel, water bottle, hat, long-sleeved shirt, and lots of sunscreen. Fortunately, plein air painting was the perfect way to observe Covid precautions with masks and social distancing. Thanks to Ginnie Luster and Florence Setzer for organizing these events.



Mara Legeckis,
Florence Setzer and
her friend, Renee
Alberts, Sue Moses,
Ginnie Luster, and
Noreen Brunini



Plein Air Paint Out!

PVW held another paint-out at **Fletcher's boathouse on the C&O Canal** in the District on May 26, 2021. Ginnie Luster and Florence Setzer picked a beautiful spot right along the canal and the Potomac River. The group included Mak and Ursula Dehejia, Ginnie Luster and guest Renee Alberts, Florence Selzer, Carol Vorosmart, Jeane Stetson, Sue Moses, Marilyn Feldman, and Martha Petroff.

What could be better on a typical Virginia summer day - hot and humid (92°), sunny with a threat of thunderstorms and ...oh yes, a chorus of cicadas serenading from the trees. But Brood X cicadas couldn't stop our intrepid watercolorists from creating a wonderful array of beautiful paintings.



Ginnie's new BFF



Members' News...

Neyla Arnas had her acrylic “Chasing Away the Blue” selected to be reproduced and installed on banners that will be placed on street poles in Georgetown. This banner exhibit will be on display September 28 through November 20, 2021, and the public will vote on their favorite pieces.

Beth Ayres' “Waterlilies and Irises” and “Red Fruit” have been juried into the 50th Annual Glen Echo Park Labor Day Art Show. The exhibit will take place September 4-6, 2021, in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, Maryland. Beth’s paintings “Sunrise at Flamingo Airport, Bonaire” and “Signs of Spring” will be exhibited in the Friends of the Yellow Barn Drawing and Water Media Exhibition. The virtual show opens September 4 and will remain on the www.FriendsoftheYellowBarnStudio.org website for one year. Over the summer, she also participated in two workshops through the Princeton Art Museum, “Watercolors/Water and Reflections” and “Embracing Dark Tones in Watercolor,” both taught by Barbara DiLorenzo, and in a “Nature Drawing” workshop with John Muir Laws.

During the past year, **Sharie Boyle** has been teaching her classes on the Web Ex platform (which is like Zoom). Her group, which started 5 years ago, meets on alternate Thursdays in her community library. People who would like to join this free “Watercolor Collaborative” can sign up at the Prince William County Government webpage under Library Programs. Sharie also teaches onboard the QM2 on select crossings.



Gwendolyn Bragg had her painting “Sol y Sombra — Posos, Mexico” juried into the Virginia Watercolor Society’s Exhibition in Portsmouth, VA. She also reports that 13 of her students had work accepted in the show, and of those 5 won awards. In addition, her painting “After the Show - Early Morning” was selected for the Alabama Watercolor Society’s 80th Annual Exhibition in Tuscaloosa, AL.

Her Featured Artist Show — “Yellowstone — Watercolor Memories of 2020” will be on display in building 6 at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, VA, for the month of September.



Members' News...

Noreen Brunini, as well as several other PVW members, was juried into the Baltimore Watercolor Society (BWS) 2021 MidAtlantic Regional Exhibition with her work "Coffee Table Book Travel 2020." That painting as well as "Grapes and Crystal" and "Defeated" were juried into the Artists in Middleburg show "Still Lives: Exploration of the Essentials - Color, Form, Composition and Light" on display September 4-October 3, 2021. Her painting "Shadow Play 3" was juried into the Falls Church ARTS Show "A Year Apart," on display through September 12. In addition, "Peony at First Light" was juried into the Falls Church Show "Prismatic" and will be on display September 18 – October 31, 2021.



Marshall Carolus had a painting accepted into the West Virginia Watercolor Society's Aqueous 2021 Show.

Cecilia Capestany exhibited eight watercolor paintings in a show at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, over the summer. She will be participating in a Green Spring Gardens show together with **Carolyn Marshall Wright** during the November-January season.

Janice Ducharme has a miniature watercolor, "Giraffe Watch," in the upcoming 2021 Exhibition of The Miniature Painters, Sculptors & Gravers Society of Washington D.C. (MPSGS) at the Strathmore Mansion from November 21 - January 8. She also has two paintings on exhibit in the "Visions of Watermedia" show at the Scarritt Bennett Center's Laskey Gallery in Nashville TN from October 6 - December 21: "Sleigh Bells Are Ringing" and "Autumn Crystal."



Members' News...

Bernice B. Duvall is included in the upcoming edition of Marquis Who's Who in America. She has also been selected for inclusion in the *Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement* publication, for an ongoing career in visual arts.

Bernice will be participating in the Chevy Chase Arts (Ch/Art) walk, October 23-24, 2021. The arts walk is held throughout Chevy Chase, DC, and Chevy Chase, MD.

Virginia Fernbach, who is the founder and Chair of the Visual Arts Planning Group at Greenspring Retirement Community, reports that they have re-started in person painting classes, with all necessary precautions. Virginia is involved in providing generic "painting tips" using an interactive format during the painting sessions, which is enjoyed by the attending residents.

Kathleen Frampton received a People's Choice Award from the 14th Annual Paint Manassas Show in October 2020.

Jean K Gill, AWS, NWS, had works accepted in the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society's 42nd International; the Philadelphia Watercolor Society's 121st International Exhibition of Works on Paper; and, in the Rocky Mountain National Exhibition. Her painting in the 154th AWS International was selected to tour in the 2021-22 Traveling Exhibition, and she was awarded 4th Place, the "Nanny James Memorial Award," in the Virginia Watercolor Society 42nd Annual Exhibition.



Ray Goodrow's watercolor "Saturday Morning Trucks" was awarded "Best Watercolor" in the Alexandria Art League June 2021 Landscape Show at the Torpedo Factory. "Trucks" is currently in the 58th Membership Exhibit of the Southwestern Watercolor Society, Sept 1- Oct.3, at the Blue House Too Gallery in Dallas.

Stephanie Gustavson, along with 4 other featured artists from Rockville Art League, will be exhibiting 10-12 watercolor paintings at the Glenview Mansion. The show runs from October 25-November 29, with a "Meet the Artist" event scheduled for Sunday, November 21, 1:30-3:30pm.



Members' News...

Sandra Hill's painting, "Out on a Limb," was juried into the show "Magic of the Ordinary" at the Gallery Underground in Crystal City, VA. She has also attended a lot of ZOOM art demos and meetings from artists in the US, Germany and France.

Lily Kak's painting, "Black Lives Matter: Vote for Change", won the Park View Gallery Award at Glen Echo Park's 50th Annual Labor Day Art Show. She was inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement during the middle of the pandemic in July 2020.



Angela Lacy's painting "Bike Rest" was accepted to the 2021 Missouri Watercolor Society International Juried Exhibit. The in-person show will run August through October at MOWS Gallery in St. Louis. Her painting "Great Expectation" was selected for the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society's 42nd International Juried Exhibition, which will run online September 25 - November 6. "Stop and Smell the Flowers" received the Honorable Mention at the Baltimore Watercolor Society's (BWS) signature member show. The show is at Carroll County Arts Council in Westminster, MD, until September 11.

Janet Hansen Martinet's watercolor "Rhododendron Hotspur" is currently at the Floyd Center for the Arts 2021 National Juried Exhibition. The show is open until October 3. Janet's painting, "On the Trail to Mary's Rock," was accepted in the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society's Aqueous Open. The exhibit can be viewed online starting in October at www.pittsburghwatercolorssociety.com. There is a People's Choice Award to vote for your favorite piece. In addition, Janet's "Dark Hollow Falls Illuminated 5" was juried into the BWS 2021 Mid-Atlantic Regional Exhibition.



Jane McElvany-Coonce's painting "Crab Feast" won "Best Watercolor" at the 83rd Annual Members Show of the Rehoboth Art League. The award was sponsored by the Delaware Watercolor Society. The show took place from July 23 until August 22.,2021

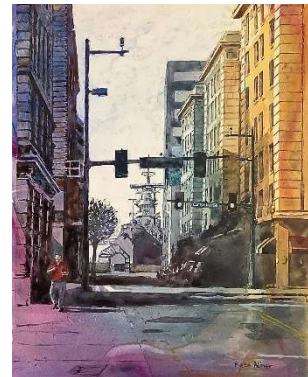
Members' News...



Sue Moses entered a contest to display a painting on the cover of Congressman David Trone's Facebook page. She was one of 6 finalists and then won with her painting "Phlox Along Pennyfield Towpath."

Hernan Munro secured donations for the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association's first Open Call Painting exhibition, to include a generous donation for best watercolor in show from PVW. Hernan's entry was one of the 36 selected for the exhibit. In other news, this December, there will be an exhibition of abstract Argentinean landscapes at the Embassy of Argentina, in Washington, DC. Exhibitions at the Gallery Underground, TFAA @ Mosaic are also scheduled.

Kate Niner's painting "Full Steam Ahead!" was awarded the Peninsula Watermedia Society of Virginia and Holbein Artist Materials Award of Excellence at the 2021 Virginia Watercolor Society Exhibition.



Jeane Stetson's painting "Sun Glow" was juried into the Virginia Watercolor Society Exhibition in Portsmouth, VA. She's also had two miniature paintings accepted into the Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society (MPSGS) of Washington D.C. opening at the Mansion at Strathmore on November 21, 2021.



Members' News...



Kathy Sullivan received the Jane Iten Memorial Award of Distinction at the June 2021 Virginia Watercolor Society Exhibition for her painting “Clothesline in Croatia.”

Alex Tolstoy won 1st place in the Artists Coalition of Fairfax summer exhibit with her painting “The Magnificent Cello;” she was also a winner in a recent Reader’s Competition for *The Art of Watercolor* magazine Vol. 40 with her painting “Cape Hatteras.” In addition, Alex had a Semi-solo Show at Gibson Island Gallery in July/August and was named an Ambassador for the Jean Haines online school.



Rosa Vera’s painting “Lotus Fields III” will be at the Athenaeum Gallery's exhibit "Art Optimism," from September 23- October 31st.

Madeline Wikler was the guest artist at gallery 302 in Bridgton, ME, where she spends her summers. The gallery did a 15-minute video on her work and her process which can be found on Facebook by going to Gallery302 and scrolling down to the most recent video.



Members' News...

Carolyn Marshall Wright's piece "Ready for Harvest" was exhibited in the Falls Church Arts show "A Year Apart," which showcased work done during the pandemic. Her painting "Canyon Drive" was accepted into Falls Church Arts' next show, "Prismatic," on display during September- October 2021. In addition, her painting "And How Does It Taste?" was accepted in the Athenaeum's show "Art Optimism" featuring work that inspires hope for changes that can be made to lessen the impact of climate change. Carolyn focused on new research showing reduction in methane emissions from cows by adding seaweed to their feed, and actually incorporated real seaweed into her piece. In other news, from November 23, 2021 to January 9, 2022, Carolyn and **Cecilia Capestany** will have a dual show, "Feathers and Petals," in the Historic Manor House at Green Spring Gardens. The show will feature Cecilia's watercolor paintings of birds and Carolyn's acrylic florals.

HAVE PORCH, WILL PAINT. Nancy Roche, Linda Holz and Jeane Stetson enjoyed fresh air, painting and a long overdue catching up at a Pop-Up Paint Out in September. Socially distanced, of course and fueled by Nancy's lemon bars.

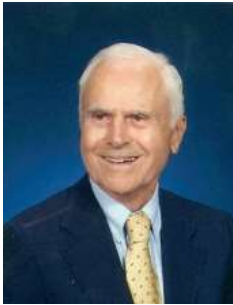


How have you made the best of Covid?

Let us know and send some photos for the next newsletter.

jeane_stetson@yahoo.com

In Memoriam



Harris Cleveland Miller passed away on July 5, 2021 at the age of 103. We grieve but take comfort in the fact he had a wonderful fulfilling life and was loved by so many. Harris was born 1918 in Wollaston, MA. He graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a degree in Chemical Engineering. He became well recognized in the Virginia area for his artistic skills and was very active in the Vienna Arts Society. He was also a member of the Virginia Watercolor Society, Art League and Potomac Valley Watercolorists.

Peggy Ann Wetmore Kessler Duke died April 1, 2021. Peggy studied biology and botany and met her husband, Dr. James Duke, an ethnobotanist while completing her master's degree at UNC Chapel Hill. Peggy became an accomplished botanical illustrator for institutions such as USDA, the Smithsonian, and many universities as well as having many art shows and a solo exhibition at the National Arboretum in Washington DC. She was a member of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists and the Laurel Art guild.



Pat King passed away in August. Pat came to watercolors after many years in the fashion industry. She translated her distinctive sense of style into dramatic floral paintings and sensitive animal portraits that were instantly recognizable as hers. Pat was a regular member of Gwen Bragg's Art League classes. Her fellow students will miss Pat and her wry sense of humor.



In Memoriam

Colleen Henderson passed away in May after a courageous battle with cancer. Kate Niner said “I didn’t have the privilege of knowing her personally, but I know that those of you who did will miss her greatly.”



Our dear friend and fellow PVW member, **Jaqueline Saunders**, passed away in May. She was a fabulous artist, mentor and educator and her absence will leave our artists community a poorer place. She was a member of The Art League of Alexandria and the Virginia Watercolor Society.

From her friends at PVW: “She was an amazing artist and teacher.... She was a special spirit! She was a great artist and a lovely person.... I always admired her work....In my mind's eye, I see her sitting cross-legged in an iris field, painting...Jackie was so special, not only as a gifted artist and a generous, kind teacher but as a lovely soul. May her memory be a blessing....So many of us were fortunate to have known her.”



2021 entry into the Virginia Watercolor Society Exhibition, “Peonies in Glory”



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Thanks to Peter Ulrich for the
PVW Brochure/Rack Card above!

If you'd like to pass a few to friends, contact
Linda Maldonado.