



Number 25, Spring 2025



Published by Potomac Valley Watercolorists, Inc. —*promoting the art and excellence of watercolor painting.*

Message from our president



Reflecting on our beautifully crafted 40th anniversary book, lovingly assembled by Rachel Collins, and taking in the stunning works from our online exhibition, I'm reminded of how vital art becomes during uncertain and turbulent times. It offers more than just visual beauty—it provides a refuge for the spirit, a way to rise above divisions, and a quiet invitation to connect when the world feels fractured.

As artists, we often spend solitary hours translating our thoughts and emotions into brushstrokes—acts that can soothe, inspire, and illuminate the many layers of the human experience. What a gift it is to have this creative outlet, a place we can return to again and again to find clarity, calm, and the strength to face what comes next. In a world that can feel overwhelming, our art becomes both anchor and compass—grounding us in the present while guiding us toward hope, connection, and renewal.

Ginya Truitt Nakata

*"Art is beauty passed through thought and fixed in form."
On the wall of the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco*

Annual Meeting

Potomac Valley Watercolorists

Member Meeting

March 9, 2025

A motion to open the meeting was made by Anne Heising, seconded by Lynn Martin, all voted in favor. President Linda Maldonado welcomed members and guests and thanked Martha Petroff and Marta Legeckis for organizing the luncheon and marshaling volunteers to help.

New members, listed below, were introduced and gifted with PVW's 50th Anniversary bags:

Sara Azzam
Barbara Cooper
Sooja Kim
Mark Murphy

Nanette Catigbe
Kathleen Dodson
Ruth Lampi
Liz Pohland

Linda gave a short summary of major highlights of the past two years:

- Creation of Finance Committee
- Hiring of bookkeeping service
- Development of budget by Finance Committee.
- Involvement of recently joined-in members in PVW leadership roles
- Major redesign of our website, resulting in updated layout and graphics, streamlined user functions, and cost-saving change of platform.

Linda thanked members for their support during her medical journey during the past year. She thanked the Officers and Committee Chairs for their hard work these past two years and gave them handmade collage bookmarks as a farewell gift.

***Our best wishes and many thanks to Linda Maldonado for leading PVW through her second tour as President. Linda encouraged us all through the difficult Covid years and has been our best cheerleader as PVW adapted to changes and new technology.
Thank You, Linda!***

PVW Business

Election of officers occurred during our annual meeting and luncheon. The following officers and committee chairs were approved to assume the listed positions:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| President | Ginya Truitt Nakata |
| Vice President | Thom Lowther |
| Treasurer | Jeane Stetson |
| Membership Co-Chairs Member | Margitta Hanff & Jane M. Coonce (New Jurying) & Diana Bozza (Renewal) |
| Website | Kat Jamieson |
| Secretary | Deborah Cohan |
| Workshops Co-Chairs | Sarah Andrews & Kathleen Frampton |
| Exhibitions Chair | Leigh Fulton |
| Program Co-Chairs | Marta Legeckis & Martha Petroff |
| Hospitality Co-Chairs | Grace Rooney & Ginger Sanaie |
| Newsletter Chair | Jeane Stetson |

New President Ginya continued the meeting and presented Linda with a gift commemorating her presidency. She then shared her own watercolor journey and some thoughts about how PVW may adapt to changing circumstances and grow more vibrant. She then conducted an exercise to invite members to express why they wanted to join PVW and what their talents are for volunteer opportunities.



Needed: Newsletter Editor: After five years of wrangling the newsletter, Jeane Stetson wants to move on. We need a new editor, someone with a bit of artistic flair (hmm, where we could find someone like that ...??) Working with the newsletter is a great way to get involved and meet other members. Please consider volunteering for this fun job. Jeane is happy to work with you on the Fall issue, and we have no doubt PVW will benefit from your efforts. Contact Jeane at jeane_stetson@yahoo.com.

PVW Business

BOARD MEETING MAY 5, 2025

The PVW Board met on May 5, 2025, PVW's new president, Ginya Truitt Nakata presiding. Among the items presented and discussed:

PVW MISSION STATEMENT:

The Potomac Valley Watercolorists (PVW) elevates water-based media arts and empower the artists who bring them to life by fostering excellence, creativity, and innovation. We nurture a vibrant and inclusive community where learning, collaboration, and artistic exploration flourish. Through meaningful engagement, we inspire a deeper appreciation for the transformative power of watercolor, enriching both artists and the broader community.

PVW GOALS FOR 2025-2027:

- *Position PVW as a standout leader among local art organizations by showcasing our artistic excellence in water-based media.*
- *Strengthening community engagement to drive membership growth, boost participation in events and comply with non-profit status.*
- *Lay foundation for organizational sustainability through strategic resource mobilization and increased member participation.*

PVW STRATEGIC TASK FORCE:

It was proposed that we establish a **Strategic Task Force** (STF). The STF will initially explore ideas related specifically to creating a **Distinguished PVW**. The STF will be tasked with addressing our goals by establishing and prioritizing objectives, especially in the areas of innovative programming, fundraising, signature programs, and expanded exhibitions and recognition. We are looking for new innovative ideas and new solutions. We have so many talented people within our organization – please consider volunteering for this task force. Contact Thom Lowther: 17studioart@gmail.com

PVW ARTIST GALLERY:

Please check out the PVW gallery on our website and add your work to the gallery!
<https://www.potomacvalleywatercolorists.org/artists-gallery>



Spring Workshop

"Painting Water in Watercolor" with Stacy Lund Levy, AWS, NWS, TWSA

May 19 - 21, 2025

St Andrew's Church in Arlington

Artist and Baltimore native, Stacy Lund Levy has been creating art in many forms since kindergarten. She earned an undergraduate degree from Hood College in Biochemistry as well as a Masters Degree at The Johns Hopkins Art as Applied to Medicine program. Combining her natural artistic talents with her intellectual interest in anatomy and science, she initially worked as a medical illustrator. Stacy then opted to establish Lund Art Studios, a career move that enabled her to take on a variety of clients both locally and nationally, and also to jury shows, teach classes and workshops



*"Remember When...", Stacy Lund Levy, watercolor,
20"x22"*

*Thanks to Sarah Andrews and Kathleen Frampton
PVW Workshop Co-Chairs*

NEXT UP!

Green Spring Gardens

June 29 – August 17, 2025

Looking ahead towards the **Green Spring Gardens Exhibition**: This show is one of our most popular shows and we have had excellent sales over the years. Also, remember the theme is horticultural, natural or local historical themes. Landscape, still life and abstract works are welcome. No portraits.

Registration is now live on our website, and it is the preferred way to register. It's fast, easy and secure. If you encounter an issue, please contact Kat Jamieson. Contact Leigh Fulton for information lfulton@Verizon.net. Here are some dates to keep in mind for the show:

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
JUNE 10, 2025 - MIDNIGHT

RECEIVING AND HANGING: SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025, 12:45 - 2:00pm

RECEPTION: SUNDAY, JULY 13 – 1:00 - 3:00pm

RETRIEVAL OF ARTWORK: MONDAY, AUGUST 18 – 11:15am - 12:30pm

And looking Ahead....

The **Fall Show & Sale 2025** at St. Andrew's Church in Arlington will be held over the weekend of November 15-16, 2025. More information to come....



PVW Business

Maine Trip: The 2025 trip to Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island will be during September 6-13, 2025. This trip is a special time of gathering with member artists, painting En Plein Air, eating a lot of delicious seafood and enjoying nature in Acadia National Park. Contact Vita Sims for information: vita@vitadesigns.com



A Very Special Exhibit Opportunity

We all have them. You know those paintings we're the most proud of, the ones we don't ever want to sell, (and yes, the one you secretly admire every time you walk past it!). Well, this August and September, we're giving you the opportunity to share them with the public again in an exhibit at the Workhouse Art Center McGuireWoods Gallery. For this one special event, we invite you to bring **your very best work**. There will be no restrictions on when it was painted, and it can be listed as Not For Sale. The prospectus with all the details will go out at the end of May. So, get ready to wow the world with your talent!

The **Workhouse Exhibit** will be held August 3-October 3, 2025. The Workhouse Arts Center is located at 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton, VA 22079. Contact Kate Niner for more information. abritrose@gmail.com

Spring Luncheon

The annual PVW luncheon was held on March 9, 2025, at the Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, MD. Outgoing President Linda Maldonado thanked everyone for their hard work and welcomed incoming President Ginya Truitt Nakata. Eight new members were introduced and left sporting their new PVW 50th Anniversary bags.



*Thanks to Marta Legeckis & Martha Petroff for arranging this event
and Pat Porter for the great photos.*

Spring Luncheon



'The Gang'

New Members' Coffee



Jane Coonce hosted the New Members' Coffee on February 22, 2025. PVW Board members Linda Maldonado, Debby Conn, Jane Coonce, Leigh Fulton, Thom Lowther, Martha Petroff, and Kate Niner welcomed our new members:



Welcome New Members!

Sara Azzam was born and raised in Sweden. After working on farms in Canada and Switzerland, she emigrated to the US and received a PhD in Animal Breeding and Genetics.

Sara started to paint in watercolor during a 3-year residency in Dubai. She loves experimenting with layers of mark makings by using anything that will leave a mark. She draws her inspiration from the Swedish landscape with its rocks and wildflowers. Hearing about PVW in 2017, she set her long-term goal to become a member. Joining VWS and getting signature status in BWS were steps towards that goal.



Nanette Catigbe M.D., VWS, BWS, MPS

“Art is my language, a way to transform the ordinary into something special. Without formal training, my journey has been shaped by passion, exploration, and relentless practice. Each creation reflects the beauty I perceive in life’s smallest details—whether in nature, emotion, or human connection.

My work spans various mediums, from watercolor to oil and pastel, and includes challenging surfaces like fabrics, wearables, and even cakes. Every piece is crafted with care, blending precision and intuition, and carries a part of my story.

Inspired by the world around me and the stories of others, I aspire to evoke emotion and invite reflection through my art. Feedback and shared experiences keep me committed to constant improvement. Ultimately, I strive to create work that resonates deeply, evoking a connection and celebrating the elegance of life’s fleeting moments.”

Welcome New Members!



Barbara Cooper was living in the San Francisco Bay Area during the pandemic when she developed an interest in art and art history. With art classes and museums shutdown, she began to draw and took a figure drawing program online. In 2023, after she and her husband moved to Alexandria, she enrolled in a watercolor class at the Art League with Alice Kale. This is where her love of watercolor began and turned into an obsession. Barbara enjoys painting portraits of people and pets, florals and landscapes.

She especially loves the way that watercolors blend and flow on the paper and the way that transparent colors can be built up to create volume, depth, and vibrancy. She also enjoys experimenting with new mediums and she is currently exploring painting with alcohol inks on Yupo. Barbara likes to use her skills as an artist to help others and she has participated in fundraisers for a local cat rescue and a historical estate in Alexandria. She is looking forward to getting to know, and learning from, this wonderful group of watercolor artists in PVW!

Kathy Dodson: When I was in elementary school, my grandmother tried to teach me watercolors, but I didn't have much interest. Later I saw my father take up oil painting, but after trying it for a bit, decided that it wasn't for me either. However, once I retired, I began watercolor painting in 2014 by taking a class with Debby Conn, who I have known for many years, and I loved it.



Before painting, my creative energy went into quilting, sewing and needlework. That background gave me the inspiration for my current series, Fabrications, which uses my love of color and pattern to paint some of my favorite subjects, animals. At this point, my goals are to enjoy myself, hopefully improve my skills and to make anyone who sees my work smile.

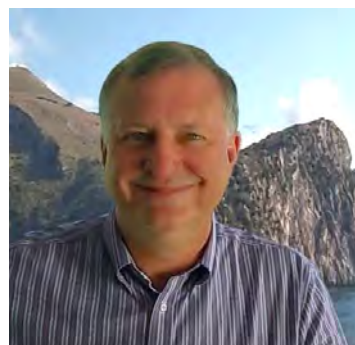
Sooja Kim is also one of our new members.

Welcome New Members!



Ruth Lampi: I started to watercolor when I retired in 2018. I enjoyed art in high school and took one drawing class in college, but nothing since. I had gotten a watercolor set as a gift a few years before, but quickly realized I didn't know what I was doing so I set it aside. In spring 2020, I started taking classes with Karen Norman. I loved the challenge and the versatility that watercolor provides. With Karen's encouragement, I became a signature member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society in fall 2021. Karen also suggested that I apply to PVW.

Mark Murphy is celebrating his retirement with a focus on health, family, painting, learning, teaching, and travelling. He was attracted to PVW by our excellent reputation and collective artistry. Starting his watercolor journey later in life he is thirsty for watercolor knowledge and experiences, looking forward to learning from other PVW members. After working multiple careers in science, engineering, and finance he is grateful for the opportunity to devote so much time and energy to his creative passions.



Liz Pohland is a communications and association management executive who enjoys painting in her free time. In college, Liz studied applied art and art history and continues to take classes and workshops locally. Liz's watercolors often reflect everyday items in her surroundings, her travels, and her interest in nature and landscape. She is passionate about experimenting with new techniques, challenging herself with abstraction, impressionism, and realism.

She finds watercolor to be an exciting medium—unpredictable and fascinating—paintings can appear bold and electric as well as delicate and transparent. While many watercolorists begin a painting with pencil sketches, Liz often draws with her paint, relying on her instincts and impressions about the subject. She enjoys using imaginative, nontraditional approaches and materials in her work and she has been influenced by many of her instructors, including those in PVW.

Paint Outs

March 2 at the Botanical Garden

PVW members gathered at the Botanical Garden for their first plein air adventure this year. This is a favorite from years past. The indoor gardens and galleries of the conservatory showcase plants ranging from deserts to tropical forests. It is the perfect foil to a winter day or harried schedule. The resplendent diversity of form, color, fruit and fragrance reminds us that plants make our lives possible and enjoyable.



April 16th at Green Springs Gardens

PVW extended the invite to a number of other groups as well. There were many things in full bloom and the property was "greening up" nicely. Many of the flowering trees were still full of flowers.

Thanks to Rob Henry for scouting out and scheduling these paint outs.



2025 Online Member Show

April 1 - June 30, 2025



2025 Potomac Valley Watercolorists

ONLINE EXHIBITION

April 1–June 30, 2025

All displayed artworks will be for sale

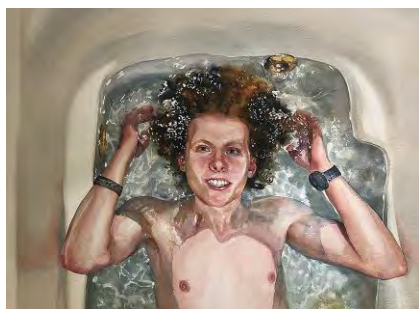
View the show at

PotomacValleyWatercolorists.org



Our judge for this show, **Walter Bartman**, Director and Founder of the Yellow Barn, has taught art in the Bethesda, Maryland area for fifty years. Specializing in landscape and figure painting, he is known as one of Maryland's finest artists and teachers. He was recognized by three U.S. Presidents as one of this country's important teachers.

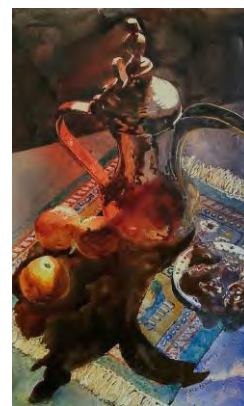
Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Bartman graduated from the University of Maryland in 1970 with a BA in art education. In 1978 he received a Fulbright grant to study art in Belgium and the Netherlands. He was conferred a Master of Fine Arts in Painting and Art History from the American University in Washington, DC in 1979.



1st Place
Stacy Lund Levy



2nd Place
Juliya Ivanilova



3rd Place
Kate Niner

PVW had 68 members and 131 paintings in this show, that's 38% participation of 180 Active members. We had a total of \$1,700 gross in entry fees.

2025 Online Show Honorable Mentions



Sara Azzam



Lily Kak



Marta Legeckis



Karen Norman



Carolyn Matshall Wright



Craig Wright



Vicky Zhou

*Thanks to Leigh Fulton and Kat Jamieson for
making this happen.*

Members' News

PVW's ex-president, **Linda Maldonado** is thrilled to report she finished 5 months of chemotherapy in late March – and is still standing. Six weeks of radiation will take place in April and May, then she's finished with treatments.

"So many people have sent their prayers and healing wishes to me, which I have deeply appreciated and know contributed to my good spirits and energy through these past months. Now I can resume a more active schedule of creating art."



Noreen Brunini's "Twilight Magic" was juried into Fairfax City's "Spotlight On The Arts" 2025 Annual Capital One Hall Art Contest and has been selected as a finalist for the New York Life Grand Prize – winners are chosen by People's Choice at the reception on April 25, 2025. Works are displayed at the Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd., Fairfax, VA, until May 22, 2025. Several other paintings have also been accepted for the Spring 2025 "Art at The Mill" show at Burwell-Morgan Mill, Millwood, VA, open April 26 – May 11, 2025.

Janice Ducharme's painting, "Hoi An Lanterns," was selected for inclusion in the Tennessee Watercolor Society's 2025 Online Exhibition. Also, "Waiting Canoes" was juried in the Southern Watercolor Society Annual Exhibition 2025.



Members' News

Mary Eggers is the solo artist at the Art League gallery in Old Town Alexandria in June. Opening reception for "All That Jazzz," 16 acrylic and watercolor paintings of Jazz musicians is Friday June 13th.

Jann Gilmore is writing about unrecognized women artists for a dictionary of women artists for the Archives of Women Artists (AWARE), Research and Exhibitions, University Paris - Sorbonne. AWARE works to make women artists of the 18th-20th centuries "visible" through free bilingual content on their website www.awarewomenartists.com. Jann also reports that American Women Artists will be holding its annual exhibition and programming in Middleburg, VA, Oct 3-11, 2025. A juried exhibition titled "A Vision of Nature" will be hosted by the National Sporting Library & Museum. Additional events and a symposium will focus on supporting American women in the visual arts. More information is available at www.americanwomenartists.org.

Jean K. Gill, AWS, NWS, won the Frank Perdue Memorial Award in the Baltimore Watercolor Society Mid-Atlantic Regional, and a Special Award for "Look Out Beloconuts" in the Missouri International Exhibition. She has two paintings in the Pennsylvania Members Exhibition and just learned that her new watercolor, "Greengroconuts," has received the top award in the upcoming Philadelphia Watercolor Society Members' Exhibition.



Rick Goff's gouache and ink painting, "Monarch Roost," was juried into the Michigan Watercolor Society's 78th Annual Exhibition in West Bloomfield. Last year Rick became a MWCS Signature Member as well as a Great Lakes Fellow for his service on the board of directors.

Members' News



Margaret Huddy spent the month of February painting in Siesta Key, Sarasota, FL, where she did 21 paintings in 28 days and garnered a commission to paint a friend's granddaughters playing on the beach. She sold 15 of the 21 paintings to friends and neighbors down there.

Angela Lacy received First Place for "Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder" in the Watermedia category, and an Honorable Mention for "Almost There!" at the Gaithersburg Fine Arts Association's 39th Annual Juried Show. It is currently showing at Kentlands Mansion in Gaithersburg.



Jeanne McIntyre participated in an art exhibit and sale January 15th to April 1st at the historic American Horticultural Society at River Farm in Alexandria, Virginia.

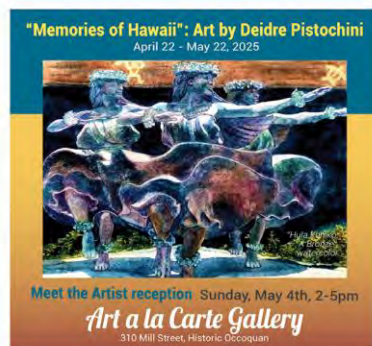
Tony Neville was awarded Second Place at the Arlington Artists Alliance Member Show "A Brighter Light," on exhibit until the end of April at the Alliance Gallery, Clarendon, in Arlington, VA.



Members' News

Pamela Patrick reports that she has joined WASH, the watercolorist group and Sacfinearts.org, since moving to Sacramento, CA. The most recent show "AWASH" was last month where she received the Jurors Award. Her miniature watercolors are a big success, and she is thrilled to be appreciated.

From April 22 to May 22, 2025, **Deidre Pistochini** will be the featured artist at Art a la Carte Gallery, located in historic Occoquan, VA. She will be showcasing artwork inspired by her many years living in Hawaii. A Meet the Artist Reception **will** be held on May 4th (2-5 pm).



Alex Tolstoy had a painting selected for Splash 26 which will also appear in a special issue of Artists Magazine.

Peter Ulrich has been attending an open studio at his local recreation center, where participants paint in either acrylic or oil. One of his former watercolor students leads the sessions and provides each week a summary of the subject matter. Peter's medium of choice is acrylic for his 11" x 14" paintings that are completed during the 3-hour sessions.



Members' News

Carolyn Marshall Wright showed a series of her still lifes at the Byrne Gallery in Middleburg, VA, in March. She will also be showing in group shows there in May (Abstracts) and June (Florals). Her watercolor painting "John One Five" was runner up for visual arts in the fifth anniversary competition for Vita Poetica magazine. She also received an Honorable Mention in the 2025 PVW Members Online show for her watercolor piece "Stepping Stones."



Craig Wright's watercolor "Cactus Patch" was awarded 10th Place at the 46th National Juried Exhibition of the Georgia Watercolor Society in Augusta, GA, and his watercolor "Contemplation" received Honorable Mention at the PVW 2025 Spring Online show. In addition, his painting "St. George's Well" was juried into the Arizona Watercolor Association's 2025 Spring Exhibition at the Shemer Art Center in Phoenix, AZ. Also, "Tapestry" was selected as a Finalist in the 2025 Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Art Contest, and will be on exhibit at The Stacy C. Sherwood Center Performance Space in Fairfax, VA, April 22 – May 22.

Thanks to Cecilia Capestany for collecting and compiling all the information.

In Memoriam



Janet Ford: Janet Josephine Ford of Manassas, Virginia passed away peacefully on March 8th, 2024, at the age of 87. Janet was born in Mt. Vernon, Ohio and lived with her family on a dairy farm. She played violin in the college orchestra and graduated from Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree. A member of PVW, she sold her artwork all throughout the United States. Her colorful paintings brought joy to many. Most importantly, she was a devout mother, grandmother, aunt, neighbor, and friend to all that knew her. Her creativity will be missed, but never far out of sight.

Janet is survived by her three children and six grandchildren. A small private gathering of family, close friends, and neighbors will be held this spring, with a burial to follow this summer in her beloved Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Linda's email Jan 3

Anne Breuer Corson, age 83, artist and art therapist, died peacefully on March 7, 2024. She lived in Falls Church, Virginia. Mrs. Corson was born in Buffalo, New York and lived in South America where her father was stationed as a Foreign Service officer. She was on the faculty of the Graduate Art Therapy Program and The George Washington University,

Anne was a registered art therapist at the Saint Luke Institute, an internationally known psychiatric hospital for Roman Catholic clergy and women religious. She was devoted to her colleagues there and considered Saint Luke Institute not only a wonderful place to work, but a community to which she belonged. Her favorite activities during her retirement were watercolor painting and abstract acrylic work.



She entered many juried shows and was happy to be accepted into several of them and have some of her pieces sell. She was a Master Gardener and designed several gardens in her community. She is survived by her son and daughter and two grandchildren. A memorial service was held on March 22, 2024 at Goodwin House at Bailey's Crossroads.

In Memoriam



One of our longtime members, **Joan Carr Kirk**, 95, of Trappe, MD, died in her home on Tuesday, March 18, 2025. She is survived by her husband of nearly 72 years, Alan Goodrich Kirk II; her children and grandchildren. Her daughter Alison lives locally and can be reached at 3524 Hampton Drive, Trappe, MD 21673.

Joan was born in Dubuque, Iowa, on Sept. 20, 1929, and graduated from University of California, Santa Barbara, with a degree in Art Education.

Joan was an avid, lifelong tennis player, renowned bird watcher, masterful gardener and consummate artist, specializing in watercolor painting and pottery. Using her artistic skills and knowledge of botany, Joan created a calendar for a local nonprofit, Concern, Inc., that showed people how to use organic gardening instead of chemicals. She and other activists fought to save from developers a large piece of land in McLean known as the Burling Tract, which is now called Scott's Run Park. According to her obituary, those wishing to honor Joan's memory can plant a native species. www.fhnfuneralhome.com

Frank Spink passed away on April 11, 2025 at the age of 89 with his daughters, grandchildren, and longtime friends with him in his final days. Frank was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He received a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Illinois in 1959 and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Washington in 1963. He served in the U.S. Navy as an Officer in Charge of Construction at the U.S. Naval Weapons Facility in Concord, California. Frank was a past president of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists and a member of the Virginia Watercolor Society.



Frank has been listed in Who's Who in American Art since 1976. Frank and his wife, Barbara, were married for 49 years until Barbara's passing in 2011. Frank's funeral and burial and the celebration of his life will take place at St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church, 4801 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, Virginia on Saturday, May 31, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the St. Barnabas' Church Memorial Fund or to ACCA: Annandale Christian Community for Action, www.accacares.org.