

## December

### Wednesday, December 2

Bring paintings, cards, prints, etc.  
for Loop Night & Open House

### Thursday, December 3

Hang Loop Night

### Friday, December 4

**Loop Night & Open House**  
5:30 Pm - 8:00 PM

### Saturday, December 5

**Holiday Open House**  
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

### Thursday, December 10 - half day

**Carolyn Anderson** Critique  
Monitors: Barbara Selby

### Thursday, December 17

**Paint Together** at the Studio

### Thursday, December 24

MERRY CHRISTMAS

### Thursday, December 31

HAPPY NEW YEAR

## January

### Thursday, January 7

**Paint Together** at the Studio

### Thursday, January 14

**Paint Together** at the Studio

### Monday, January 18

**Board and Trustee Meeting**

### Thursday, January 21

**General Meeting**

### Thursday, January 28

To Be Announced

## Four Member Show

Beth Bobey, Betsy Greer, Jo Howard and Siv Spurgeon will host the Four Member Show in May, 2010.

## Thought You Should Know ...

In addition to our Holiday Open House activities, there are a number of projects recently handled by members behind the scenes. Here is just a sampling:

- Obtaining bids for a new water heater and standing there at 8 AM while the plumber installed it in the kitchen—thank you, Carolyn!
- Overseeing and correcting the write-ups that Art on the Town editors give us each month—thank you, Roe!
- Taking on the preparation and follow-through of Loop Nights while Barbara was unable to—thank you, Betsy!
- Sprucing up the sidewalk with their blower for November and December Loop Nights so that we could save dollars—thank you, Doris and George.
- Keeping flashlights ready and available (my request) in addition to housekeeping duties for the two buildings—thank you, Milvi!
- Happily agreeing to act as reporters in the field for SketchPad, to give Siv an assist—thank you, Lucy and Carol!
- Arranging for additional lighting along our walkway, just in time for the evening activities—thank you, Audrey!
- Helping to get bids and talking with contractors to start the exterior painting project—thank you, Beth!
- Planning a flawless bus trip for us all to enjoy in the beautiful New Hope area—thank you, Muriel, Don and Erika!
- Serving on the “Army Corps of Engineers” to keep water from coming into the studios, whatever it takes—thank you, Bonnie! (Who has never yet met a leak she can't defeat. See page 2)

The above is a sampling from just the past two months. All our members, in a variety of ways, contribute to the strength of our group throughout the year.

If this keeps up, I'll probably need to make another list in a few months...

Nancy James, President

## Valerie Craig Workshop

Submitted by Lucy Moise

Valerie Craig energized us with her enthusiasm, her easy natural manner, and ability to create an oil painting with her direct composition, establishing two shapes in sky, earth and barn.

She uses turpentine, dipping brush, then paint, using less and less turpentine as the painting progresses. As she works, she steps back, always thinking and knowing how many brush strokes she is using.

Valerie has always loved to paint and draw, but pursued a nursing career, eventually becoming manager, where she developed a business sense.

She began painting as a watercolorist. When her mother was ill, she cared for her during that difficult time and could not paint for a year.

Eventually she took up oils with Carol Kar-don and believes in “going with what you are.”

She is constantly taking courses. Since she is mostly painting outside, her equipment includes an interesting “Easy-Out Easel,” which fits into a knapsack to hold all her supplies. She is fearless in where she finds her subjects and encourages us to paint from life.

It was fun to learn how she and Carolyn Anderson have known each other for some twenty years, attending workshops around the country together.

Valerie has just returned from teaching a workshop in Ireland. Her enthusiasm is contagious and we have met yet another instructor we would like to see again.

**Wishing You  
A Wonderful Holiday  
and  
A Happy New Year!**

## Update on Leaks

Submitted by Bonnie White

In 2003 I became the Building Person for The Studio Group, determined to take care of its many water problems. I began my quest to stop leaks to the basements by having the downspout “boots” cleared by Roto Rooter.

I worked with many roofers to try to stop the leaks into the lunchroom in Studio III and the unsolvable flaking in the back studio of the Studio II building above the fireplace. Various roofers tried to stop the leaks; every roofer told me that the slate roof needed replacing.

In 2005 I asked The Longwood Foundation and the Crystal Trust Foundation for money, in a formal request, involving our financial statements and IRS reports. They gave us a total of \$75,000 in 2005 and 2006, and we were able to put on the slate roof in the Fall of 2006. The flaking above the Studio II fireplace stopped immediately and the basement under that building became much drier.

In 2007, I gave the job of fixing the roof above the kitchen leak to Wayne Mackay, of Jos. Pollinger Roofing. He made good repairs that stopped the flow of water across the basement floor in Studio III, which occurred after every rain. He said that the lunchroom and kitchen were “add ons” and connected to the main building in such a way that too much water crossed them.

For a while, the kitchen ceiling was seemingly repaired, but not permanently. Recently, the new leaks in the lunch room and kitchen have been diagnosed as caused by leaking skylights. Wayne has made some repairs there and will complete soon.

Hoping I won't have to run over and spread newspapers on the floors ever again!

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## Cryptogram

Submitted by Carol Hixon

Most of you are familiar with cryptograms, but for those who aren't, they are easy to learn to solve. It's a simple letter substitution code. First, look for the most common letters, repetitive letters, double letters, and common words found in a sentence, such as “the” or “of.” Once you have identified a letter, write that letter on top of the encoded one all throughout the quote and you are on your way to solving the puzzle.

All of the cryptograms in SketchPad will feature a quote from a well-known artist, whose name will be separate at the end of the quote.

“TOJRRTPJST SKT TBBTCSDJE JCF ETJQT SKT

HMQDHBXBJQRXT.”

QDCYTCS QJC RHRK

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## In Memoriam

Mariamne Finley Cross Fulton, age 85, passed away peacefully on October 31, 2009, at her home in Kennett Square, PA.

She is remembered for her fine painting, fellowship and love of family. She elected cremation with grave side services and burial to be in the Spring in the Fulton cemetery plot in Rock Creek Church Cemetery in suburban Washington, DC.

The family welcomes messages at [www.griecocares.com](http://www.griecocares.com) and suggests that any commemorative donations be made to the donors' choice of recipient charity.

## Members News

**Diane Cannon, Maria Keane and Lucy Moise** participated in the CCA Exhibition in Yorklyn in October.

The “Women Collared for Work” exhibition is at The Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center in Frederick, MD through November 28. **Maria Keane** is participating along with seven other women. The exhibition will travel to Wilmington and will be at the Delaware Art Museum in February-March of 2010.

**Bonnie S. White** will exhibit 40 paintings at the 919 Market Street Gallery at 10th and Market Streets in Wilmington during the month of January, 2010.

## Monitor Parking

To help our monitors deliver their goodies to the Studio, Nancy James is requesting that the parking space next to the dumpster be reserved for them. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Mr. Pyle Said

Feature will return in January 2010.

## The Color of Light

Submitted by Carol Hixon

In this exciting and informative lesson, Kass Morin Freeman gave us both scientific and artistic insight into the color of light. She spoke about how light changes color as the time of day changes, and gave us a printed sheet illustrating those different colors during the day. She commented that the Impressionists would take their lunch break at noon because the light at that time is pure white and the shadows are neutral.



Kass also mentioned how Monet changed canvases to accommodate the change of light when painting Rouen Cathedral. In her particular watercolor technique, she always pre-tints her paper with a very pale wash, and then adds a wash in that color's complement, illustrating the direction of the light going from warm to cool.

Kass made many helpful suggestions including keeping paintings in progress at an elevated angle, diluting masking liquid with water by one-third to one-half, and using a plastic straw cut like a quill to apply the fluid. She also demonstrated the clever technique of blowing through a straw to make tree branches.

Her suggestions of using a wooden skewer or bamboo pen for applying maskoid, and making a brush for masking fluid from frayed nylon twine taped to a skewer were great problem solving tips.

After an educational morning and a bit of our own painting, we broke for lunch and then continued into the afternoon watching Kass demonstrate more of her skilled techniques. At the end of the afternoon we all came away enlightened with new knowledge from a valued teacher.

## SketchPad Submissions

Publicity date is the 1st of each month.  
Submission deadline is one week prior.  
[mail@sivspurgeon.com](mailto:mail@sivspurgeon.com)  
Images sent should be ACTUAL size.  
Do NOT reduce for email or web.