



From the President's Desk

Dear Members and Friends,

I am filled with gratitude and admiration for the vibrant community that is the Degas Pastel Society. Our shared passion for pastel brings us together, illuminating the artistic journey we each pursue. Whether you are a seasoned pastel artist or newly exploring the medium, your presence enriches our society and inspires us all.

The 2026 fiscal year started on October 1. If you haven't paid your annual dues, I hope you will consider doing so—your membership helps support our annual exhibition awards and other activities.

Glinda Schafer, President DPS

IN THIS ISSUE

01 From the President's Desk

02 Upcoming Events

03 Showcase - Nance King Mertz

04 Member News

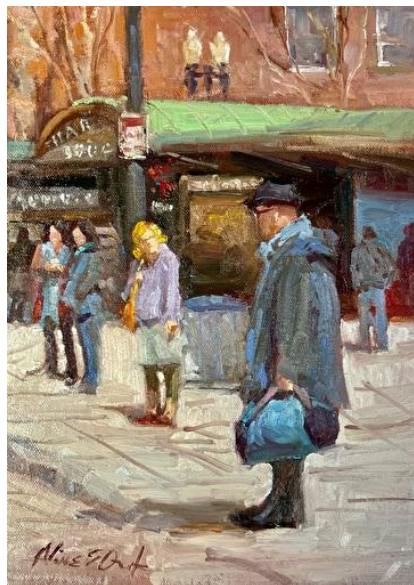
05 Education Corner

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 8th, 2026 - Annual Paintout

Join us for this special event. It's a great opportunity to paint with fellow artists and friends at the beautiful Fairview Riverside Park in Madisonville, La. The demo artist is Bob Graham, one of the seven original founders of Degas Pastel Society. There will be a 'Meet and Greet' at 9 a.m. with light refreshments. The demo begins at 10. Bring your own lunch and paint on location all afternoon. This event is open to members and non-members alike, so feel free to invite anyone who would like to paint with us, regardless of medium.

Upcoming Events continued ...



July 9th-11th, 2026 Aline Ordman Workshop

We are thrilled to announce that Aline Ordman will be teaching a DPS-sponsored, 3-day, studio workshop in Baton Rouge, La. Topics will range from dynamic landscapes to luminous still lifes, designed to support pastel artists at every level.

For more information, contact Vicki Lueb at Vlueb1@gmail.com.



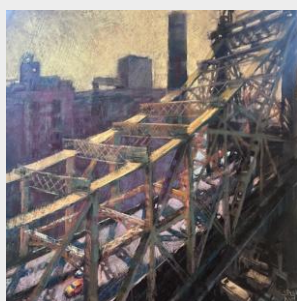
June 30th – Aug 3rd, 2026 21st DPS International Exhibition

This “in-person”, juried exhibition is open to all pastel artists. It will take place at the prestigious Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge. Approximately \$5000 in cash awards will be presented to winning artists. The juror and judge of awards is acclaimed artist, Aline Ordman.

The prospectus will be available soon via www.degapastelsociety.org and showsubmit.com

The Devil Waits Behind You – Carol Peebles

Artist Showcase: Nancie King Mertz



This quarter, our feature artist is DPS member **Nancie King Mertz**. Though best known for her mesmerizing cityscapes, she is adept at painting a variety of subjects ranging from urban vistas to harbor scenes, quiet landscapes, and even chickens. Nancie usually paints on location & looks for “quiet(ish) spots away from people and activity” as much as is possible in a busy, bustling city. If you are familiar with her work, you may notice that she doesn’t shy away from complex subjects. Many of her paintings capture challenging perspectives and angles - “I often venture off the beaten path to get a different view of a subject.” – Pastel Journal, Feb. 2015. Her work is undeniably exciting and fresh. If you have an opportunity to see it in person, don’t pass it up.

Nancie has spent her lifetime painting in pastel and oil. She has received many accolades and countless awards over the years - far too many to name. She has been the subject of numerous articles in various magazines and publications. This year she was named 2025 Pastel Society of America (PSA) **Hall of Fame Honoree**, a rare and distinctive honor indeed. Mertz also received the Eminent Pastelist distinction, awarded by the International Association of Pastel Societies (IAPS) in 2018. She was twice named “Chicago Artist of the Year” by the Chicago Convention & Tourism Bureau. Her pastels are included in exhibits in museums in the US, China and Europe. She was the Guest of Honor of Art Du Pastel en France with a workshop and show of her work in Giverny in May, 2022

Special Message: The winter edition of Pastel Journal has an article about our beloved past president, Alan Flattmann – ‘Remembering a Master of Pastel’.

New Members

Correction: Andree Tullier was juried in as a signature member but was incorrectly listed in the previous newsletter as an associate member.

Member News

Shoshanna Ahart – Three of Shoshanna’s paintings were selected for the fall issue of *Still Points Arts Quarterly* magazine. Congratulations Shoshanna.

Lyn Asselta – Lyn won Best Depiction of the Marginal Way at the Ogunquit (Maine) Plein Air event.

Her newest book, *Saturdays: Observations at the Intersection of Life & Art* is now available. It is a curated collection of prose, poetry, paintings, and Lyn’s thoughts on making art.

Sandra Burshell - Sandra’s work was recently accepted into the Pastel Society of Americas’ 53rd Annual Exhibition “Enduring Brilliance at the National Arts Club in NYC and to the Degas Pastel Society’s’ 24th Biennial Members Exhibition. Sandra recently taught a workshop at the **Pastel Society of America**, “Thoughts of Subject: Mood through Color Choice in Interiors”.

Sandra served as Juror of Selection for:

Pastel Society of New Hampshire, “It’s Pastel! 17th Annual National Juried Show”,

Philadelphia Pastel Society ‘Visions in Pastel National Show” and,

Pastel Society of the West Coast, “Pastels USA: 99 Voices in Pastel 39th Annual”

Member News continued ...

Jane Hixson - Jane Hixson's book, *Painting Pinehurst No.2: An Artist's Journey*, first published in 2020, is available in softcover. The 56-page, 4-color book captures her artistic journey painting all 18 holes of Donald Ross's Masterpiece golf course. Exclusive to DPS members: Wholesale price of \$25.00 per book, plus \$5.00 shipping at book rate. Contact Jane via her website: www.JaneHixsonArt.com

Nancie King Mertz - named 2025 Pastel Society of America (PSA) **Hall of Fame Honoree**.

Jill Stefani Wagner -

"Old Timer" received the Blick Art Materials Award in the Great Lakes Pastel Society Member Show

"Aqua Umbrellas" was awarded 3rd place in the Paint Dexter Plein Air Festival

Jill received the Outstanding Achievement in Landscape Award in the American Women Artists museum exhibit "A Vision of Nature"

Jeri Greenberg - *Fall Heat* won a Merit Award for Still Life at the Southeastern Pastel Society's Luminosity Online Exhibit.

Shuk Susan Lee - *Whisper of Heaven* won 2nd place at the Connecticut Pastel Society's Renaissance Show and Best of Show in the Southeastern Pastel Society's Luminosity Virtual Exhibit.

Carol Peebles -

1st Place - Pastel Society of Southwest Florida

1st Place - Salmagundi Club of NYC Members Exhibition

Exhibited with PSA's "Enduring Brilliance" at the National Arts Club

Member News continued ...**William Schneider –**

As I'd Like You To Be won an honorable mention in the Southeastern Pastel Society's Luminosity Virtual Exhibit.

Lamentation for Ukraine received an Honorable Mention award at the Philadelphia Pastel Society's Vision in Pastel 2025 National Exhibition.

Moi? received the Blick/Earthberry Award of Merit at the MidAmerica Pastel Society's *Vision in Pastel* 2025 National Open Juried Exhibition.

Exhibited with PSA's "Enduring Brilliance" at the National Arts Club

Vicki Lueb – *Nothing Gold Can Stay* won the Dr. Bob Carter Memorial Award for landscape excellence at the Ocean Springs Art Association's member exhibit.

Beth MacDonald – *On The Pascagoula River en Plein Air* won the Charles R. Reichel Memorial Award for landscape or seascape at the Ocean Springs Art Association's member exhibit.

We want to share your news!

If you have news to share such as awards, shows, inclusion in publications, etc. —please email us at DegasPastelSociety@gmail.com so we can celebrate your achievements in upcoming newsletters. Use subject line: News To Share

Education Corner

Lyn Asselta's Tips for Painting Better Trees.



Trees are all about their shapes. John F. Carlson said, "the beginner....sees, for instance, the myriad of leaves upon the tree long before he sees the tree at all."

Before getting caught up in the detail of branches and leaves, it's important to also understand the silhouettes of trees. Each variety has a unique silhouette based on how it grows and where it grows.

Use a pointed-tip round brush and some india ink to paint "tree silhouettes" in your sketchbook. Pay attention to proportions, like the amount of visible trunk compared to the size of the canopy of leaves. Pay attention to where the sky holes are. Use the pointed brush to pay close attention to the shape of the edges of the silhouette.

Quarterly Book Recommendation

Painting the Poetic Landscape by Barbara Jaenicke is a 192-page book that compiles 21 of Barbara's previously published Written Tutorials, along with additional content. The book presents step-by-step images and explanations designed for pastel and oil painters of all levels with an impressionistic slant that favors poetic imagery.

Education Corner continued ...

Free Resources

Dakota Art Pastels - Several pastel videos on youtube
dakotapastels.com

UART – Tips & Videos
Uartpastelpaper.com

Monet Café' with Artist Susan Jenkins – Tips & Videos
SusanJenkinsFineArt.com

Member Workshops & Classes

Sandra Burshell - Sandra Burshell will be teaching two pastel workshops:

Philadelphia Pastel Society: April 13-16, 2026, Demo: April 13 pm,
Wallingford, PA, 3-day workshop

International Association of Pastel Societies

Convention (IAPS): "Creating Mood within an Interior" June 18-19,
2026, Albuquerque, NM, 2-day workshop

& will be opening her studio: **MidCity Open Studio**, December 5,
2025, New Orleans, LA, 10-4

Member Workshops & Classes continued ...

Albert Handell – for details go to www.alberthandellstudio.com

Feb. 24-26, 2026 Studio Pastel & Oil workshop – Austin, Tx

Apr. 8-11th, 2026 Pastel & Oil Workshop – Raleigh, NC

Carol Peebles – Carol's Blue Easel Club in New Orleans offers weekly classes in Portrait and Figure drawing from life. Monday Nights, 6pm-8:30. Tuesday mornings 9:30am-12:30. \$300 per 5 weeks. Come draw with us. For more information see the website: BlueEaselClub.com

Andree Tullier - November 22, 2025 Pastel Still Life Workshop at Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, 801 Chase St., Annapolis, MD. \$77.63 www.marylandhall.org

Looking Ahead

As we look toward the next quarter, let's continue to uplift one another, share our passion for pastel, and seek new horizons in our creative journeys. The Degas Pastel Society thrives because of you—your talent, enthusiasm, and camaraderie.

Thank you for being a part of this luminous circle.

Warm Regards,

Degas Pastel Society Board of Directors

Contact Info

degaspastelsociety@gmail.com

www.degaspastelsociety.org