



Blue Heron Chapter of the Sumi-e Society of  
America

# Blue Heron News

*April 2019*

## Message from the President

First, I want to say "Thank You" to everyone who has been so very supportive. This has been a very exciting time. We have an excellent teacher in Mike Lane. There is a wealth of creative production. Joe and Norene gave wonderful presentations, and Gail's lesson on Japanese gift wrapping was superb. We all look forward to future lessons from our many talented teachers.

The exhibit at the Paul Street Gallery is magnificent, and the opening, in partnership with the Bonsai Society, was great fun. The crowd filled the room.

We have an up-coming exhibit at the Coastal Virginia Universal Unitarian Church, and there are many members preparing works for display there. The exhibit will open April 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Calendar Committee is preparing next year's calendar as a tribute to the work of our longtime teacher and friend, Joe Nicholas. The External Workshops Committee is preparing for the Susan Frame workshop in April and has scheduled several interesting one-day workshops on a variety of topics. The webmaster has instituted some additions to our website, which we have been able to use to land additional exhibits. The Newsletter is now a quarterly online event.

In addition to all this hard work, I get a steady feedback from past presidents. Some people are content to have an angel on their shoulder. I have a group of them. I apologize if I have left out anyone who has worked for the benefit of the club. Many times, after the fact, I learn of work only after it has been completed. Again, thanks for all the support, and for making this the time of my life.

# Announcements

**Workshop with Guest Artist *Susan Frame***

**April 26 - 28, 2019**

**Westminster Canterbury Penthouse**

**“Spontaneous Splash, Dribble, & Pour”**

## March Update from Gail Goodman



We have two spaces still open for the Susan Frame Workshop coming in April. This is a perfect opportunity for anyone who wants to experience new techniques in painting and try something you might not do on your own. For Susan, painting is a joyful, spiritual experience. It's an opportunity to quit thinking about practice and improving your skills and go into another world, in a totally absorbed state of being.

Susan is world renown, having competed in international competition. She has also worked with the corporate world designing wine labels and other marketing products for business. She has been playing with the technique she is going to teach us for 30 years, after first learning it from her mentor in China. Currently,

she is working on a very large, 4' x 8' commission piece for a collector in Ohio, that incorporates this technique. We are very fortunate that she has agreed to come to our chapter to teach her art.

If you want to try and grab one of those last two open spaces, please send your check, (\$225) made payable to the Blue Heron Chapter, SSA, to Gail Goodman, 7329 Ruthven Road, Norfolk, VA 23505. The chapter website, <https://www.blueheronsumie.org/>, also has information about supplies and samples of some of the work we will be painting.

Bill Larkin has purchased and cut Melamine Boards and has them available for \$1.00 each. Please contact him to purchase. You will need to scratch them up though, with a steel wool pad prior to the workshop. Don't forget about ordering the Magi-wap Chinese paints. Instructions are also on the web site.

As usual, Susan will do a public demonstration for all chapter members, guests, and friends on Sunday April 28 at 2 PM in the Penthouse at Westminster Canterbury. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting free of charge.

### Upcoming Internal Workshops organized by Dianne Milner

Saturday, May 4, Kinuko Fukumine, Calligraphy

Saturday, Jun. 1, Joe Nichols

## 2018-19 Chapter Meetings

Month	Program
April 28, 2019	Guest Artist Reception and Demonstration Susan Frame, <i>Westminster Canterbury</i> , 2-4PM
May 19, 2019	Washes, Barbara Battelle Tea Party, <i>Location TBD</i> , 2-4 PM

## Inspirations and Acknowledgments\*

*“The visual artist blends individual strokes into an artistic creation – just as a musician connects notes to create melodies and songs.”*

Thank you to Norene Spencer for her presentation at the January meeting. Hypnotizing landscapes of rocks with washes creating dimension were appreciated by the audience.



Minh Chau taught step by step Vietnamese calligraphy and strokes for painting flowers. She gave each participant a bookmark with his/her name in calligraphy. Thank you for the excellent March workshop.



Thank you to Gail Goodman for her engaging and inspiring workshop held on February 2.



Thank you to Mari Bennett for her Japanese paper making demonstration, which was very interesting.



\* Blue Heron image is from <http://www.wetcanvas.com/Community/images/03-May-2005/21167-HeronWC500.jpg>



Thank you everyone for participating in the Paul Street Gallery Exhibition Opening reception.



It was a lot of fun with joint painting, drumming circle, raffle, and all the food brought by members.



# Close-Up with Sumi-e Painter

**Mari Bennett, 2018-2020 Chapter Treasurer**

## **Statistics**

**Family:** husband, Mike, three grown children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild, three brothers and three sisters.

**Pets:** I rescued a litter of German Shepherds. I kept two puppies and named them Lewis and Clark. Now grown to 100 pounds each, my shepherds fill my empty nest.

**Occupation:** Retired.

**Favorite Movie:** *Rocky Horror Picture Show*

**Favorite Celebrity Crush:** Johnny Carson

**Favorite Thing to Do:** I like to walk in the rain with my husband.

**Favorite Gadget:** Spatula

**Comfort Food:** anything shared with family and/or friends but especially pumpkin spice latte

## **Book Recommendation:**

- *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo

***If you could invite three famous people living or dead to dinner, who would they be?***

I would like to dine with Mother Teresa, Mohamed Ali and Leonardo da Vinci.

***Who or what inspires you?***

- Mother Nature

***If you could give your ten-year-old self one piece of advice, what would it be?***

"Make your bed and start the day having accomplished at least one thing."

***How did you become a painter?***

My husband was career Army, and for 28 years "he showed me the world". We moved frequently. Invariably, as I unpacked the last box, another moving van appeared in the driveway. That forced me to summon every creative bone in my body to make the next place a home. I drew upon some hidden talents. In one location I used large pieces of newsprint to draw furniture and accessories. I taped them to the walls until our household goods were delivered...and I've been painting ever since.

***What words of wisdom can you share with someone who does Sumi-e?***

Take deep cleansing breaths and let the ink dance from your soul.

I'm looking forward to getting to know more of the members of our Blue Heron Chapter and hearing their stories.

# In Memory of Lee Gerry Wertheimer

Cathy Peyton

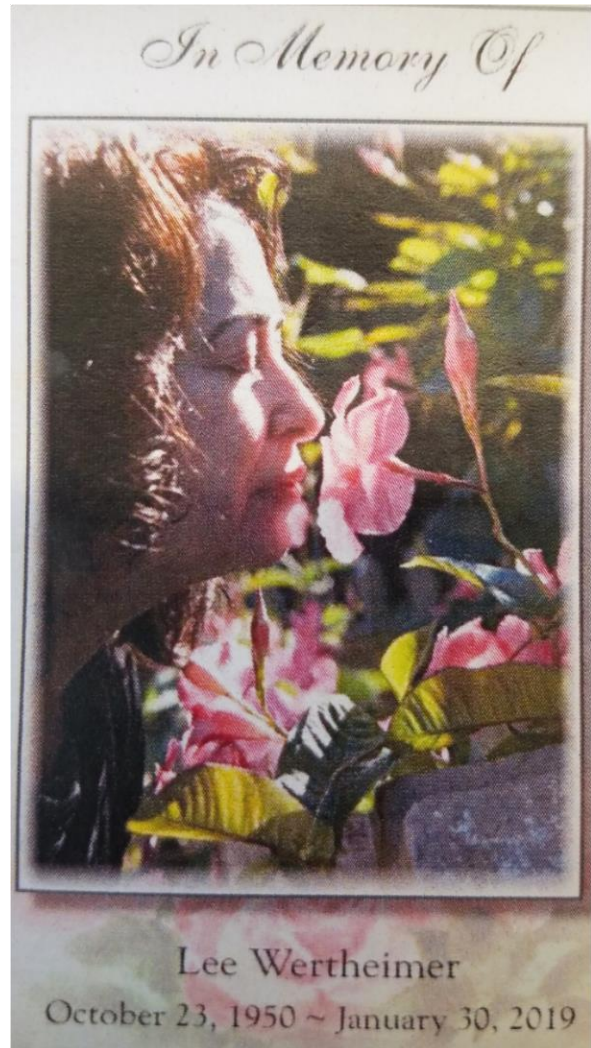
As I write this passage in honor of Lee Gerry Wertheimer's life, I am looking at the lovely picture of her which was distributed at her graveside service. I felt such joy when I saw this photograph of her 'In memorium' card, and her spirit flowed through me. Lee's gentle curls are outlining her half-lit face. With eyes closed, she smells a beautiful garden flower. Lee's peaceful countenance provides tranquility as we honor her.

In the sanctity of that hour of remembrance, we were all one body of the human spirit. In the closeness and bond of our Blue Heron friends, we came together for our teacher, our confidant, and our friend.

In the beauty of the sun shining down on each of us, we felt the love of Lee's light.

Lee's life lives on through her works, her teachings, and her dedication to the art and discipline of sumi-e. She had a tremendous work ethic and her paintings were always of the highest quality. She won many National, Regional, State, and local juried shows. Her works have been pictured continuously in the Quarterly of the Sumi-e Society of America and, annually, in our Blue Heron calendars.

Now, it is time for me to put this special photo of Lee in a place of honor. She gave us the gift of life through the sharing of art. She will ever be a part of my memory, and in the memories of those whose lives she touched.





## Gillian (Jill) Valentine

Lee touched a lot of lives. She always asked about you and your family, and seemed genuinely interested. Her art career was very important to her and she never gave up even when life knocked her down...her divorce, her daughter's car accident, her mother's long illness, the flooding of her home and loss of many of her precious paintings and furnishings, among other events.

She could be a difficult person to deal with at times, very strong-willed. She struggled to keep things together both at home, raising her two adopted children, and professionally. She was an accomplished artist who won many awards. Lee was also an art teacher, most recently at The Renaissance School, the Adult Learning Center in Virginia Beach. As was mentioned at her graveside service, she had a reputation for always being late. She wanted to make sure she had everything she needed for a workshop or lesson, and was the proverbial "bag lady"!

Lee and I attended two National Sumi-e Society shows together. One in Duluth, Minnesota, and one in Sarasota, Florida. We enjoyed the workshops, the fellowship with other sumi-e artists, and seeing as much of the surrounding areas as time allowed. She was a good friend and fun-loving companion. I will miss her very much.



In 2013 the Blue Heron Chapter celebrated the National Sumi-e Society Show in Portsmouth, Virginia. Joan Grosch, Lee Gerry Wertheimer and Doris Weber are among the celebrants.



# 2019 Sumi-e Society of America's National Exhibition

## September 6, 7 and 8, 2019, Bloomington Center for the Arts, Bloomington, Minnesota

### Mary Ann Matika

- May 6 DEADLINE for entering at <http://onlinejuriedshows.com>
- June 10 NOTIFICATION of Acceptance - email reminder
- July 29 - August 2 SHIPPED ARTWORK DUE in Bloomington
- August 9 EXHIBITION OPENS to public
- September 20 EXHIBITION CLOSES
- September 21 PICK UP ARTWORK - 8:00 - 11:00 AM - Package artwork for return shipping
- September 23 Shipped artwork scheduled pick up

MEMBER ENTRY FEES for Members of Sumi-e Society of America, Inc.

- Paintings - 1 or 2 paintings for \$40
- Calligraphy - 1 or 2 calligraphy for \$40
- Painting and Calligraphy - \$60 (1 or 2 paintings and 1 or 2 calligraphy)

Make sure the artwork has not been selected for a previous show.

Make sure the artwork is original.

Photograph your painting after mounting and before framing.

Consider the gallery commission and shipping cost when pricing the artwork.

For more details visit the website, [sumiesociety.org](http://sumiesociety.org).

*Talented Blue Heron Chapter members please consider entering this juried show.*

## Scholarship Announcement from Education/Scholarship Committee

### Gail Goodman

Last year under the presidency of Jill Valentine, the education and scholarship committee was formed in an effort to award a scholarship to a worthy member. That group did an amazing amount of work to get the scholarship off the ground. This year the committee of Cathy Peyton, Lynette Corley, Bonnie Kuhn, and Gail

Goodman continued this work and have revised the Scholarship Application form to broaden the criteria with a focus on merit and contribution to the Chapter functions.

The scholarship is available to everyone in the Chapter and open to all that apply. The award is a fully paid registration fee for the Guest Artist Workshop. The Committee has created an objective scoring matrix to score each response and has tried to devise a way that submission and scoring is anonymous and based totally on the merit of the applicant. The goal is to reward a member of the chapter for the contributions he or she has made to the workings, active participation, and sustainability of the chapter. Next year we hope to publish the application in the fall with a request that all applications are submitted prior to the end of the fiscal year.

The scholarship fits into the chapter's guidelines as a non-profit educational organization founded in 1963 with a mission to foster and encourage an appreciation of East Asian brush painting techniques thru publications, workshops, lectures and exhibitions, creating a cultural bridge between east and west, and to furnish information to all persons who wish to learn about this art form.

**The recipient of the scholarship is Dawn Blair. Congratulations!**

## Sumi-e Painters Should Say NO to Alum Applied Rice Papers

### Ting Mei

Today raw rice papers with ink control function are widely sold in the Oriental Brush Painting market. These papers give the painter good control of the ink. Over time these papers do not degrade causing devaluation of the painting. The same cannot be said of rice paper chemically treated with *potassium alum* (or “alum” for short). The alum does control the ink but over time the paper may degrade. Unused alum paper will lose all of its sizing and become rigid.

If you are interested in raw rice paper talk with Ting Mei at the next meeting or view her papers at [sumiystore.com](http://sumiystore.com).

## A Little Bit More About Rice Paper

**Gail Goodman**

Many of you ask me questions about rice paper which I am happy and willing to try and answer. However, if you would like to consult another source, please check out page 18 in Susan Frame's book *Japanese Ink Painting, A Beginner's Guide to Sumi-e*. This helpful article covers 3 pages and includes photos of many different papers and what happens when paper meets ink.

It might be a great idea to bring several samples of sized and unsized papers to the Susan Frame workshop. It will be interesting to see how different papers react to the technique she will teach. I even have some papers with gold flecks, that I can't wait to try out along with all the other papers.

## Sumi-e Supply Sale from Maggie McGeorge

**Gail Goodman**

Recently, our 20 year-long term member and friend, Maggie McGeorge has moved within the Westminster Canterbury Apartments to the medically assisted Hoy Center. Her Parkinson's Disease has progressed and she is no longer able to paint like she used to. Due to her generosity and devotion to Sumi-e Painting, she has donated her lifelong accumulation of supplies to our chapter for sale to benefit the Education and Scholarship Foundation. We will be having our first sale at the March meeting at the Pretlow Library.

Maggie had an immense supply of painting tools including but not limited to: all types of rice paper, brushes and brush pens, inks, ink sticks, and water-color paint palettes, books and publication materials that foster brush painting, mounting and framing supplies, porcelain and ceramic water dishes, felt cloths, framing tools mounting tape, hanging wire, aprons, mat boards and chops and seals for painting signature.



Maggie doesn't get around much anymore, and I know she would love to have anyone visit her at the Hoy Center, Westminster Canterbury:

*Hoy Apartment Room 285, Virginia Beach, VA 23451.*

Cards and notes are welcomed as well as phone calls to 496-1471.

[Maggie no longer uses email].



## Photo Gallery from October 2018 Painting Party at Flo's

