



Blue Heron News

Blue Heron Chapter of the Sumi-e Society of America, Inc. February 2012

Spring Magnolias and Bees



Joe Nicholas will demonstrate the painting of "Spring Magnolias and Bees" at the February meeting. There will be an opportunity for members to try their hand at painting the subject following the demonstration. The club will provide paper and other materials for your use. Members are encouraged to bring their best bee-painting brush to get in the spirit!

<http://www.blueheronsumie.org/>
[Blue Heron Sumi-e Facebook page](#)

February Meeting

Is now

Saturday Feb 25, 10 am to 1 pm

Titustown Visual Arts Center

7545 Diven St., Norfolk

Annual Sumi-e and Bonsai Exhibit



Inside

Co President's Message	2
Workshops and Events	3
Meeting Minutes-Feb	4
Exhibits and Displays	5
Blue Heron News & Reviews	6
Joan Lok Workshop Signup	7
Calendar	8

Co-Presidents' Message

By Nancy or Jill



What

a great exhibit of Barbara Battelle's work at Titustown Visual Arts Center! Her lovely pictures were enhanced by the artfully placed *objets d'art* throughout the exhibit. Such beautiful antique brushes, pots, stones, papers, and photos! Thank you, Barbara, and thanks to the staff of Titustown for hanging the show. Thanks as well to Cathy and Joan for organizing the delicious foods for the reception, aided by Titustown staff and Blue Heron members.

When Barb's exhibit comes down, our Blue Heron pictures go up, teamed with fabulous bonsai. We'll have another great party, a brunch this time, on Saturday, Feb. 25th, with Joe leading the paint-along. While Joan will bring paper, ink, and brushes, you may want to bring your favorite brush (labeled with your name.) This has become a February tradition to treasure!

Members, we may be calling upon you to join a committee to select candidates for next year's Blue Heron officers, as the current officers' tenure ends this June. Please say yes to this important task – we surely need your support and guidance.

The highlight of this Blue Heron year will be the external workshop in April with our National Sumi-e President, Joan Lok, who I understand is a fine teacher. Newer members, please don't feel intimidated and think your painting skills aren't "good enough". In my first year with the organization, I avoided these workshops, thinking that I needed to improve tremendously first. Once I got up my courage and signed up, I realized I was wrong not to have gone sooner! All skill levels are expected and encouraged, and you will benefit so much from the experience and camaraderie. **Sign up now!**

Nancy



Workshops and Events

Grasses, Flowers and Festivals

January Meeting Demonstration



At our January meeting, **Norene Spencer** provided a lively demonstration of Marsh Grasses in Landscapes, based on a recent class she took in China.

Thanks, Norene - you made it look deceptively easy!



Spread the Word!

The ODU International Festival

is **Sunday, April 1st**, from **noon to 5**. This is a great opportunity to educate thousands of people (over 4000 attended last year) about Sumi-e and our local Blue Heron Society. It's fun and interesting; there's no telling what countries will be our neighbors at the demo table. Jill will head up our part and she needs at least 2 others to demonstrate brush painting with her. We will not be selling our art. Email Jill if you would like to participate: jill.brunner@cox.net.

The Virginia Beach

Cherry Blossom Festival

falls on the same day, **April 1st**. If you are interested in selling your arts and crafts at this event, contact Jill for more information. Blue Heron only participated one year but it was very profitable for members. Jill can't be there - she'll be at ODU!

On **Saturday, May 5th**, we may want to be part of the **Art and Wine Festival at the Fountain**, Town Center in Virginia Beach. A booth costs \$100 and Jill will find out if we can rent a booth as a group. **Contact Jill** if you are interested.

And it's a little further out, but the **7th Annual Moon Festival** will be held, well, for the 7th time on **Sunday, September 16, 2012 from Noon to 4 PM at Norfolk Town Point Park** We will need 2 volunteers to do painting demonstrations



Blue Heron Meeting Report

Minutes of January 2012 meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Blue Heron Chapter, Sumi-e Society of America, Inc. was held on Sunday, January 22, 2012 at the Pretlow Library in Norfolk, VA. Co-President Nancy Milner opened the meeting at 2p.m. Seventeen members were present. Nancy opened the meeting with the latest selections from her private joke book and collection of famous quotes.

Treasurer's Report:

Margaret Mitchell reported a bank balance of \$3,235.53 and reminded members that annual dues (\$20) are due now.

In house Workshops:

The next workshop will be on 16 February. Topic: "Big Cats" with Instructor Lee Wertheimer.

Outside Workshop:

The Joan Lok workshop will be in April. Details will be in the newsletter.

Chapter Newsletter:

Ann McCarthy noted that her husband John would like to see more submissions for the newsletter.

Exhibits: (Jill Brunner):

ODU International Festival will be in April.

- The Virginia Beach Town Center exhibit will be in May.
- Barbara Battelle's show will open on 28 January at Titustown.
- The Nansemond-Suffolk Academy exhibition will open on 28 January.
- The Blue Heron annual exhibition will open at Titustown on 25 February.

- The Cherry Blossom Festival will be in May.

Event details will be in future issues of the Newsletter.

Old Business:

Joe Nicholas noted that he will be able to hold a future class at the Senior Center on Saturdays.

A revised Chapter brochure was discussed. Jill Brunner will take lead on sorting out revisions.

New Business

Norene Spencer reported that the 2013 National SSA Exhibition would be at the Court House Galley in Portsmouth.

Nancy displayed three new books that we are donating to the Pretlow and Virginia Beach Libraries.

Meeting Program

Following a brief refreshment break, attendees were treated to an excellent demonstration by Norene Spencer on painting Marshes, using techniques she learned during her recent trip to China.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at Titustown on Saturday, 25 February 2012.

Submitted:

Joe Nicholas
Secretary

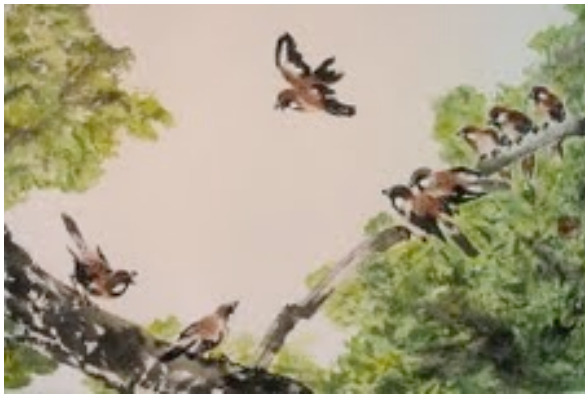


Exhibits & Displays

By Nancy or Jill

Joan Lok to Lead Spring Workshop

Joan Lok, President of the national Sumi-e Society of America, will be giving our chapter an exciting three day workshop at



the **Algonquin House**, Norfolk on **Friday, April 27, Saturday, April 28, and Sunday, April 29th**. The registration form will be included with this newsletter. You may sign up for one, two, or three days of the workshop. Directions to the Algonquin House will be given later. Your check must be sent with the registration form by April 4th to Lee Gerry Wertheimer, P.O. Box 64624, Va. Beach, Va. 23467. If you have questions, email Lee at leegerrw@cox.net

More on Joan

Joan Lok is an artist adept with her brush and accomplished at a wide variety of subjects. Her art incorporates traditional Asian subjects with modern techniques and are featured in North Light Books' "The Best of Flower Painting" and "Stroke of Genius II." Joan has received many awards and is

honored in *Who's Who of American Art*, and *Who's Who in American Women*. Her open-minded approach beautifully reflects her roots in the Lingnam art philosophy of Chinese painting. Whether she works in classic ink-only painting styles or ventures into colorful, free-style creations, she produces paintings that surprise and engage the viewer. Visit www.joanlok.com to view her artwork and a longer biography

Lee Gerry Exhibits in Portsmouth

Four of **Lee Gerry Wertheimer's** pieces were selected for the **Portsmouth Museum's** "Child" art exhibit at Court and High St. She received an Honorable Mention prize. The show will be open through April 7.

Lee will be teaching a one day **Beautiful Beading**

class at the Adult Learning Center of Virginia Beach on Saturday, March 17th. and again on Friday, March 23rd. Call 648-6050 to register.

Joe Nicholas

will be conducting a **Saturday** painting

class in March at the **Prime Plus Norfolk Senior Center** entitled "More Flowers."

The class will include **TULIPS, LOTUS**, and more. Classes will run 10:00 - 12:30, 3 to 24 March. Sign up early as seating is limited. Call: 625 5857.



Blue Heron News & Reviews

What Is Sumi-e?

Extracted from an article by Hakuho Hirayama by Gail Goodman

Sumi-e painting is one of the great traditions of Far Eastern Art. Its primary colors are black and white. Sumi, the ink from which this painting takes its name is considered in Far Eastern aesthetics to have five color values, and the ink painting that developed from this approach to ink is distinguished by simplicity, lucidity, and elegance of style.

Sumi-e are painted on white rice paper as pure and clean as fresh-fallen snow, and the tonal variations of the mono-chrome ink with which the subjects are given form represent a direct expression of the emotions. Expression in sumi-e is simple beauty. It cannot be achieved through the use of delicate lines throughout, for they have a tendency to be merely descriptive, in ink painting. The essential nature of a subject however, can be condensed in a few

abbreviated strokes, and the spontaneous feeling of the individual can be expressed through the subtle tonal variations produced by the brush.

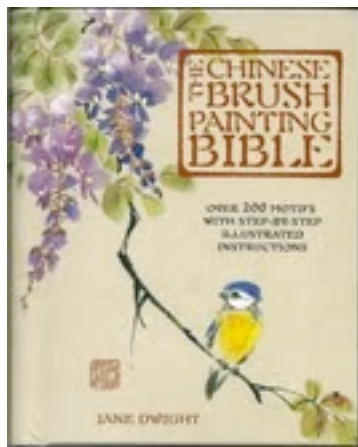
Neither light and shade nor backgrounds are painted in sumi-e. The white untouched areas of the paper serve as background, but these areas are not to be thought of as merely paper without any significance. The white areas have a profound meaning, for they give the painting a sense of spatial depth, they produce a sense of elegance and refinement, they perfect the idealistic concept, and they introduce vitality into the painting. Sumi-e may, in fact, be called "the art of white blankness."

Can any picture be called sumi-e? No! To be sumi-e, a black-ink painting must be like something alive with the power to stir the hearts and emotions of all who see it. For the painting to live, every line and even every dot within it must live. The lines are said to be sumi-e lines when everything unnecessary has been removed from the subject so that only the life and essence is revealed, beauty condensed and distilled. Here is the spirit of Zen.

Joan Grosch Recommends

The Chinese Brush Painting

Bible, by Jane Dwight, has recently come to the American market and is a great bargain for under \$30. All 258 pages are beautifully colored and packed with information and instruction. This book is suitable for both new and experienced



artists. The author guides us through a supply list, brush technique, strokes, colors, composition, seal placement, mounting, and includes 36 pages of motifs. I think Ms. Dwight has done a fabulous job in putting this small (6" x 8") but impressive book together. Purchase through Amazon.com for best price and pristine condition.



Joan Lok Workshop

April 27-29, 2012--at the Algonquin House in Norfolk

Friday, April 27 _____ \$75.*

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
1:00-3:00 p.m.

Landscape Painting
Figure of Asian Lady

Saturday, April 28 _____ \$75.*

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
1:00-3:00 p.m.

Moutan Peony
Sparrow Wild Bird

Sunday, April 29 _____ \$35.*

10:00-12:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m.

Black Ink Whimsical Rabbits
Flying Bird (*free demonstration for
members and the public*)

All 3 Days of Workshop _____ \$185.

Total (Enclosed With Registration Form)

\$ _____

*Non-members will pay an extra \$20. per day.

Bring a bag lunch to each class.

Name _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Mail this form with your payment by April 4th to :

Lee Gerry Wertheimer

P.O.Box 64624

Virginia Beach, VA 23467



Blue Heron News

1040 Spotswood Ave. #203

Norfolk, VA 23507

www.blueheronsumie.org



February 2012

2011-2012 Blue Heron Chapter Board Members:

Jill Brunner and Nancy Milner	Co-Presidents
Joe Nicholas	Secretary
Margaret and Pete Mitchell	Treasurers
Joan Grosch	Programs
Lee Geri Wertheimer	External workshops
Norene Spencer	Web site
Cathy Peyton	Internal workshops

Blue Heron Chapter 2012 Calendar of Meetings

February 25	10 AM-1 PM	Vivian Mason Center (Titustown)	<i>Reception for Annual Sumi-e and Bonsai Exhibit</i>
March 18	2-4 PM	Pretlow Library	Lee Wertheimer demonstrates
April 29	2-4 PM	Algonquin House	Joan Lok demonstrates
May 20	2-4 PM	Pretlow Library	Calendar selections and tea party