

Brushstrokes



SEPTEMBER 2026 / ISSUE 9

President's Message / September 2026

Hello, C&L Folks.

With the summer months coming to an end, I would like to share my thoughts about our group's progress.

Our little boat of artists have taken hold of the oars and we are cruising along at top speed. Venues are many and successful as the "crew" has given their all to leave the doldrums of the distant "covid" fog.

The future is clear. From our early **Sotterley** show to the grand **Fenwick** show, to **Dragon Boats**, **ArtsFest**, and autumn **Oyster Fest** we are making waves on the Sea of the Arts. Congrats are in order... to all!

I will also add that it is gratifying to see the energy, excitement and organizational skills coming to the fore with these fabulous events. Great work!

Well, enough for now. See you at our next meeting at **Mac's Tap & Table** in **Leonardtown** on September 2nd at 11 a.m.

With Great Respect,

Dick
C&L President

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C&L August Meeting

ALL MEMBER SHOW

We had a wonderful time at our All-Member Art Show during C&L's August meeting! It was a joy seeing everyone's artwork, learning about the inspiration behind each piece, and celebrating the creativity of our talented members.





Community Art Activities

DRAGONBOAT FESTIVAL

Color & Light members Barb, Brandy, Linda C., and Pam had a terrific time providing kids' art activities at the Dragon Boat Festival on Solomons Island on Saturday, August 22nd!

Despite the rainy weather, everyone came together to make it a fun and successful day. Kids—and quite a few adults!—joined in painting a colorful community art project, while some of our littlest artists had a great time creating their very own dragon crafts to take home.



Social Gatherings

C&L AFTER HOURS

Color & Light's After Hours gatherings are a fun opportunity for members to relax, connect, and enjoy time together outside of our regular meetings and events. At our recent gathering at Antoinette's Garden in Leonardtown on Wednesday, July 29th, Brandy, Donna, Elizabeth, Linda S., and Susan came out to enjoy a casual evening of conversation, laughter, and getting to know one another better.

We look forward to gathering again soon and hope even more members will join us for the next C&L After Hours outing. Details will be announced soon!



OPEN STUDIO

Color & Light held its first Open Studio gathering at the Garvey Center in Leonardtown on Friday, August 28th. Brandy, Denise, Donna, and Linda T. enjoyed spending the afternoon making art together, with Barb stopping by to say hello.

Everyone brought something different to work on —Brandy and Linda painted in oils, Donna spent time drawing, and Denise worked on collage pieces. It was a relaxed afternoon of creativity, conversation, and enjoying each other's company.

Open Studio will now be held on the third or fourth Friday of every month (please see the C&L Event Calendar later in this issue of the Brushstrokes Newsletter for the exact dates), giving members another opportunity to gather, work on their current projects, and create together.

We're looking forward to our next Open Studio on Friday, September 25th and hope to see even more members there!

Member News

CONGRATULATIONS CINDY



Congratulations to **Cindy** on an outstanding artistic achievement! Cindy was selected from more than 1,000 artists to participate in an exhibition with **The Art League at the Torpedo Factory Art Center**, where her artwork, titled “Blue Sigh” (pictured right) also received an Honorable Mention.

Cindy was invited to attend an award ceremony and was recognized for this wonderful accomplishment. We are thrilled to celebrate her success and this well-deserved recognition of her work!



“Blue Sigh” by Cindy Martin Brennan



WATERCOLOR BLOOMS AT ANTOINETTE’S

Brandy and 15 attendees enjoyed a wonderful evening of creativity at the first **Watercolor Blooms Painting Party** at **Antoinette’s Garden** in **Leonardtown** on Tuesday, August 11th.

Among those attending were fellow **C&L** members **Cindy**, **Denise**, **Jeannine**, and **Susan**. During the class, Brandy shared watercolor techniques focused on water control and creating vibrant color, while guiding participants through a beautiful wildflower painting to take home.

The response to the class was wonderful, with lots of enthusiasm for doing it again. Special thanks to **Cindy** and **Susan** for assisting with the class and helping make the evening such a success!

We’re excited to share that the next Watercolor Blooms class will be held on Tuesday, November 10th from 5p.m. - 7:30p.m. Registration information will be shared soon!



Watercolor Blooms Painting Party - August 11th

Member Activities

WATERCOLOR WITH THERESA

Theresa will be teaching a Watercolor Class at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Tuesday, September 8th at 1:30 p.m.

The cost to participate is \$25 per person.

PAT'S EXHIBITIONS

We're excited to share that Pat will be participating in Leonardtown's Art Walk with one of her paintings. The display location has not yet been announced, so stay tuned for more details.

Pat will also be exhibiting her artwork at the Lexington Park Library throughout October and November. The exhibit will feature a themed collection from a series she created.

Congratulations, Pat! We look forward to seeing your work on display in the community.

NOVEMBER SHOW AT THE ARTS COUNCIL

Planning is underway for the upcoming November Arts Council Show. Participating artists may drop off their artwork between October 14th and October 24th, with pickup scheduled for the week following the show's close on November 30th.

Due to limited wall space, artists should plan to submit either two 12" x 16" pieces or one 20" x 16" piece. Cards may be displayed in the card rack, and limited table space will also be available for 3D artwork. The Arts Council staff will handle the hanging and removal of the show.

Artists should make appointments with Melanie for both drop-off and pickup. A calendar link and any additional details will be emailed to the 14 participating artists by the end of September.

Please contact Barb with any questions about the event.

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

-HENRY FORD



St. Mary's County Arts Council in Leonardtown

Upcoming Events

ARTS FEST



Color & Light will be participating in Artsfest at Annmarie Gardens on Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20, from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Participating members should bring their artwork to Annmarie Gardens by 10 a.m. on Friday, September 18, ready to hang and accompanied by an inventory list. Members are encouraged to bring at least three pieces, plus additional smaller works, prints, cards, and business cards if desired. We still need a few additional volunteers to help staff the booth, especially on Sunday morning.

Artwork pickup and show breakdown will begin at 5 p.m. Sunday. If you have questions or would like to help with a shift, please contact Linda S., Linda T., or Susan.

OYSTER FESTIVAL

Color & Light has been invited to participate in the U.S. Oyster Festival, taking place Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18, 2026, at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds.

We will be presenting an art show inside Tolerance Hall and have been given a great display location with plenty of space to showcase our members' work.

If you're interested in participating in the show, offering an art demonstration, and/or helping with a community art project, we'd love to have you join us.

Please contact Linda T. or Brandy if you're interested in participating. More details about setup, schedules, and participation will be shared as we get closer to the event.



"This is the power of gathering: it inspires us, delightfully, to be more hopeful, more joyful, more thoughtful: in a word, more alive."

-ALICE WATERS



Upcoming Training

How to Edit Your Artwork Photos

with Theresa-September 2nd Meeting

Theresa will provide training on how to edit images of your artwork photos for marketing and printing purposes at our next meeting on Wednesday, September 2nd at Mac's Tap & Table in Leonardtown.



Creative Highlights

C&L MEMBER ART

September's featured artwork highlights the creativity and range of techniques shared by **Color & Light** members. This month's selections include works created in pastel and encaustic, offering two very different approaches to color, texture, and expression. From the soft blending and rich pigments of pastel to the layered, luminous qualities of encaustic, each piece reflects the artist's individual style and creative process.

We invite you to enjoy this month's featured artwork and the variety of techniques represented by our members.

Want to see your work featured in a future issue of **Brushstrokes**?

Send photos of your artwork, along with the medium used, to brandyblackstoneart@gmail.com

ART



Jeannine Finnacom
Pastels



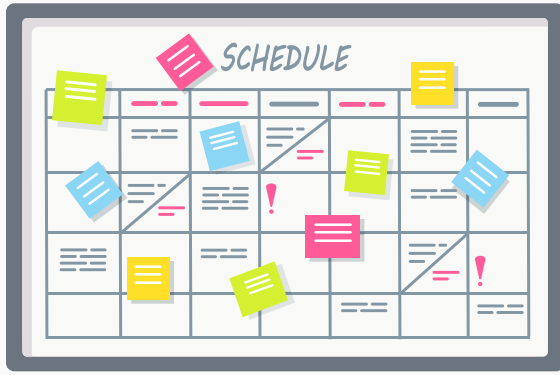
Cindy Martin Brennan
Encaustic



Jill Smithson
Pastels



C&L Events Calendar



“Sharing knowledge
is the most
fundamental act of
friendship. Because it
is a way you can give
something without
losing something.”

-UNKNOWN

SEP 2 How to Edit Your Artwork Photos - Theresa

SEP 19 & 20 Ann Marie Artsfest

SEP 25 Open Studio/Garvey Senior Ctr. 12:30 p.m.

OCT Field Trip/National Portrait Gallery, date TBD

OCT 7 Encaustic Workshop with Cindy/The Fenwick Inn, 11a.m

OCT 23 Open Studio/Garvey Senior Ctr. 12:30 p.m.

NOV C&L Annual Show with the SMC Arts Council

NOV 4 Round Robin Art Collage - Diane

NOV 20 Open Studio/Garvey Senior Ctr. 12:30 p.m.

NOV 27 Tree Lighting Show at The Fenwick Inn, 4:30p.m.-8:30p.m.

DEC 2 C&L Holiday Party at The Fenwick Inn, 11a.m.

DEC 18 Open Studio/Garvey Senior Ctr. 12:30 p.m.

Contact Brandy Blackstone at brandyblackstoneart@gmail.com
if you have any questions about the C&L Events Calendar.