



color & light society of southern maryland

JANUARY 2026 / ISSUE 1

President's Message / January 2026

Dear Color & Light Society Members,

As we move through the heart of the holiday season, I want to wish each of you joyous gatherings with family and friends, and a season filled with warmth, peace, and inspiration. May the new year bring you good health, well-being, and plenty of light to carry into your creative work.

I'm also honored to continue serving as President of the **Color & Light Society**, and I'm grateful for all you do to make this group so special.

A quick reminder: we will not hold our regular monthly meeting in January. Our next member meeting will take place in February. In the meantime, the Board will meet in January to begin planning and setting the course for a strong and engaging 2026.

With warm wishes,

Dick Preston

President, Color & Light Society



From the 2026 Color & Light Board:

President, Dick Preston

Treasurer, Linda Talton

Vice President, Brandy Blackstone

Secretary, Cindy Martin-Brennan

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2026



Port of Leonardtown Show

DECEMBER AT THE WINERY

The **Color & Light Society of Southern Maryland** is proud to have a new show on view at the **Port of Leonardtown Winery**. Member artists **Gail, Brandy, Linda, Denise, and Susan** generously helped hang the exhibition, and the opening reception was held at the winery on December 5th.

The show looks fantastic and reflects the strength, range, and shared spirit of our group. It will remain on display through January 1st.

Please take a moment to stop by, enjoy the artwork, and help us celebrate this wonderful showcase of local talent. Your support means a great deal to our artists and to the continued growth of our community presence.





Tree Lighting Show

AN EVENING AT THE FENWICK INN

It was a wonderful evening at [The Fenwick Inn](#) Show on Friday, November 28th, held during the Tree Lighting Ceremony in Leonardtown. A special thank you to [Donna O'Connor](#) for generously hosting the show. We're grateful for her support, along with the warm hospitality of her family and staff.

[Brandy](#), [Linda T.](#), and [Susan](#) were part of the show, and the turnout was excellent. Guests spent time enjoying the artwork, connecting with the artists, and watching Brandy's live watercolor demo. It was a great mix of holiday energy and genuine appreciation for local art, with many attendees purchasing pieces for themselves and to give as gifts.



“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

-HENRY FORD



The C&L Holiday Party

A FESTIVE LUNCHEON AT THE FENWICK INN

It was a wonderful holiday gathering at **The Fenwick Inn** on Wednesday, December 3rd. **Donna** once again generously hosted everyone at the Inn, and we're so grateful for her continued support and hospitality. The Inn was decorated beautifully, which added the perfect festive touch to the afternoon.

Members enjoyed a relaxed, cheerful time catching up, sharing conversations, and enjoying food provided by **The Front Porch**. **Dick** welcomed everyone in attendance, expressed his appreciation for everyone's hard work throughout the year, and announced the newly appointed board members: **Brandy** as Vice President and **Cindy** as Secretary. **Dick** will continue as President, and **Linda T.** will continue as Treasurer.

Special thanks to **Linda S.** for helping to organize the event and keep everything running smoothly. It was a warm, upbeat get-together and a great way to celebrate the season together.

“May your holidays sparkle with laughter and good friends.”

UNKNOWN





Creative Highlights

C&L MEMBER ART

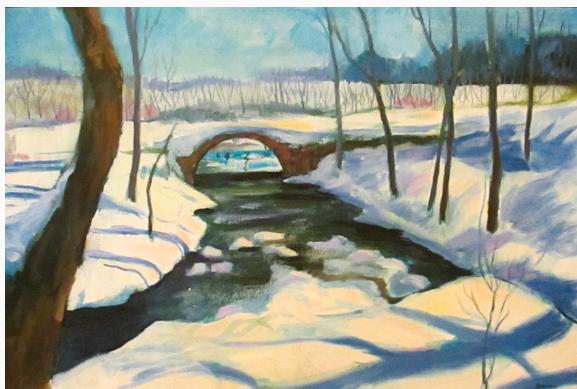
As we welcome the new year, we're excited to share a fresh member gallery that captures the heart of **Color & Light**. This collection highlights artwork with a strong command of glow, shadow, contrast, and color harmony — the kind of pieces that feel alive the moment you see them.

There's a great mix of subjects and styles, but each work shows a clear confidence in how light shapes form and how color sets the mood. It's a beautiful reminder of the skill and creativity within our group, and a perfect way to start the year with inspiration.

We hope you enjoy exploring the gallery and celebrating this new season of art with us.

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

Send your photos and featured media to brandyblackstoneart@gmail.com.



Deborah Coffin Kennedy
Oil



Diane Preus
Watercolor



Pat McGrath
Watercolor



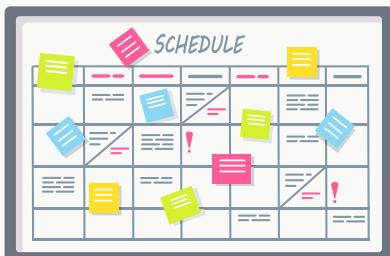
PSM Callen
Oil



Hana Horstkamp
Oil



C&L Events Calendar



APRIL 24 Drop-off at Sotterley, 10 a.m.

APRIL 25-JUN 4 Sotterley Art Show

MAY Sotterley Heritage Festival - Vanishing Landscapes

MAY 7 Great Works- Marianna and Elizabeth

MAY 17-18 Sotterley Festival

JUN 4 Arts Council, after-meeting art pickup at Sotterley

JUL 2 Sawdust Workshop w/Asian woodworking tools -Dick

AUG 6 All Member Art Show

AUG Port of Leonardtown Winery

SEP 3 ArtsFest planning and C&L Website

SEP 20-21 Ann Marie Artsfest

OCT 1 Website Review - Brandy & Watercolor - Theresa

OCT Visionary in Baltimore - Linda

NOV 5 Round Robin Art - Collage

NOV Color & Light Annual Show with the SMC Arts Council

DEC 3 SMC Arts Council

DEC Port of Leonardtown Winery

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

-RICHARD STALLMAN

The **C&L Events Calendar** has been provided by **Theresa Ford**. Please contact Theresa at theresa.ford@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Our Deepest Sympathies & Condolences

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO SUSAN BUCKLEY

It is with heartfelt sympathy that we share that our member artist Susan Buckley has experienced the loss of her husband, **Frank**.

While many of us may not have known Frank personally, we want Susan to feel the full support of her **Color & Light** community during this difficult time. Please join me in holding Susan and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

On behalf of the Color & Light Society, I will be sending a letter of condolence to Susan to express our collective care and support.

With sincere sympathy,

Dick Preston

President, Color & Light Society





Art News & Opportunities

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

The Kocen Arts Center is growing, and they're looking for passionate and creative people who want to teach an art class! Whether your expertise is painting, printmaking, fiber arts, or something else unique you bring to the table, they want to hear from you! This is your chance to share your skills, inspire others, and be a part of a vibrant community space that celebrates creativity in all its forms! Interested in teaching a class or want to learn more? Reach out to Executive Director, **Mickey**, at director@calvertarts.org or give them a call at 410-257-7005. If you are a first-time teacher with them, please share your work with Mickey ahead of time.

SUPPORT ARTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

The **St. Mary's County Department of Land Use and Growth Management** is collecting input from residents to shape the county's next strategic plan.

This is your opportunity to voice your desire for increased support for The Arts. If people respond and show how much the Arts matter, the better chances **St. Mary's County Arts Council** will have when they request funding and other support! Please visit the "[Charting our Tomorrow](#)" website and complete the very short survey!

2026 C&L SURVEY RESULTS / NEXT C&L MEETING

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your thoughts and ideas in the **2026 C&L Survey**. Your feedback is invaluable and will help guide our plans for the year ahead.

Please note that we will not be meeting next month. The Board will get together in January to review the survey results and begin shaping the 2026 calendar for the year. Our next full membership meeting will take place in February, and we look forward to reconnecting then with fresh plans and momentum.

Thank you again for helping strengthen and shape our art collective.

“There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work toward the same goals.”

-IDOWU KOYENIKAN

