



# NEWSLETTER

Blackstone Valley Art Association

Number Three

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Association will next meet Monday evening, January 21, 1985 at the Community House in Hopedale. Once again, we have an outstanding attraction and Rothene Hiscock will "pound the gavel" promptly at 7 p.m. We are all reminded that should icy road conditions prevail or a snowfall of any substantial amount accumulates, the meeting will then be simply cancelled. The last meeting, November 19, was not well attended, but those who missed Howard Besnia are the poorer for it. He gave us two entertaining caricatures (Priscilla and Bob McConnell, individually), both done with flair, skill and a sense of personal resemblance that proved good natured as well as faithful.

## PRESENTING, GUEST DEMONSTRATOR

Michael Graves of Millbury, who is no stranger to the BVAA. He is a veteran Association member and has served us in several official capacities, including his current role as program chairman. None of this, of course, begins to describe his excellence as an artist. Primarily self-taught, Michael Graves has nevertheless studied with noted artists John Loughlin and Robert Pomfret. He is well-known, too, as a painting companion to Bernard Corey. Michael Graves often paints on location and his subject matter frequently focuses on Worcester County landscapes. Beyond his BVAA membership, he is a member of the prestigious Academic Artists and he exhibits at their national show in Springfield, Mass. He also has exhibited in the Grove Street Gallery in Worcester, the Cape Cod Art Association Gallery, the Rockport Art Association Gallery and in various institutional settings, as well. His work, which is part of many private collections, has won him numerous awards, and over the years he has taken home more than his share of ribbons from BVAA exhibitions. He was a major award winner last year in the Northbridge Senior Citizens Exhibit. Michael Graves is a superb oil painter, and those who know his work will not miss this demonstration. Those who do not know his work, cannot afford to miss it!

## ONE MORE TIME

While membership fees for 1984-85 were due January 1, a grace period has been extended to our more tardy colleagues; through January 21, 1985, date of the next meeting. We urge all members to attend this meeting, particularly those who are not "in good standing," as the saying goes. Dues can be paid to Treasurer Priscilla McConnell of Linwood, who is expected at her customary post guarding the entrance of the Community House meeting room. Members should remember that BVAA bylaws require dues payment as a part of the qualifications to take part in the annual spring exhibition. Members should also remember that planning the spring show is complex enough without the need for the committee to worry about who is eligible and who is not. The BVAA can't function on its good looks alone (we'd never go broke) and a major part of funds used to plan our annual calendar of events is the result of membership dues. Please help us in this vital matter.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Those stirrings you feel may be in anticipation of the annual spring exhibition. Jeanne Gould of Whitinsville reports that committee members for the Festival are already at

work and, hopefully, she will have early information to give us at the January 21 meeting. Many members indicated a willingness to help in a planned jury show for last fall, an idea that for various reasons did not materialize. The committee for the spring show will be counting on a similar willingness in the weeks ahead. We need reminders about the significance of this event, and if the Association is to fulfill its promise as the premier such organization in this region, plenty of assistance will be necessary to put our best foot forward for the 1985 spring exhibit. In the past, the same faces show up over and over again to do the work. Let's have some new ones. The element of volunteerism is our heart and soul. You can help give us new and stronger life.

#### ADDENDUM

The ice and snow has not frozen all of us solidly in place. Mary Curley of Bellingham is taking part in an unusual exhibition at the Premier Image Gallery of Ashland, "The Guild and the Gallery," a 30th anniversary salute to the Framingham Artists' Guild, of which she is a member. You can see her pastels there until February 15. Norma Riegle of Hopedale has mounted a one-person show at the Milford Savings Bank, located in the Papelian Shopping Center on Route 140 in Milford. She has a new collection of oils and watercolors well worth a bank visit. Jaime Alfonso of Hopkinton is also showing a limited series of new paintings, along with other members of the Milford Artists' Guild, at the Milford Federal in downtown Milford. And shortly, Dorinda King of Medway will be exhibiting pastel portraits in an ongoing "guest artist" program, also at Premier Image.