

## **History of the Scholarships**

In 2007, member Alice La Bier proposed that the Prince William Art Society expand its goals to include raising money to award a scholarship to students within the Prince William County school system. The board brought the proposal before the membership, who voted to support the scholarship.

Members contributed original works of art to our first fundraiser in 2007, which produced a lovely art calendar. We had a good response and hence in the spring of 2008 our first 'Jewell Pratt Burns Scholarship' was awarded to two high school students who were pursuing further education in the Arts.

Subsequently, in 2008 further art was donated and this fundraising effort produced fine quality note cards, suitable for framing which were updated for 2011 and enabled the continuation of the scholarship. The community has been, and continues to be, supportive of our efforts to assist our next generation of artists. The application is available on-line and should be consulted for information on the requirements and the deadline for entries.

The scholarship is funded by donations, and the community has shown enthusiasm over the years of supporting artistically talented youth through awarding competitive scholarships every academic year from 2008 until the CV-19 pandemic interrupted public life in public and private schools. Unable to work through the schools or utilize public spaces as necessary for meetings and interviews, PWAS was forced to withdraw this opportunity from talented county students until 2022 when we were able to resume our support.

Funds and art have been donated by wonderful individuals and groups at Open Space Arts gallery. As an art society and as individuals we are grateful to all the donors who have helped Prince William County youth afford to pursue a career in the arts.