

EUCLID ART ASSOCIATION
January 7, 2019 - Members' Night 'Show and Tell'
Juanita Sweet

Our first presenter, **Juanita Sweet**, has been a member of Euclid Art since 2016. She is an amazing watercolor artist, having started later in life after raising her family and retiring from her career as an elementary school teacher. Her interest in art was influenced by her many Sunday afternoon visits to the Cleveland Museum of Art. "It was always fun!", she said.

As an elementary school teacher, it was a requirement to take art appreciation and art methods. Back then, the classrooms were 'self-contained'. That is, she did it all. There were no special art teachers and she had to lead the weekly art lesson. She told of a paper mache project where they ran out of tissue paper, and she sent the girls to the bathroom to retrieve toilet paper....the nuns being not too happy! Juanita told us a lot of fun stories of how she integrated art into learning. At Roosevelt school, she and her class did a project, painting the windows using dish soap and tempera paint. The wonderful reflections generated through the painted windows resulted in lessons about crystals and the colors of the rainbow....remember roygbiv? She said, "Art's impact is immeasurable." For example, a young boy, who lost his father, loved making origami cranes. He had deep emotional problems and making cranes seemed to help him. She had many more interesting stories to tell.



About 8 or 9 years ago, Juanita started taking watercolor classes from Flo Smith. A number of her paintings are the result of what she learned or did in Flo's classes. Doing watercolor taught her to be more observant of nature. "You start thinking in watercolor", she said. Juanita also finds inspiration from books....Ted Kautzky's *Ways with Watercolor* and Nita Engle's *How to Make a Watercolor Paint Itself*and from YouTube videos. She follows Andrew Geeson because of his loose painting style. She also likes Steve Mitchell for his product reviews and Rick Surowicz, an artist from NE Ohio. Juanita also shared a couple of product tips with us. The 'Elegant Writer Pen' – just sketch with it, then add water and it bursts into color on the page. Plus, 'Brusho' – highly pigmented paint that gives very brilliant colors. One of her favorite watercolors, inspired by a photograph, is the one she painted of her son, Matt, dressed as Santa, looking through the window, thrilling her many young grandchildren on Christmas.

