



## ***Mary Lee Ackert Memorial Award***

*Lee was born in Poughkeepsie, New York to the Rev. Walter L. and Fannie Scranton. She grew up in White Plains, New York, spending many summers at the family's rustic house in the Catskills. She studied Interior Design at Syracuse University where she met her future husband who was studying at Cornell. They were married in White Plains, New York on August 13, 1955 during Hurricane Agnes. Lee later received a Masters in Education from Tufts. She was an elementary art teacher in Billerica, Massachusetts for many years. Lee and Bob moved to Florida in 1978 where she became involved with the Fort Myers Beach Art Association as a teacher and president. Lee was a signature member and past president of the Florida Watercolor Society. Lee was also a member of the Florida Artist Group from 1992 until her passing in 2013.*

*Lee loved the outdoors and lived life enthusiastically. She enjoyed skiing, water-skiing and sailing with her family and took up scuba diving in her mid-forties. Bob and Lee summered in Vermont, "relaxing" by the lake with the family at their summer cottage at Basin Harbor. She was always willing to lend a hand in the latest family project whether it was re-roofing a house, caring for a new grandchild or bringing in the hay on her children's farms. Lee and Bob's world travels included Europe, Australia, New Zealand and a cruise through the Panama Canal. Wherever they went, Lee brought her sketchbook and many of their trips were highlighted in her paintings.*

*Mary Lee (Scranton) Ackert, 79, an award-winning local artist, passed away on Friday, April 12, 2013 in the loving presence of her family.*

