

Johnson Historical Society 2024 Raffle



First Prize: **Camel's Hump** by Georgia Balch, Yarn Art (size 17"H x 21-1/2"W)

Georgia Wells Stearns Balch 1888 – 1981, moved to Johnson in her youth. In 1914 she married Chester Arthur Stearns and moved to a house on Route 100 C, where she lived throughout her life. Georgia worked at a time when women were far less prominent in the visual arts than they are today. She was a working artist who applied her trade to tourists; a sign reading "Paintings of Vermont by Georgia Balch" hung in front of her Johnson home. She painted many scenes of Johnson which help to document the community's landscape during her lifetime.



Second Prize: **Four Seasons**, a watercolor (size 17”H x 13”W) plus 12 note cards by
Laurie West McLean

Laurie West McLean was born and raised in Johnson until she traveled with the group, Up with People, met her now husband, and moved to Colorado. They moved back to Vermont in 1983 and have been in Chittenden County since then. Laurie has worked for UVM at the Lanier College of Medicine for the past 20 years. She began watercolor painting 1 1/2 years ago, learning from videos on-line. After being mesmerized by the movement of the paint, she knew she needed to try it. It has become a favorite hobby.



Third Prize: **Cocoa Time** by Fred Swan, a print (size 18”H x 22”W)

Fred Swan is a Vermont painter who is known for his realistic, detailed scenes that could be portraying buildings and views in almost any Vermont village. They reflect all seasons and fit perfectly in his “A Place to Call Home” calendar. Fred is a self-taught artist who works exclusively in acrylics. Some in the area may remember the Swan family as Johnson residents and Mr. Swan as a mathematics teacher at Lamoille Union High School. Prior to moving to Johnson Fred served in the Navy. While in Johnson he and his wife Diane opened “The Swans Nest Gallery” in the barn attached to their home on Lower Main Street. Fred’s work, as well as that of other local artists, was exhibited there.



Fourth Prize: Sap bucket with products from Butternut Mt. Farm



Fifth Prize: Johnson Woolen Mill blanket (size 63" x 72")