

awesomeart

P.O. Box 1160 Sebastopol CA 95473

www.awesomeart.org

Meeting: Thursday, February 19, 2009

Sebastopol Veteran's Memorial Bldg.

WORKSHOP

Luncheon: 12 Noon

Business meeting and demonstration following lunch.

The newsletter of the Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County
Edited by Andrea Way (email: andreaway@sbcglobal.net)

BOARD MEETING

The board meeting will be held February 19 at 10:00 am in the main room.

REFRESHMENTS

Sandwiches or finger food:

Helen Shane
Dominique Amendola
Gerda Barbieri
Diane Luiz
Chris Stover
Bitte Bertilson
Andrea Way

Desserts:

Lorraine Stribling
Judy Butler
Linda Sims
Cher Church
Dominique Amendola
Jerry Fabiano
Elaine Cole

Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions.
sharonemiller@comcast.net, 829-0177

Thank you for volunteering. **If you are unable to attend the meeting for which you have volunteered, please make arrangements with a friend to deliver your contribution.** Please have your offering at the meeting before noon.

Sharon Miller

FEBRUARY WORKSHOP

By Judy Maize



For our next presentation at our meeting on February 19th we'll have a life drawing model. Her name is Nemea Laessig of Sebastopol. She'll do classic poses undraped. She'll be modeling in the center of the room from 12:30 p.m. until 3 p.m.. You can sit at desks and sketch, pastels or do watercolors. If you want to use easels, you'll have to bring a

portable one for your own use in back of the tables.



JANUARY PROGRAM

By Helen Shane

Umbria in Sebastopol

Charles Beck, local and well-known artist demonstrated his use of acrylics at our January meeting.



Charles brought in 48x60 inch chipboard, primed with Gesso, on which he'd already drawn a charcoal sketch of the composition.

Charles spent several months in Umbria, Italy last year. The buildings, huddled together over a narrow, brick and stone street, were very old and

weathered, perhaps structurally unsound and far from plumb. Charles portrayed this by his use of geometrically distorted angles to create the feeling of crowding, substance and three dimensions. He used glazing and layering that re-created the surface textures of brick, stone and mortar and an old archway. On the meeting room wall he tacked several studies he had created on-site.



His palette was: Phthalo Blue, Titanium White, Burnt Umber, Black and accents of Cadmium Red Orange, Dioxazine Purple and Phthalo Green.

He began with the darkest, black areas - windows and doorways that he later touched with accents to give the impression of depth and dimension, and with a very large brush and palette knife laid in the other large areas.

The use of a heat gun sped up the process so he could quickly layer and glaze using the accent colors. The edge of a palette knife scribed grooves in the thick paint, into which, in some areas,





he “dropped” black paint; it gave the effect of edges and stone and brick and mortar. Lost and found edges and discontinuous lines enhanced the effect of harmony and proximity of the components. The result was an example of the time-tested permanence of an ancient time, the durability of centuries-old building methods by long-gone craftspeople, and the aura of the ages in this old town, in this old country, in the old world.



For more information about Charles Beck see <http://www.sonic.net/~chasbeck>

MEMBER PROFILE - DOROTHY ANDERSON
First President of AWS in 1965
By Paula Pearce

Dorothy Anderson grew up in Sunbury, Pennsylvania and was an avid child artist who enjoyed all kinds of art media but her favorite creation of all was to make “salt” maps made with flour, water and salt along with food coloring to depict mountains, lakes and so on. Dorothy loved school and art was her favorite subject.

In 1942, Dorothy was the art editor for the Sunbury High School yearbook. From high school she wanted to be a secretary so applied to a local bank. That didn't work out as the bank had this policy that you couldn't have any relatives working at the same bank. Her uncle had been employed there for many years. A couple of odd jobs followed which were working for an attorney for 2 months and then she was a packer of radar equipment for Westinghouse during the war. In short order she realized the college graduates were getting the promotions around her. So after that she was college bound. Dorothy attended Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania majoring in English with a minor in history and German. She enjoyed teaching both 4th and 5th grades for three years and took night classes at Bucknell University to earn her Masters Degree. It was at this same time she took adult art classes and enjoyed painting mostly landscapes in oils. Shortly after this, Dorothy applied to teach American children on the bases in Germany. She was all set to go and when she got her papers, they directed her to Japan instead. Dorothy was there teaching for 2 1/2 years. After that she taught in both Germany and in France. It was in France she met her native Californian husband and they married and lived in France awhile and then came to California and they ended up buying a Christmas tree farm in Sebastopol and then on to a home on Pleasant Hill Road where Dorothy ran a pre-school for 17 years. Eventually she got involved in AWS but that is another story.

APPLE BLOSSOM SHOW REMINDER

To qualify:

1. Must have attended 6 meetings during the previous year and signed in.
2. Must have shown 4 artworks during the year or 2 at the previous Apple Blossom show and 2 at the general meetings.
3. Must have paid AWS dues no later than January 31, 2009.
4. Must have worked 4 hours at the previous Apple Blossom show and signed up to work at the 2009 show no later than the March meeting.
5. Must meet all deadlines regarding entry forms and fees. Forms must be filled out correctly or they will be returned and the entrant will not be accepted into the show.
6. Only exceptions are new members who must have joined and filled membership requirements at least a month prior to the show. They will still be required to sign up and work at the show and meet all deadlines.
7. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

ROSTER CHANGES

New Members:

Delores Delgado
 645 Furlong Rd.
 Sebastopol 95472
 829-5330
 dzdartist@comcast.net

Lynn Hennessy
 18498 Happy Lane
 Sonoma 95476
 938-2178
 lennessy@vom.com

Linda Sims
 5460 Linda Lane
 Santa Rosa 95404
 578-2269
 dreamgarden2@comcast.net

New E-mail Addresses:

Jerry Fabiano
 jsfabiano@comcast.net

Rita Griffith
 johnanrita@comcast.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jack Leissring will open his legendary private art collection to AWS members, as well as other invited members of the public.

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2009

Time: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Address: 622 Davis Street, Santa Rosa

Besides being an art collector, Jack Leissring is a physician/pathologist/anatomist, musician, artist, poet, philosopher, and lays claim to several other titles. He is the former owner of the McDonald Mansion in Santa Rosa.

Napa Valley Art Festival Entries are due on or before February 28, 2009. The 2009 Napa Valley Art Festival will be held on Saturday, August 29. Entry forms are attached in pdf format and Word, or you can download them from: <http://www.NapaValleyArtFestival.com> The website also provides more information.

Marin Society of Artists next National Juried Exhibition will take place from August 2 - 30, 2009. Scott Shields, associate director and chief curator of the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, is the juror. The deadline for entry is May 1. See www.marinsocietyofartists.org for prospectus.

Judy Maize has seven paintings at Tombe Real Estate until March 15. They are plein air oils. She also has two oil paintings at the Sonoma Bank in Oakmont and one watercolor at the Senior Center in Windsor.

"Artists Roundtable's" program on May 6th will be a critique of members artwork by **Patricia Akay** s.w.a. Located in the Veteran's Bldg. in Santa Rosa, the program will begin at 1:00 and interested visitors are welcome. Currently, **Patricia** is showing her watercolors and oils in the Showcase Gallery and the Wine Country Mercantile Gallery in Glen Ellen, where wine country scenes are her focus. Her French giclees (originals have sold) are being featured in "Vita Bella" in Kenwood.

Paula Pearce has written and illustrated a children's book called "Saving Walter". The subject is water education and conservation. She has been asked by the co-chair of Obama's transition team to send a copy directly to president Obama.



MONDAY MORNING PAINTERS

www.mondaymorningpainters.com

12:00 - 4:00 pm, critique at 3:30

See website for more details and any last minute changes.

February 9 Madrona Manor

1001 Westside Road, Healdsburg. Old Victorian buildings, gardens, glimpses of mustard n' hills to east. Park at the first places you come to, below Mansion...critique 3:30 in parking lot.

February 16 Petaluma Turning Basin

From Hwy 101, take East Washington exit west and turn left on Petaluma Blvd. Turn on B Street and go to the end, turning right into the Great Petaluma Mill parking lot. Views of river, mill, yacht club, boats. Critique along Weller Street

February 26 Laguna de Santa Rosa

Joe Rodota Parkway, Llano Rd access....mustard fields, oak trees, marsh growth. Park at Hwy 12 and Llano Rd at Lunardi Electric, (hope to get permission, stay tuned), or just east of Llano, on east facing shoulder. A short walk to Llano Rd.(just south & then west), turn right.

March 2 Valley Ford

Website on Hwy 1 in south-west Sonoma County. Park n' lunch at Dinucci's Restaurant at north west edge of town. Funky buildings, Victorians, old school house, hillsides w/cows, lambs. Critique at 12:30 near Dinucci's.

AWS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2009

President, **Katrina Small**, called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. The meeting was held in the main meeting room to save the \$38.00 per month for the rental of the Fireside room. Attending members were **Fran Neilsen, Andrea Way, Lorraine Stribling, Susan Moore, Judy Maize, Helen Shane, Gen Zorich, Paula Pearce, Kae Prince, James Reynolds, Margot Comstock, and Jacque Mielke**. Minutes for November, 2008 were read by **Jacque**, and approved as read.

REPORTS

Vice President - Judy Maize presented the tentative outline for next year's meetings. Four of the ten meeting dates are scheduled and she will pass around a sign-up sheet at the general meeting to see if any more people will volunteer to help schedule. The board voted it's approval of Chris Schink as a possible demonstrator.

Treasurer - Susan Moore presented a proposed budget for the board's review, and it will be discussed in more detail at the February meeting.

Newsletter - Paula Pearce volunteered to interview and photograph the people chosen for the member profile in the monthly newsletter.

Web site - Gen Zorich is working with **Margot Comstock** to get the web site up and running.

Membership - Lorraine Stribling reported that four new members will be introduced at the General Meeting: **Rita Griffith, Linda Simms, Lynn Hennessy and Jerry Fabiano**

Apple Blossom Festival - James Reynolds reported that the dates for the ABF are April 24, 25 & 26. All is progressing well and the sign-up sheet for work and committee schedules will be circulated at the General meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The board meeting will be scheduled for 10:00 next month and the items that were listed and not discussed due to lack of time, will be addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm
Respectfully submitted, **Jacque Mielke**, Rec. sec.

Interested in joining us?

The AWS meets the third Thursday of each month from noon to 3 P.M. in the Sebastopol Veteran's Memorial Building to share art, do business and enjoy a program. Guests are welcome. A light buffet is served at noon, with refreshments and fellowship. The business meeting and program follow. Programs consist of demonstrations of artwork in various media, practical advice, helpful critiques and hands-on workshops. Contact Art Workshops of Western Sonoma County (AWS) membership committee:

Lorraine Stribling 775-3234 lorrainestribling@comcast.net

Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County

P.O. Box 1160, Sebastopol, CA 95473

www.awsomeart.org

President: **Katrina Small** 620-0128 katrina@katgrafix.com

Vice Pres: **Judy Maize** 838-9049 artz4me@sonic.net

Treasurer: **Susan Moore** 857-3703 simart@comcast.net

Recording Sec: **Jacque Mielke** 824-9112 jadomielke@comcast.net

Corresp. Secretary: **Fran Nielsen** 823-3542 jwfnpw@sbcglobal.net

Parliamentarian: **Kae Prince** 869-2886

Publicity: **Helen Shane** 823-3744 shane5@sonic.net

Newsletter: **Andrea Way** 773-1277 andreaway@sbcglobal.net

Membership: **Lorraine Stribling** 775-3234

lorrainestribling@comcast.net

Refreshments: **Sharon Miller** 829-0177 virgilmiller@comcast.net

Art Venues: **Arlene Parnay** 829-2660 marnaparnay@webtv.net

Hospitality: **Betty Rhoades** 823-9669 ecrseb@hotmail.com

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SEBASTOPOL
CENTER
FOR
THE ARTS

Painting Classes

Intro to Drawing

Instructor: James Freed

development in drawing techniques, value contrast, composition, visual perspective, design basics, drawing tools and media

15-Adult, Feb 12-Mar 16, 7-9:30pm,
Fee: \$102 NonMem: \$107

Winter Leaves & Fruits

Instructor: Nina Antze

Work from different natural objects, fruit, flowers, leaves of winter and early spring.

Sat, Feb 14, 10am-3pm, Painting Studio

Fee: \$50 Non-member: \$55

Art with Intention:
The Magic of Abstract
Paintings with Suzanne Edminster

Free Lecture: Fri, Mar 13, 7-8:30pm.

Sat/ Sun, Mar 14 & 15, 9:30am-4pm.

13-up. Fee: \$150/non mem \$155 / mat:\$35

6780 Depot St., Sebastopol, CA 95476 707-829-4797 www.sebarts.org

EDITORIAL

Back in October of 2008 I wrote about my friend who was diagnosed with lung cancer. The good news is, after surgery and chemo she is doing fine, at least for now. Being a medical doctor she suspected the cancer just might be due to pigments and other toxins in her paints, and especially in her pastels. She, her oncologist and a researcher from the Mayo Clinic got together and have been investigating. This is what they have found so far:

1. An elevated risk of bladder cancer among professional artists and printmakers probably due to the benzidine pigments found in pastels and other art materials. The ACMI says they are safe because they are not soluble and labels them "nontoxic".
2. Known cancer causers include cadmium, lead, chrome IV, nickel, selenium, about 200 organic pigments.
3. Anthraquinone pigments and dyes probably cause cancer if tested but ACMI lists them as "nontoxic" because there is no data on them.
4. Out of over 2000 commercially available synthetic dyes and pigments only 6 are approved for food.
5. None of the organic pigments that are used in art materials have ever been studied for cancer effects which enables the manufacturer to label them all "nontoxic". They are also used in children's products.
6. Manufacturers of course, do not encourage testing. The only possible exception is Golden. They do not label these untested organics "nontoxic" and they have paid a price for that ethical decision in the marketplace.
7. Some believe pastels are a defective product as defined by the CPSC. It is impossible to use them without at least some exposure.

Conclusions:

1. If you deal with color, you deal with cancer.
2. Don't believe the label. Assume all art materials are toxic.
3. "Don't eat your paints." *Fred Dalkey*
4. "Don't breathe them either." *Mike Stimmann*, our resident toxicologist

For more information see <http://www.artsandcraftstheatersafety.org/>

ARTIST PROFILE

Andrew Wyeth

With his recent passing, I thought this might be a good time to take another look at Andrew Wyeth. The public loved him, the critics hated him. For that alone he has to be admired. As the saying goes, "He marched to his own drummer." In Robert Genn's words, "He arose from a talented family that ate and slept art. He chose to be true to his rural roots and enjoyed a lifetime of love and laughter around Chadds Ford, PA. He earnestly explored his microcosmic world, kept sane and more or less sober until age 91, got mighty good at his craft and painted not a few American icons. Yet the critics never missed a chance to dump on him. The richer he got, the more they dumped. - Wyeth encapsulated the artistic conservative's paradoxical idea of cultural disobedience through traditional behavior."

Visit www.andrewwyeth.com for more information and more and larger images.



Farnsworth Art Museum.

Geraniums, 1960 drybrush on paper

Potted flowers grown by Christina Olson sit here on the window sill of her house in Cushing, Maine. Through the window beyond the geraniums, one can see the model best known as the pink-dressed figure in *Christina's World* (1947 tempera, Museum of Modern Art, New York). Ms. Olson, her brother Alvaro, and their farm were subjects of Wyeth's paintings and drawings for decades ending with the siblings' deaths in the late 1960s. The house is now open to visitors through the

Trodden Weed, 1951, tempera on panel



When this non-traditional self-portrait was done, the artist was recovering from a major surgery to remove a portion of his lung. On his feet are boots once owned by Howard Pyle, founder of the Brandywine school of painting, as well as the teacher of Andrew's father: artist and illustrator N.C. Wyeth. Here, the boots walk over Kuerner's Hill in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania - an area that Andrew Wyeth has walked all his life.



The Carry, 2003, tempera on panel

A carry is a shallow place in a river where a boat must be lifted in order to continue traveling - a portage, like this one in Maine.

Sunday Times, 1987, watercolor on paper

A marked difference can be seen in the artist's palette in the Maine and Pennsylvania works, just as one can see the weather differ when comparing the summer and winter months. The artist and his family spent the warm months in the midcoast of Maine returning to the artist's birthplace in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania each fall. This scene shows a splash of unexpected color in the chilly, dark days before spring. The painting was inspired by an actual incident when a bright piece of litter, a newspaper advertisement, blew across a snowy hillside.

