

# awesomeart

P.O. Box 1160 Sebastopol CA 95473

[www.awesomeart.org](http://www.awesomeart.org)

Meeting: Thursday, June 18, 2009

PAINT-OUT Riverfront Park

NO REGULAR MEETING IN JUNE



## E-NEWSLETTER

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

### JUNE PAINT - OUT Riverfront Park



We will not be having our regular meeting in June. Instead everyone is welcome to meet at Riverfront Park at for a paint-out. We will be starting at 9:00 am with an optional critique at 12:30 in the picnic area. Bring your plein air gear and a lunch and enjoy the great

outdoors and create a masterpiece.

Riverfront Regional Park 7821 Eastside Road, Healdsburg (closer to Windsor) From Santa Rosa, take Hwy 101 North to Central Windsor exit. Turn left onto Old Redwood Hwy. Stay straight and turn left onto Windsor River Rd. Turn left onto Eastside Road for 1.9 miles. Regional Parking fee: \$6.

### MAY PROGRAM

#### Tesia Blackburn from Golden Acrylics



Tesia Blackburn gave a rousing demonstration of Golden acrylic products. Her first statement was "Acrylics can mimic anything, except welding", meaning they can look like watercolor, oils or pretty much anything else imaginable. I now wish I had challenged her to make them look like pastels but that might be asking a bit much. Of course she was promoting Golden and their products. They also have a wonderful website with more product demos at [www.goldenpaints.com](http://www.goldenpaints.com)

She stated acrylics are NOT water based. They are polymer based. Therefore using water as a medium is not the best way to go. Too much water, since it has no binder will tend to break down the paint, leaving unwanted effects. Mediums are available in both matte and gloss. Matte medium tends to gray out colors. Gloss leaves them strongly saturated. It all depends on

what look you want. If you want strong colors but don't like the glossy look simply varnish later with a matte varnish.

There are two kinds of paints, mineral (inorganic) and modern (organic). The mineral paints are those we are all familiar with like the cadmiums, cobalts, umbers and siennas. The modern colors include hansa, quinacridone and pthalo. Golden also makes both fluid and heavy body (in tubes) paints, many kinds of mediums, gessos, grounds and numerous other products - enough to make your head swim.

Packets of information and samples of paints and mediums were given to all attendees. We felt like kids in a candy store. **ed.**



### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Bringing Guests:** We love to have guests! Most of our guests become members. If you would like to bring a guest to a meeting remember to let your guest know that there will be a \$5 guest fee to attend. If the guest cannot pay the fee but would still like to come, perhaps the member bringing them can pay the fee for them, or else the guest can save up for the month they want to attend and come then. If after attending two meetings the guest decides to become a member, they can subtract their guest fees from the membership fee, but they must have signed the guest list on the days they came for it to be valid. Unfortunately, at this time we are unable to have guests attend free.

**July 16<sup>th</sup> Presentation:** We will have Virgil Elliott doing a critique for us on July 16<sup>th</sup>. You can read about him and look at his work by typing this address into your browser: <http://www.virgilelliott.com/>

**Workshops:** Don't forget our two workshops coming up later in the year. The first to come is Elin Pendleton's 3 day workshop which is confirmed for August 17, 18 and 19. Brooks Anderson's 3 day workshop is confirmed for October 26, 27 and 28. Both of these will be held at the Fircrest Mobile Home community room in Sebastopol. Please sign up if you are interested in either or both at the July meeting, or contact Judy Maize (you can find her contact information in the roster or on page 4 of this newsletter).

**Katrina Small, AWS President**

## APPLE BLOSSOM

Our thanks go out to those volunteers who worked at the Apple Blossom Show this year. It's amazing how wonderful things come together when we are all out there doing our share.

## MEMBER PROFILE - Gen Zorich By Paula Pearce

**Question:** Where did you grow up?

**Gen:** I grew up in Ventura County, Southern California.

**Question:** When did you come to Sebastopol?

**Gen:** In 2002 after living in Holland for a couple of years. That is where I started painting in watercolor.

**Question:** Were you interested in art as a child?

**Gen:** Yes I was, even in Kindergarten. My teacher asked for one of my drawings and I came to school the next day and she had it framed under glass and was hanging on the wall. I was so happy and it made a lasting impression. I continued being creative through elementary and high school years. I always loved visiting art museums all through my life.

**Question:** Did you have any relatives that were artists?

**Gen:** Yes, my mother was an artist but the demands on her time by her family made it impossible to pursue it as a career.

**Question:** What was your mother's preferred medium?

**Gen:** My mother painted in oils.

**Question:** Did you consider early in life becoming a professional artist?

**Gen:** Yes I did consider it because I enjoyed it so much but in high school I realized it wasn't that easy to make a living in art.

**Question:** What other subjects were you interested in?

**Gen:** I was interested in math and science. So I went on to earn a degree in geology and a Masters degree in engineering geology in England.

**Question:** Did you have any formal schooling in art?

**Gen:** Yes, I took watercolor classes while living in Holland and when I moved to Sonoma County, I enrolled at Santa Rosa Junior College and earned a painting and drawing certificate.

**Question:** How did you learn about AWS?

**Gen:** I don't remember. I may have seen an ad in the paper and came to a meeting.

**Question:** When did you join AWS?

**Gen:** I joined in 2004.

**Question:** What are your future goals concerning your art?

**Gen:** I am currently preparing for my second year in Art at the Source. On a more general scale, I would like to work in my studio on a regular basis which is challenging as a homemaker, wife and mother of teenagers.

**Note from Paula:** I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Gen during this interview process. Her adorable studio was such a treat. Gen explained that she brought it all the way here from Holland as a kit with the rest of her families possessions. It is compact and interesting as it is octagonal in shape and Gen has utilized every square inch. Be sure and drop by her studio during Art at the Source, corner of Jewell and Woodland in Sebastopol. I know you'll love seeing her exhibit.



## FOOD REMINDER

Because June's AWS meeting will be a "Paint Out", food contributions will not be necessary. Those who signed up to bring food for the next meeting are asked to do so for the July 16 meeting if possible.

Also, each member is asked to bring refreshments to at least two of the monthly meetings. The sandwiches should consist of at least one loaf of bread with appropriate fillings, cut into quarters. Desserts can be cakes, cookies or fruit, etc. and should be enough to serve eight to ten members. Each refreshment



should be accompanied by a note describing the ingredients as a courtesy to those members who may have allergies or other medical concerns. Please bring refreshments at least ten minutes early and check the sign in sheets on the table.

The refreshments add a social aspect to the meetings and are greatly appreciated by everyone.

Thank you for your continued support. *Sharon Miller*

Isn't it fun to visit and have a scrumptious lunch before the meeting? I think we all enjoy it very much. Sharon and Lenore have done a fantastic job of calling for volunteers, making the coffee and setting up the tables and food at each meeting and cleaning up afterward. Unfortunately this isn't as easy as one might think. Some members sign up but don't bring anything. Some bring a few pieces of fruit and some rarely or never sign up. Sharon brings cookies in her car for just such emergencies and has often picked up pizza when she gets a last minute call that they can't bring food. This is unfair to her. Our club depends on its volunteers. Let's all do our part. To be a member in good standing each of us must bring food at least twice a year. Sign up, mark your calendars and don't forget to follow through. *ed.*

## THANKS

I want to thank our roving reporters, **Helen Shane** and **Paula Pearce**. This newsletter is far more than a one person endeavor. It would not happen if our wonderful reporters were not on the job. Helen has been doing articles on our demonstrations so people who were unable to attend a meeting can see what is going on. Paula interviews our members for our monthly profiles and also takes photos.

I also have to thank **Katrina Small** who fills in for me when I forget my camera, or my memory card, or batteries. All of which I have managed to do at one time or another. Without her we would be missing photos of many of our demonstrations and workshops.

These are some of the quiet ones who work behind the scenes. They keep our club running by giving of their time and energy. This happens so much in any club. It is always the few who take on the burden while others get to sit back and enjoy. *ed.*

## ROSTER CHANGES

New E-mail - Trudy Istel: [heistel@sonic.net](mailto:heistel@sonic.net)

## AWS LOGO CONTEST!

It's time to update AWS's image and move it into the 21st Century. We are counting on our creative members to help us design our new look. So take out your paper and pencil and design our new logo remembering the rules below.

### Rules

1. The logo must include the initials "AWS" as part of the design. In addition, include in small print below the logo the phrase "Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County".
2. Size must be 8 1/2" x 11" or smaller so it can be scanned.
3. Use good quality paper or card stock.
4. Use ink, acrylic or the computer.
5. Keep the design simple and appropriate so that it can be easily reproduced.
6. Use black and white but color is acceptable if it reproduces well in black and white.
7. Deadline for entries is the July Meeting ( bring entries to the meeting )

The board will choose the most appropriate 3 to 5 entries and the members will vote using paper ballots at the August meeting. In addition to seeing your artwork on our website, newsletter, stationary, and ABF postcards, posters, and signs there will be a prize for the winning logo.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Art at the Source** Five of our members will be showing at Art at the Source open studios in June. If you want to visit them the dates are June 6-7 and 13-14, 10 am to 5pm. The artists are: **Beverly Bird** Studio #5b; **Patricia Bird** Studio #5c; **James Reynolds** Studio #41a; **Betty Rhoades** Studio #11c; and **Gen Zorich** Studio #46a.

**Judy Butler Plein Air Workshop** Judy is offering a plein air workshop on Sat. & Sun., July 18 & 19 from 9am-1pm. Cost \$80. 2 openings left. Call: 707-538-3369 or email: [judybutler9021@comcast.net](mailto:judybutler9021@comcast.net)

## MONDAY MORNING PAINTERS

[www.mondaymorningpainters.com](http://www.mondaymorningpainters.com)

9am - 1pm. critique at 12:30pm

See website for more details and any last minute changes.

**June 8 Shollenberger Park, Petaluma** Petaluma rolling hills, waters & rushes, birding galore, Petaluma slough & boats deeper in on west side, & 101 Bridge, etc., views. Can also go further east & park at the Pt Reyes Bird Observatory's back lot, on right just past tall glass building.

### Directions to get to Shollenberger Park

From Santa Rosa (going south on Hwy 101) or San Rafael (going north on Hwy 101), take the Highway 116 (Lakeville Highway), turnoff in Petaluma and go east for about one mile. Turn right on Cader Lane...at stop sign, going straight takes you right into park. The city park sign is very small and looks like a road identification sign).

**June 15 Richards' Grove and Sara Lee's Vineyard** 3575 Slusser Rd, Windsor From Hwy 101 northbound, take River Rd exit, turn left to head west, turn right on Slusser Rd. PARK ON BLACKTOP at classroom or winery above on right. Cultivated gardens, including at entrance with train car restroom, vineyards and hill views, beautiful.

**June 22th Matanzas Creek Winery** 6097 Bennett Valley Road Peak Lavender season, Bennett Valley hills. Parking below the lavender fields

s requested and of course "we always encourage a visit to our Tasting Room!"

**June 29 Rosso & Bianco** 101 North to Independence Lane, Geyserville. Though under re-model with access more in the back than before and slightly more rustic than before, still vineyard and hill views. Do not park in L shaped area near disabled parking nor tasting room/ restaurant entry. Kitchen gardens near tasting room will be nice, and old oak trees.

**July 6 Riverfront Regional Park** 7821 Eastside Road, Healdsburg (closer to Windsor) From Santa Rosa, take Hwy 101 North to Central Windsor exit. Turn left onto Old Redwood Hwy. Stay straight and turn left onto Windsor River Rd. Turn left onto Eastside Road for 1.9 miles. Regional Parking fee: \$5. Critique in the Regional Park redwood grove. Shady redwood groves, sunny lake scenes in bird paradise to walk in to (maybe best for early arrivals).

## AWS BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 21, 2009

President Katrina Small called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. Attending members were Fran Neilsen, Andrea Way, Lorraine Stribling, Susan Moore, James Reynolds, Gen Zorich, Judy Maize, Margot Comstock and Jacque Mielke.

Minutes for April, 2009 were read, corrected and approved.

### REPORTS

**Vice President** Judy Maize read the list of programs that are scheduled: **JUNE: A paint out...** to be held at Riverfront Regional Park, 7821 Eastside Rd. in Windsor. Meet at 9:00 with a group critique an 12:30. It is a So. Co. Regional Park so there is a \$6 fee per car if you do not have a park pass.

**JULY: A critique.....**by Virgil Elliot.

**AUGUST: A demonstration.....**by Elin Pendleton.

**SEPTEMBER: A demonstration....** by Christopher Schink

Elin Pendleton's 3 day workshop is confirmed for August 17, 18 and 19. Brooks Anderson's 3 day workshop is confirmed for October 26, 27 and 28. Both workshops will be held in the Fircrest Mobile Home Park's Recreation Center and for the usage of the space, a donation from the participants will be requested.

**Corresponding secretary** Fran Neilson will send out thank you notes to all who contributed to the ABF Show...ie flowers, wine, Champagne, auction items etc. A big thank you to all the members who brought the great food for the reception!

**Web site** Gen requested photos and a list of the ABS winners for the web site.

**Membership** Lorraine reported that there are 91 memberships, corrected from the 99 listed in the April minutes.

**Newsletter** It was suggested the we request \$50 from Riley Street for the one time insert they wish to include in the June newsletter.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. The memorial Award title is not clearly defined and it was decided to address the issue at the July meeting.

2. Chris Evans is having an open studio in August for members who wish to visit.

### ABS WRAP-UP MEETING

Committee chairs were in attendance at 11:00 to discuss the ABS. Two main issues were addressed:

1.A stricter adherence to the requirements must be made in the future to avoid unpleasant issues during the check-in procedures.

2. In order to ease the crowded area at the reception food table, it was suggested that the wall be utilized to its fullest and the last set of screens at the kitchen end not be used.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am

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](mailto:lorrainestribling@comcast.net)**

## Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County

P.O. Box 1160, Sebastopol, CA 95473

[www.awesomeart.org](http://www.awesomeart.org)

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Refreshments: **Sharon Miller** 829-0177 [sharonemiller@comcast.net](mailto:sharonemiller@comcast.net)

Art Venues: **Arlene Parnay** 829-2660 [marnaparnay@webtv.net](mailto:marnaparnay@webtv.net)

Hospitality: **Betty Rhoades** 823-9669 [ecrseb@hotmail.com](mailto:ecrseb@hotmail.com)

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**See the Riley St. ad on page 6!**

# THE ELEMENTS OF ABSTRACTION

*From the Robert Genn Newsletter April 10, 2009*

Abstraction ranges from the meaningless abuse of paint to the most lofty and exciting of surfaces. Each effort can be a creative event--a vehicle for the mysteries of the subconscious mind and an opportunity to flirt with pure forms, symbols and metaphors. It's an art of hiding and disclosing. More than simply playing with the materials, abstraction is a discovery of motifs that happen to be part of a painter's personal legend. Personality counts.

Abstraction also holds the promise of dreams, fears, fetishes, fancies, intangibles and wills.

The willful artist marches to his own drummer. As in the composing of music, in pure and practical terms, the resulting work will be the painter's own composition.

Perhaps one of the best understandings came from [Marc Chagall](#): "Abstraction is something which comes to life spontaneously through a gamut of contrasts, plastic as well as psychic, and pervades both the picture and the eye of the spectator with conceptions of new and unfamiliar elements."

Abstract art has the power to show us something we may not have seen before. It implies both thought and no thought. Thriving on unconventional tools and a unique sort of energy, it's also a collaboration of mind and spirit. As a form of wizardry and magic, an abstract may speak both to you and for you. More than anything, abstract art can be a conversation piece.

"Abstraction is an esoteric language," said [Eric Fischl](#). It is a language unique to the individual artist. In a way, it can be more unique than the similarly legitimate language of realistic work, because no matter how realists pull Nature's reality this way and that, they still have Nature's reality, however nuanced. The more modern idea, however it may be seen by some as flawed, is to be the inventor, creator and patent holder of your own Nature.

Painter and art instructor [David Leffel](#) regularly asks his students a simple but profound question: "How do abstract artists know when they're getting better?" The answer lies in whether the artist is able to express will. Artists without the ability to express will will never know.

PS: "Abstract art requires something of the viewer. It demands contemplation. Study. Flights of fancy. Feeling." ([Svante Rydberg](#))

## ARTIST PROFILE - Don Marco (Mr. Crayola)

*Who says you need expensive art materials?*



Don Marco was born in Northern Minnesota in the late 1920's. His interest in art was evident even before starting school. As a young adult in the Army Air Corp, he began his life's career in Air Traffic Control, which continued until his retirement from Honolulu International Airport in 1973. Much of his spare time was spent as a professional artist.

Before retirement, Don started developing a technique to create fine art, using Crayola Crayons. Shortly after retiring, he published his first print. Living in Southern California, his work was in demand, including commissions from Burt Reynolds and a one-man show at his Dinner Theater in Florida. Hard to imagine these are done with crayons!!!



This article was e-mailed to me from Paula Pearce who received it from Sylvia Miller. **ed.**

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# 41ST ANNIVERSARY EVENT

# JUNE 2009

HELD AT OUR SANTA ROSA LOCATION

## ART DEMONSTRATION DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH 10AM - 4PM



Rileystreet is excited to announce the date of our 12th annual Art Demonstration Day. This event attracts hundreds of people every year and is a **MUST** for anyone interested in the visual arts. This is not just a look and listen event; this is an event in which we urge participation. This year we have attracted over 30 different companies to the event. Virtually all participating vendors will have materials that you can touch, feel and try.

This day has also become a day, as many know, to come out and talk, share ideas and meet with other artists and creative people. We guarantee you will enjoy this day.

Due to space reasons this event is only held at our Santa Rosa location. We urge all of our new friends from Marin County to attend. It will be worth the drive.

AT LEAST **2 DAY SUPER SALE**  
**30% OFF**

SANTA ROSA LOCATION

THURSDAY JUNE 27th  
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ITEMS LIMITED TO STOCK ON HAND. DISCOUNTS DO NOT APPLY TOWARDS SALE ITEMS. NO MAIL OR PHONE ORDERS.

41st Anniversary Event **FREE LECTURE / DEMONSTRATION SERIES** in Santa Rosa

**SATURDAY JUNE 27th 2009**

Artist Joyce Faulkner  
9:30am - 11:00am  
Logan Mat Cutting  
10:00am - 11:00am  
Oil Colors by Gamblin  
10:30am - 12:00pm  
Acrylics by Golden  
11:30am - 1:00pm

Artist Brushes by DaVinci  
1:00pm - 2:30pm  
Acrylics by Liquitex  
1:30pm - 3:30pm  
Oil Pastel Demo  
1:30pm - 3:00pm  
Watercolors by Winsor & Newton  
3:30pm - 4:30pm

**SUNDAY JUNE 28th 2009**

Soft Pastels by Sennelier  
11:30am - 1:00pm  
Artist Oils by Sennelier  
1:30pm - 3:30pm

For detailed information on these lecture/demos go to [www.rileystreet.com](http://www.rileystreet.com)  
To sign up call Rileystreet at 707-526-2416

Please note: Unlike the ongoing demos on Saturday these are limited space demonstrations. To attend these you **must sign up**. For more details on each of these call Rileystreet at 707-526-2416 or go to [www.rileystreet.com](http://www.rileystreet.com).

## Demo Day 2009

SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH 10AM - 4PM

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DaVinci Brush Company

Faber Castell

Yasutomo

Winsor & Newton

Art Alternatives

Unison Soft Pastels

For more detailed information about our Demonstration Day in Santa Rosa on June 27th please visit our website

[www.rileystreet.com](http://www.rileystreet.com)

**THIS EVENT AND SALE IS AT OUR SANTA ROSA LOCATION ONLY**