

awesomeart

P.O. Box 1160 Sebastopol CA 95473
www.awesomeart.org

Meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2008

Sebastopol Veteran's Memorial Bldg.

DEMONSTRATION

Luncheon: 12 Noon

Business Meeting and workshop following lunch.

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

MAY BOARD MEETING

We will be meeting a half hour earlier at **10:00am** Thursday, May 15 in the Fireside room. We will be wrapping up the Apple Blossom show.

REFRESHMENTS

Sandwiches:

Helen Shane
Fran Nielsen
Nancy Wilkins
Nancy Sanchiotti
Kathy Root
Lorraine Leivas
Sharon Miller

Desserts:

Pat Irish Amez
Ann Nichols
Linda Skoko
Arlene Parnay
Fran Hewlett
Brenda Ross MacKay
Valerie Gardiner

Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions.

sharonemiller@comcast.net, 829-0177 Thank you for volunteering.

Sharon Miller

2008 APPLE BLOSSOM SHOW

Helen Shane

The Apple Blossom Festival art show was packed, as usual, for the Friday evening reception. Artists, friends of artists, relatives of artists (especially the school children artists) milled around, tasting wine, nibbling on goodies. Members of AWS passed food and made salient comments to potential customers about the art. Guests were enthusiastic and serious about voting in the popular vote piece. One person asked how many times she could vote in that category.

Best of show was Fran Hewlett's powerful watercolor of an old 1920's vintage roadster. She entitled it "Deposed" because this sort of car had been deposed by later, shiny streamlined models. Inspiration is where you find it: Fran went to a Monday morning painters session and didn't know the venue had been changed. When she found she was the only person at the Smith Ranch, she nosed around, found a covey of abandoned vehicles and singled out this relic. She took some photos. Months later she decided to see what she could make of it.

Other winners: **Memorial:** Jann Aanestad-*Still Life in Copper*; **Popular Vote:** Fran Nielsen - *Egret in the Laguna*, **Oil/Acrylic:** 1st - James Reynolds - *Last Light of Day*, 2nd Char Wood - *Headin' Home*, 3rd Angel Fabela - *Barn Shadows*. HM: Andrea Way- *Early Spring*, Judy Butler - *Vineyard Time*, Rainey Olson- *Old Flower Market*, Valerie Koppala-Gardiner - *Hanging Around*. **Watercolor/Acrylic:** 1st- Katrina Small-

E-Newsletter

Apple Blossom Time, 2nd Henry Violin - *Armida View*; 3rd Adriane Hatkoff - *Hope*; HM Claire Fleming - *Garden Impression*, Arlene Parnay - *Coleman Valley Road*, Lenore Carrion- *Olivet Road Vineyard*. **Pastels:** 1st Andrea Way - *Alpine Reflections*, 2nd James Reynolds- *Path to Enlightenment*, 3rd Char Wood - *Pattern of Happiness*, HM Chris Stover - *Pass Near Chileno Road*, Idona Larson - *Apple Blossom*, Katrina Small- *Plein Air Landscape #1*, Patty Bird - *Heidi Meadows*. **Other Media** - 1st Gen Zorich - *Tall*, 2nd Ernie Erler - *Mother With Child*, 3rd Ruth Robinson - *Spring Show*; HM Fran Hewlett - *Flora*, Betty Rhodes - *Agave*.

Apple Blossom Art show chair Angel Fabela did another fantastic job of putting it all together. The hanging, the picking up and assembling of the art panels was headed by



Adriane and helpers. Ernie Erler, Angel, Chris Stover, James Reynolds, and Alan Salazar schlepped the panels. Mike hung the lights. Good jobs as always by veteran committee members Mike Stimmann on sales, Jacque Mielke with her eye-for-balance-hanging committee, Helen Shane and her lively receiving crew, Dante Corsetti and his band of food hosts. The hors d'oeuvres were as artistic and delicious as the art, thanks to



all our talented cooks.

12 paintings were sold, out of 174 entries. That's about 14.5%. Very impressive. Angel wishes to thank all who helped make this show even more attractive than the last...and that's going some.

Happy May, everyone!

The Apple Blossom Festival Fine Art Show is past and is now a sweet memory. I hope you all were able to come out to see the show. Thank you to Angel Fabela, the chairman of this project who worked so diligently and his cochair Marcy Lenhardt, and to the rest of the members who helped out. It took many, many volunteers to have it run so well. The reception was very enjoyable, and we seemed to have plenty of hors' duerves and libations. We can now look forward to future events such as the Gravenstein Apple Fair Art - **Katrina Small**

MAY PROGRAM

Andrea Way

I will be giving a demonstration in pastels using black Art Spectrum paper. Also, I will bring in some PanPastels. Those who are interested can give them a try.

Here's a little background: I enjoy painting its California's beautiful landscapes, its architecture and its characters - both people and wildlife. I work in oils and pastels because these are the two mediums that allow me to bring out the rich colors and values. Oils have that rich, juicy texture that is almost like sculpting. Pastels have the most vibrant colors of any medium. I have been influenced by many painters like Emile Gruppe, John Carlson, Edgar Payne and E. Charlton Fortune. I stand in awe at some of the modern day artists like Wayne Thiebaud, Richard Schmid, and Burton Silverman for their ability to take art that big step beyond the norm. It is these artists and others like them that inspire me to continue painting. Art is a process. We never achieve our goal. The fun is in the journey.



My education consists of a little of this and a little of that. I had been drawing and painting all of my childhood but winning a scholarship in high school for a life drawing class at Chouinard's in Los Angeles was a turning point in many ways. I did get sidetracked later and majored in Psychology in college and midstream toward earning my Master's did a bit of self analysis and realized my true love was art. I took many art classes at local JCs but found I could learn more quickly by taking workshops. Here I got carried away and studied with Charles Movalli, Duane Wakeham, Grace Gibson, Edward Norton Ward, David Jonas, Dolores D'Pharr, Ann Templeton, Joyce Pike, Morgan Samuel Price, Carol Katchen, Anita Hampton, Glenna Hartmann, Daniel Green, Gil Dellinger, Armand Cabrera and Richard McDaniel; some of them more than once. To this day I believe this is the best way to get an art education.



My work is in many private collections in the U.S. and Japan and in corporate collections such as Sprint, Kaiser Permanente, U.C. Davis Medical Center and several banks.

"Pastels are the dust on butterfly wings" - Wolf Kahn

2008 ABS STUDENT ARTIST'S EXHIBIT

Paula Pearce

This year's 32 student artists gave us a wide variety of excellent artwork. They have been enjoying art taught by private instructor, Pat Menicucci for many years now. Their ages range from 8 to 18. The schools from which the children attend their regular curriculum vary as follows: Brook Haven Middle School, Willow Springs School, Brook Haven Reach, Austin Creek Elem. (SR), Oak Grove, Anly High School, Brush Creek Montessori, Summerfield Waldorf, Kolbe Academy, Hillcrest Reach, Willowside Middle School, Santa Rosa

High Art Quest, Sonoma Academy Spring Creek Elem. (SR) Hidden Valley Elem. (SR), and Rincon Valley Christian School. The school art raffle proceeds collected during this year's ABS will help support the art programs from Brook Haven Middle School and Pine Crest Elem.. The proceeds will be split 50/50 and the money will be spent on two gift certificates from Riley Street Art Store. I will be responsible for these gifts to be presented in person to the art department heads.



Stepping Down:

This concludes my 10th year as Student Art Chair person. I feel it is a good time to pass the baton to another member who wants to be involved in the ABS in a very special and rewarding way. I will train the new chair person with notes I have made over the years that has helped this part of the ABS be a successful venture for both students, teachers, parents, community at large and AWS members. It will continue to be our annual charity activity to help support school art programs locally through our raffle proceeds. It continues to be a highlight of the show and has proven to be very inspirational for young students to have the honor to show their artwork in the AWS art show at Apple Blossom Festival time!

It has been a delight and a labor of love for me to provide this special exhibit for the past ten years. New members and old members alike, this is a wonderful way to contribute. Please call me: 829-3928. Thank you.



APRIL WORKSHOP

Helen Shane

I believe there is no better artistic exercise for an artist than life drawing. The human body, with its curves, its nuances, its muscular and skeletal structure is the perfect vehicle for stretching one's mind past the "shoulds" and the "musts" and the rules.

About 25 AWS members enjoyed the lithe, easy postures of **AnnaMaria** and **Nictehai**, models brought by facilitator, Jim Curtis to our April workshop. The two women were at ease with their bodies and took poses that were inspirational in the sweep of lines, sensuous slopes and turns.

Life drawing requires nothing of artists except to draw what is before them, filtered through one's experience and aptitude. Some worked on details with colors and hues of nuance during the 5, 10, 15 and 20 minutes poses. Others worked large and loose, joyously, with generous strokes of charcoal, pencil or Contes. The aura of focus of 25 artists was palpable with oxygen and energy.

Artists at work.... or was it play?
Perhaps art is a synthesis of both.



Jim's life drawing sessions at the **Sebastopol Center for the Arts** are held every Monday afternoon and Wednesday evening. For more information go to <http://www.sebarts.org/index.htm>, then to adult classes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gallery One is hosting the inaugural show for a new group of artists called **The Sonoma 8**. The show runs from May 5 through June 16 with the artist's reception Friday, May 9 from 5:30 to 7:30.

The Sonoma 8 is a group of artists who got together with the goal of supporting and encouraging each other in the creation of their art. Each has many years experience and they all have been involved in the plein air movement of landscape painting. Now they are in the process of exploring and pushing the boundaries of realistic painting to achieve a higher level of creativity and emotional impact. At their first meeting they discovered they all had a similar goal in mind. They wished to paint "outside the box". Each artist is unique in their view of this concept and it shows in the individuality of their art. The group encourages each other to follow their own muse and not be conforming to some group plan.

The artists are **Joyce Delario, Pat Spiz, Andrea Way, Mariel Green, Char Wood, Kathy Root, Chris Stover and Henry Violin**. They work in various media including oils, watercolor, pastel and acrylics.

ART VENUE DISPLAY: MAY 15TH - JULY 15TH

Bank of the West 10 paintings: OUT: Arlene Parnay IN: Jackie Koehler
Tombe Realty 8 paintings: OUT: Betty Rhodes IN: Nancy Wilkins
Westamerica Bank 12 paintings: OUT: Johanna Monroe IN: Lenore Carrion

Sonoma National Bank 14 paintings: OUT: Kae Prince IN: Marcy Lenhardt

Eye Associates Hwy. 116 12 paintings: OUT: Kathy Root IN: Donna Solin/Marilyn Greenblat

Note: Bank of the West - 9 AM. All other venues to be changed after the meeting unless participant makes other arrangements.

Contact: **Arlene Parnay** 829-2660

MONDAY MORNING PAINTERS

www.mondaymorningpainters.com

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

See website for any last minute changes.

May 12 Private residence Private residence north of Sebastopol, 2878 and 2880 Sullivan Road, Sebastopol. Go west on Graton Rd from 116, turn left on Sullivan, turn right at the graveyard (there is a sharp left just after the graveyard and the right is where this curve is). Go up the gravel road and look for the address sign on the right. The residents' names are also on the sign — Piers and Smith. Park around the entrance and please don't block the driveway. Bathroom available. Apple trees in bloom, Mt St Helena backdrop.

May 19 Pedroncelli Winery 1220 Canyon Rd., Geyserville www.pedroncelli.com, Bocce Ball court above, can park along vines beside the road. Nice if you can purchase something while there.

May 26 Marin Cheese Factory 7500 Red Hill Rd, Petaluma. Lake, water fowl, surrounding hills, please park at back of lot & do not block walkways. Coming from Santa Rosa South Hwy. 101: Take the E. Washington St. Exit (2nd exit) At the light turn Right on E. Washington St. Follow E. Washington St. to the 3rd stoplight and turn Left on Lakeville Street.; Turn Right at the next light on "D" Street. Follow "D" Street 11 miles until you see the only Firehouse. We are just after the Firehouse on the Right side.

June 2 The Bishop's Ranch 5297 Westside Rd., Healdsburg. A gracious retreat – gardens, eastern hill views including St. Helena, pastureland, chapel & interesting structures. Take Central Healdsburg exit, turn left at 2nd light, (Mill St turns into Westside Rd), follow Westside Rd several miles out. Parking is all the way in and right, down below buildings.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: There is limited parking. If upper parking lots are filled, park in the lower parking lot and walk .5 miles up to the center. \$3 suggested donation.

ROSTER CORRECTIONS

Ann Nichols' email address is annbillnichols@comcast.net

Fran Nielsen's email address is jwfnpw@sbcglobal.net

Georgia Katsano address should read 7422 Palm Ave. Sebastopol CA 95472

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 17, 2008

Katrina Small called the meeting to order at 10:40 am.

Attending members were Andrea Way, Margot Comstock, Betty Rhoades, Angel Fabela, Lenore Carrion, Mike Stimmann, Nancy Sanchietti, Kae Prince, Helen Shane, Lorraine Stribling and Jacque Mielke.

Minutes for March were read by **Jacque**, and approved as read.

REPORTS

Treasurer

Given by **Katrina** in Ellen's absence and approved as read.

Mike reported that **Ellen** had called him to announce that a social security number is needed for any member who sells over \$600 at the **ABF SHOW**

Vice President

Margot reported Andrea Way will demonstrate pastels at the May meeting and Elin Pendleton will do a demonstration for the August meeting and she is offering a three day Color Boot Camp workshop for \$200 on the three days following the workshop. The dates are August 22,23 and 24. It will be announced at the general meeting to see how many people are interested. **Margot** also reported that the web site is up and running. Access to the members portion of the site is obtained by using **artist** as the user name and **colors** as the password.

Membership

Lorraine will finish compiling the eligibility list after checking the attendance at today's meeting and give a copy to **Andrea** so she can check the entries for acceptance. **Lorraine** read a letter from Annie Murphy Springer requesting permission to show in the ABF. She has been unable to attend this year due to illness. The board voted to give her permission to show.

THERE WAS NO OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Sharon Miller will not be attending the next two meetings and has asked **Lenore** to cover refreshments and **Andrea** to pass the sign-up sheet around.

Angel Fabela reported that the ABF was coming along well and thanked the committee chairs for their hard work.

Margot will send the club brochure and the ABF program to the printer ASAP and **Nancy Scanchietti** will have 100 copies of a price list printed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.57 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

Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County

P.O. Box 1160, Sebastopol, CA 95473

www.awesomeart.org

President: Katrina Small katrina@katgrafix.com

Vice President: Margot Comstock margotsart@mac.com

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

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

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

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SEBASTOPOL
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FOR
THE ARTS



MORE PICS FROM APPLE BLOSSOM

Thanks to Ernie Erler



Memorial Award



Our Champion Bartender



Judges and Helpers



The Hard Working Hanging Committee



THE TYRANNY OF REALITY

Robert Genn

"The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance, and this, and not the external manner and detail, is true reality." (Aristotle)

Those of us who sometimes mentor and instruct students are familiar with trying to get people to really look at things. Recently, after a few days walking around in a subject-rich environment, I was agog with new possibilities. Burdened with reference, I returned to the studio and proceeded to paint the worst thing I've done in some time. It was one of those paintings that has you considering a career in accountancy. During the fiasco I began to better understand a syndrome I've had all my life. It's what I call "the tyranny of reality."

Let me explain. When we are overloaded with subject matter, we have an automatic tendency to neglect style and imagination. Subject matter is no match for spirit. Too much observation can change the creative event from one of spirit to one of rendering. Surprise, chance, illusion, personality, audacity, confidence and desire are the most affected. Abandonment and even desertion may have to be contemplated.

Sad to say, but glorious nature stomps on creativity. The artist becomes not a master, but a slave. On the other hand, reflecting in tranquility, uncluttered by overabundance and the need to get reality right, one is free to pass to another level. "Reality," said Joyce Cary, "is a narrow little house which becomes a prison for those who can't get out."

In 1970, the distinguished critic and social theorist Roland Barthes wrote, "Painting can feign reality without having seen it." When I first read that statement a door opened. Time and again I've seen the idea make timid artists brave. Those who dare to "feign reality" are in the agreeable business of surprising themselves. Believe me, it's anticipated surprise that keeps us at our easels. I hardly know of an evolved artist in any field who doesn't understand this. "The job of art," said Francoise Sagan, "is to take reality by surprise."

Bogging down in detail will spoil the fun every time. I can't think how many times I've failed to break down that door. Clive Bell, another critic lashing out in the age of hyperrealism, noted, "Detail is the fatty degeneration of art." He has a point. Fat is tyranny. Reduce.

WORKSHOP

Susan Sarback: *International Artist Magazine* named her one of the Master Painters of the world. She paints in oil and pastel and will be in Oakmont on Friday, May 9, 2008 at 10:00am to do a still life demo. All members of AWS are invited to enjoy this program. It will be in the Berger Auditorium on the corner of Oakmont Dr. and White Oak Dr. in front of a large parking area. She has a School of Light and Color in Fair Oaks, CA and is the author of two books. Her most recent is *Capturing Radiant Light and Color in Oils and Soft Pastels*.