

Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County
8214 Covert Lane • Sebastopol CA 95472



AWSOMEART.ORG • AUGUST 2026

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20th

Sebastopol Veteran's Building, 282 South High St, Sebastopol, CA

10:30 Board • 11:50 Potluck • 12:25 Meeting • 1:30 Demo (see below)

August Prompt: "TEXTURE" • September Prompt: "STRUCTURE"

NEW/UPDATED VENUES GUIDELINES

were recently emailed
to all AWS members.

The information is important.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the new document.

Whether you've shown in our Venues
dozens of times or are considering a
first-time show, please review them.

There have been some changes, and

FAILURE TO COMPLY

WITH THE VENUE GUIDELINES

MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION

FROM THE VENUES PROGRAM

(upon recommendation from the Board).



August Watercolor Demo Artist: **LYNN ZACHRESON**

A watercolor and oil painter for 50 years, Lynn Zachreson's work has been featured in national and international juried exhibitions. She is a member-artist in the Sebastopol Gallery.

"My work is inspired by the colors, lines, light, forms, and textures we encounter daily. In watercolor, I explore the dynamic interaction between paper, water, brush, and pigment — capturing my awe of life through fluid, organic processes."

lynnzachresonart.com



FROM OUR PRESIDENT LINDA L. REID

*What word does AWS
conjure up?*

*Friendship? Motivation?
Adventure?*

When I stepped into the
Presidency of this lively
hotbed of artists,
adventure certainly felt

like the right word — and it still does.

Another word rises just as strongly: **volunteerism**.
Our club runs on the goodness and
generosity of its members.

So many hours offered. So much care.
Volunteerism is its own kind of artistry —
a way of shaping something larger than
oneself. As someone said, ***“Volunteers
do not necessarily have the time; they
just have the heart.”*** Our club is full of
those hearts.

Speaking of, I’m happy to announce that
Karin Lease is joining the Board to take
on the role of Publicity Chair.



Karin Lease
Our new Publicity Chair

Oh, YOU wanted that job!?

Do not fret, we have another position open:
Assistant to **Lorraine Stribling**, the ABS
Application and Label Coordinator. This year’s
assistant will take over the coordinator position in
2028.

Volunteerism keeps me busy, a big plus during
these turbulent political times when one can fall
into despair. Watching fellow artists fulfill their AWS
jobs, as well as, looking at the beautiful artwork you
all create— I lose myself in the joy.

We are so lucky to have passion. To let our mind
mingle on the canvas with luscious colors, to
imagine boldly, to create freely. This keeps us vital
and lively.

As we move into the coming year,
I hope you feel proud of the
community you help shape.
Your art matters.
Your presence matters.
Your willingness to lend a hand
matters.

Thanks a million times!

Linda

You are what you art

Important Job Posting: Volunteer Needed for 2027 (Assistant)

ABS Application & Label Coordinator

This year you will work with Lorraine Stribling, with the intention
of taking over full responsibility in 2028.

Job Description

- review/update 2027 Apple Blossom Show application form
- receive entry forms & money sent via mail. Check that all info
is complete & accurate.
- record info in an Excel spreadsheet
- coordinate & report info to ABS Chair & the Board
- design & print show labels with name, title, price, and number
(using Pages or some other layout program)



Lonna Necker, our former VP, is a volunteer at
the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens. She
reported she still has plenty of the slates from
the old roof, which many AWS artists have
creatively painted - and they’ve been hot items in
the Gift Shop selling as a fundraiser. If you’d like
to paint a slate (trees, flowers, vegetables,
fruits), contact Lonna at lonna@sonic.net or
(707) 291-4740. **Thank you!**

AWS BOARD MINUTES

JULY 16, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by President Linda L. Reid .



Board Members Present: Linda L. Reid, Judy Boles, Gail Mardfin, Allene Donato, Judy McFarland, Deni Marrone, Merrie Krisl, Carol Mills, Judy Pagnusat, Fran Nielsen, Sarah Hegarty, Pamela Nachtigall, Susan Nestor, and Christine Paschal

Board Members Not Present: Merrie Krisl

Non-Board Member Present: Julia Hansen

- Donation: Linda Reid reported that AWS received a thank you letter from Sebastopol Center for the Arts for our \$390 donation to the SebArts youth programs, which was raised by the raffle held during the Apple Blossom Show
- Apple Blossom Show: Linda Reid announced that Christine Paschal will be joining the Board as the chairperson for next year's ABS. The Board warmly welcomed Christine.

Allene Donato reported that the wrap-up meeting held at Linda Reid's home was successful in reviewing this year's show and resulted in suggestions for improvements for next year. She will be available to consult with Christine for the next show.

Allene reported that there are issues to be solved with the Chamber of Commerce before plans for next year's show can be made. The Chamber is considering using the space for their own purposes next year. Allene and Linda have both been trying to meet with the Chamber, but have not been able to connect. Linda wrote a letter to the Chamber outlining what AWS is and the long history of AWS's connection to the Apple Blossom Festival. There has been no response. Linda and Allene and Christine will continue to pursue a meeting. Until we get an answer from the Chamber, planning and fundraising for next year are on hold. However, we will go forward looking for a volunteer to assist Lorraine Stribling in managing the application process and the printing of labels for hanging in 2027, to be taken over in 2028.

- Publicity: Linda Reid announced we are looking for a volunteer to handle Publicity for AWS for the next year. This entails mostly on-line calendars and social media announcements, and is especially crucial for the Apple Blossom Show. **[UPDATE: Karin Lease has volunteered to fill this position!]**
- June Picnic: Everyone agreed that this year's picnic at Ragle Ranch Regional Park was successful. There was discussion as to whether next year's picnic should be at Ragle again or should we go back to Riverfront Park. Linda Reid will put the question to the general membership during today's meeting to get a feel for which way we want to go.
- Featured Studio Artist: Sarah Hegarty suggested that we start a "Featured Studio Artist" of the month for AWS members. Members would sign up for the month and have an open studio date just for AWS members. Artists who don't have a studio could pair up with artists that do. Sarah volunteered to chair the committee and Linda Reid volunteered to be on the committee. **[UPDATE: See next page for more information.]**
- Peacetown: Linda Reid reported that these weekly events are going well and that the participating artists are having fun.
- Gravenstein Fair: Carol Mills reported that the five artists participating are ready to go.
- Treasurer's Report: Merrie Krisl reported that we are complete with the state's Charitable Registry. We have \$5,205 in our general checking account, \$4,877 in the Mielke Awards checking account and \$215 in petty cash.

(continued on next page)

AWS BOARD MINUTES (continued)

- Membership: Judy McFarland reported we have 131 members and 6 people on the waiting list.
- Programs & Prompts: Sarah Hegarty reported that all spaces for demonstrations have been filled for the year. This month's prompt is "Nature." The prompt for August is "Texture."
- Venues: Deni Marrone reported that the Guerneville restaurant "Baked on the River" is interested in displaying art work. Interested artists should contact the restaurant directly. The Livery contact, Nick Charkow, is leaving and Deni has not yet met in person with his replacement, but no changes are expected.

The venue Coffee & Moore is between owners and is now on hold. Deni will remind members that Columbia Bank (formerly Umqua Bank) does not want sale prices displayed on art work labels there. She will also remind members that labels on art work for all venues should be taped to the back of the art work and showing below the piece. No labels should be attached to the walls.

- Communications: Gail Mardfin announced that lost and found items from the ABS will be going to Goodwill after today's meeting. 15 artist pages on the website have been updated. Only 2 new artist pages were added. Gail will be traveling in August and September and will need volunteers to take photos and report on the demonstration and the art share for these two meetings.

[Volunteers assigned; thank you to Elizabeth Springs, Alyson Dobbert, Linda Reid, Judy Boles, Julia Hansen]



President Linda L. Reid closed the meeting at 11:25 AM.

Minutes submitted by Judy Boles, Recording Secretary



NEW COMMITTEE FORMING!

If you were at the July meeting, you heard about a new initiative that board member **Sarah Hegarty** has dreamed up: Artist of the Month!

Linda Reid and Sarah are seeking members to join the committee, which will develop and manage the new program. Here are some details in the works...

Once a month, an AWS artist will open their home studio for AWS members to visit. Dates to be determined. It's possible that two artists could share a studio space for this, as well.

ANYTHING is possible, so get in on the ground floor and let Sarah know ASAP if you are interested in being a part of this exciting new committee - contact info at left.

September will be the first committee planning meeting, with an eye to an October launch of the inaugural Artist of the Month - pending committee development and full Board approval.

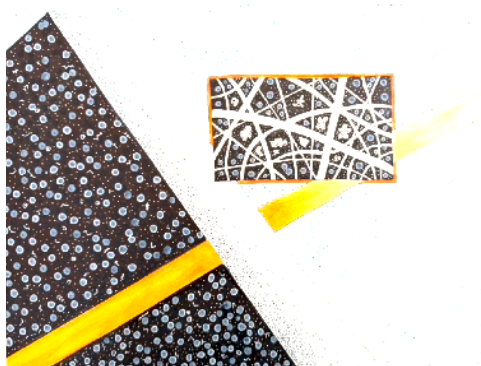
PROGRAMS & PROMPTS CORNER from the Program Team

PROGRAMS & PROMPTS CORNER

JULY PROGRAM: Tom Soltesz, noted Marin County *plein air* artist treated us to a terrific demo. Many AWS members paint outdoors *en plein air* and we all appreciated how he approached painting from nature. He explained his setup, his materials, and how he composed his painting from what he saw before him. He quickly developed his sketch and proceeded to mix colors from his rather limited palette. As he painted, he told us about brush strokes, edges, lighting etc. A lovely scene of the hills above Stafford Lake appeared as we watched.

AUGUST PROGRAM: Lynn Zachreson, a watercolor artist, will be our August presenter. Her work can be viewed at the Sebastopol Gallery, where she is a member artist, and on her website, lynnzachresonart.com/
~ Nancy Sanchiatti

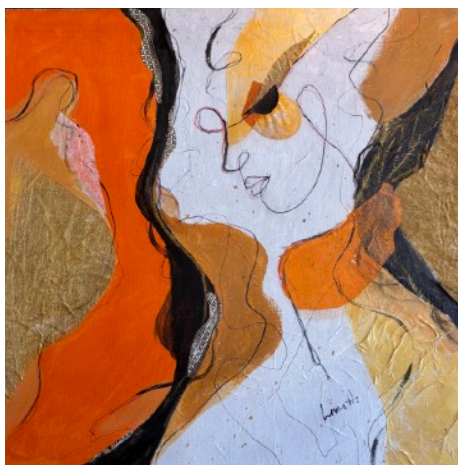
PROMPT: August is **TEXTURE**. Texture is a fun way to play. Maybe you glob on thick paint or play with mediums or found items. Maybe you like to use light and shadows to make a flat surface seem rich with texture. Both? Both is good. Neither? Neither is good, too. Whatever you are creating - let's see it!!
~ Sarah Hegarty



Bob Cheal - "Space and Time"
11x14 watercolor & ink
I took a Zentangle workshop and incorporated them in this piece.



Lynda Zimmerman -
"Love in the Desert" photograph
Along the ancient Silk Road in India's Nubra Valley, I photographed the journey through the highest mountain pass in the world. it was worth it!



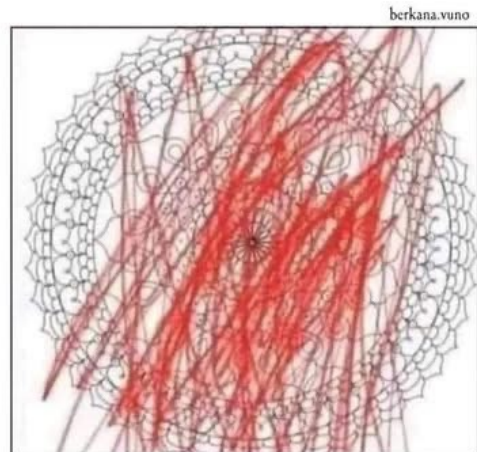
Lorna Ho - "Celebration"
36x36 mixed media



Linda Loveland Reid -
"Bouquet" 36x24 acrylic



To de-stress I started
coloring mandalas...



SEBASTOPOL VENUES

July 16 - September 17

BE SURE TO READ THE
NEW VENUES GUIDELINES & POLICIES

How about a future show with a friend?

After visiting the venue, sign up with

Venues Coordinator Deni Marrone

call or text (408) 202-3875

deniomarrone@gmail.com

Columbia Bank

CURRENTLY: Michele deLuca

SEPTEMBER 17: **AVAILABLE**

Fandee's Restaurant

CURRENTLY: Marilyn Sommer

SEPTEMBER 17: Kathleen Andre & Kathy Byrne

HairMasters

CURRENTLY: Deni Marrone

SEPTEMBER 17: Deni Marrone

Hole in the Wall Restaurant

CURRENTLY: Pamela Heck

SEPTEMBER 17: Lorna Ho

Sonoma Chocolatiers & Tea House

CURRENTLY: Susan Barri

SEPTEMBER 17: Cheryl Woods

Specialty Center

CURRENTLY: Fran Nielsen

SEPTEMBER 17: Fran Nielsen

The Livery CoWork**

May through July or September:

Becky Brendlin, Marilyn Dizikes,
Gail Mardfin, Patricia Marina, Deni Marrone,
Brian Martens, Sandi Maurer, Gail Radice,
Marilyn Sommer

**** THE LIVERY is still going strong, and there is an opening for more work, so please let Deni know you're interested in putting your work in there - or if you need to come out.**

Call or text Deni at (408) 202-3875

August 20 Refreshments

Please have your contribution (enough to serve 12 people) on the table so the potluck by 12:50.

Remember to record it at the Sign-in table!

FINGER FOODS/ ENTREES

Enid Barnes
Alyson Dobbert
Linda Donahue
Allene Donato
Katha Engblom
Hedda Gold
Monica Holliday
Diana Jones
Merrie Krisl
Barb Lawson
Brian Martens
Christine Paschal
Linda Reid
James Reynolds
Genie Rhodes
Charito Shetty
Marilyn Sommer
Elizabeth Springs
Kthy Strachan
Linda Weber
Jennifer Weiss
Patty Westman
Kim Winter

DESSERTS/ FRUITS

Robin Allison
Judy Boles
Susan Bradford
Kathy Byrne
Deena Collins
Chris Field
Pamela Heck
Lorna Ho
Maureen Pennal
Nancy Sanchiatti
Katie Sanderson



SALE\$ at the Stop

Congratulations to Linda Weber, whose work was featured in the Stop Gallery - she sold two small pieces last month, "much to my surprise!"

The Stop Gallery, located in the SebArts' women's room and hallway leading in to it, is curated monthly by AWS' **Kim Winter**. If you're interested in showing, contact Kim at (707) 480-2665 or 360turnpike@gmail.com



**"SOME PAINTERS TRANSFORM THE SUN INTO A YELLOW SPOT,
OTHERS TRANSFORM A YELLOW SPOT INTO THE SUN."**

~ PABLO PICASSO

July Prompt: NATURE



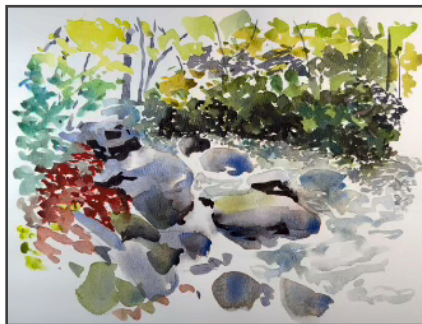
Kathy Byrne -
"Poppies" 12x9 watercolor



Judy Boles -
"Walking the Dog" 10x16 ink

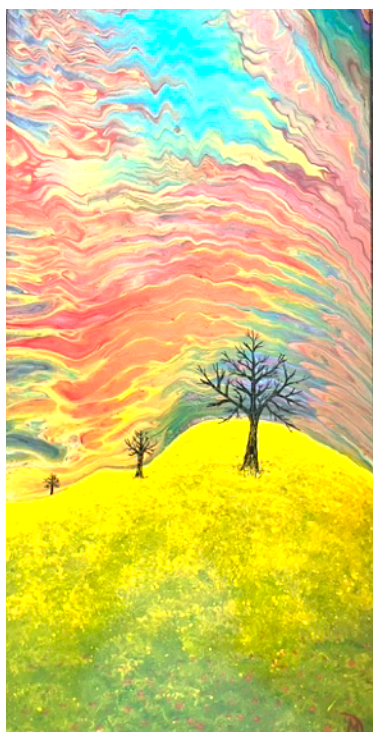


Christine Paschal - Earrings:
Acrylic painting on 1" sand
dollars with sterling silver &
Swarovski crystals – *displayed*
on a scallop shell

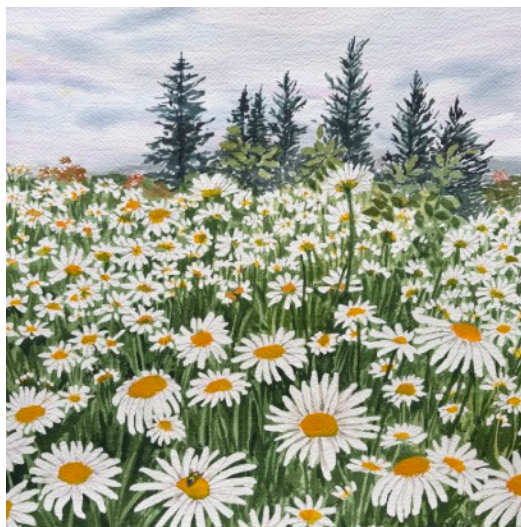


Judy Grigg Goldberg -
"Just Off the Trail in Appalachia
I, II, & III"
Each watercolor, 8.5x11

*I usually start with a picture in my
sketchbook until I feel ready for the
good paper. When I look through
my sketchbook later, I wonder if I
was finished in the beginning...!*



Deni Marrone - "Perspective"
20x10 embellished acrylic pour,
now hanging in HairMasters.



Gail Mardfin -
"Field of Daisies" 13x13 watercolor
*I posted this on Facebook and a former
student bought it right away! Time to
make some prints!*



Gail Mardfin -
"Ragle Ranch Park" 8x8 watercolor & ink
*This was done, or at least started, at our
picnic in June!*



July Presentation: Tom Soltesz PLEIN AIR OIL PAINTING DEMO

by Judy Boles

Tom Soltesz's demonstration has re-ignited my enthusiasm

for *plein air* painting! He is a master! He knows how to capture the light and atmosphere of a scene with just a few strokes. Tom brought many small paintings with him, displaying various landscapes and atmospheres. From a distance, they looked almost photographic. Closer up, his paintings looked a bit abstract, leaving it to the viewer to fill in the details. Tom shared many good painting tips and techniques that would help painters at every level.

One of his favorite places is Stafford Dam in Marin, and Tom used a small painting he had done there the day before as reference for the demonstration painting, working on a larger board so it could be easily seen by the audience. He prefers to paint on linen rather than canvas. He buys primed linen by the yard and glues it to a composite/Masonite board with Elmer's glue, using a squeegee to make sure the linen adheres without air pockets. No need to gesso. Sometimes, Tom uses Centurion boards he buys on Amazon.

Tom's *plein air* setup includes a lightweight Gitzo tripod with a metal tray for his palette - and he uses an old sock hanging on a wire to hold his brushes! He uses only professional grade paints, and recommends a palette that includes: Titanium White; a cool blue (Ultramarine Blue) and a warm blue (Cobalt Blue and/or Cobalt Teal); a cool red (Alizarin Crimson) and a warm red (Cadmium Red Medium); a cool yellow (Cadmium Yellow Medium or Lemon Yellow) and a warm yellow (Yellow Ochre), as well as Red Oxide.

Tom looks for locations that are quiet and out of the wind, painting mostly in Marin and Sonoma counties, as well as when he travels. He likes to paint in the two hours after sunrise or in the two hours before sunset, in order to get good contrast and shadows. Painting midday causes the painting to look flat and shadowless. Rather than doing value sketches on paper, he does his value sketch directly on the linen board.

Because he was painting a mostly-green landscape, Tom first toned the board (except for the sky) with Transparent Red Oxide (the opposite of green), thinned with paint thinner. This way, any small specs not covered by paint will be reddish, which will add vibrancy to the painting.

Tom separated the board roughly into thirds, horizontally and vertically, giving him a grid to help establish the location of objects in the painting. Once he decided on the center of interest, he placed the horizon line of the land in the bottom third. He pointed out that a composition is better if the horizon is in the top third or bottom third, not the middle. Next, he blocked in the shapes and values with a flat brush using the red oxide, reminding us, "The painter is not a camera, but an artist. An artist can move objects around to make the painting more interesting to the viewer and to direct the viewer's eye through the landscape."

A key to keep in mind about values: 1) the darkest is anything upright, 2) the second darkest is anything on a slant, 3) the second lightest is anything flat, and

4) the lightest is the sky. The exception to this are California grasses, which are lighter in value than the sky.

Once the under-painted sketch was complete, it was time to apply color. An experienced teacher, Tom said two mistakes some artist's make are, 1) not putting out enough paint on the palette, and 2) not mixing enough of a color you're using. Instead, put out plenty of paint and use a good palette knife to mix your

colors. Mix enough color to use for the whole painting, so you don't have to try to match a color later.

Tom began painting the darkest green areas, in this case the trees in the foreground. He held a long-handled flat brush with the flat side against the board and scumbled in the shapes of the trees, leaving spaces for the highlights. When adding the highlights, the strokes can merge into the darker paint.



Working from his small study, Tom first tones the board and blocks in values.

(continued on next page)

Tom Soltesz, continued

When adding the highlights, he added Cadmium Yellow and White to the mixture. The strokes can be merged into the darker paint.



With attention to how the brush is held, Tom controls the edges of shapes.

As Tom moved into the background trees, he added a little White and Cobalt Teal to the mixture, making the background bluer (cooler) and whiter (lighter) than the foreground. This gives the sense of distance and atmosphere. He

softened the edges of objects as they moved away from the center of interest and as objects receded into the background. Also, he painted less detail in the background and at the edges of the painting.

After the trees, Tom began painting the grasses on the hills. Tom mixed the main color with White, Yellow Ochre, Cadmium Yellow and a touch of Red Oxide. For the cast shadows of the trees, he added blue to the mixture. He first painted the cast shadows of the trees on the hills, then blocked in the hills themselves, softening the shadow edge. As with the trees, he lightened and cooled the color of the hills as they receded into the background.

For the sky, Tom used White, Ultramarine and Cobalt Teal. He lightened and warmed the sky as it moved laterally toward the sun and as it moved down toward the horizon. He added White and Yellow Ochre to his sky mixture for this, painting the



sky as close to the hills and trees as he could without touching them with his brush. Then, after cleaning his brush, he pulled the trees up into the sky.

The AWS audience was so involved and asked so many questions, the demo went overtime and Tom didn't have time to paint in the water. But the painting looked beautiful and made me feel that I had actually been at the scene. I can't wait to give *plein air* another try. Thank you, Tom, for all you shared with us!

Additional Tom Soltesz tips:

- Use the largest brush that makes sense.
- Think in terms of shapes and values, not about the object itself.
- In oils, you can paint light over dark, but dark over light creates mud.

Visit <https://solteszart.com/> to see more of Tom's *plein air* work, capturing both landscapes and cityscapes.

WATERCOLOR CLASS ART SHOW • Barbara Marlin-Cooles, Watercolor instructor to countless AWS members, past and present, organized an exhibit in the upstairs hall of the Person Senior Center (behind the Finley Center) of current students' work. The reception was July 16 and the show is on view until August 18.



Some AWS watercolorists sip on "Shrubs" at the reception. L-R: Charito Shetty, Julia Hansen, Judy Pagnusat, Lonna Necker, Barbara Marlin-Cooles, Lin Dahl, and Shirley & Bob Cheal.

Barbara's SHRUB Mocktail Recipe

In a glass, pour
1 Tbsp (or less) of
good plain **rice vinegar**
Fill with cold **tonic water**
Add a **lemon peel** twist
around rim and in
glass for garnish
Optional: **pomegranate**
or other juice



July Art Share

Photos by Gail Mardfin
Captions by Judy Goldberg



Inspired by an Arizonan coppersmith, **Linda Weber** used metallic paint on actual leaves to give her mixed media piece "the look she loved," without turning her workplace into a smithy.



"It's not the falls...it's the atmosphere of the falls...the spray...the vibrations." **Carol Korzow** captured her Yosemite experience in acrylic.



The blue orbs are printouts of the original paintings **Chris Field** created for the Sebastopol Center for the Arts fundraising Vinyl Show. Painting on the vintage records was "really fun."



While mounting her acrylic with collage entitled "Serenity", **Connie Cook** started pounding nails around the edge and discovered she "kinda liked it!"



Describing her style as "tight," oil painter **Gail Radice** wants to loosen up. To this end, Gail took a workshop that involved quickly- sketched oils *en plein air* at Bodega Head.



Robin Allison shows her watercolor of a friendly? couple of parrot-ish conures in a vintage frame.



With experience, **Genie Rhodes's** artist's eye could *now* see that her floral watercolor painted years ago needed some reworking.



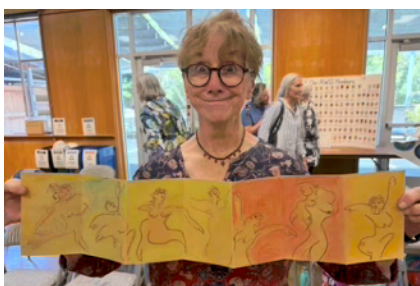
To create the "Green" as part of her color series, **Marilyn Dizikes** poured a rich watercolor wash on to wet paper and finished with collage... green & more green.



On a recent *plein air* group adventure, **Barb Lawson** began this flower filled watercolor landscape at the Mantanzas Creek Winery.



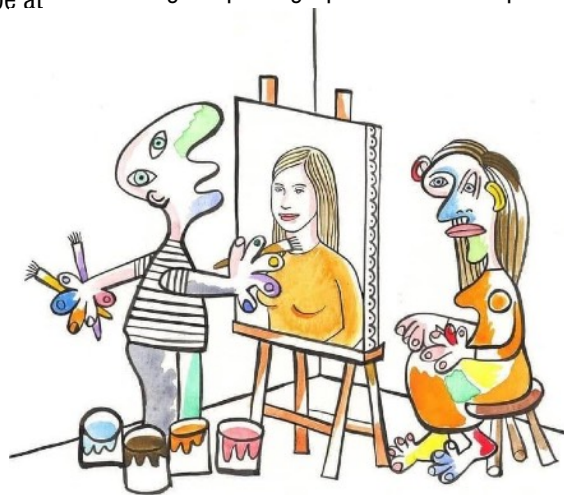
For this art piece, **Melinda Hughes** made a photographic composite, combining her own original photographs in Photoshop.



Where else but here can **Lizette Guy** show her drawings of naked voluptuous women dancing with abandon?!



Thoughts of summer...beaches... swimsuits...inspired **Lorna Ho's** figurative mixed media work using her favored linear and collage techniques.



More AWS Member Art Work



Charito Shetty -
"Fruit of the Vine"
 18x15 watercolor
Delicious and larger than life!



Shirley Pollard Cheal -
"XX" XXxXX collage
I often begin my collages by applying acrylic to deli papers, tearing them, and choosing one shape to start.



Cheryl Woods -
"Crane Rising II" 12x9
 watercolor & oxide spray
To obtain the ethereal effect, I used Ranger's Tim Holtz Distress Spray Inks.



Barbara Evans -
 10x8 watercolor - *Based on a photo of my sister, who started a business making high-end flower boxes in Charlestown, SC. I'm sending it as a birthday gift to her.*



Sandi Maurer - "Boy on a Pelican" 4.5x2.5x4 porcelain; "Fish Riders" 3.5x2x6.5 porcelain
 RIGHT: "Ease" 8x10 acrylic

New Venue Opportunity Baked on the River, Guerneville

Baked on the River, a breakfast/lunch restaurant, is NOT an official AWS venue, but you may be interested in approaching the chef/curator Helena Gustavsson Giese on your own.

- "Family friendly" subject matter • 25% sales commission taken
- Shows are 1-month long. Launch event is the first Saturday of each month, 4-7PM, during the Guerneville Art Walk, with artist present. Exhibit needs to be set up 2 days before.
- Submit examples of your work or a link to your website, etc. to Helena bakedontheriver@gmail.com or text 707-657-3733





Five more sets of AWS artists added their art sparkle to the Peacetown festivities in July, with six more weeks to go! We thank **Patricia Marina**, Coordinator Extraordinaire.

Be sure to check out the event in August! The **FREE** concerts in Ives Park all feature rockin' bands* and food trucks, from

5-8pm. More info here: peacetown.org

AUG 5 - Judy Leandro & Sally Privette
 AUG 12 - Pamela Heck & Jennifer Weiss
 AUG 19 - Lorna Ho & Elizabeth Springs
 AUG 26 - Pamela Nachtigall & Judy Pagnusat
 SEPT 2 - Barbara Lawson & Aimee Tomczak
 SEPT 9 - Cindy Gillespie & Sarah Hegarty

* As part of Peacetown summer concert series, AWS member **Linda Weber** will be singing & playing percussion with the Michael Capella Band at **Hopmonk, August 12, 6:30- 9pm**. Sounds fun! Outside in



Stalwart Patricia Marina hangs the AWS banner each week.



Melinda Hughes & Brian Martens on a hot Sebastopol night.



Cheryl Woods and Susan Barri take their first shot at Peacetown.



Linda Reid & Kim Winter return for artful conversations.



Watercolor pals Judy McFarland & Diana Jones.



Linda Weber & Patricia Marina use portable fans to beat the heat.



Diana Jones chats it up with visitors to the AWS art tent.

Come to
 Peacetown!
 It's so great when
 AWS friends stop by
 the tent!



A hotbed of AWS artists: Gail Mardfin, Kim Winter, Patricia Marina, Linda Reid.

Graton Gallery News

No fewer than 28 AWS members had art in Graton Gallery's recent "Anything Goes Show"! The show was juried by Catherine Devriese, former SebArts Director.

Congratulations to **Robin Allison, Enid Barnes, Susan Barri, Joan Blumenberg, Jackie Braun, Kathy Byrne, Robert Cheal, Shirley Pollard Cheal, Connie Cook, Alyson Dobbert, Linda Donahue, Elizabeth Gomes, Pamela Heck, Carolyn Jarvis, Kathy Kever, Beverly Kjeldsen, Barb Lawson, Patricia Marina, Brian Martens, Carol Mills, Lonna Necker, Christine Paschal, Linda Loveland Reid, Marilyn Sommer, Joyce Terres, Nancy Tulloh, Linda Webber, and Kim Winter.**



At left, **Shirley Pollard Cheal**, awarded 3rd place in the show for her mixed media piece, "Standing as One."

Below, **Bob Cheal** and his "Cool Blue" watercolor.



Thanks to the Cheals for these photos! AWS members are always invited to send in your photos!

Coming up...

AWS member **Christine Field** will be a guest artist at the Graton Gallery August 6 to September 13.

Don't miss the opening reception on Saturday, August 8, 1-4pm.



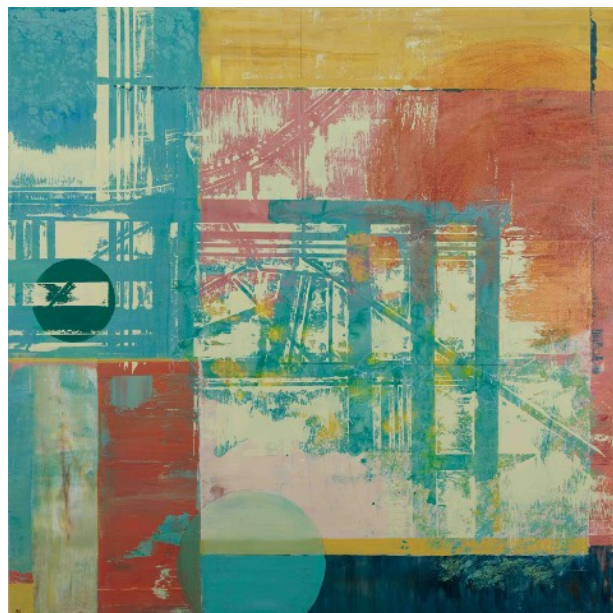
"Grapes" 20x16 watercolor by Christine Field

Take a look!!

WWW.AWSOMEART.ORG

15 AWS members updated their artist webpages on our website, including two brand new pages from **Robin Allison** and **Laurie Beth Finkelstein.**

These pages may be updated once a year and the next opportunity will be in December.



Congratulations to **Alyson Dobbert**, whose 36x36 acrylic painting, "Remembrance," was chosen to be in the Sausalito Center for the Arts Landscape Festival! This piece was selected from *900 entries*. The exhibition runs August 5-27. The Opening Reception is Sunday, August 9, 5:30-7pm. [Please use this link to RSVP](#) the reception.

Congrats to **Kathy Byrne**, whose watercolor, "Red, White and Blue in the Garden," recently received a People's Choice Honorable Mention, as voted by visitors to the Santa Rosa Art Center.





39TH ANNUAL

Art for Life Auction



The Art for Life Auction supports Face to Face (f2f.org), connecting Sonoma County to the practical care and support of people with HIV/AIDS, its prevention, and related health issues.

AWS artists are invited to donate art to this art auction fundraiser, this year hosted by Sebastopol Center for the Arts. It is an in-person and online event (online bidding begins August 20).

The Masterpiece Reception will be held in the gallery and on the Ron & Bev Judd Patio on Sunday, August 23, 2026, 4 - 6pm.

DEADLINE FOR THE ART SUBMISSION FORM (with a good image of your art) is Friday, August 7th!! Click here: <https://f2f.org/art-for-life/artist-submission/>

Artists who want to show their work in person at the SCA Masterpiece Reception must:

1. Fill out the [Submission Form](#) (link above)
2. Deliver art to SCA on Tuesday, August 18 (11am - 3pm)
3. AND pick art up after the Reception on Sunday.

More details are included in the submission form.

Face to Face supporters and art collectors from across the country can view all of the artwork online and make purchases – which directly support F2F's programs. The Winning Bidder of your auction piece will be notified at the end of the auction, and you will receive instructions with your buyer.

[LEARN MORE HERE.](#)



Join us in celebrating the artists, the artistry, and the friends who keep us pointed true—our north stars.

Friday | September 18 | 5–9 PM
Sebastopol Center for the Arts
282 S. High Street, Sebastopol

The **North Star Gala: A Starry Night** is an evening of food, drinks, and radiant joy celebrating the community of artists and art enthusiasts whose brilliance lights up Sebastopol Center for the Arts.

Congratulations to Kim Winter, who will be honored at the Gala with the The Shooting Star Award, as Artist and Volunteer of the Year.

Another honoree receiving the Guiding Light Award, will be Sally Baker (long-serving and dedicated SebArts Board President), who is lined up to be our 2027 Apple Blossom Show judge!

[**INFO & TICKETS**](#)

Gravenstein Apple Fair

"Where Joy Takes Root"

Ragle Ranch Park, Sebastopol
Sat-Sun, August 8 & 9 • 10AM-6PM

Come visit the AWS artists!

Elizabeth Gomes • Sarah Hegarty

Carol Mills • Gail Mardfin

Christine Paschal • Lynda Zimmerman

The Fair is sponsored by Farm Trails.
More info at GravensteinAppleFair.com

Three Day Watercolor Workshop

August 28th, 29th and 30th 9:00 - 4:00



With Sally Baker - All skill levels welcome.
Register early. Space is limited. \$295 per person.
Register by calling 707.494.0053
or email: knsbaker@yahoo.com

3rd Annual

SANTA ROSA OPEN STUDIOS

PREVIEW EXHIBITION

PARTY

THE FINLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

2060 W College Ave, Santa Rosa

SEPTEMBER 2ND 6PM-8PM

Music provided by the
Jack Gobetti Quartet
featuring Lynne Morrow

Refreshments provided
by The Spinster Sisters

Preview work by AWS members: Robin Allison (#27B) Enid Barnes (#3), Michele Misino de Luca (#9A), Joy Dellas (#22), Lorna Ho (#9H), Caterina Martinico (#13A), Joyce Terres (#27A), and Alexis Wilson (#9F). On view now through Sept. 2.

Then mark the Tour Dates in your Calendar:
SEPTEMBER 12/13 and 19/20 • 10am-4pm

ZOOM ART CLASSES

Free to those with a
California Address

Join our free online watercolor and
drawing classes through Santa Rosa
Junior College this September! Apply
and enroll now!

Class Times: Sept 2nd-Dec 18th All LL501
Tues-1-4pm- Watercolor Painting #71857
Wed-10-1pm Drawing (with watercolor pencils) #72367
Wed-1-4pm Watercolor Painting #72984
Thurs-1-4pm-Drawing (with watercolor pencils) #71835
Fri-10-1pm-Animal & Human Portraits #70250

*All classes emphasize various techniques

- Suitable for people of all ages
- Five convenient class times to choose from
- Beginner through professionals welcome
- Very encouraging & approachable instructor

Follow the QR code or link below to sign up



<https://adrianedesigns.com/>

If assistance is needed contact the SRJC Welcome Center
at 707-527-4410



James Reynolds, AWS member & founding member of
The Sebastopol Gallery

is happy to announce the gallery has a new home!
It's just up the street at 186 North Main St. (in the Basso Building)

Grand Reopening Celebration scheduled for Sat, Sept 26th

Classes begin in August in our new classroom, which we are calling Main Street Studio. Several classes are already live on the gallery website - SebastopolGallery.com

SUMMER NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

I'll be "back east" in August & September,
but will still do the newsletter IF YOU
SEND ME STUFF TO PUT IN IT!

For September, send info by August 26.

For October, send info by Sept. 23.

awsomeart2023@gmail.com

When you finish an artwork, remember to
record a squarely-taken photo before framing!

You can send an image of your art *any* time -
include title, dimensions (HxW), and medium -
send to address above & I'll add it to the next
newsletter. Happy Summer!

- Gail Mardfin, Editor

CALLS FOR ENTRY

Santa Rosa Arts Center

Theme: **Small Works: Beneath the Surface**

Exhibition dates: September 4 - October 3

- Submit work for entry in person on August 30,
11am to 3pm

- Up to 2 pieces may be submitted, 12" or less
in any direction

More info: santarosaartscenter.org/current-shows/

Sebastopol Center for the Arts

Theme: **Finely Crafted**

Exhibition dates: October 24 - November 29

- Submit via Entry Thingy by August 27

- Join the SebArts celebration of the Handwork
2026 American Year of Craft. ***Finely Crafted***,
invites artists working in Ceramics, Glass,
Wood or Metal to submit their best work.
Works that are original, uniquely expressive,
created with skilled hands, inspired by the
material itself, all the while celebrating
traditional origins.

- **More info:** [CLICK FOR PROSPECTUS](#)

RileyStreet

art supply

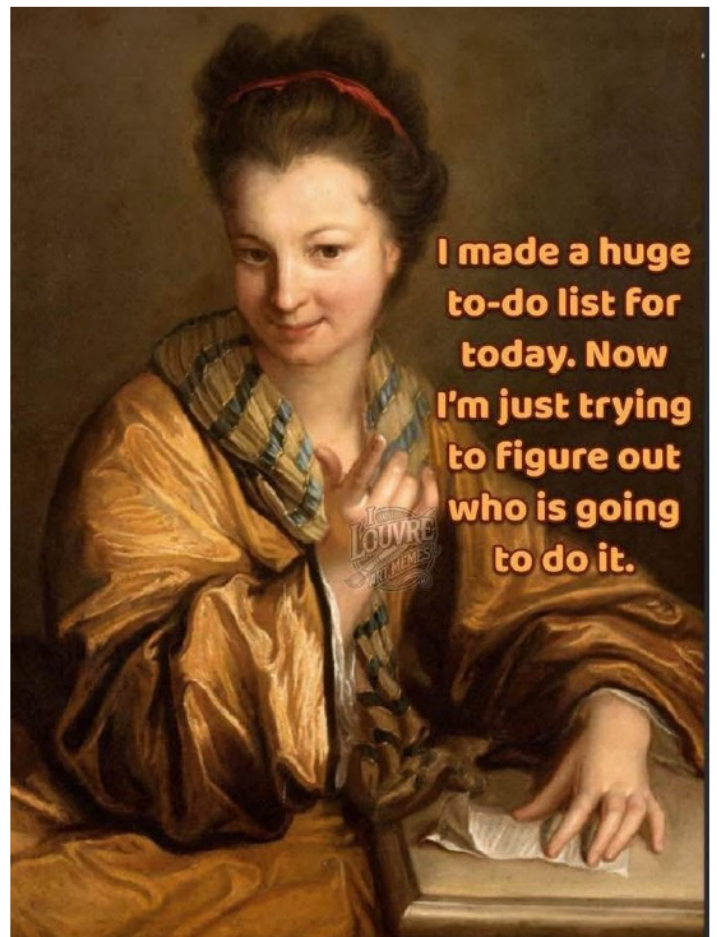


103 Maxwell Ct, Santa Rosa

(707) 526-6421 • www.RileyStreet.com

Mon. - Sat. 9-5:30 | Sun. 11-4

**AS AN AWS MEMBER, REMEMBER TO ASK
FOR YOUR 10% DISCOUNT ON ALL ITEMS NOT
ALREADY DISCOUNTED OR ON SALE.**



I made a huge
to-do list for
today. Now
I'm just trying
to figure out
who is going
to do it.