

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



AWSOMEART.ORG • MARCH 2026

THURSDAY, MARCH 19th

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

10:30 Board • 11:50 Potluck • 12:25 Meeting

1:30-2:45 - **Members Critique** (see below)

March Prompt: HOPE (see page 3) • **April Prompt:** CULTURE

March Members Critique



AWS member artist **Beverly Bird** will lead a Members Critique beginning at 1:30. All members are invited to bring in *one* piece of art that you feel is at the stage of needing some objective input from others, something partially done or almost finished. As time allows, members will present

their art in turn and request whatever feedback they are looking for. Critiques are wonderful opportunities to learn more about composition and color, and it can be very useful to see your work from others' perspectives. **Learn more about Beverly at beverlybirdart.com and on page 3.**

2026 Apple Blossom Art Show & Sale

Artist Reception

Friday, April 24

7-9 pm

Free Admission

Art, Food, Drinks & Music

Art Show

Saturday, April 25

10-4 pm

Be sure to read important ABS info on the last page!

Sebastopol Center for the Arts
282 South High Street
Sebastopol, CA



Best in Show 2025
Art by Stan Healy (mixed media)



Art Workshop of
Western Sonoma County
awsomeart.org



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT LINDA L. REID

After months of cold mornings, early sunsets, and quiet studio days, we can finally feel that subtle shift—the air softens, the colors brighten, and ideas begin to stir again. Nothing warms like that sliver of sun in March. As someone wisely said, *“Every cold and dark phase ends and hence begins a beautiful phase of warmth and vibrance.”*

So, let the longer light invite you back to your sketchbook or your easel. Paint that perfect piece for the Apple Blossom Show coming in April. *BTW, be sure to send in your application to meet the April 8-postmark deadline!*

One of the most powerful steps an artist can take is to enter an art show—not for the ribbon or the recognition, but for the expansion. Submitting your work asks you to look closely, refine your vision, and trust your voice. It’s an act of courage and a declaration that your creativity deserves to be seen.

Whether you’re brand new to showing work or you’ve done it many times, each entry stretches you in a different way. It opens doors to feedback and even unexpected opportunities. Most of all, it helps you grow into the artist you’re becoming.

I love our Apple Blossom Show in that it’s another time to come together, to celebrate that spirit that makes our club a creative home.

So here’s to March: to fresh starts, bright colors, and the good things blowing our way.

Fondly,

Linda

YOU ARE WHAT YOU ART



Linda Loveland Reid -
“Green with Joy” 20x16 acrylic

Art by AWS Members Spring Has Arrived!



Judy Boles -
“Pink Tulips”
15x11 oil



Pamela Nachtigall -
“First Daffodil”
11x9.5 oil on board



Merrie Krisl -
“Gift”
10x8 Japanese watercolor



Christine Paschal -
“Amanita Mushroom
Fairy House”
4x3 Polymer clay-
covered upcycled baby
food jar

**The bad news is time flies.
The good news is you’re the pilot.**

- Michael Altshuler

PROGRAMS & PROMPTS CORNER

Sarah Hegarty, Susan Barri, Nancy Sanchiotti
Program Team

PROGRAMS & PROMPTS CORNER

Our **February demo** was an in-depth talk about the magic of **papier-mâché art** by **Elisabeth Van Nuys**. I have new respect for papier-mâché after hearing about the many churches, homes, furniture, and decorative or functional items made of papier-mâché. The supplies are inexpensive and the results can be quite spectacular. So, gather up some wallpaper paste, newspaper or even paper bags from the grocery store, and make a piñata for your child or grandchild's birthday celebration!

Our **March** program will feature **Beverly Bird**, who will once again lead our annual Members Critique. She, with input from all present, will critique your art. For those interested, bring something you might like to enter into the April Apple Blossom Art Show, or any other exhibition. Beverly's experience is broad. She has a BA in Art from CSU Long Beach, California, and has attended numerous workshops throughout the west and beyond, and continues to study with master painters. She enjoys figures, portraits, and the Sonoma and Oregon coasts. She has exhibited her work widely, participated in Art at the Source since 2007, and is a member artist of the Upstairs Art Gallery in Healdsburg.

Our **Prompt for March is HOPE**: What do you hope for? What images come to mind? How can we as artists bring hope forward? With hope for the future, perhaps you will want to enter your prompt art in Sebastopol Center for the Arts' upcoming show in June, "Resist and Persist: Social (In)Justice." The Call for Entry deadline is May 1. *See page 13.*

LORNA HO is now a member of the Fulton Crossing Gallery artists.

Fulton Crossing has 26 artists who have studio and exhibit spaces in a large complex that was once a chicken factory.

Lorna won't be working out of the space - too small to bring all her materials - but as a place to exhibit and hobnob with other artists. *Enjoy your new space,*



**Art is not what you see
but what you make others see.**

- Edgar Degas

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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.**

Happy St. Patrick's Day



AWS BOARD MINUTES FEBRUARY 19, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. 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, and Pamela Nachtigall. Susan Nestor was absent.

Others Present: Julia Hansen and Patricia Marina.



- **Food:** Gail Mardfin asked that members be reminded that **if you are signed up to bring food and cannot, for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to find a substitute.**

Linda Reid reported that metal forks have been purchased and we will begin using them today. Lin Dahl will place a box near the garbage/recycle bins for people to put dirty forks and she will take them home and wash them for the next meeting. We will only be purchasing compostable plates and cups from now on.

- **Apple Blossom Show:** Allene Donato alerted the Board that last year there were problems at the gates that were severe enough to cause the Chamber of Commerce to consider eliminating AWS from participating in the future. Some AWS members were angry with gatekeepers last year because they were not allowed in without purchasing a ticket. In addition, during Friday set up, driving cars into the area past the gates was a problem. We may need to buy more passes for AWS volunteers. If a volunteer forgets his/her pass, they must then buy a ticket. Several suggestions were offered, such as carpooling, having someone else drive and drop you at the front door, and having AWS volunteers help at the gates. Allene will meet with the Chamber Board to discuss mutual solutions. **[Update: Stand by for announcements about where & when to enter the reception.]**

The judge for the ABS will be Sandra Speidel.

Carol Mills said there is room for only 4 floor racks for cards and the number of artists offering cards will need to be limited. A sign-up sheet will be on the back table and it will be first come, first serve. **[Update: Card sales are full.]**

Gail Mardfin emailed to all members 2 handouts: What is ABS? and the Entry Form. Merrie Krisl printed some copies of these forms and they will be on the back table at the general meeting for those who don't have printing capability. Gail will be working on the posters, postcards, and the program handout.

- **Peacetown:** Patricia Marina reported that the dates this year are June 3 through September 9, 15 weeks. She is now taking signups. Members wishing to participate should see her so she can explain all the details and requirements. 5 weeks have been filled. **[Update: 2 dates still open - June 3 and July 1.]**
- **Membership:** Judy McFarland reported that, due to a timing error, we have 131 members now instead of 130.
- **Constitution:** Gail Mardfin is concerned that we may not be following the AWS Constitution in some areas. We should be referred to as the Board, not the Board of Directors. Also, according to our current Constitution, Members-at-Large are elected to, not appointed by, the Board. Do we want to change the Constitution? Consensus is that Members-at-Large should be appointed by the Board, so we should change the Constitution. Gail will follow up with an email for the Board to vote on. **[Update: There are several additional issues that have come up regarding the Constitution, which will be discussed at the March Board meeting.]**

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- **Gravenstein Fair:** Carol Mills wants those interested in participating this year to contact her. There is only room for 5-6 artists and she may have to do a lottery if there are more people interested.
- **"Mark Makers' Quarterly":** Linda Reid passed around copies of the magazine which published an article she had submitted to them featuring several AWS members.
- **Treasurer:** Merrie Krisl reported that we have \$8,512.20 in our general account and \$4,603.91 in the Mielke awards account. Insurance and rent have been paid. She is working on the Registry of Charitable Trust. Merrie gave flash drives to Pamela Nachtigall and Gail Mardfin to back up their AWS files.
- **Programs:** Sarah Hegarty reported we are set for demonstrators except for April and she's looking for suggestions. Also, may need another person to recruit demonstrators and write their bio for the Newsletter. She won't know for sure until next month. **[Update: April's slot has been filled.]**
- **Publicity:** Pamela Nachtigall will be updating the e-calendars and will be working on publicity for ABS and Peacetown.
- **Venues:** Deni Marrone reported that The Livery reception will be February 20 from 5-7pm. Volunteers to manage venues outside the area would be welcome. Fandee's Restaurant has two other locations, but are too distant for her to manage.
- **Communications:** Gail Mardfin reported that, aside from members, the Newsletter has 158 subscribers and the number of website visitors was up 25% in January.
- **Correspondence:** Fran Nielsen reported she sent out one card last month.

President Linda L. Reid adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.

Submitted by Judy Boles, Recording Secretary



SEBASTOPOL GALLERY

Can you help us?

Sebastopol Gallery needs to find a new home

Our landlord is not renewing our lease as of July 31, 2026.

We have enjoyed this Main Street, Sebastopol location for almost 20 years and have a dedicated group of artists and patrons who very much want our doors to remain open. We love our Sebastopol community and wish to stay near its active and vibrant downtown, but are open to other ideas.

If you have any leads or suggestions for gallery appropriate rental space, please contact:

Lynn Zachreson (member artist)

info@lynnzachresonart.com • 831-419-1599

March 19 Refreshments

Please have your contribution (enough to serve 12 people) on the table so the potluck is ready to start promptly at 11:50. **Remember to record it on the sign-in table!**

FINGER FOOD/ENTREES

Jan Blake
Judy Boles
Wendy Brown
Cathy Collins
Connie Cook
Lin Dahl
Michele deLuca
Caroline Ellis
Judy Goldberg
Monica Holliday
Melinda Hughes
Sandra Krey
Merrie Krisl
Barbara Lawson
Karin Lease
Gail Mardfin
Caterina Martinico
Mary McGowan
Rhonda Mertle
Pat Mitchell



Lonna Necker
Niki Skelton
Marilyn Sommer
Elizabeth Springs
Kathy Strachan
Judith Tischler
Cheryl Woods

DESSERT/FRUIT

Ivonne Christian
Deena Collins
Katha Engblom
Chris Field
Laurie Finkelstein
Bob Hart
Denise Monsoor
Fran Nielsen
Maureen Pennal
Genie Rhodes
Elisabeth VanNuys
Alexis Wilson

SEBASTOPOL VENUES

March 19 - May 21

This is a rotation month. The current artist/s should arrange with the next artist a mutually convenient day/time to change.

Use your AWS roster to get contact info.

Coffee & Moore

CURRENTLY: Pamela Heck

MARCH 19: Marcella Ford

MAY 21: Kathy Byrne

Columbia Bank (formerly Umpqua)

CURRENTLY: Kathleen Andre

MARCH 19: Sarah Hegarty

MAY 21: **AVAILABLE**

Fandee's Restaurant

CURRENTLY: Fran Nielsen

MARCH 19: Lorna Ho

MAY 21: Linda Dove-Pierson

Hair Masters

CURRENTLY: Deni Marrone

MARCH 19: **AVAILABLE**

MAY 21: **AVAILABLE**

Hole in the Wall Restaurant

CURRENTLY: Carol Mills

MARCH 19: Enid Barnes & Fran Nielsen

MAY 21: Cheryl Woods & Marilyn Somer

Sonoma Chocolatiers & Tea House

CURRENTLY: Enid Barnes

MARCH 19: Joy Dallas & Barbara Goodman

MAY 21: Lorna Ho

Specialty Center

CURRENTLY: Gail Mardfin

MARCH 19: **AVAILABLE**

MAY 21: **AVAILABLE**

The Livery CoWork

January through March or May:

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

STOP IN & VISIT OUR VENUES!

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**

Hey folks!

We need to keep ALL our Venues happy!

As it says in THE [VENUES GUIDELINES](#), the AWS' Venues program is in place both to promote individual members, as well as in recognition of AWS as a regional artists' group, all while providing a community service for the venue.

Please help us keep all of our venues' walls filled! AWS is in partnership with them all, and we want to keep them all happy. It's good for us and it's good for our venues. In particular, the Specialty Center has been an AWS Venue for 20+ years, so let's not let them down.

ALSO...as mentioned in the Board Minutes, the **opportunity to show in restaurants outside our region** is a new possibility, but not organized through AWS.

Stand by for more news as it becomes known.

SALES\$

Congratulations to Fran Nielsen who sold two paintings from Fandee's Restaurant! • • • Remember to share your announcements with everyone by emailing info to awsomeart2023@gmail.com by the Wednesday following the meeting - or as soon as a sale happens! Thanks.

- GM, Editor

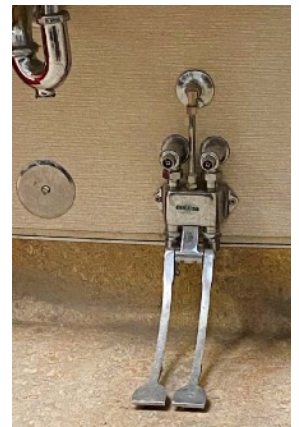
FEBRUARY PROMPT: ALIEN



Alexis Wilson -

"Punkettes"

Crocheted, each about 10" tall



Judy Goldberg - "Alien" photograph
*Living a quiet life of desperation, this
young extraterrestrial was spotted
loitering under a sink in an
emergency room in Eureka, CA*

A Nice Crowd at The Livery Reception on February 7

Thanks to all who came and brought friends! Sales were made! Strangers wandered in! Ten artists each have a curated section somewhere in the building - stop in & check out the show!



[1] Current Livery artists: **Marilyn Dizikes, Becky Brendlin, Joyce Terres, Deni Marrone, and Gail Mardfin.** **Sandi Maurer** had been there earlier.

Other artists, missing: **Patricia Marina, Brian Martens, Gail Radice & Marilyn Sommer.**

[2] Nice to see the Significant Others in our lives: **Shirley & Bob Cheal; Judy & Mel Goldberg,**

Allene & Deva Donato; Charito & Pravin Shetty. **[3]** Our A-frame sign placed out front attracted a couple of Sebastopol folks. They were shy at first but were welcomed wholeheartedly with wine and conversation!

[4] **Becky Brendlin** had a sale! Her acrylic "View Across the Lake" was purchased by an admiring member of the Livery Co-work. One of **Sandi Maurer's** abstract paintings on the top catwalk was also sold. ***Congratulations to Becky and Sandi!*** **[5]** While there were still quite a few AWS artists on site, we set up this shot on the steps: Top, down, left to right: **Joyce Torres, Sarah Hegarty, Jackie Braun, Paula Pearce, Julia Hansen, Joan Blumenberg, Allene Donato, Judy Goldberg, Gail Mardfin, Deni Marrone, Becky Brendlin, Barbara Lawson, Pamela Nachtigall, and Linda Dove-Pierson.** *(Thanks for the photo, Deva!)* **[6]** Revelers **Gail Mardfin, Karin Lease, and Judy Goldberg.** Other AWS artists who made the scene were **Linda Reid, Kim Winter, and Elizabeth Gomes.**

FEBRUARY ART SHARE



On a foggy morning walk, a weathered stump caught the eye of pastel artist **Patty Westman**.



Barb Lawson's "New Year's Sparklers" is a *watercolor on black paper* of her grandchildren at play.



Adventurous photographer **Bob Hart** captured the Texas bayou in his swampscape.



Going with her "illustrator's brain," **Chris Field** used an alcohol / pastel mix for the background of these olive-snacking ravens.



Melinda Hughes' Photoshopped backyard tree and bench was printed on canvas as a base for more painting.



Pamela Nachtigall got a long tall board to paint a favorite tall pot with a spring daffodil.



Dena Lash has a special place in mind for her alcohol ink abstract.



Back from India with more handmade papers, **Gerald Huth** integrated drawings of a temple sculpture in his collage.



For her very first art share, **Monica Holliday** brought a tiny abstract made with colorful bits left on her painting palette.



High up in the Himalayas, **Lynda Zimmerman** connected with a kindred spirit resting near a monastery.



Judy McFarland's artwork is enhanced by a beautiful custom frame handmade by her husband, Rocky. He takes orders! Call 408-505-8058.



In **Cheryl Woods'** watercolor, "Grandmother Nature and a Few of Her Friends," more and more animals kept showing up.



A recent workshop pushed **Julia Hansen** to experiment with new techniques and to move beyond her reliably ocean-themed watercolors.



In a break from her usual style of precise detailed mixed media, new member **Deena Collins** is taking an abstract painting workshop and compiling her work in a portable notebook.



Photographer **Avinash Pandey** shows one of his works from his series, Four Seasons. Not a painting, the image was created with light using a long exposure.



New member and retired art teacher **Mary McGowan** shared how a past mural project led to her lasting connection with artist Susan Abbott, whose encouragement continues to inspire her work.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM:

The Mastery of Papier-mâché with Elisabeth Van Nuys

by Gail Mardfin

AWS member Elisabeth Van Nuys provided an entertaining, fact-filled lecture and demonstration on the glories of papier-mâché.

With master's degrees in Psychology and Education, as well as a law degree, Elisabeth has written newspaper features, plays, songs, and poetry. She taught a wide range of ages and subjects for 30 years and loved every minute. As a self-described "creative," she says, "I'm temperamentally incapable of looking at anything — even a peanut butter jar lid — without seeing how it might be used in a new way."

Growing up, always "making stuff" from things she found indoors or in nature, she began her journey with papier-mâché in the late 1990s, starting with masks. Ever since, she has been transforming ordinary materials into works of art resembling brass or copper bowls and other distinctive pieces. Because papier-mâché takes a long time to dry between layers, she often works simultaneously on other art or writing projects, while also caring for her disabled husband.

Elisabeth explained that papier-mâché is one of the most **democratic art forms**, accessible to the broadest range of people to make or buy. Made from inexpensive, readily available materials, it is versatile, strong, and lightweight — and anyone can do it.

A fascinating history: Paper was invented in China about 2,000 years ago, and papier-mâché — made from wood pulp and glue — also originated there around that time. It eventually spread westward, becoming especially popular in ancient Persia, where artisans created small painted boxes for jewelry and keepsakes, masks, and other decorative items.

Centuries later, expanding trade routes brought papier-mâché objects into European markets. By the 1800s, French craftsmen recognized its great potential, producing cups, snuff boxes, dolls, and even imitations of stucco and plasterwork for interiors.

Papier-mâché gained popularity in England in the 1700s, first in small objects such as picture frames, trays, and jewelry boxes. New casting techniques of

the Industrial Revolution allowed for complex designs that wood or plaster could not easily achieve, including ornate frames, carved chair elements, and eventually architectural components.

A technique for pressing up to ten sheets of heat-resistant paper panels into metal molds was patented, using a binding agent and linseed oil. The result was a hard, durable material that could be carved and worked like wood. Papier-mâché was even used as a building material in prefabricated cottages and a ten-room villa.

Other remarkable examples include a papier-mâché church built in Norway in 1793 that stood for 37 years; a boat constructed by an Irishman who sailed it on the Lake of Killarney; and, in Germany in 1883, a papier-mâché watch that functioned like its metal counterparts!

Large-scale production in Europe lasted about a century but declined in the late 1800s. In America, papier-mâché endured primarily as a craft form rather than a manufacturing material — bringing us back to Elisabeth's one-of-a-kind constructions and how she creates them.



Sticking on the first piece

Elisabeth's demo: Her bowls begin with round objects used as armatures (molds), such as glass or wooden bowls lightly coated with Vaseline for easy removal. For adhesive, she mixes a small amount of wallpaper paste (wheat paste) with water to the consistency of honey. She dips strips of newspaper (about 1" x 4") into the mixture, squeezes off the excess, and applies them to the armature, slightly overlapping each piece. A second layer is applied crosswise to the first, forming a strong base layer. The piece must dry completely — sometimes up to two days — before additional layers are added. Without thorough drying, mold or insects will develop.

Ultimately, a bowl may consist of up to 20 layers, a process that can take as long as six months, depending on weather and humidity. In addition to newspaper, Elisabeth recommends brown paper bags, tea bags, paper towels, or florist tissue. She finds the repetitive layering process rhythmic and meditative — much like knitting.

Cont. on next page

Continued

Asked about the functionality of her bowls, Elisabeth responds simply: "It's art!"

She also creates other forms using armatures made of chicken wire or bunched newspaper secured with masking tape, building up successive layers of papier-mâché.

Once fully dry, each piece is sealed



with several coats of gesso, sanded between applications, before the final decorative treatments are applied. These finishing touches vary by project and may include tissue and specialty papers, shoe polish, coffee filters, fibers, and found objects — ensuring that every piece is entirely unique.

Thank you, Elisabeth!

CALLS for ENTRY!

Venue: Healdsburg Center for the Arts

Title: **An Abstract Vision**

Submit up to 3 pieces via Entry Thingy by **March 9**

<https://app.entrythingy.com/calls/public/13759>

Exhibition dates: April 4 - May 30

Venue: Santa Rosa Arts Center

Title: **A Many Splendored Thing**

Submit up to 2 pieces in person on **March 29**, 11-3
36" or less in any direction

Exhibition dates: April 2 - May 30

More info: santarosaartscenter.org/current-shows/

Venue: Occidental Center for the Arts

Title: **Energy** (energy sources, uses, aspects and expressions)

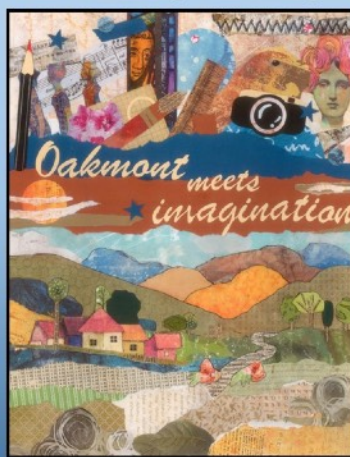
Submit entries in person on **March 31** - check website for more details

Exhibition dates: April 4 - May 9

More info: occidentalcenterforthearts.org/upcoming-gallery-exhibits

Oakmont Art Association
52 Years of Creativity

March 20-21, 2026



**Oakmont Village
Berger Center
6633 Oakmont Drive
Santa Rosa**

**Friday-10 AM-4 PM
Saturday-10 AM-4 PM
Free Admission**

**50+ Art Exhibitors
and Craft Vendors
Refreshments and
Live Music each day.**

OCA Occidental Center for the Arts

"Go Figure"

Artists Reception

Saturday, March 7 • 2-4pm

Vote for your favorite work at the reception.

**Show hangs thru 3/29. Gallery Hours:
Sat & Sun 12-4 and during live music events**

OCA Events & Classes:

occidentalcenterforthearts.org/

Celebrate CIRCLE OF SIX ARTISTS



Mixed media art exhibit in an array of styles
exploring nature, spirituality & individual growth
Now through March 14

**Sebastopol Regional Library Forum Room
7140 Bodega Ave, Sebastopol**

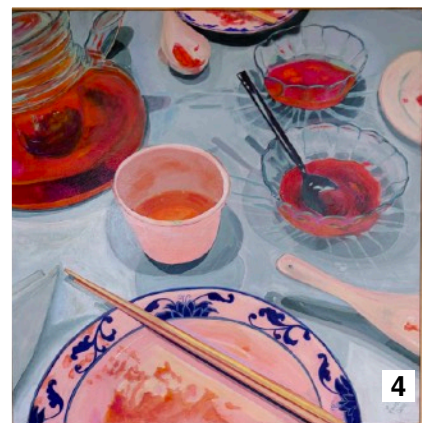
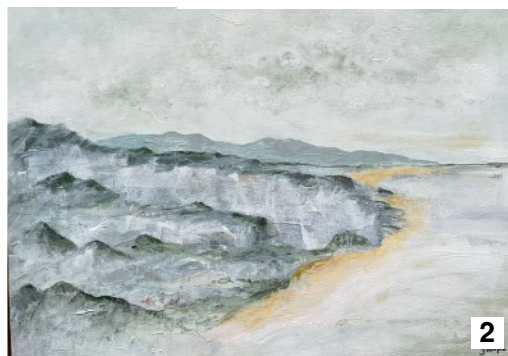
**Collage demonstration with Barbara Goodman
Saturday March 14 • 2-4pm**



Stop in to see the 2026 National Arts Program Exhibit at the Finley Center, Santa Rosa, up through April 24th (Weekdays, 8-6pm). The reception is Sunday, March 15, 3-5pm.

In addition to those pictured, I also spotted lovely paintings by **Charito Shetty** and **Joy Dellas**, but was unable to get good photos. *Did I miss anyone else?* - GM, Editor

National Arts Program



[1] Gail Mardfin "Carrot Cuddle" 11x12.5 oil pastel [2] Cindy Gillespie "Paradise in Greens" 16x20 acrylic [3] Joyce Terres "Nobody Owns a Cat" 10.5x13.5 stitched textile collage [4] Laurie Finkelstein "Dim Sum Memories" 24x24 acrylic [5] Gail Radice "Strolling on Kentucky Street, Petaluma" 16x12 oil

GRATON GALLERY "PORTRAITS" SHOW through March 29

Congratulations to the AWS artists whose work is on the walls of this varied show! **Robin Allison, Enid Barnes, Marcella Ford, Elizabeth Gomes, Pamela Heck, Barbara Lawson, Gail Mardfin, and Patricia Marina.**

A few photos taken at the opening, at right, including [1] Patricia Marina - "Cat in a Bag - is this your cat?" 11x14 acrylic, and [2] Elizabeth Gomes - "She Drinks the Sun" 12x6 mixed media.



Member Artwork



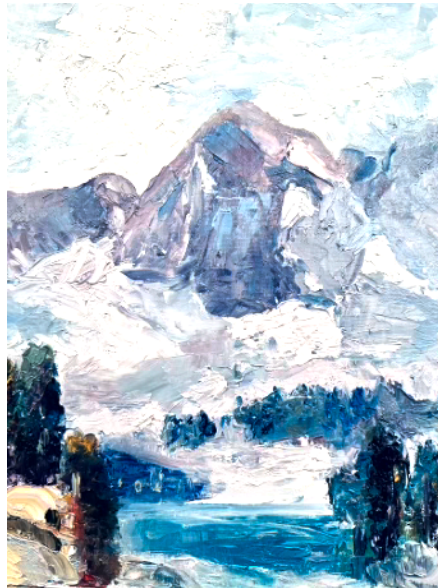
Paula Pearce -
"What a Hoot"
8.5x10.5 watercolor



Gerald Huth - LEFT & RIGHT:
"Improvisations-Japan/Jazz" 48x24 oil on canvas and paper
"Violoncello Variations" 48x36 oil on canvas and paper



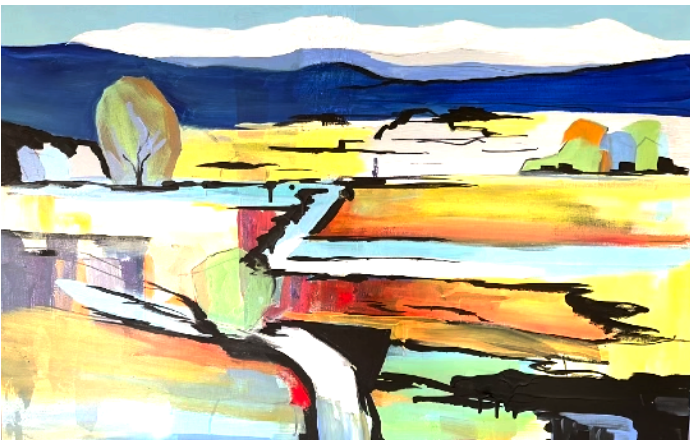
Charito Shetty -
"For Rielle's 1st Birthday"
20x16 acrylic



Lonna Necker -
"Getting Ready for Geneva"
20x16 oil



Phil Wilkinson -
"Bearded Iris" 14x8 photograph
A cavern of complementary colors, with some light, color, and border alterations to make it more abstract.



Nancy Sanchietti -
"Dreamscape" 24x36 acrylic



Nancy Tulloh -
"Secure" 24x36 collage



Only 1 more week!



THE UNKNOWN THIEBAUD
 PASSIONATE PRINTMAKER
 JANUARY 10 - MARCH 8, 2026
 THE VISIONARY PARTNERSHIP OF WAYNE THIEBAUD + ALLAN STONE



SEBASTOPOL DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL 2026
 APRIL 9-12
 TICKETS + PASSES
SEBDOCS.ORG

CALL FOR ENTRIES



RESIST + PERSIST
 SOCIAL (IN)JUSTICE

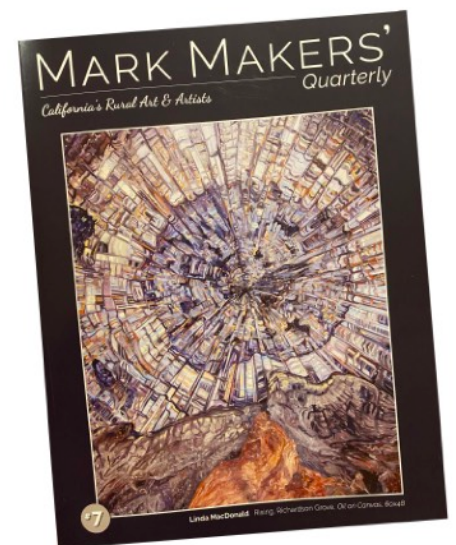
Don't miss the annual Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival (SDFF). SDFF is an Oscar® qualifying Film Festival for documentaries in the short form. Films will be shown at SebArts and Rialto Sebastopol. Get your tickets early - seating is limited. To learn about all the films, [CLICK HERE](#).

CALL FOR ENTRIES!

Deadline: May 1
Exhibit: June 20-July 26

July 4th, 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in the United States of America. This exhibition seeks to explore the promise, contradictions, and ongoing struggle of liberty, democracy, and justice.

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)



Mark Makers' Quarterly is a pricey regional publication that features "California's Rural Art & Artists." Thanks to President Linda Reid, who submitted the information and images on our behalf, the April 2026 edition showcases AWS Board members in the section about "Groups."

Artwork by **Gail Mardfin, Linda Loveland Reid, Judy McFarland, Carol Mills, and Patricia Marina** appears across four pages of the glossy magazine, along with their artist statements.

Separately and in addition, **Kim Winter** has a two-page spread featuring three pieces and her bio/statement. She submitted her work and it was accepted for publication.

You can, too! Go here to find out the easy submission guidelines - it's free!

MarkMakersQuarterly.com



Kim Winter announces her presence in the April issue of "Mark Makers' Quarterly," displayed by Linda Reid.

AWS Member Profile: Pamela Nachtigall

Contemporary Realism with Heart

by Barbara Evans

An Artist's Haven in the Sebastopol Hills

I met Pamela Nachtigall at her beautiful, art-filled home in the Sebastopol hills. Surrounded by orchards and vineyards, her property is filled with fruit and flowering trees and lush gardens. A dedicated studio building completes this picture-perfect setting for creative work. The space is light-filled and thoughtfully organized—an inspiring environment that reflects Pamela's disciplined yet expressive approach to painting.

Skilled in watercolor, pastel, and acrylic, Pamela has concentrated on oil painting for the past twelve years. She describes her work as *"contemporary realism using old world techniques."*

A New AWS Member and Dedicated Volunteer

Pamela is a relatively new member of AWS and serves as our Publicity Chair. Following her retirement from a busy accounting career, she has remained deeply engaged in her community. She has volunteered as interim treasurer for the West County Tennis Association, served as an art appreciation group leader for the American Association of University Women, supported Santa Rosa's Art Start program, and advised for the Red Cross.

Her commitment to service mirrors the dedication she brings to her artistic practice.

Early Influences and Education

Born in Seattle and raised in Hillsborough and Saratoga amidst orchards and open space, Pamela grew up in a creatively nurturing environment. Her mother was an artist, and Pamela remembers wanting to "draw anything all the time." She treasured elementary school art days and fondly recalls visits to San Francisco museums, where she was especially fascinated by the drawings of Honoré Daumier.

Her academic path was equally rich and varied. Pamela attended a small women's college in New York to study fashion design before switching to English



"Ice Cream Girls" 24x18 oil

and French. She spent a year abroad in Lausanne, Switzerland, an experience that broadened her cultural perspective. Upon returning home, she met Bruce, her future husband.

She later pursued additional coursework in French and English at San Francisco State University, and eventually earned a degree in Accounting from Sonoma State University, leading to a successful career as a certified public accountant.

A Return to Art

With education, career, and raising two children, Pamela's art was largely on hold for nearly 30 years. Her reentry into the art world began with a workshop led by local artist Carol Watanabe, who emphasized loose, colorful, and joyful acrylic painting.

As her momentum grew, Pamela transitioned to oils for their blending capabilities. "Painting with the Masters" workshops with Jay Blums taught her to slow down and pursue realistic detail using classical methods.

At the Russian River Atelier, under the guidance of Linda Schroeter, Pamela refined her technical skills—developing expertise in underpainting, color mixing, layering, glazing, and creating depth.

These studies firmly grounded her in traditional techniques that now support her contemporary voice.

Storytelling Through Structure and Light

In all her work, Pamela strives to tell a story while achieving strong composition. Some paintings contain symbolism; others capture fleeting yet meaningful moments. For example, in *Ice Cream Girls* (shown), two young girls happily engrossed in conversation stroll along a beach enjoying their cones—a simple scene elevated through thoughtful design and emotional warmth.

As she shared her paintings with me, Pamela pointed out subtle structural elements—an "X" or "O" composition, value contrasts, and directional movement such as flowing fabric folds—carefully orchestrated to guide the viewer's eye. Her admiration for classical masters remains evident. In addition to

Member Profile, cont.

to William-Adolphe Bouguereau for his masterful figures and Joaquín Sorolla for his luminous treatment of light through fabric.

Process, Planning, and Passion

"There are so many things I'd like to paint," Pamela says. "I'd like to get back to landscapes and figurative work."

In her studio, she demonstrated her process using an in-progress still life: a vase of flowers arranged thoughtfully over current newspaper headlines. Before touching brush to canvas, she had experimented



"Apple Pie Time" 11x14 oil

with multiple arrangements and preparatory drawings—a testament to her belief in thorough planning as the foundation for creative freedom.

A Life Rich in Creativity

Beyond painting and volunteering, Pamela enjoys cooking, sewing, and gardening. She is currently applying her design sensibility to "hardening" her home for fire safety—ensuring plants and fencing are at least five feet away.

In addition to her two children, Pamela delights in her five grandchildren—and even great-grandchildren (she married very early!)

With Gratitude

Pamela Nachtigall brings to AWS not only her captivating art but also her generosity of spirit and commitment to service. We are fortunate to benefit from both her creative vision and her contributions on the AWS Board.

Thank you, Pamela, for sharing your artistry and dedication with our community.

3 SHOW OPPORTUNITIES

Who is interested?? THE GRAVENSTEIN FAIR in Ragle Park, Sebastopol, is August 9 & 10 this year, with a partial set-up day August 8. There is just enough room for 5 or 6 artists - and 2 spaces are taken. The space that AWS pays for is 10'x20' - so very tight. It is a very physical event, in that you have to lug all your panels, art etc. through the uneven park. You must be there at the time we are given on Friday to set up. Saturday and Sunday 9am-6pm. You will have to stay with your art the full time. If interested, **contact Carol Mills for more details**. If there are more than 4 interested, we will have a drawing. (707) 481-2592 • carolmills202@gmail.com



At the February meeting, **Honora Russell** and **Christine Paschal** invited AWS artists to help celebrate the **Bodega Artisan's Co-op Gallery's 30th anniversary** by renting a table or a space to put up your tent at their

Charito Shetty was again invited to participate in the **2026 Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival Art Show**, where she has shown for the past two years. With their permission, this is the link to the application for her AWS artist friends:

bbfishfest.org/vendors/local-artists-tent/

- Application deadline: April 1
- Show dates: May 2 & 3
- Tent payment: \$175 for 2 days (once accepted into the art show.)

celebration on **Sunday, May 24, 11am-5pm**.

Here's the link: www.artisansco-op.com/30thanniversaryinvitation

The cost for this type of event is extremely affordable: Outdoor space for your 10'x10' canopy: \$75. Indoor 8' Table: \$50 (Grab a friend - you can even share a table!)

Follow the link and get all the details! *"It'll be a party!"*

**Be sure to read all
Apple Blossom Show
info on this page!**

Got WINE? Bring it to the March or April meeting.

**Entry Deadline:
Must be postmarked by April 8**

MARCH MEETING:

**Sign up to work on ABS committees!
Sheets will be on the back table.**

New members are welcome to volunteer, too.

It's a great way to meet people!

In particular, these slots need filling:

Hanging - 1
Panels - 1
Hospitality/ Food - 3
Sales - 4
Docent - 5 *
Raffle - 2 *

*** A note from Lonna Necker, the Raffle chair:**

The volunteer positions of Docent and Raffle Salesperson are the best kept secrets of the Apple Blossom Festival. These two positions let you BE IN THE ROOM. You get to talk with folks who love art, are curious about art, and who invariably bring their children into a room full of art, some for the first time. There is joy and love and fascination not to be missed! >> Lonna could also use someone to "shadow" her this year, as it will be her last in this position. How about YOU?!

**Sign up to distribute posters for the ABS!
Sheets will be on the back table.**

Posters and postcards will be at the March meeting, with sheets to record WHERE you will put them. All ABS artists are required to do this, *but not until the first week of April.*

If you can't be at the meeting, you can pick them up at Gail's house in SW Santa Rosa.

In addition, everyone will get digital flyers emailed to them for you to share with your email list & social media. **We want people to come to the show and THIS is how we do it!**

All ABS artists may have 1 page (front & back) in the AWS artist books, which will be on display for visitors to peruse. Add yours, or update as needed.

Bring it to the March or April meeting.

Thanks to Julia Hansen, who will organize the books.



AS OF FEBRUARY, THESE MEMBERS ARE IN GOOD STANDING TO ENTER THE 2026 ABS

You still have March to qualify!

**If you believe your name should be on this list, contact
ABS Requirements Chair Judy Pagnusat ASAP -
judypag@gmail.com**

Enid Barnes	Mel Goldberg	Lonna Necker
Susan Barri	Hedda Gold	Susan Nestor
Beverly Bird	Elizabeth Gomes	Fran Niesen
Patricia Bird	Julia Hansen	Judy Pagnusat
Jan Blake	Bob Hart	Avinash Pandey
Joan Blumenberg	Stan Healy	Christine Paschal
Judy Boles	Pamela Heck	Paula Pearce
Susan Bradford	Sarah Hegarty	Sally Privette
Becky Brendlin	Lorna Ho	Linda L. Reid
Kathy Byrne	Melinda Hughes	Genie Rhodes
Bob Cheal	Linda Immer	Honora Russell
Shirley Cheal	Diana Jones	Nancy Sanchietti
Cathy Collins	Brian Kellogg	Katie Sanderson
Hale Darby	Carol Korzow	Charito Shetty
Michel DeLuca	Merrie Krisl	Niki Skelton
Marilyn Dizikes	Judy Leandro	Marilyn Sommer
Alyson Dobbert	Gail Mardfin	Elizabeth Springs
Linda Donahue	Patricia Marina	Joyce Terres
Allene Donato	Barbara Marlin-Cooler	Nancy Tulloh
Linda Dove-Pierson	Deni Marrone	Elisabeth Van Nuys
Katha Engblom	Sandi Maurer	Linda Weber
Barbara Evans	Judy McFarland	Jennifer Weiss
Christine Field	Carol Mills	Kim Winter
Marcella Ford	Pamela Nachtigall	Cheryl Woods
Judy Goldberg		

**- COVER ART NEEDED FOR THE APPLE BLOSSOM SHOW PRINTED PROGRAM -
Something to do with Apple Blossoms or the theme, "Blossoms of Oz..."**

If interested, please submit a good photo of your art to Gail Mardfin by **March 15.**

awesomeart2023@gmail.com • Subject: ABS Cover Art

