



WWW.AWSOMEART.ORG

JUNE 2022

JUNE 16th IS THE ANNUAL PICNIC!

Arrive any time after 10am to paint or socialize

Potluck begins at 12:00 noon

Riverfront Regional Park

7821 Eastside Rd, Healdsburg

(Look for AWS signs.)

Everyone should bring a dish for the potluck, including a serving implement. Some beverages will be available - BYOWater bottle.



Please BRING YOUR OWN PLACE SETTING: SILVERWARE, PLATE & CUP.

Because our world is suffering from a major plastic crisis, any small way we can start to turn this around is worth the effort. Bring a paper grocery bag to take home your unwashed implements.

For those that didn't get this information, plastic forks, cups and paper plates will be available at the picnic. *Thank you all, Paula*

Remember to sign in & wear a nametag!

Carpool if you can. Parking is \$7 without a Regional Parks Pass.

Learn more about the beautiful park:

| <https://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/visit/find-a-park/riverfront-regional-parks>

Thanks to Paula Pearce, Susie Moore, and Marilee Wingert for organizing.

Take lots of pictures and send them to Gail for the July newsletter!

PROMPTS

JUNE: Black & White with a Touch of Color

JULY: Geometric Shapes

Send prompts, other art, or member news by June 23
to gail@plpgraphicdesign.com to appear in next newsletter.

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Here we are almost
officially into Summer!

I am so sad that I will not
be at our Summer Picnic
this month. Make sure
that you **read page one**
for what you need to remember for the Picnic!
Don't forget your cameras or paints. **HAVE
FUN!!**

For those of you who were not at our May
meeting, we were able to give out the ribbons
and checks to our ABS winners, with the
surprise announcement for our two Popular
Vote winners, Susan Barri and Deni Marrone!
(*Photos on page 7.*) The 2022 show was very
successful with many sales of our members'
art...20 entered paintings and 20 donated
paintings sold, along with cards and books.
Make sure you read Merrie Krisl's minutes
(next page) where there are more details.
THANK YOU to all of you that helped make it
such a successful event!

I am now looking for volunteers to be on one of
the committees for our Finley Center Art Show
(September 28 – November 28). This is the
first time we have done this. We will need
someone to organize the entry process and
make labels. We will need people for the
intake, to greet members and take their art and
deposit it in designated areas. We will also



Carol
Mills

need a group for hanging the art using the
system Finley has. The next day, on
September 29, we will have a reception there
from 5:00-7:00pm, so we will need members to
help organize the reception. The good news is
that we have the champagne and wine already,
thanks to the ABS!

I am also starting early this year to appoint a
Nominating Committee to scout out next
year's Board. If you are interested, please let
me know. This is a very important committee
that has been somewhat overlooked the past
couple of years.

Look on the last page of this Newsletter about
donating a piece of art for a Ukrainian
Fundraiser at Montgomery Village. There is
also an opportunity for members who would
like to sell their art in Sonoma Square in July,
along with other exhibit prospects on page 10.

See you in July! Have fun!
Be safe and take care,
Carol

AND WELCOME TO OUR TWO NEWEST MEMBERS!

Linda Donahue, Santa Rosa
(Collage artist and friend of Patricia)

Judy McFarland, Santa Rosa
(Watercolor artist and friend of Lonna & Gail)

AWS now has 80 members!



REMINDER!

AWS Board Minutes

May 19, 2022

Members Present: Patty Bird, Merrie Krisl, Deni Marrone, Gail Mardfin, Carol Mills, Lonna Necker, Fran Nielsen, Linda Reid and Lorraine Stribling.

Meeting was called to order at 10:45 by President, Carol Mills.

President: Discussed panel storage and decided to visit this again when we find out if our checks for storage are being cashed. Perhaps we have someone now who has room to store these. Carol mentioned the Rotary fundraiser for Ukraine. See details in the newsletter. We need to get a Nominating Committee working early. 2-3 members should be enough. Linda emphasized how important this is for the health of any organization. Gail suggested having a new member help with the picnic. [Marilee Wingert volunteered.]

Gail mentioned the Sonoma Art Festival on July 9th. See details about this in this newsletter. Deni said The Barlow also does this kind of thing every weekend at this time of year.

Linda and Deni will serve on a committee to organize the Redwood Café show. Will need a committee to do the Finley show (publicity, labels and intake, hanging, reception).

ABS: Linda said she will chair next year's show and would like to mentor someone to take over the following year. She listed several things that we need to discuss in the future regarding the show, such as improving the lighting during judging and paying for the music.

Lorraine added there is a difference between collage and mixed media and we should address that.

Membership: Lorraine suggested specific dues depending on when a member joins during the year. Gail thought we should pair that with requirements for the ABS. We will discuss this at the next board meeting.

Lorraine asked that

everyone be sure to **note your food donations both on the membership sign-on sheet AND the hospitality sheet.** This is especially important if you brought food that you had not previously volunteered on the hospitality sign up.

Treasurer: Patty reported a balance of \$6431.34 in the checking account and \$6448.20 in the Meilke account. **Our profit from the ABS was \$880.81. \$4132.13 was paid to members for art sold.** The raffle made \$475. Linda moved and Patty seconded that we donate this money to SCA for scholarships in their children's art program. This passed.

Vice President: Lonna asked the board to narrow down Linda's lecture possibilities to three for the July meeting. The board chose Kandinsky and Munter, Stieglitz and O'Keeffe, and Stein and Toklas for the membership to vote on..

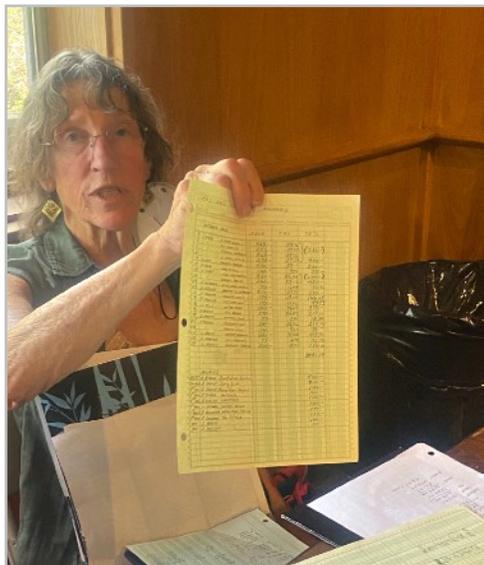
Gravenstein Fair: Fran brought info sheets. We can have about 7 participants and the entry fee is \$40. The Fair is August 13 and 14. She will check on insurance.

Venues: Deni reported the Fandee's exhibit looks great. She has revised the venue sheets and we may have a new venue at Sonoma Chocolatiers.

Website: Members have until the end of June to update their member page, which is composed of three art pieces and a link to their website, if available. Gail encourages new members to add a page.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:56.

Merrie Krisl, Recording Secretary



Many thanks to Treasurer Patty Bird, who manages to track all of the income and expenses of the Apple Blossom Show. What a job! And how fun to write out 23 checks to AWS members who sold work at the show!

**IMPORTANT WORDS
ABOUT OUR VENUES,
from Venues Coordinator
Deni Marrone**

Regarding sign-ups for our venues:
I have a couple of venues that are
spoken for through January 2023,
but I sure would like to see more of
that across the board for all of our
venues.

And as I've said in the past, we
have a special relationship with all
of our venues and need to keep
them all full and happy - so please
sign up to put your beautiful art in all
of our venues. As you can see, we
have several **OPEN** spots waiting to
be filled.

Aside from having a place to display
your artwork for recognition and
possible sales, it's also a community
service we are providing, so I thank
you for your participation.

Venues: May 19 - July 21, 2022*

Coffee & Moore

CURRENT: Linda Grainger

NEXT: Dana Rodney & Deni Marrone

Fandee's Restaurant

CURRENT: Carolyn Jarvis, Deni Marrone
& Carol Mills

NEXT: Nancy Sanchiatti

Sonoma Burger

CURRENT: Carol Mills • NEXT: **OPEN**

Specialty Center

CURRENT: Phil Wilkinson • NEXT: **OPEN**

Tombe Realty

CURRENT: Linda Grainger • NEXT: **OPEN**

Umpqua Bank

CURRENT: Deni Marrone • NEXT: **OPEN**

SIGN UP IN THE 2022 VENUE SIGN-UP BOOKS

Or contact Deni Marrone (408) 202-3875

*Approximate dates. Current artist should arrange with the
next artist a mutually convenient day/time to change.



AWS members' art now hangs throughout Fandee's Restaurant

I look forward to a good future at our
new venue in **Fandee's Restaurant!**

I really wanted to let you all know that
the owner there is so pleased with our
art coming in to make the ambience
more lively. He was tickled when I
came in to make the offer to keep the
walls full with a rotation of AWS art, and
that he doesn't have to do anything but
enjoy it. I couldn't be happier regarding
his reception and to present another
great venue to AWS members.

- Deni Marrone

AWS May Guest Artist: Donna DeLaBriandais

by Gail Mardfin & Lonna Necker

Donna DeLaBriandais (pronounced Daw Lah Breon-day) is a third generation native of Santa Rosa – in fact her mother was a former AWS member! Donna studied painting at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco and graduated from the University of San Francisco. She spent a summer at LaRomita School of Art in Italy painting *en plein air*. She is a professional artist, juror, and judge for art competitions. She earned signature membership in the American Impressionist society in 2007 and is a member of the California Art Club.

Donna finds inspiration for her paintings in Sonoma County and the North Bay. Donna's paintings reflect the beauty of the area's diverse landscape of farmland, rivers, ocean, and vineyards. She is an impressionistic painter, and sometimes leans toward the abstract. Donna used to paint much "tighter," for years doing portraits and more academically-rendered subject matter, but she has softened up over the years.



VP Lonna Necker shows Donna's paintings to the shade-seeking gang.

Once the logistics of sound and shade were worked out on the outdoor patio, Donna showed examples of her watercolors that exhibited textures of different sorts. For the AWS demo, she worked on a full sheet of 300 lb watercolor paper (no buckling!) that had been lightly sketched with a few areas splattered or brushed with masking fluid. On strong paper, you can even sand off a dark color, she explained.

Donna was very loose in her application of sprayed water, brushed-on water, and brushed on color (beginning with New Gamboge yellow), saying "If it drips down, let it work." She was also fine with wiping drips away with paper towels or even scrubbing areas clean with water, desiring "no hard edges." She applied watered down Cobalt Blue from a spray bottle. "As I go along, I determine what it needs," she said. At one point, she added texture using a large natural sponge, remarking, "Sponges are good when you have a wet palette."

She made use of a hair dryer to dry the layers as she built the painting up. Donna prefers an atmospheric, soft look to her painting; she said she was nearsighted as a child and perhaps that accounts for the soft way she sees the world.

Donna showed us some of her favorite brushes: from expensive DaVinci brushes to cheap hardware store

brushes, they all serve a purpose. She likes squirrel hair (holds a lot of water), an angle brush, a toothbrush (for splattered



Artist Donna DeLaBriandais

texture), and a particular curved stick that an artist friend Jerry Stitt had given her (a Stitt Stick to make straight lines). She acknowledged how fortunate she is to have had many master teachers/mentors in her life, naming Zoltan Szabo and Tony Couch among them.

As the demo piece developed, she splattered color and then sprayed water on it, as well as used salt when it was at the right dampness. "This is not science," she reminded us, working very intuitively.

She advised we practice with different materials and techniques "but not on our paintings." Figure it out beforehand. As she began adding tree shapes in several colors on the right side, she said, "You have a lot of freedom with trees."

"It's fun to observe nature and to paint what you see. I used to paint from memory before I started painting on site." For our demonstration, Donna showed us how her familiarity with nature can serve when painting from memory. She chose a complex landscape subject (sky, water, trees, rocks, grasses) because it would be interesting to artists who want to experiment with new ideas and techniques.

Donna loves watercolor and painted with it exclusively for decades, but 20 years ago she discovered the beauty of oil paints and she now enjoys both, remaining captured by the magic and mystery of watercolor. When asked, "What do you like better, oil or watercolor?" she answered, "If I am painting with watercolor, then I like it best, however if I am painting with oil, then that is my favorite. They are both fun!"



A finished watercolor by Donna DeLaBriandais demonstrating the many techniques she shared with AWS in May.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

from LONNA NECKER

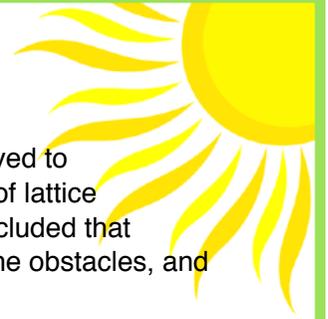
Our May Demonstration with Donna DeLaBriandais took place out on the patio and proved to be quite problematic given the noise and sun. We thought that the patio had some sort of lattice work that would shelter the whole patio from the sun. However, it did not. We have concluded that demonstrations there are not a good idea. However, Donna was quite cheerful, given the obstacles, and presented her style with aplomb.

Next month, June, will be our wonderful picnic. I hope all of you will have a wonderful time out in our lovely Riverside Park. I will be about to return home from a twice-cancelled painting workshop in Sicily. We have a June prompt, so if you wish, bring your interpretation of "Black and White with a Touch of Color."

Our July meeting will feature a presentation by Linda Loveland Reid. Based on your popular vote at the May meeting, she will present a review of **the artistic lives of Alfred Stieglitz and Georgia O'Keeffe.**

Enjoy summer!

Lonna



**EVERY MONTH
you have
a chance to win a
\$15.00 Gift Certificate to
Riley Street Art Supply!!**

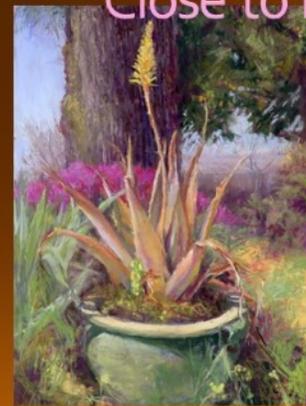
**Raffle tickets are available
during lunch:
\$1 for one, or \$5 for six.**

**Rhonda Johnston (above, left) volunteered to sit
by the potluck table in May, making it easy
for everyone to find her and buy a ticket.
A lucky visitor won the raffle in May!**



**Upstairs Art Gallery is having a 25th year
Anniversary Party, Sat., June 25th 11am-6pm**

Close to Home



Please join me
& all the members of Upstairs Art
Gallery
in a
Celebration of Art
25th Anniversary!
June 25
11 AM-6 PM

Pastels by

Karen Miller

Upstairs Art Gallery 306
Center St, Healdsburg
May 29 through June 26
2022



Committee Chairs back to front, L to R: Phil Wilkinson, Nancy Sanchietti, Fran Nielsen, Judy Goldberg, Gary Wilson, Lonna Necker, Kathy Byrne, Kim Winter, April Lynch, Linda Reid, Carol Mills, Patricia Marina, Patty Bird. Photo by: Gail Mardfin.

First-time ABS Chair Linda Reid knows how to treat volunteers right! She gave a lovely luncheon at her art-filled home in Cotati on May 12 for all of the committee chairs, with time to go through each of the committees' suggestions for improvement.

All committee chairs are asked to submit a report of **2022 ABS Successes, Improvements, and Suggestions** for the future.

Linda hopes someone will step forward to work with her next year, with an eye to that person taking over chairmanship in 2024. Learning through experience: the perfect way to go.



2022 Apple Blossom Show Winners

A complete list of all winners may be found at: www.awesomeart.org/apple-blossom-show



Those present at the May meeting were awarded their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons by ABS chair Linda Reid (left). Treasurer Patty Byrd delivered the \$100 checks to 1st place winners. If you didn't pick up your ribbons, including Honorable Mentions, they will be at the July meeting.

ACRYLIC



Fran Nielsen 3rd
Jan Blake 1st

OIL



Gail Radice 1st
Nancy Sanchietti 2nd



Gail Radice, Founders' Award
Kathy Byrne, Best in Show

WATERCOLOR



Gary Wilson 1st, Linda Grainger
2nd, Carol Mills 3rd

PASTEL



Lonna Necker 1st, Merrie Krisl 2nd

PHOTOGRAPHY



Rod Morgan 3rd, Phil Wilkinson
1st & 2nd

MIXED MEDIA



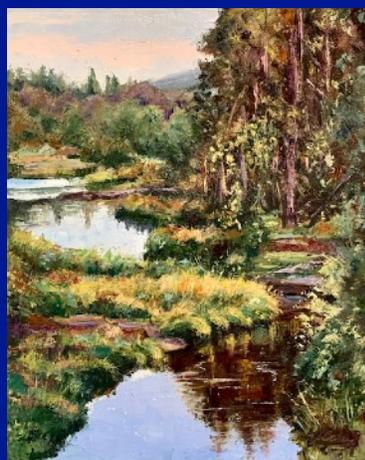
Kim Winter 2nd, Judy Goldberg 1st

Popular Vote



Susan Barri's "A River
Runs Through It" (left)

Deni Marrone's
"Peacetree" (above)



SEBASTOPOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Show your support to AWS members who are participating on the tour:

Beverly Bird

Susan Bradford

Fran Nielsen

Linda Loveland Reid

Sebastopol Center for the Arts' beloved, non-juried open studio event returns for the first two weekends in June! All artists have a piece currently exhibited at SCA, so check out the show and figure out which studios you want to visit!

The SCA gallery is open Thursday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. During open studios, it will be open from 10 to 5 pm. For more information, visit ArtAtTheSource.org

June 30, 2022 DEADLINE It's Website Update Time!

One of the benefits of being an AWS member is having your own Artist Page on the website. Visit www.awsomeart.org/members-artwork to see!

Send up to THREE good, squarely-shot jpgs of your work to gail@plpgraphicdesign.com, new or to replace what's there.

Include title, medium, and dimensions for each one. (If you are capable of renaming your files, please use this format: Mardfin-SunnyDay-12x12watercolor.jpg)

* If you are a new member, please tell me exactly how you want your name to appear.

* If you have a website, include that link.

IMPORTANT: Write "FOR AWS WEBSITE" in the Subject line of the email. Thanks!

ART SUPPLIES! BARGAIN PRICES!!

Arlene Parnay is moving this year to a smaller place and wants to sell and give away her art supplies...



Please call Arlene - 707-829-2660
5815 Vine Hill Rd., Sebastopol
to take a look and make an offer on any of the following:

- Several new Daniel Smith metal frames with glass - 12x16, 12x20, 22x28 & some odd sizes
- Other picture glass - 12 x 16, 12 x 20, 18 x 24, 22 x 28, and more
- A few wood frames
- Matboard, several colors & sizes
- Tubes of watercolor, large & small Windsor Newton, Aquarelle, Grumbacher
- Lots of good art books!





Marilee Wingert - "Yahoo!" 5x9 watercolor

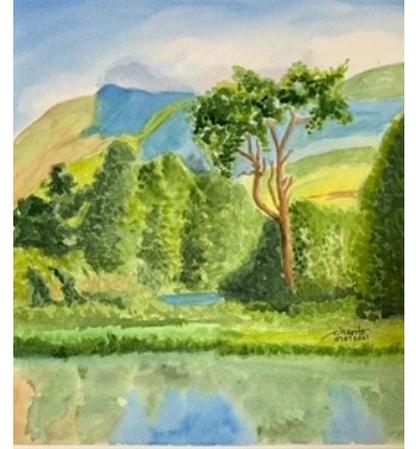
May Lakes, Rivers & Streams Prompt:



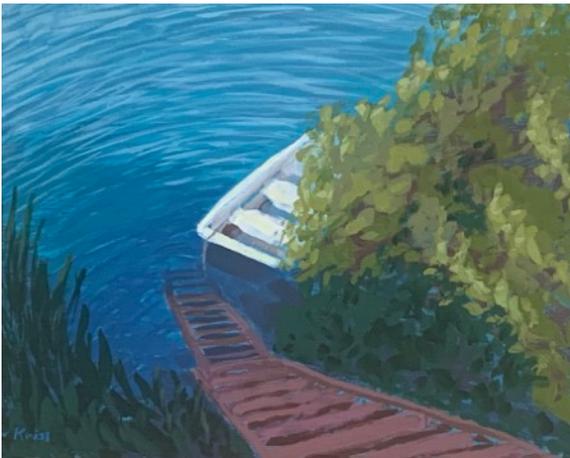
Carol Mills - "The River" 8x10 watercolor



Patricia Marina -
"A View from the Past"
20x20 mixed media



Charito Shetty -
"A River Runs Through It"
11x10 watercolor



Merrie Krisl -
"Down to the River" 11x14 acrylic



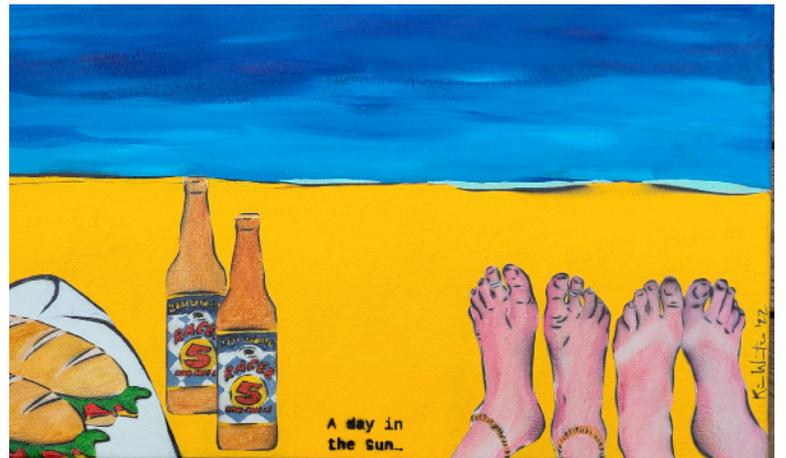
Fran Nielsen -
"Secluded Lagoon" 18x14 acrylic



Gail Mardfin -
"Lake Lilies"
10x10 watercolor

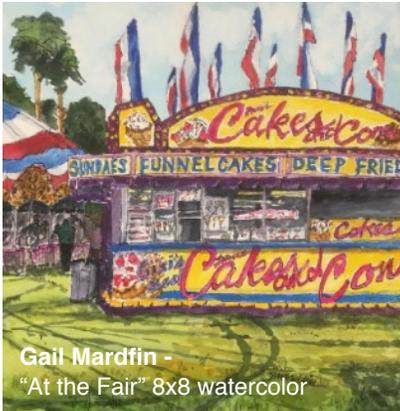


Lonna Necker -
"The River" 8x11 pastel



Kim Winter -
"A Day in the Sun" 15x31 acrylic

LOTS OF UPCOMING SHOW OPPORTUNITIES



THE 2022 SONOMA COUNTY FAIR - August 4 -14, 2022

Applications/entries will only be accepted online and are open now!

ENTRY DEADLINE: Midnight Thursday, June 30

All details regarding entering Fine Arts can be found here:

www.sonomacountyfair.com/docs/ADULT%20FINE%20ARTS.pdf

Skip to the page that says **DEPARTMENT #3 ADULT FINE ARTS**.

Pay attention to all the Special Rules, Divisions (whether you are an Amateur, Advanced Amateur or Professional) and categories within each division. **Entry Limit:** 2 entries per class.

Maximum 6 entries per exhibitor. \$5 per entry.

Looks like delivery for art is Fri., July 22, 12- 7 pm & Sat. 12 - 5 pm.

*** READ THE PDF FOR COMPLETE DETAILS ***

SONOMA PLAZA - Saturday, July 9, 2022 - 11am-5pm

A popular destination and a great new opportunity, with room for 30 artists and vendors of handmade products.

Cost is \$100 per 10'x10' space - You bring everything: tent, tables, racks, etc. + \$50 for City of Sonoma Day-of-business License.

Vendors will set up at 8:00-11:00am and pack up 5:00-6:00pm

Contact Organizer Tasha Dregson ASAP if you would like to participate!

707-935-1772 • natashadregson9@gmail.com



GRAVENSTEIN APPLE FAIR - August 13-14, 10am-6pm **Ragle Ranch Park, Sebastopol**

AWS traditionally has a section in the Gravenstein Apple Festival, and Fran has been coordinating it for years. There's room for about 7 participating artists. Can be hot and dusty, but there's good sales potential and good people around. Show fee is \$40 + 20% commission (10% goes to AWS and 10% supports Sonoma County Farm Trails). Set up is Friday night.

Contact Fran Nielsen for all details if you would like to participate!

707-823-3542 • fgnielsen47@gmail.com



AWS MEMBERS' SHOW AT THE FINLEY CENTER

Santa Rosa - Sept. 28 - Nov. 28

Reception Thursday, September 29 5-7pm

A wonderful chance for all of us to exhibit our work, both 2D and especially 3-dimensional. Lots of details will be forthcoming. Carol scored this opportunity and needs volunteers to work on labels, intake, hanging, and the reception.

Contact Carol Mills carolmills202@gmail.com • 707-481-2592 to help!



AWS EXHIBIT AT THE REDWOOD CAFE, COTATI **November 22, 2022 - January 23, 2023**

Linda Reid found us this opportunity and Kim Winter has agreed to co-chair.

Linda will be seeking volunteers for committees.

No charge to enter; 30% commission on sales.

A Redwood Café Reception (pay for wine/food) is planned for Dec. 16.

Limited space on the walls. Details will be forthcoming...



Member Profile: Carol Leif

by Paula Pearce

Paula: So, Carol, where were you born and raised?

Carol: I was born in San Francisco and raised in both Southern California in San Marino and when I was 10 we moved to Marin County and lived in the Laurel Grove area between Kentfield and Ross.

P: Did you grow up with siblings?

C: Yes, I grew up with two sisters. One was three years younger and the other was 13 years younger than me.

P: Did you have relatives who were artists or anyone else in your life who inspired you as a young person?

C: Not directly, but when I was older I discovered both my parents had artistic leaning even though they didn't practice any particular art form. But Paula, come to think of it, my Aunt Marie could see my artistic potential and encouraged me and inspired me in my early childhood. Oh yes, I almost forgot to mention this. A very formative thing happened when I was between 10 and 14. There were four of us girls: me and my sister and two neighbor sisters who formed a close knit club. Not just to hang out together in general, but we developed our own program to explore and to perfect. There were four parts to it. First was art, second was spiritual knowledge, third was romantic expression as we all read "Little Women," and the last was athletic interests. My sister and I grew up holding on to these areas of interest throughout our lives.

P: Can you recall what you wanted to be when you grew up and what did you actually end up doing?

C: When I was young, I passionately wanted to grow up to be a ballerina. I also considered being a nun, but that was short-lived after I learned about boys. My professional career was being a psychotherapist for 34 years and I retired eight years ago.

P: When did you actually become interested in art?

C: The art part really became a reality for me when my own daughters were around 10 and I started to draw them. I was actually surprised when I noticed the likeness was amazing! But being a mom, I was too busy to focus on any art at all.

P: What actually inspired you to begin to take your art interest seriously?

C: When my two daughters were in high school I chose to enroll in the College of Marin and I took some art



Carol Leif stands by a watercolor portrait of her grandson

classes and I found out I could do this and it was fun!

P: Can you describe what medium you first explored?

C: It was watercolor at the College of Marin, but I also took two other classes. One was in drawing and the other one was in design/composition.

P: Did that evolve into other art mediums?

C: In 1995 I started to work as a jeweler in Marin County. After moving to Sebastopol in 1997, I took up painting first in watercolor and next in oil. This was all on my own, no classes. Around 2000 I quit the jewelry making because doing both was too much for me. I'd rather paint.

P: Any particular art projects of yours you may want to tell us about?

C: Yes, I took up sculpting with a polymer clay modeling product called Sculpey. I was enamored with the Beatrix Potter characters, so I tried my hand at this for my own joy of it.

Comment by Paula:

Before Carol mentioned the name Beatrix Potter, Carol took me upstairs to her room and in a small, enclosed glass cupboard she had quite a collection of small whimsical characters, which she had sculpted. At my first glance, I immediately thought of Beatrix Potter.

P: How long have you lived in Sonoma County?

C: I moved here from Fairfax, Marin County in 1997.

P: How did you find out about AWS?

C: A friend-of-a-friend referred me to come as a guest and I joined 3 or 4 years ago.

Conclusion by Paula:

I was delighted to learn that Carol and I have many basic familiar settings as we both grew up in Marin County and specifically the Laurel Grove area where her home was, and I had a Girl Scout leader who lived there where we had many meetings and activities. Both our families loved to vacation at Lake Tahoe and we shared a few stories about camping at Meeks Bay and also enjoying Sunnyside Resort. I retired from my career in 1997 and Carol moved to Sebastopol that year. I really enjoyed our time together in her charming farmhouse and barn with two beautiful surrounding acres. Thank you, Carol, for making me feel so at home during this interview process.

Recent Work by AWS Members



Sandi Maurer -
"Alien Intuitive" 8x8 acrylic on wood



Fran Nielsen -
"Hazy Sunrise" 20x16 acrylic



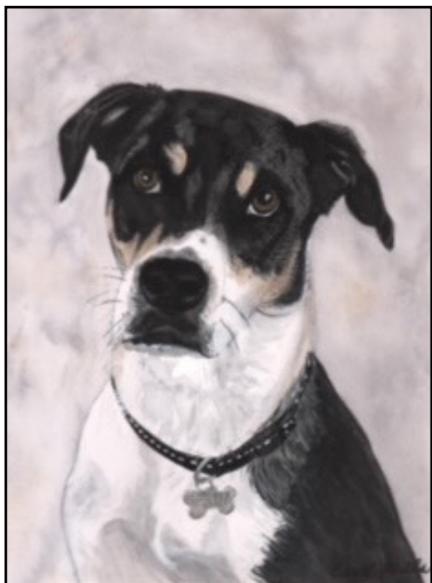
Sandi Maurer -
"St. Sebastian" 24x20 acrylic



Patricia Marina -
"Wildflower Gift" 20x16 acrylic



Carol Mills -
"Quipos" 11x15 watercolor



Carol Mills-
"Cooper" 11x15 watercolor

Tips for Painterly Happiness and Success

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1. Have your paint squeezed out before your mind is in gear.
2. Accept a lifetime of perpetual studenthood.
3. Learn to love the masters and to know who they truly are.
4. Appreciate the value of silence and private thought.
5. Alternate your work zones with some form of physical activity.
6. Listen to the music that has been within you from your youth.
7. Constantly ask of yourself and your work "what could be?"
8. Strategize your time, your playtime, and your worktime.
9. Learn to work under all conditions and privations.
10. Work from life, from your own reference, and from your imagination.
11. Accept the gift of a life in art and know it is a high and noble calling—both a miracle and a responsibility.
12. Learn to be your own best critic and counsel.
13. Purge your lesser work regularly.
14. Don't enter too many group shows, contests or competitions.
15. Do take occasional workshops from competent professionals.
16. Have a lifelong mission to enhance the lives of others.
17. Know that no matter what happens, most of the joy is in the craft.
18. Know that you're part of a great international brotherhood and sisterhood of artists who are living now and have gone before.
19. Be philosophic about art trends and fashions and the often perceived unfairness of the game.
20. Follow your own nose. It is a good guide for a lot of things in life, and above all know that quality will always be in style.

*This abridged letter was originally published as Robert Genn's **Tips for you** on May 1, 2012.*

PEOPLE COME FIRST

The Alice Neel show at the de Young through July 10

By Gail Mardfin, with quotes from the exhibit's show cards

The exhibit presented Alice Neel (1900-1984) as one of the 20th century's most radical artists, a champion of social justice whose art reflected her idea: "For me, people come first." She did not refer to her paintings as portraits, but as "pictures of people." She focused especially on individuals who had experienced injustice as a result of sexism, racism, and capitalism.

She lived in NYC most of her life. Born into a white middle-class family near Philadelphia, her first husband was a Cuban painter and they moved to Havana. Later she moved to Spanish Harlem, leaving a child in Cuba. Her life was not easy: she spent most of 1931 in a sanitarium after a mental breakdown, and she definitely attracted some less-than-savory male relationships.



New York Cityscape, 1968



Mother with Child, 1962

She began painting in the Depression era of the 1930s, continuing into the 40s-50s- and 60s, when Abstract Expressionism dominated the art scene. She worked figuratively and in relative obscurity until she painted a curator of one of her shows and then became sought after by the wealthy. She also painted still lifes and interiors, as well as scenes of her various NYC neighborhoods.

She painted nude figures throughout her career, not in the traditional "male gaze" of eroticism that women's bodies had most frequently been depicted, but "confidently subverting the genre." Although she eschewed the notion of feminism, she received the

Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Women's Caucus for Art in 1979.

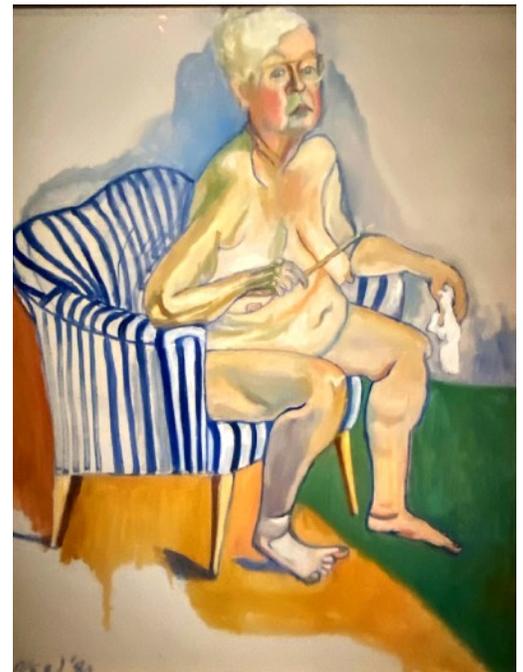
"Her painted line sensitively traces the contours of plump bottoms, flaccid penises, sagging breasts, and taut skin, compellingly capturing the peculiarities, humor, and power of the nude human form, be it in fact octogenarian, pregnant coupled, or of any gender." She painted many stages of maternity, both pre- and post-partum. Unlike the sanitized clichés that appeared in popular culture and fine art (think saintly Madonnas), Neel's mothers are frank and empathetic of the challenges of bearing and raising children. She herself was a parent of a daughter and two sons.



Neel's Granddaughter, 1982

Although she painted friends, family, lovers, poets, artists, and strangers, it was not until 1980 that she painted her first and only self-portrait in which she is the principal subject, rendering herself naked and holding the tools of her trade. "Here Neel brings her spectacled and unflinching gaze to bear on her own elderly body, a gesture aimed squarely at an ageist, sexist society unused to seeing bodies like hers represented in fine art and popular culture."

I spent a wonderful long morning with my daughter at the Alice Neel show in early May, and came away very inspired! The next day I went to Riley Street and bought six 18x24 canvas boards with the intent to do some "pictures of people" a la Alice Neel! Stay tuned...



Self-Portrait, 1980



ROTARY FUNDRAISER FOR UKRAINE

On **Saturday, July 16**, Sonoma County artists will come together for an **Art Exhibition** to benefit Cherkasy, Ukraine.
2-5 PM at the Courtyard, Montgomery Village.

ART DONATIONS ARE DUE BY JULY 1ST

Prints are fine, as are other media and 3D work, but try to stick to the sunflower theme & Ukrainian colors.

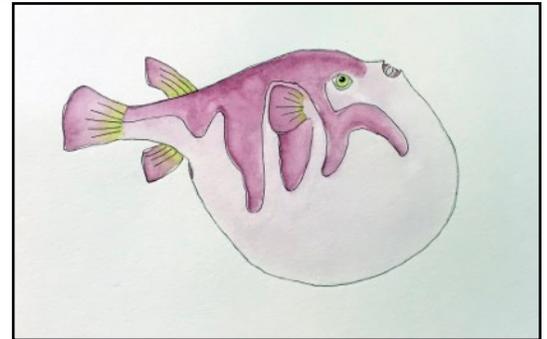
Contact Jennifer Girvin ASAP
if you'd like to contribute
jgirvin@sonic.net • 707-321-6347

Proceeds will go to the Cherkasy Center Rotary Club for the creation of first aid kits for civilians and the military and other humanitarian aid.

Thanks to **Paula Pearce, Susie Moore, and Arlene Parnay** for doing the time-consuming job of tallying the **ABS Popular Votes** and comments.

After receiving her votes in the mail, Sandi Maurer wrote:

The envelope with the notes on people's favorite paintings (and their comments) was very encouraging! I was so surprised!



Marilee Wingert -
"Stargazer" 8x11 watercolor

Riley Street

art supply

103 Maxwell Ct, Santa Rosa
(707) 526-6421 Mon. - Sat.
9:30am - 5:30pm



AS AN AWS MEMBER, REMEMBER TO ASK FOR YOUR 10% DISCOUNT ON ALL NON-SALE ITEMS. DOES NOT INCLUDE MATBOARD.

