



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT JUDY GOLDBERG

Hello to all artists and art lovers!

Ah, Spring! The hills are alive with the ♪♪... cadmium yellow deep poppies and violet dioxazine wild iris. I can imagine all the painters who love to work *en plein air* getting their paints, pastels, pencils and palettes ready to tromp out into the beauty that surrounds us here along the Sonoma Coast. What a treat!

For our annual **March Members' Critique**, the artists of AWS were treated to some extremely helpful thoughts on our selected work by artist/gallerist/AWS member, **Beverly Bird**. I am sure all felt encouraged by the experience and excited to return to their studios, garages, or kitchen tables to apply the guidance suggested.

Critique leader Beverly Bird delivered her impressions on the "gutsy" mixed media abstract piece by Nancy Tulloh, then others were invited to offer their feedback & suggestions.



Critique should be a welcomed part of our creative process, helping guide us to create an even more successful work. Sometimes looking at our own work, we artists can only see what didn't come out the way it was envisioned and are blind to what is actually working well. So, seek the opinions of others and benefit from the thoughtful, optimistic viewpoint of another mind.

*Oh, would some Power the gift give us
To see our art as others see, thus
It would from many a blunder free us...
~ Very improperly paraphrased from "To a Louse..." by Robert Burns, 1786 Scottish poet*

And NOW...the countdown has begun for the much anticipated **APPLE BLOSSOM SHOW**. Much appreciation goes to all of the members volunteering to help with this huge undertaking... planners, organizers, promotion doers, gallery preparers, panel painters, art in-takers and hangers, judging assistants, food makers, buffet servers, wine procurers and beverage pourers, music makers, docents, rafflers (made-up word), sales and tally keepers... and last but most importantly, the ARTISTS and the ART! What an AWSome group!

While selecting the work that we wish to enter in the show or working on the work we hope to show, try to see it with a critique-al eye and not judge ourselves too harshly.

We have made our art to be seen and enjoyed. Let's celebrate! **PARTY ON!**



NEW AWS MEMBERS!

Cindy King • Forestville
Kim Keller • Sebastopol

Both Cindy and Kim come to AWS by way of a watercolor class taught by Barbara Marlin-Cooles, a longtime watercolor teacher who really builds community in her classes at the Finley / Person Senior Center. By my recollection, here are other AWS members who originally met in the class: Linda Carroll, Lin Dahl, Hale Darby, Linda Grainger, Diana Jones, Gail Mardfin, Judy McFarland, Lonna Necker, Genie Rhodes, and Charito Shetty. - GM, ed

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT • LONNA NECKER

Greetings to you all.

Rather than a demonstrator for March, we had our annual Art Critique. **Beverly Bird** once again agreed to conduct the critiques of members' paintings and she is the absolutely perfect person for the job. Her observations were considered and inspiring, and her invitation to those who joined in the discussions added helpful suggestions. This annual critique can be the solution for anyone who is struggling with a piece of art, or anyone who may want some advice about a piece they intend to enter into the Apple Blossom Art Show. Keep this in mind for next year when we hope to have Beverly again, and you can submit for review that piece that isn't yet quite right.

Our April demonstrator will be our very own Gail Mardfin. For 20 years, she was an art teacher in a girls' boarding school in New Jersey and for the last few years has been at it again locally. It brings her great joy to be leading contemporaries who now have the time and inclination to be exploring their own creativity. She thinks the "lesson" she will present on Mandalas will be fun and inspiring. The room will be set up to accommodate our participation in creating our own personal mandalas – so remember to bring a fine point permanent black pen and she will supply the rest.

We had quite a lovely assortment of art for the March meeting, including many pieces based on **RAIN**. It was a delightful showing, so thank you to all those who shared and who remembered to send their work appearing in this newsletter on page 8, as well!

The Prompt for April is REVERBERATIONS. This prompt is based on the June SebARTs' exhibition that will pair 56 works of art with poetry written about the art. We will have our own Reverberations show in April! Let **Reverberations prompt you to do poetic, text-based art, or interpretations of echoes, waves, or repercussions, or, based on its original French, a great flash of light. See what comes to mind, or flashes before you!**

Take care,
Lonna

Beverly Bird says that feedback from AWS critiques does help (*see below*), citing two of her past paintings that were improved as a result of these critiques; each sold for \$500 - one just the day before!

Twelve AWS members offered their works - from watercolors to pastels to mixed media - for consideration. Abstract pieces were often rotated four times to get the best feel for orientation. Thanks to all who participated in this successful activity. Send in your improved work to share!



Mixed media by
Pamela Heck



Watercolor
by Gary Wilson



BEFORE & AFTER

After feedback received at the March critique about *Rocky Cliffs at Sea Ranch* (11x14 acrylic), Beverly made changes to her own painting, now at Upstairs Gallery. She says, "Hopefully others were likewise inspired. Love our folks - so much knowledge in the house."




AWS BOARD MINUTES MARCH 21, 2024

Meeting Called to order 10:35 a.m. by President Judy Goldberg.

Voting Members Present: Judy Goldberg, Patty Bird, Gail Mardfin, Patricia Marina, Fran Nielsen, Lonna Necker, Lorraine Stribling, Linda L. Reid, Merrie Krisl, Judy Boles, Judy McFarland

Others Present: Carol Mills, Allene Donato

Discussion:

- **Board Member-at Large:** Gail Mardfin said 2 people have shown interest and she will follow up.
- **Redwood Café Show:** Gail Mardfin said 14 members have expressed interest in participating and Kim Winter will be sending details of the show to them. It will run from May 15th through August 12th. A reception will be held May 31st 6-8pm with music; free food will appear around 7/7:30 at the reception. AWS will pay for the posters and cards, which should be less than \$100.
- **Gravenstein Fair:** Carol Mills has 7 members signed up to participate. They will be in a 20'x10' space. Carol has sent in the application. Judy Boles made the motion that AWS pay the \$600 application fee. Judy McFarland seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- **June Picnic:** All agreed RiverFront Regional Park is a good location, with members encouraged to bring chairs. Carol Mills will look into making a reservation at Riverfront Regional Park. It will be potluck with AWS providing drinks. **Need a chairperson.** 
- **Apple Blossom Show:** Linda Reid has negotiated contracts with Chamber of Commerce and SebArts. Brighter lights will be installed for this year's show. She has made requests for wine donations from local vendors and will ask members to donate wine as well. Patricia Marina and Judy McFarland have begun publicity. Gail has completed the postcards and posters to be picked up by members at the general meeting, but posters should not be put up until April 1st.
 - Linda said she will be traveling next year and we will need a replacement for her or at least a co-chair for the ABS next year.
- **Presentations and Prompts:** Lonna Necker reported that Gerald Huth will be the presenter in September. He does collage.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Merrie Krisl reported the checking account balance is \$5,814.07 and the awards account balance is \$5976.67.
- **Membership:** Lorraine Stribling reported we have 105 members, 20 of whom rarely come to meetings.
- **Correspondence:** Fran Nielsen sent out three cards this month.
- **New storage cabinet:** Judy Goldberg said the old cart has been cleaned out and organized and new cart is not needed at this time.
- **Constitution Revisions:** Committee presented proposed changes to Constitution, By-laws and Standing Rules. Discussion followed and will be continued at next meeting.

11:53 a.m. Motion to close: Gail Mardfin. Second: Lonna Necker. Motion passed.

Submitted by Judy Boles, Recording Secretary



SEBASTOPOL VENUES March 21 - May 16

Coffee & Moore

CURRENTLY: Gail Mardfin
MAY 16: Linda Dove-Pierson

Fandee's Restaurant

CURRENTLY: Susan Bradford
MAY 16: Charito Shetty

Hole in the Wall Restaurant

CURRENTLY: Carolyn Jarvis, Deni Marrone,
Carol Mills
MAY 16: Lorna Ho

Hair Masters

CURRENTLY: Linda Dove-Pierson
MAY 16: **AVAILABLE**

Specialty Center

CURRENTLY: Elizabeth Gomes & Barbara Evans
MAY 16: Enid Barnes

Umpqua Bank

CURRENTLY: Kathleen Andre
MAY 16: **AVAILABLE**

STOP IN & VISIT OUR VENUES!

How about a future show with a friend?

Please click & read the [Venues Guidelines](#)
and after visiting the venue,
you can sign up with
Venues Coordinator Deni Marrone -
call or text (408) 202-3875



This has got to be some sort of a record! Linda Dove-Pierson sold SEVEN of her mixed media pieces from Hole in the Wall before the show came down in March! *Congratulations, Linda!*



Inspired by the Abstract group that had one huge painting on display at Coffee & Moore, Gail Mardfin is showing mostly large (36x36) pieces there March - May.

April 20 Refreshments

Please have your contribution (people) on the table so the potluck promptly at noon. Thank you. *Remember to record it at the food table and ALSO AT THE SIGN-IN TABLE!*

SANDWICHES/ FINGER FOOD

Jerry Fabiano
Denise Ferrere
Chris Field
Cindy Gillespie
Hedda Gold
Pamela Heck
Diana Jones
Cindy King
Susan Nestor
Judy Pagnusat
Christine Paschal
James Reynolds
Charito Shetty
Joyce Terres
Andrew Way
Gary Wilson

DESSERT/FRUIT

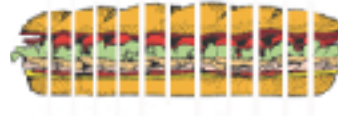
Enid Barnes
Allene Donato
Linda Grainger
Judy McFarland
Francesca Miliano
Roberto Miliano
Rita Rhine
Kathy Root
Nancy Sanchiotti
Marilyn Sommer

RAFFLE

Susan Nestor

GREETER at DOOR

Linda Dove-Pierson



40 WATERCOLORS by Linda Grainger

Steele Lane Community Center
415 Steele Lane, Santa Rosa, CA



Artist's Reception

Friday, April 12 • 5-7 pm

Please come see many of my paintings
and enjoy drinks & refreshments.



The exhibit runs from April 9 to July 3, 2024.
Closed weekends.



Cindy King shared the very first painting she did in 2014 when she walked into a watercolor class at the Finley Center. "Ya just gotta do it!" she said to herself...



Carol Mills' prompt piece was done from a photo looking out a window in a foreign city, with buildings in perspective in the distance & raindrops on the glass in front.



Sally Privette introduced her art form of **basketry** with a piece memorializing her late husband. Sally teaches basketry & will be the **AWS demonstrator in October!**



90-year-old **Roberto Miliano** showed what was his second oil painting, an award-winning still life, crediting a mentor he had in Petaluma.

Some March ART SHARES



Linda Dove-Pierson presented "Rosie the Riveter." She highly recommends the 3-story Rosie the Riveter museum in Richmond, California. An historic button she incorporated into the piece was made by Westinghouse Electric, one of the factories supporting WWII.



James Reynolds has been experimenting with "AI" (Artificial Intelligence)!

"*The end is nigh,*" he jokingly (?) warned.

James explained how you just type in words to ChatGPT, select a style, and *voila*, AI-generated art!

Sometimes with a few weird problems. For instance in the crane creation (*upper right corner in the photo*), the neck feathers came in upside down. Working with the Procreate app, he was able to make corrections there and elsewhere.

"It has opened my imagination," he extolled.

Read James' interesting blog on the subject of AI in art, the benefits and the ethical considerations, at jamesrreynolds.net/blog



FREE Demonstrations provided by the Sonoma County Book Arts Guild in the SebARTs Gallery

[Pulp Show: "Loop Books" Demo with Kris Nevius](#)

Thursday, April 11, 2024; 2-3pm

[Pulp Show: 2-Needle Coptic Binding Demo with Dena Bliss](#)

Thursday, April 18, 2024; 3-4pm

[Pulp Show: Origami Fold Book Demo with Barbara Goodman](#)

Thursday, April 25, 2024, 2-3pm

Click on purple links above for all details.

Donations support the SebARTs gallery, which hosts a variety of contemporary works showing year-round.



Have you strolled in the SebARTs sculpture garden lately? At my count, there are now TEN wonderful sculptures permanently on display in an array of materials – marble, clay, steel and bronze. And one by AWS' very own **Rod Morgan** entitled "Standing Alone Together," shown above.

- GM, ed

SEBARTS SPRING PLEDGE DRIVE

SebARTs is part of the fabric of our cultural community, an organization worth our efforts and care.

GIVE AS GENEROUSLY AS YOU CAN. [DONATE HERE.](#)

MARCH PROMPT

RAIN



Becky Brendlin -
"Raindrops on Lambs Ears"
10x10 acrylic



Lonna Necker -
"Washington Rain" 18x12 acrylic



Marcella Ford -
"Rainy Nights & Pink Lights"
9.5x9.5 pastel



Marilyn Dizikes -
"Approaching Storm" (Hilton Head)
18x24 acrylic



Lin Dahl - Untitled 14x20 watercolor



Rita Rhine - "Circles of Rain" 11x17 watercolor



Judy Boles - "Raindrops" 8x10 oil



Deni Marrone -
"I Can't Stand the Rain"
24x12 acrylic pour



Judy McFarland -
"Rainy Day" 10x7 watercolor



Paula Pearce -
"Dancing in the Rain"
10.5x7 ink & watercolor



Rosemary Ward -
"Rain" 8x10 oil on board



Lorraine Stribling -
"I've Got Your Covered" 10x8 collage & "Sprinting Home" 7x8 collage



Eucalyptus in the Morning Fog, pastel by James Reynolds

Exploring Pastel with James R. Reynolds

FREE Pastel Painting Demo

Friday, April 12th, 6:30pm

at the East Rec Center

7902 Oakmont Dr, Oakmont, CA

then...

Two-day Workshop in Oakmont - \$185

Sat & Sun, April 13-14 • 10am-4pm

Art Room in Central Activities Center

310 White Oak Dr, Oakmont, CA

Beginner to advanced students are welcome. Each day will include a pastel painting demonstration. Students will work individually in class and receive personal instruction. We will focus on overcoming challenges in order to paint with joy and freedom. Topics will include pastel layering, composition, problem solving, tools/materials, working from photographs, and the computer as an artist aid.

**To register, contact Dan Fishman
dfishman@pacbell.net**

AN INVITATION TO JOIN MARILYN SOMMER'S STUDIO GROUP

Marilyn hosts a weekly gathering in her Sebastopol home studio at **10am on Mondays**. Easels, tables, chairs are there. You bring your own art supplies. People get started painting and then the teacher, **Michael Coy**, comes about 11am and presents several artists and their work on a large screen, with discussion and questions. The **fee is \$25**, all of which goes to him. (His website is www.coyart.com) After his presentation, Michael goes to each person for help with whatever they are working on. *There are beginners as well as others in the group. Everyone is very supportive.* When everyone is satisfied, he leaves and we continue to **paint til 3-4pm**. We bring our own lunch and eat when we want to. Coffee, tea, microwave & bathroom are all handy. **Interested?** Call Marilyn at 707-823-4478 or 707-303-6792 for more info.



AWS members **Linda Dove-Pierson** & **Aimée Tomczak** have studios (full of art!) in **FULTON CROSSING Artisan Studios & Gallery**, Santa Rosa, and their AWS friends turned out for them at the Saturday, March 16 event.



ABOVE: Linda & daughter Blair. RIGHT: Wendy Brown, Linda Donahue, Niki Skelton, Enid Barnes, Aimée, and Kathleen Andre.



If you love kids or animals and would like to support an organization doing good work in the world, *consider donating a piece of art to Forget Me Not Farm by May 1st for their fundraiser June 22.*

Located at 5345 Highway 12 West in Santa Rosa, Forget Me Not Farm has been helping at-risk youth recover from trauma for over 30 years. Its mission is "to be a haven for children and animals to bond and break the cycle of abuse."

Forget Me Not Farm is an animal-assisted therapy and horticultural therapy program, therefore any animal, garden, or nature-based artwork in any medium (ceramic, framed paintings, drawings, or photography) would be appreciated, especially livestock or farm themes. And they would LOVE a story to go with it! Artists are asked to give a suggested sale price, as well.

Executive Director Carol Rathmann says, "The proceeds from the sale of your donation at our annual fundraiser will ensure that we can continue to provide services to children in need. Find out more about our

work: www.forgetmenotfarm.org

For drop-off details or to arrange a tour of the facility, contact Carol at 707-577-1913 or carol@forgetmenotfarm.org

REDWOOD CAFE SHOW FOR AWS is ON!

"SAVE THE DATE!" says Kim Winter, organizer of the second group show for AWS at the Redwood Café in Cotati. The show will hang for three months and the reception with live music will be on May 31st. Stay tuned for more details next month.

In the meantime, gracing the wood plank walls of the café are several large acrylics by AWS member **Marilyn Dizikes**, three of which are shown here:



HAPPY  PASSOVER!
April 22 to April 30

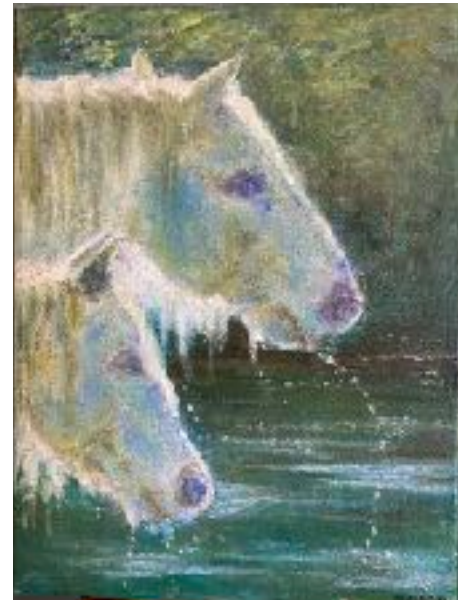
ART BY AWS MEMBERS



Charito Shetty -
"Gold Butterfly Koi Fish"
14x11 watercolor



Kathleen Andre -
"Pink Morning"
16x20 acrylic



Patty Bird -
"Drink, Interrupted"
12x9 oil pastel with Liquin
Liquin is a solvent that sort of melts the oil pastel and it becomes very much like oil painting.



Sandi Maurer -

FAR LEFT: "Sharing a Cup"
8x8 acrylic on wood



LEFT: "First Show"
8x8 acrylic on wood



Kim Winter -
"Coffee Fish"
9x12 acrylic



Gail Mardfin - "The Little Mermaids"
16x20 mixed media - *My granddaughter and a friend; this was in my Moonlight Brewing show.*

Reminders from 2024 Apple Blossom Art Show Chair Linda Reid...



It's gonna be a lot of fun and we've all got to do our part to make the wonderful ABS happen!

Be sure to send in your **ENTRY FORM & CHECK** to Lorraine Stribling, no later than **APRIL 12!**

SPREAD THE WORD! Gail will send out a PDF to everyone to share with your email contacts.

We have a **REGULAR AWS MEETING ON APRIL 18** to go over final details...

>> Please bring a **BOTTLE OF WINE** to the meeting to be poured at the **ABS reception.**

There are also a number of **POSTERS**, large and medium, and some postcards left. Contact gail@plpgraphicdesign.com to get some!

DONATED ART, no larger than 14x11, is welcome! Bring it when you **DELIVER YOUR ART** on Thursday, April 25, 3-4:30.

Arrive at 6:45 to the Reception on Friday, April 26 with **FINGER FOOD**, especially savory.

THIS IS THE LIST OF MEMBERS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO ENTER THE 2024 ABS.

If you believe your name should be on this list, contact Membership Chair Lorraine Stribling **ASAP** at (707) 480-7132 or lorrainestribling@comcast.net

Kathleen Andre	Marcella Ford	Fran Nielson
Enid Barnes	Valerie Gardiner	Leah Ocean
Susan Barri	Hedda Gold	Christine Paschal
Janet Blake	Judy Goldberg	Paula Pearce
Beverly Bird	Elizabeth Gomes	Gail Radice
Patty Bird	Linda Grainger	Linda Reid
Rhoda Bloom	Pamela Heck	James Reynolds
Judy Boles	Lorna Ho	Rita Rhine
Susan Bradford	Carolyn Jarvis	Genie Rhodes
Becky Brendlin	Diana Jones	Honora Russell
Wendy Brown	Merrie Krisl	Nancy Sanchiatti
Kathy Byrne	Gail Mardfin	Charito Shetty
Marilyn Dizikes	Patricia Marina	Niki Skelton
Linda Donahue	Deni Marrone	Marilyn Sommers
Allene Donato	Sandi Maurer	Nancy Tulloh
Linda Dove-Pierson	Judy McFarland	Rosemary Ward
Barbara Evans	Robert Miliano	Gary Wilson
Jerry Fabiano	Carol Mills	Kim Winter
Christine Field	Lonna Necker	
	Susan Nestor	

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(707) 526-6421 • www.RileyStreet.com
Mon. - Sat. 9-5:30 | Sun. 11-4



SAVE 20 TO 40% OFF MSRP ON VIRTUALLY OUR ENTIRE INVENTORY OF ARTIST PAINTS

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