

Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County
8214 Covert Lane • Sebastopol CA 95473



AWSOMEART.ORG • October 2023

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19th

Sebastopol Veteran's Building, 282 South High St, Sebastopol, CA • MASKS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED
10:30 Board • 12:00 Potluck • 12:30 Meeting

1:30-2:45 - Art Demo: Framing & Watercolor with Ron Sumner*

October Prompt: "ILLUMINATING PERSPECTIVES: THE EXPLORATION OF LIGHT"
and/or "GOURDS & PUMPKINS" • November Prompt: "A GENEROUS TABLE"

Harvest Fair Artists: Reminder!

Send Carol Mills the **titles**, **medium**, and **prices** for each of your pieces **no later than Oct. 8**, if you have not already.

carolmills202@gmail.com



*RON SUMNER

Ron earned a BFA from the California College of Arts & Crafts and has been a commercial artist, illustrator, character animator, scenic artist, professor

author, and framer. Ron's artwork has garnered numerous awards, including many Best of Show awards sponsored by the Society of Western Artists. Ron is currently a member of the Upstairs Gallery in Healdsburg.



An entertaining presenter, Ron will go through a short demonstration to show how he completes framing a painting by adding D-rings, screws, wire, and a dust cover to the back side. After that, he will share some of his paintings and demonstrate his techniques on a bird painting that is in progress.

Above: "Cormorant" (watercolor 25.5"x34") by Ron Sumner

Welcome new member
JUDY PAGNUSAT !

That makes six Judy's in AWS, including two on our Board!
Keep them straight by visiting our faceboard in the back of the room.

FROM THE PRESIDENT JUDY GOLDBERG



Hello to all artists and art lovers!

Fall is now official with leaves on the forest path. Walking the trails in Ragle Park, I gaze over the brambles to the meadows of high grasses, softly textured with that certain autumnal hue I have yet to find with

watercolor. Remembering the inspiring demonstration at our September meeting, those pastel landscapes that artist **Tamra Sanchez** gradually brought to life, stroke by stroke, there it was... that grassy meadow! It is tempting to try some pastels, however I'm not ready to jump to a new medium when I am still enjoying my battles with watercolor.

Poking around online, I happened upon several articles about the trials faced by artists while in a state of evolving, switching to a new medium, style or genre. It is reassuring to learn that beginning artists, of all levels of ability, share the same struggles as those well known and accomplished. What prompts an artist, who is happily and perhaps successfully working, to choose change?

Georgia O'Keeffe wrote late in her life about her early work in charcoal and watercolor: ***"This was one of the best times of my life. There was no one around to look at what I was doing—no one interested—no one to say anything about it one way or another—no one to satisfy but myself."*** Yet art critics and historians have proposed that during that same time, "O'Keeffe was adrift in uncertainty, lacked a clear way forward, and was left searching for her authentic

voice." The article concluded that her early experimental watercolors and drawings "revealed her greatness." Her later, more well known paintings of flowers and skulls, "appealed to the masses."

If O'Keeffe had continued to draw and paint as she pleased, without the intervention in the form of that surprise exhibition (Thank you Alfred Stieglitz) and the public acceptance of her work, would we know of her now?

"Assume that you will receive no recognition for the work you do. Assume that nobody will care. Then, create it anyway." ~ Hugh MacLeod *

Interaction with other artists and exposure of artwork to a more varied audience and their differing reactions, can move artists to accept the challenge to move forward, to take more chances, switch genre or medium, choose to try a different style, or maybe just take a break.

There is something very appealing about working on my own stuff for my own self, finding what floats my boat. Perhaps I'm adrift!

Happy sailing,
Judy Goldberg



Georgia O'Keeffe -
"Brown Sail, Wing and Wing,
Nassau" 38x30 oil, 1940

* [Ignore Everybody and 39 Other Keys to Creativity](#) by Hugh MacLeod

Much appreciation to CAROL MILLS for her unflagging efforts in organizing the AWS art display at the Harvest Fair taking place on October 14. This by-reservation event is an opportunity for members taking part to have their work seen (and perhaps purchased) by a wider audience and is also valuable exposure for AWS. More heaps of thankfulness to DENI MARRONE for taking charge of our second AWS outdoor Pop-Up Art Show in the Hole in the Wall/Viet House courtyard. These shows take a lot of "know-how" and "get-er-done" to make them happen. Thanks, Carol & Deni!

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT • LONNA NECKER

Ah, I can see the changing colors already. Get out your Quinacridone gold and orange and burgundy for all your fall paintings.

Our September demonstration was given by **Tamra Sanchez**, who uniquely demonstrated pastels by painting two paintings of the same landscape on different colored backgrounds (one light and one dark). It was fascinating to see the difference and to hear different members say which one they preferred. She described her processes and techniques and let us see them as she created two amazing paintings. It was delightful. (See Beverly's article on page 11.)



Tamra Sanchez' yummy pastels - and these are just a fraction!

Our demonstrator for October will be **Ron Sumner**, who will not only give a brief demonstration of watercoloring, but also framing! He is an artist partner in Upstairs Art Gallery in Healdsburg. **Beverly Bird** recommended Ron chiefly for his framing knowledge, but told us we will definitely be amused by his wit as well as wisdom.

The prompt art for September was MODES OF TRANSPORTATION. And true to form, we had a very eclectic selection of paintings. (See page 8 to see those that were sent in for newsletter. And please, remember to do that each month so everyone can see what we're creating!)

Thank you all for being such good sports about the prompts. Our next prompt will be **ILLUMINATING PERSPECTIVES: THE EXPLORATION OF LIGHT**, known as "The Light Show." This will be our first prompt that we have aligned with the Sebastopol Center for the Arts' exhibitions. A partial description of the inspiration for this exhibition is: *Artists are encouraged to delve into the diverse dimensions of light, whether through the use of color, luminosity, shadow, reflection, refraction, or other innovative techniques that redefine its artistic expression.* The deadline for entries to SebARTs is November 17. Since we added our prompt schedule, the alternative October prompt remains **PUMPKINS & GOURDS**.

Take care,
Lonna

P.S. As always, If you have a suggestion for a topic, theme, media, or artist to demonstrate at one of our meetings, please let me know! lonna@sonic.net



Charito Shetty took the 10-Stroke acrylics class from September demo artist **Susan Bradford** (lemon & peach, left). The calla flower & tomato-like fruit (right) were made in her own style. All are 7x5.



AWS BOARD MINUTES

September 21, 2023

Members Present: Judy Goldberg, Patty Bird, Deni Marrone, Gail Mardfin, Patricia Marina, Fran Nielsen, Lonna Necker, Lorraine Stribling, Judy McFarland, Linda L. Reid, Rhonda Johnston

Others Present: Carol Mills

Meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by President Judy Goldberg.



General Updates

- De Young Museum Trip: Gail Mardfin
- There are 28 individuals interested in taking the bus trip to the De Young Museum on Tuesday, November 14th (25 AWS members and 3 individuals from Oakmont). At this time there are not enough participants for the bus trip to be cost-efficient She will announce at the members meeting and see if more will join.
- Harvest Fair - Carol Mills
- A one day showing, on October 14th from 12:00pm. to 4:00pm. Drop off time at the Santa Rosa Fairgrounds (to be announced). Pick up time 5:30pm. All those interested must contact Carol ASAP.
- 4 pcs. of art per participant. 2-3 if work is large.
- Work will be labelled by Carol. Send her Title, Size, Medium, and Price.
- Carol will be sending information to those who have signed up for the show.

Vice President / Programs: Lonna Necker

- Lonna has finished coordinating AWS Monthly Prompts with SebARTs' upcoming calls for entry.
- October's Prompt is "Illuminating Perspectives: The Exploration of Light" (this coincides with SebARTs' next show) AND/OR "Gourds & Pumpkins."
- Visiting artist in October: Ron Sumner: Watercolor and Framing.

Treasurer: Patty Bird

- Jacque Mielke Awards account \$5,9670.71
- Balance of General Account \$6,465.40
- AWS name tags will now be \$12.00 instead of \$10.00



Membership: Lorraine Stribling

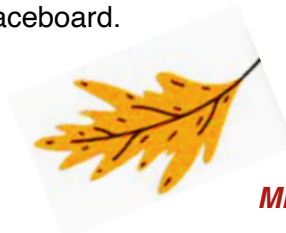
- Things are going OK!
- New rosters will be sent out soon. Email will note New Member information and changed information on existing AWS members.

Venues: Gail Mardfin for Deni Marrone

- There were 8 AWS members who showed work at Hole in the Wall on Sept. 2 (Labor Day Weekend). Guest attendance and overall sales were low.
- Our new Square register was used for credit card payments and worked like a charm.
- * More advertisement is needed if we do it again. Discussion of online calendar submission & getting spots on local radio stations. Get into the Press Democrat's weekend Things to Do section.

Communications: Gail Mardin

- New member information sheet is complete and up to date. It will be located on front sign-in table at AWS meetings. PDF's will be sent to all members via email.
- New faces have been added to our Member Faceboard.



MINUTES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

AWS BOARD MINUTES, continued

- Requirements chart for the Apple Blossom Show is complete and posted by the Facebook.
- Last month AWS website had 169 viewers, up from the previous month.
- August Newsletter sent out by Gail wasn't received by members with Gmail accounts and had to be resent. Going forward Newsletters will be sent by Gail via Constant Contact or some other workaround method.

Apple Blossom Show: Linda L Reid

- There will be a meeting on October 12th at 2:00pm in Linda's home to discuss things that need to be addressed for next year's Apple Blossom Show. For those interested in attending, contact Linda Reid.
- **2024 Apple Blossom Show will be April 27-28. Intake of participants' art will be Thursday, April 25. Reception Friday, April 26.**

New Business

- A "Newsletter Index" was proposed as a way to be able to look up past presenters/demonstrators and obituaries for the past 5 years. Lorraine Stribling volunteered to look up all information for both categories. A new "AWS Artist Book" will be made for next year's ABS and is still under discussion.

11:46 a.m. Motion to close: Lonna Necker. Second: Patty Bird. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Rhonda Johnston, Recording Secretary



de Young Bus Trip CANCELLED Looking for Carpoolers for Tuesday, November 14

Despite numerous emails and announcements both within and beyond our art club, I could not get enough riders to make a chartered bus trip to the de Young Museum feasible. Sorry!

So, let's begin again... If you would be willing to drive or would like to be a passenger, please let me know ASAP and I will start a new list, first come, first served - but this round it is open ONLY to AWS Members.

Riders could convene in Sebastopol or a more convenient location depending on the driver - around 9am. Riders would each chip in \$20 to the driver for gas, toll, and parking.

Everyone plans for their own museum admission and lunch.

I am still willing to organize this for this day, though you are certainly welcome to make your own plans on your own dates!

Send info to Gail: awsomeart2023@gmail.com



During the September Art Share, **Alene Donato** explained her acrylic abstract painting process. She begins with a burnt umber toned background, then thinking of sizes and shapes, she adds the darks and then lights, repainting over and over. She says, "I'm having an argument with it and it's arguing back."

Later she wrote, "*I truly love the process of painting abstraction and the exciting dilemma it poses. The problem solving is most rewarding. Telling our fellow members about it is the best! As I usually paint 4-5 pieces at a time, I am so fully engaged that all sense of time is fleeting at best. Cooking dinner seems like an afterthought at the end of the day.*" -gm

SEBASTOPOL VENUES

July 20 - September 21

Coffee & Moore

CURRENT: Carol Mills

NEXT: Abstraction Group: Patricia Marina,
Kim Winter, Nancy Tulloh, Linda Reid

Fandee's Restaurant

CURRENT: Avinash Pandey

NEXT: Gail Mardfin

Hole in the Wall Restaurant

CURRENT: Marilyn Sommer

NEXT: Rhonda Mertle & Enid Barnes

Hair Masters

CURRENT: Kathleen Andre & Deni Marrone

NEXT: Elizabeth Gomes

Sonoma Burger

CURRENT: Gail Mardfin

NEXT: Susan Barri

Specialty Center

CURRENT: Marcella Ford & Charito Shetty

NEXT: Deni Marrone

Umpqua Bank

CURRENT: Elizabeth Gomes

NEXT: Lorna Ho

**VISIT THE VENUE, THEN SIGN UP with Venues
Coordinator Deni Marrone
or call/text her at (408) 202-3875**

September 21 Refreshments

Please have your contribution (enough to serve
12 people) on the table promptly at noon.

>> Remember to sign in at the door
AND on the food table.

SANDWICHES/ FINGER FOOD

Wendy Brown

Cathy Collins

Marcella Ford

Hedda Gold

Judy Goldberg

Diana Jones

Bev Kjeldsen

Christine Paschal

Charito Shetty

Marilyn Sommer

Gary Wilson



DESSERT/FRUIT

Marilyn Dizikes

Christine Field

Carolyn Jarvis

Diana Jones

Rhonda Mertle

Nancy Tulloh



RAFFLE SALES

Volunteer
Needed!

September Dessert!?

Hospitality member
Kathleen Andre writes,
"Can't remember who
brought these, but I
remember what she
said they're made of:
Gravenstein apples and
sourdough puff pastry.
How were they? I didn't
get one in time! Ought
to give her **Best of
Show!**" *Whose was it?*



A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM YOUR HOSPITALITY TEAM:

When you bring food for the potluck,
please **PUT YOUR NAME** on
**ALL SERVING TRAYS, CONTAINERS
& UTENSILS.**

>> Please remember to pick up your
items and take your leftovers home. <<

Thank you.

SEBASTOPOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS

THE PEOPLE SHOW

Oct 28-Dec 3, 2023

OPENING RECEPTION
October 28 • 2-4PM

AWS member **Patricia Marina** and Ellen Storz are coordinating the “People Show” at SebARTs, an international exhibition juried by Alice Beasley.

Patricia and local singing group, The Sugars, will be providing entertainment at the Opening Reception.

Stephen Milborrow’s Portrait Drawing Machine, which creates pen portraits much like a human artist, will also be featured at the reception, along with snacks & refreshments.

If you are so inclined, wear a mask or costume for this fun, local Halloween weekend event.

Sounds like one not to be missed!



AWS member **James Reynolds** will be on the ART TRAILS Tour, along with 130 other talented area artists.
Sept 30-Oct 1 and Oct 7- 8



SebARTs’ Executive Director Serafina Paladech came to the September members meeting to introduce herself and say she is “super excited to get to know everybody.”

Trained in art school as a painter and with a background in business (she currently owns Luminarium in Sebastopol), Serafina has been Executive Director of SebARTs for three months. She invited everyone to the North Star Gala, the People Show, and spoke of the upcoming Light Show, featuring the use of light in traditional and nontraditional mediums. We welcome our mutual relationship.



Sat, November 4
The premiere event of the year! Support the mission and connect with the creative community for an evening of multi-sensory arts experiences including music, art, film, and poetry.
TICKETS:
www.sebarts.org/northstargala

September Prompt: Modes of Transportation



Marilee Wingert -
"Vespa" 7x9 watercolor



Gail Mardfin - "Rusty & Bob, 1943" 20x32 acrylic & collage diptych
This is based on a small, fuzzy, black & white photo I have of my parents - still working on the man's face a bit, but I thought it tied in with the month's prompt. I am working on a series of 12 paintings of people for a show in January at Moonlight Brewing.



Deni Marrone - "Frog's Mode of Transportation" a.k.a. "Mr. Toad's Wild Ride" 12x24 embellished acrylic pour.



SHARING PROMPTS: Top left, **Rhonda Mertle** talks about her oil painting of a horse. Next, **Marcella Ford** shares her pastel of an elephant carrying a rider. At right, **Judy McFarland** shares her watercolor of a sailboat, a mode of transportation her husband loves.



New email to send artwork to: awsomeart2023@gmail.com

The old one will work, too. Remember to include your name & title / size /medium of your art.

September Art Share

We're all getting better at using the microphone that President **Judy Goldberg** hands to us during the Art Sharing portion of the member meeting. Thank you!



Christine Paschal shares her award-winning seascape/landscape created in polymer clay built onto a baby food jar.



Digital artist **Chris Fields** produced an amazing portrait of her daughter using Adobe Illustrator and shapes with straight edges - very different from her watercolor work.



Gary Wilson didn't recognize the "French fries" he had created in his watercolor painting until months later.



Susan Nestor used popcorn as the subject matter to get her drawing again, before attending her first meeting in awhile.. (Brilliant! -gm)



Kim Winter explains the visual dialog with **Linda Reid** that is taking place in their collaborative abstract piece.



Rhoda Bloom shares her sweet watercolor of a mother and baby penguin.



Mark Rothko...
the Take Out Years



ART BY MEMBERS



Gail Mardfin - "Seventeen" 24x18 acrylic & collage. Based on a photo of my daughter at that age.



Barbara Evans - "Fishing Lures" 12x9 watercolor



Sandi Maurer - FROM TOP : "Cup of Inspiration" & "2nd Cup" Both 20x16 acrylic



Nancy Tulloh - FROM TOP: "Views" 18x24 acrylic; "Urgent" 12x16 mixed media; "Spring" 14x16 mixed media



Carolyn Jarvis - FROM TOP: "Spring Bloom at the Coast" 10x8 oil "Lupines at Goat Rock" 8x8 oil oil



Judy Grigg Goldberg - "Three Amigos in Turquoise Hats" 12x9 watercolor. Since the landscape in Spain is quite like ours here in Sonoma, I'm painting the streets and the people. This is my first attempt at a cityscape. I'll keep at it.

September Artist Demonstration: Tamra Sanchez

By Beverly Bird



AWS members were treated to a comprehensive demo by one of Sonoma County's foremost pastel artists, Tamra Sanchez. Not only did she share her pastel painting techniques, she did it by painting side-by-side duplicate paintings, one on a dark and one on a light substrate, to show how the background affects the final outcome.

She started out by sketching in the subject (a landscape), working from a printed reference photo which was also replicated on an iPad (the latter enables her to enlarge sections of the reference in order to see finer detail). Rather than painting *en plein air* with its inherent challenges of weather and schlepping supplies, Tamra is more drawn to painting in her studio from her own photos.

Initially she used a NuPastel (harder/cheaper than the softer versions), working lightly. Her

substrate choice was Sennelier La Carte paper – she prefers a paper with some tooth as this one has.

As the painting progressed, she switched to softer pastels in light blue, greys, and greens to block in the shapes. **Pastel Brands used:** NuPastel, Terry Ludwig, Sennelier, Unison, and Schmincke. She finds using her fingers to blend muddies things up – she showed how she blends using a hard pastel to cross hatch between shapes. Background hills were lightened up by sliding a lighter pastel on its side over the darker shapes. "It's like glazing in watercolors," she said. She advised using canned air to lift off sections of pastel as needed.

Each painting was brought to the beyond-block-in stage so she could show how she uses the harder pastels to add details, such as highlights on the grasses and further definition to the shadows on the road.

On final steps and framing, Tamra explained how she prepares the painting by placing it under a sheet of glassine and rubbing the surface hard to reduce the dust. Upon finalizing her paintings, she does not spray them, as she feels this dulls all colors – though she might spot-spray dark areas in the beginning stages.

For framing pastels, she uses Studio Molding, Econo Spacers, foam core or gator board. Sometimes she dry mounts the paper on the gator board.

Tamra began her artistic journey as a watercolorist, before becoming entranced with pastels. Now working primarily in pastels, she is award-winning and exhibits widely, including internationally. She is a member of the Graton Gallery. She also has taught classes and workshops. Tamra participates in Art Trails annually – she is the #89 stop on this year's tour – and she would love a visit from you!

For more on Tamra, the artist, visit www.tamrasanchez.com.



"I prefer working on a darker paper, but that's just my preference." Tamara's top paper was almost black, bottom a lighter buff.



Hole in the Wall/Viet House Pop-Up Show

Attendance wasn't great and neither were sales on Labor Day Saturday, but it was a perfect temperature and the restaurant-supplied umbrellas kept us in the shade. Artists sold paintings, cards, photos, jewelry, and flowers. The eight AWS artists got to know each other more and for some, it was their first outdoor rodeo! -gm



Carolyn Jarvis



Debra Wand



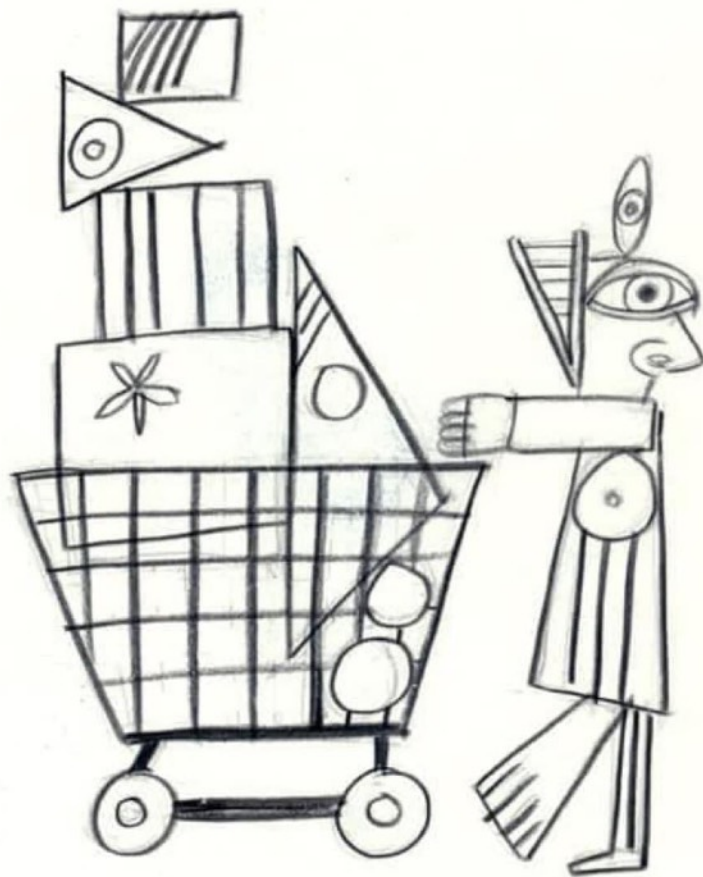
Elizabeth Gomes



Deni Marrone & Kathleen Andre



Gail Mardfin



PABLO PI COSTCO

Carol Mills arrived with homemade cake for the "starving artists."

Left, Charito Shetty & right, Patricia Marina.



WHY PAINT FROM LIFE? by Christopher Volpe

Appearing September 4, 2023



Jerry Fabiano had a fabulous day pastel painting *en plein air* at Jenner Headlands (the title of the finished piece below). His daughter, who works for the Sonoma Land Trust, arranged easy access - stay tuned for an announcement at the next meeting about the possibility of similar access for AWS members.



...And the three non-plein air paintings of Jerry's that appeared in his friend's poetry book, covered in last month's newsletter.



First off, let's skip the guilt trip: there is NOTHING WRONG with painting from photographs, especially for beginners. The question of *plein air* painting vs. a photo reference is overblown, in my opinion. But undeniably, painting from a photo and painting outside are not the same thing. Light, color, and atmosphere all look different outdoors.

I think it's a question of which skills you choose to develop and why. In terms of development, there are certainly benefits you can only get by painting from life that touch design, drawing, memory, and imagination.

However, the whole debate overlooks the ultimate goals of painting; in the end, it's not the level of detail or abstraction, nor the fealty to what's visibly there. It's *the quality of the artist's involvement in the subject and the amount of mind, heart, and soul he or she gets into the painting that matters.*

The danger of working from photos is that you can become a slave to what's there and rob yourself of the opportunity to discover your own feelings and ideas in the paint. You can get lost recording all the details you can, when a painting can be so much more than what a camera can record. Direct observation, as in *plein air* painting, submerges you in sensory experience. It invites you to become intimate with your subject in a way that your phone's camera does not. But using your phone as a viewfinder to test potential compositions? Taking reference photos in case you see something you can use in them later? I do it all the time.

When it comes to landscapes, I try to choose subjects and times of day about which I have strong feelings to begin with, and I see my job as trying to express my feelings through the simplest and most direct means possible. Personally I find that fewer of my *plein air* paintings seem to work out *alla prima* in the field than those that need remedial attention in the studio. But as I say, to me the question of *plein air* vs. studio is moot; both are tools, and I'd rather be judged on what's in the painting for the viewer to find than on anything to do with process.

Painting from life, whether it's a portrait or a landscape *en plein air*, does offer the artist certain qualities of experience and knowledge that painting from photos does not. It encourages an active engagement with your subject, potentially influencing color and temperature decisions and choices about how and where to move the eye, what to leave in, what to leave out, and what to flat out invent in the heat of the moment.

Perhaps it depends on whether the finished product or the learning experience matters to you more. Painting from life is one of the best ways to grow as an artist.

The Sebastopol Senior Center has lots of great offerings! Weekday organic lunches, exercise classes, day trips, interesting speakers, and this Drop-In Art Group, highly recommended by AWS member **Marilee Winger**. Membership in the organization is \$50 annually, with many benefits. Check it out: www.sebastopolseniorcenter.org.

Drop-In Art Group

All Levels Welcome
BYO Supplies (Except Oils)



Sebastopol Area Senior Center
167 N. High Street, Sebastopol, CA

Members Free, Non-Members \$5.00



Best friends and art travelers Lonna Necker & Bev Kjeldsen had a September show of their recent Tuscany paintings in the Greenhouse of the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens in Santa Rosa. Lonna sold five pieces and in addition to some sales, Bev was delighted when all her kids and grandkids showed up!

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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.

LIFE DRAWING @

SANTA ROSA ART CENTER

On the 4th Wednesdays of the month 6-9PM



Models are nude until it gets too cold, then there will be clothed long poses until the Spring.

\$20; \$15 for SRAC members

312 South A St.
Santa Rosa