

DECEMBER 2021

Come one, come all!!

(or at least everyone who feels comfortable doing so!)

Our In-Person HOLIDAY PARTY ~ DECEMBER 16 • 12:00 to 2:30
Little Hen Room, Sebastopol Center for the Arts, 282 S. High St

Things to Remember:

- Proof of Vaccination
- Your AWS Nametag (if you can find it!)
- Your significant other or *future AWS member* are welcome! Please RSVP if you are bringing an extra person: **carolmills202@gmail.com**
- Your Dues (\$40 check to "AWS" if not yet paid)
- Something for the Potluck Table!
- A Miniature Masterpiece (if you've created one) AND/OR...
- Cash for a raffle ticket to win a Miniature Masterpiece (1=\$3 / 2=\$5)
- Your smiling face (behind your MASK when not eating)
- Also, if you're a "Collaborator," bring your artwork!

Slight Change of Plans:

Our USED ART SUPPLY SALE will not be during the party. >> Bring your supplies to the January 2022 meeting instead - *New Year's Sale!*



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Happy December! I can't believe we are about to start a new year next month! I hope all of you were able to celebrate a Thanksgiving with loved ones in some way. These are difficult times, but we need to remember all the everyday gifts we are lucky to have.

I am so looking forward to seeing many of you on December 16th! **If you haven't already RSVP'd, please do, especially if you are bringing a spouse or friend.** I just need a general count to know how many tables to set up and let the SCA staff know. Don't forget your small pieces of art. There will also be a couple of tables set up for crafts. We are going to have decorating and hospitality elves working early to set up. See the box, front and center on page 1, for everything you'll need to know about the party!

We decided not to do our usual new or used art supply auction/sale at the party. Instead, start collecting for our January meeting (in person at SCA). It will be a "New Year's

Sale!" We will talk more about this at the party.

We finally received our \$1000 grant check and it is safely deposited in our bank to help with our Apple Blossom Art Show expenses in April!

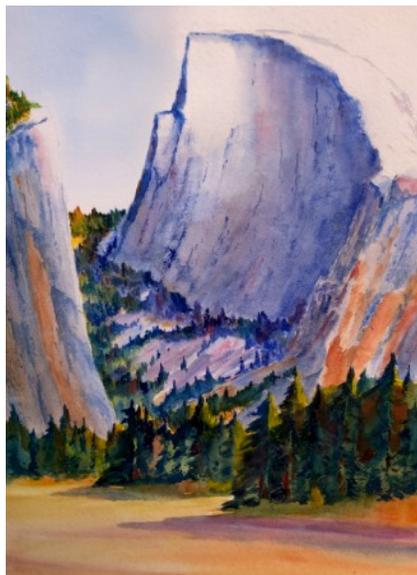
Please look at the last page of this newsletter for a little history of AWS. Interesting information, both for our oldest and newest members.

Until next time, take care of yourselves and each other.

Love, Carol



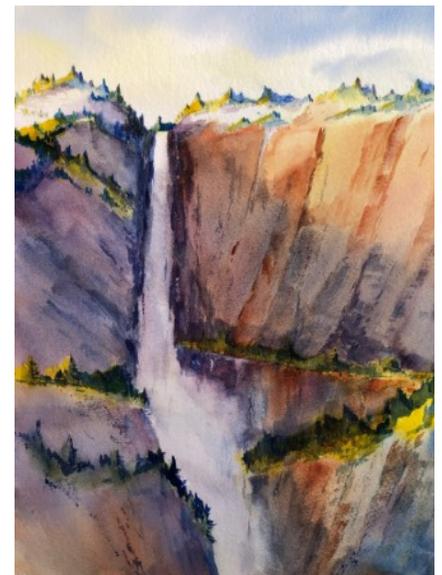
Linda Grainger -
"Light and Shadow" 12x16 watercolor



Sky Richardson -

LEFT: "El Cap and Half Dome" 24x18 watercolor

RIGHT: "Yosemite Falls as the Sun is Setting" 24x18 watercolor



These three watercolors were in response to November's prompt. More LIGHT & SHADOW paintings are on pages 7 & 8.

AWS Board Minutes

November 18, 2021

Members Present: Patty Bird, Jerry Fabiano, Merrie Krisl, Gail Mardfin, Patricia Marina, Deni Marrone, Carol Mills, Lonna Necker, Fran Nielsen and Lorraine Stribling.

Meeting was called to order at 11:01 by President, Carol Mills.

President: Carol said there has been a good response of about 30 people for the holiday party. Patty is looking into insurance, but due to staff changes has not connected with anyone yet. Gail suggested the board also have insurance contact info. The party will be a potluck with the club providing beverages. Kathy Byrne said she would be there to help with the food. Vaccination status will be checked on a club roster, so attendees will not need to provide it when we meet in person again. Masks are required except when eating or speaking to the group, and remember to wear your name tag. Small, no larger than 5x7, paintings that people bring will be raffled. Each donated painting will gain you a free ticket. Other raffle tickets can be purchased: \$3 for one, or \$5 for two. Gail suggested decorating masks. She will order masks and Patty and Deni will bring supplies for this. Results of the Collaboration Experiment will be on display.

Carol thanked **Sandi Mauer** for suggesting Coffee & Moore as a new venue. There is a show currently up and it will begin the 2 month rotation in January

Treasurer: We currently have \$4140.19 in our regular bank account and \$8539.51 in the Meilke fund for show prizes.

Membership: We have 31 paid members so far. Dues are \$40 for 2022 and should be paid by December 31. Checks made out to "AWS" can be sent to Lorraine Stribling or given to her at the party.

Website: Members can change up to 3 pieces by December 30. Send pics to Gail, labeled with your last name, title, height x width, and medium. Example: Krisl-VineyardView-16x20-Pastel.jpg.

Venues: Deni will bring the signup book to the holiday party. The pieces in the East West Café have been there for some time. Let Deni know if you would like to show there and have a still life or landscape that is at least 16x20.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:18.

Merrie Krisl, Recording Secretary

Sebastopol Venues

October 21, 2021-January 20, 2022*

Coffee & Moore

CURRENT: Group Show • NEXT: ?

Specialty Center

CURRENT: Carol Mills • NEXT: ?

Tombe Realty

CURRENT: Linda Grainger • NEXT: ?

Umpqua Bank

CURRENT: Linda Grainger • NEXT: ?

NOTICE: Starting in 2022, exhibits will be 2 MONTHS long again, so next time, Jan. 20 - March 17

SIGN UP IN THE NEW SIGN-UP BOOKS AT THE DECEMBER GATHERING FOR 2022 VENUES

OR CONTACT **Venues Coordinator Deni Marrone** (408) 202-3875 or denijomarrone@gmail.com

*Approximate; Current artist will make arrangements with next artist as to a mutually convenient day/time to change.

NOTE: AWS' **Group Show in East West Café** can be updated. If you wish to have 1-2 pieces (landscapes/still lifes 16x20 or larger) added or are already in it and want to switch out any work, **contact Deni at (408) 202-3875 to make arrangements.**



AWS' debut show hangers/artists in front of the first show: Sandi Maurer, Carol Mills, Jerry Fabiano, and Deni Marrone. Patricia Marina also has work hanging. (Coffee & Moore is located in the former Coffee Catz.)

FROM THE DESK OF THE VP

Dear AWS Friends,

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Vice President during the last two years. AWS is a wonderful club with so many fine artists.

I am happy to pass the baton into the very capable hands of **Lonna Necker** who I know will do a great job of contributing to lively, informative and interesting meetings, as well as other activities.

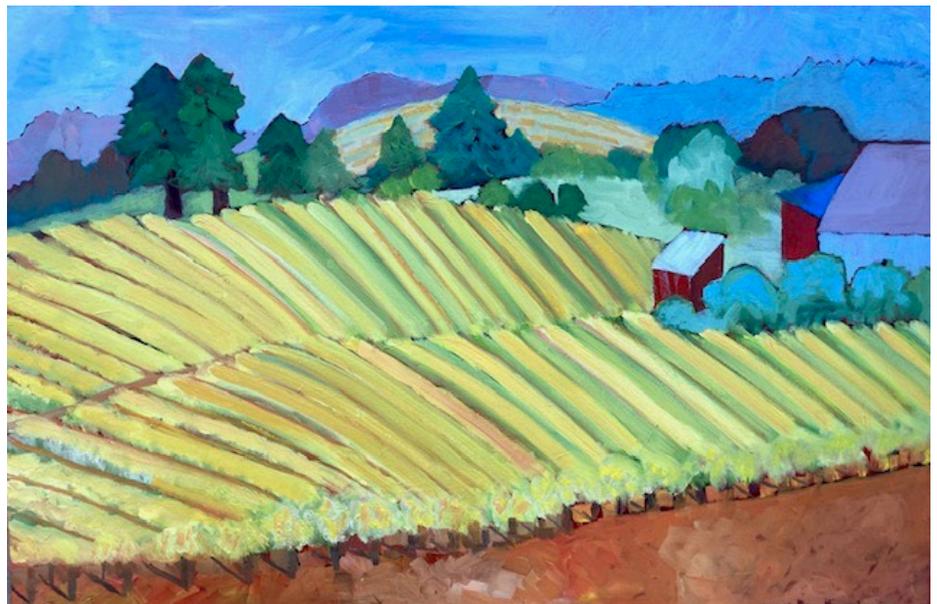
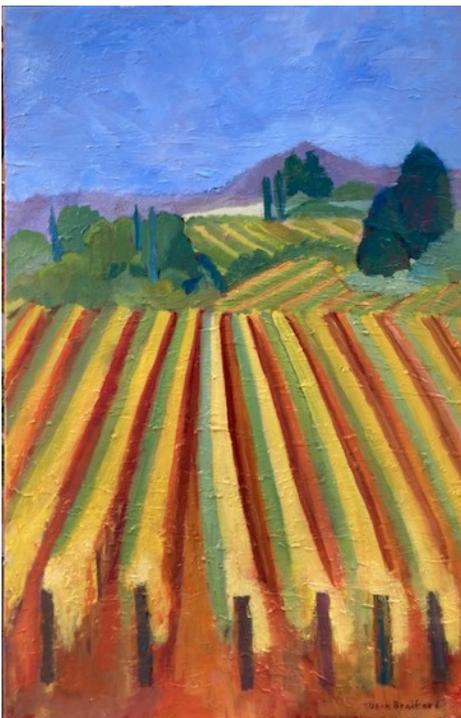
I will, of course, continue as an active club member and look forward to seeing all of you, in person in the coming year.

Thank you very much,

Jerry Fabiano



Gail Mardfin - L to R: "Yellow" "Homage to Rothko" "True Blue" "Is It Too Late?" all 14x11 collages - *My Thanksgiving was wonderful. As my family had celebrated the previous Sunday, I spent Thursday afternoon and evening creating collages, an intuitive art form I love but haven't had time for lately, using lots of odd materials I've been collecting for years.*



Susan Bradford -

"Sebastopol Vineyards" 36x24 oil & "Sonoma County Vineyards" 24x36 oil
Been doing large vineyard paintings plein air. Very challenging.

NOVEMBER 18, 2021 Zoom Meeting

by Gail Mardfin

We had nearly 30 folks at the November Zoom - so good to see some members we hadn't seen in awhile!

And we hope to see more than that on December 16 at our first in-person gathering in 20 months! Starting time: 12 noon. I hope many of you will feel comfortable coming – dress warm, as doors will be open to create as much circulating air as possible. I am grateful for **President Carol Mills'** enthusiasm and energy to usher us back from the internet ethers.

The first order of business was officially voting for our new slate of officers – and it was unanimous! ***See page 11.***

Also, a big thank you to President Carol for “dotting all the i’s and crossing all the t’s” on the many forms, which resulted in AWS once again receiving a grant from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors to help underwrite the 2022 ABS show.

We talked a lot about the **Holiday Party – be sure to read all the info on the front page** so you are prepared...*to have fun!* As in year’s past, there will be a raffle to win your choice among the mini-masterpieces our members create. First ticket pulled, that person gets first pick...and so on until all the miniatures are gone (winter/holiday theme or otherwise, but 5x7 or under). It’s a fun focus at the party, and there will be other activities as well, including ornament making and mask painting (a new Covid tradition...?) and seeing the Collaboration Experiment creations.

Deni Marrone announced that our Sebastopol Venues will go back to the 2-month rotation starting in January. ***See box on page 3*** and be sure to sign up at the party or contact Deni for venue spots. You can schedule far into 2022.

Many thanks to **Sandi Maurer** who got Coffee & Moore on board as a new venue! ***See page 3.*** The initial group show will become a one-person

exhibit in January to the first to speak up. The East West Café group show can be updated with new entries by the artists currently showing or additional ones. Contact Deni.

Gail Mardfin announced that if you want to update your artist’s page on www.awsomeart.org you must send her jpg’s and all info by December 30. ***See page 10.***

Lorraine Stribling reminded everyone to pay their dues – nearly half of our members have already done so.

Patricia Marina announced that SCA was looking for volunteers to help hang the Members’ Show on December 2nd, starting at 10AM.

We all had a chance to visit Highlighted Member **Marilyn Sommer’s** large studio (via a screen-shared video I made with her). She likes working in collaboration and shares her space with other artists on a weekly basis, along with a visiting instructor.

Marilyn hails from the Boston area and has loved making art since she was a toddler. She attended school and painted in the east, moving to northern California after getting married in 1970.

Compared to the gray of Boston, she was smitten with California’s brightness and color. ***Cont’d on next page***



Marilyn Sommer loves to paint the season she is in, and her favorite season is Autumn.

Zoom, cont'd

Marilyn is an oil painter who loves “painting within the season that I am in,” and the video offers a sampling of works made in autumn, winter, spring, and summer.

She does some landscapes and city scenes, but has a special fondness for table settings looking out at a view, very colorful and cheery. She names Pierre Bonnard, Raoul Dufy and Henri Matisse as some of the many artists she admires.

Marilyn is a successful gallery artist, having shown her work at Robert Mondavi Winery for many years, among others. You can see the whole 8+ minute video here: Topic: Marilyn Video

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/uNtsyMFjUKdLZ6o4rLzTv2JPbIDcmh04p2cUnEJu8N_uuEAOEyGz-wMiYky3Vtny.coQyEwfcAnDuPS7V

And then we moved into the screen-share portion of the meeting, showing the many creations of our members – including two watercolors by **Gary Caldwell** who held his up for all to see (*pictured on page 10*). **Whether or not Zoom meetings continue, I want to invite everyone to continue sending in jpgs of their**

work so everyone can see them in the monthly newsletter!

The **Shadow & Light** prompt yielded many submissions (*pages 2, 7, 8*) which were appreciated by all. [And in a wonderful synchronicity, the art organization I belong to in NE PA recently had a members exhibit called Shadows & Light. Click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hFWQ3VKqV4> to see what artists on the other side of the country are up to!]

After the official meeting was over, some stayed to watch **a special video sponsored by AWS:** Sebastopol artist **James Reynolds** sharing his use of color in light and shadows as he painted a pastel landscape. Everyone who stayed had already watched it, agreeing the 41-minute film was inspirational. It was created by Matt Fabiano (Jerry's son, a professional videographer) and is available for AWS members at this link: <https://replay.dropbox.com/share/3LW0dZvrckruC6rh?>



The 19th Annual National Arts Program in Santa Rosa!

February 7 - April 29, 2022
Reception March 13, 3-4pm

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE
is JANUARY 7**

The Call for Artists is open to all City of Santa Rosa residents, City employees and relatives of City employees. Entry is FREE and prizes are awarded. Early registration encouraged. Delivery is February 5, 10am-1pm.

**Registration will be online only.
You can apply directly online at:**

www.nationalartsprogram.org/santarosa

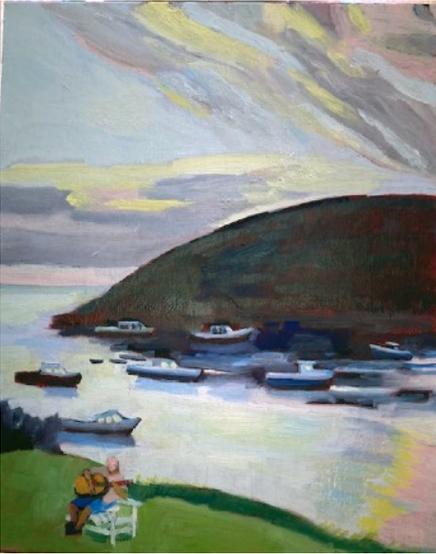


Sandi Maurer - "Go-Go Girl Dreams" 40x30 acrylic

November Prompt:

LIGHT

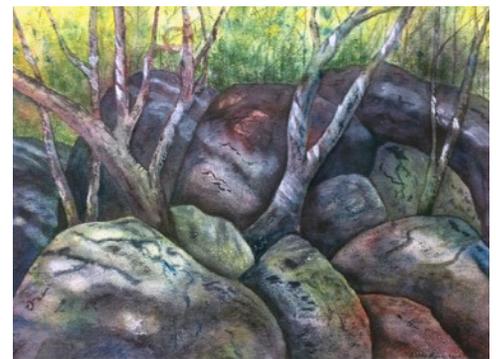
& Shadow



Susan Bradford -
20x16 oil *The last night I was on Monhegan we ate at the Inn and sat out on the porch at this lovely site. I painted from a photo.*



Gail Mardfin -
"When Life Gives You Lemons... Paint!" 11x11 watercolor



Kathy Byrne - ABOVE:
"Redwood Trees" 11x14 watercolor
"Spring Lake Trail" 11x14 watercolor



Bev Kjeldsen -
"Light & Dark"
8x10 oil on paper



Sandi Maurer -
"Wild Willy's, Mammoth"
12x12 acrylic

Carol Mills -
"Sunny Day"
16x20 watercolor

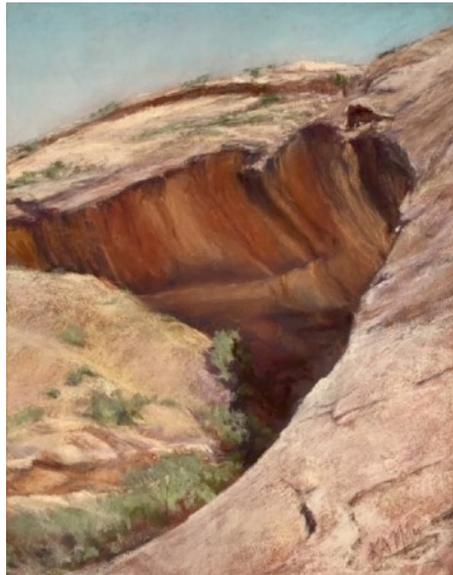


Lonna Necker -
"Laundry Dryer"
in three mediums

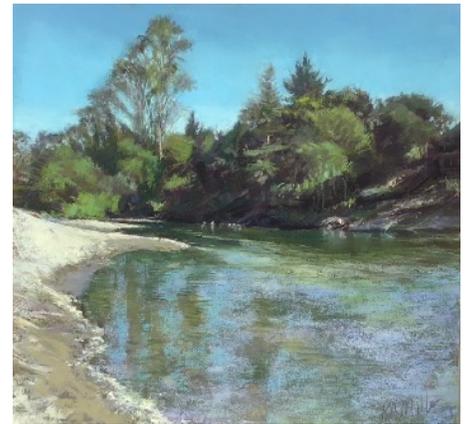
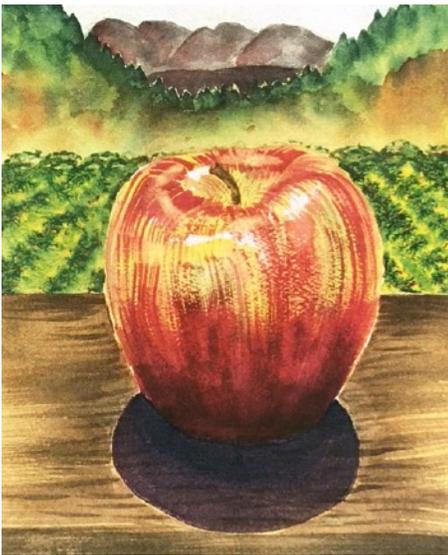
LEFT TO RIGHT:
11x9 oil
14x12 watercolor
16x11 pastel



Deni Marrone -
ABOVE: "Blue Lagoon"
8x10 watercolor



BELOW: "Gravenstein Apple in
Wine Country" 14x11 watercolor



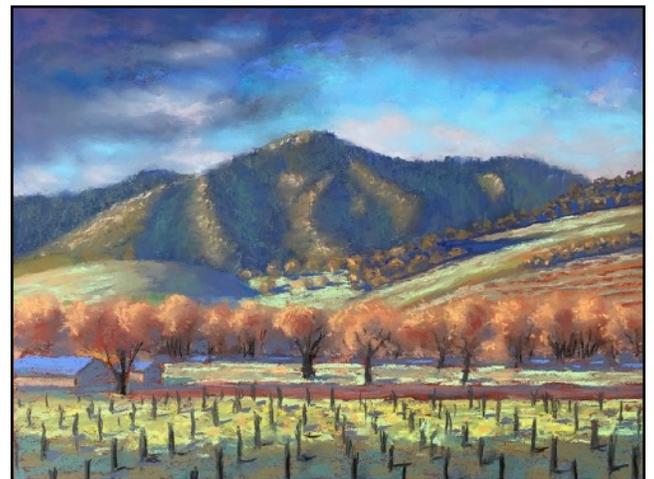
Karen Miller - CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT, all pastels:
"Slickrock" 9x7 / "Fitch Street Pistaches" 9x9 / "South Bank in Shadow" 9x9 /
"Shed on Alley 2" 6x9 / "New Year's Hike, after the fire" 12x9

& Shadow

LIGHT



Nancy Tulloh- "There is Dark and There is Light"
18x24 acrylic



Jerry Fabiano - "Valley of the Moon" 12x16 pastel

ART SHOW! Dec. 4 & 5
 11am-5pm ▶ Outdoor Garden Venue
 270 Virginia Ave, Sebastopol
 holynichos@gmail.com



Amy Contardi ▶ Jendela Chimes
 Patricia Marina ▶ Susan Wosk

MEMBER NEWS

Gail Mardfin ran into **Bob Hart** at the Center for Spiritual Living recently. We haven't seen our old ABS Chair in awhile! As Treasurer at the Center, he's been very diligent and successful in steering it through the financial setbacks caused by Covid. He was preparing to go on yet another photographic expedition - he loves to shoot the stars in the desert sky. He sends his regards to everyone.

Linda Loveland Reid will be giving three lectures at SCA in the coming months - *see page 10*. Her poem was accepted into the "Reverberations II" show. (She wanted to paint too, but they wouldn't let her do both...)

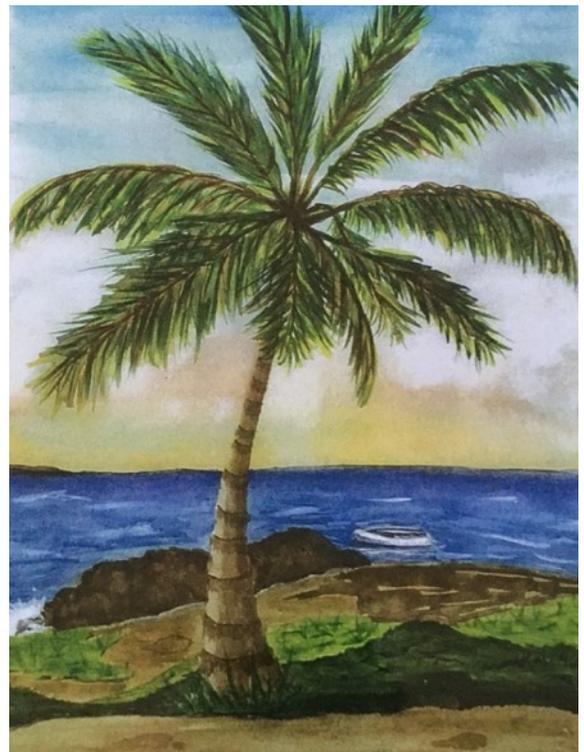
>> **AWS members, please let us know what's new in YOUR life! Send to gail@PLPgraphicdesign.com**



Kathleen Andre -
 "Rave Wave"
 30x30 acrylic



Linda Grainger -
 "Fall Landscape"
 12x18 watercolor



Deni Marrone -
 "Kicking it in Kihei" 20x16 watercolor



"By the Sonoma Highway"
 12x18 watercolor

The Annual Members' Exhibition

Exhibit: Dec. 4, 2021 - Jan. 2, 2022

Reception:
Saturday, Dec. 4, 1-3 PM



Art Spots

with Linda Loveland Reid

Painter, author, lecturer and AWS member Linda Loveland Reid will be giving **three Zoom lectures on Wednesdays** in the first three months of the new year. In her

entertaining presentations you'll be introduced to artists, ideas, and explanations of just how the art world works!

January 12 10:30-12:00 CONCEPTUAL ART EXPLOSION

Were any of us ready for Conceptual Art, using our brain over our eyes? Where did it come from and how can we learn to live with it? How do we understand a Basquiat or Joan Mitchell? Why were artists now rendering 20-foot canvases of solid red paint? Did the advance of Minimalism herald the death of art? Learn how the Bay Area Poetry Renaissance promoted Funk and Bear works. Artists will include Andy Warhol, Jay DeFeo, David Hockney, Joan Brown, and more.



John Baldessari

\$10 • Register at <https://www.sebarts.org/classes-lectures/art-conceptual>

Upcoming Lectures

- * February 9 - RAUSCHENBERG & JOHNS
- * March 9 - MUSEUMS & COLLECTIONS

TIME TO UPDATE YOUR ARTIST PAGE ON THE AWS WEBSITE!!

DEADLINE: DEC. 30

Send up to 3 good, non-skewed images with title, dimensions (of artwork only, not frame, height x width) and medium to

gail@PLPgraphicdesign.com

Next opportunity: June 2022

If possible, **PLEASE** RENAME YOUR JPG FILES IN THIS FORMAT:

LastName-Title-HxW-medium.jpg.

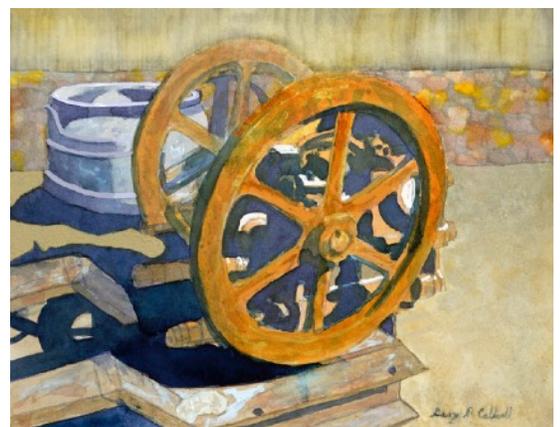
For instance, the photo below would be Caldwell-Transition-14x11watercolor.jpg

Gary R. Caldwell -

RIGHT:
"Transition"
14x11
watercolor



BELOW:
"Wheeled Equipment"
11x14
watercolor





Your Zoomin' AWS Board

1st row: Fran Nielsen, 2022 Corresponding Secretary; Gail Mardfin, 2022 Newsletter/Website; Lonna Necker 2022 Vice President.

2nd: Jerry Fabiano, outgoing VP; Carol Mills, 2022 President; Patty Byrd, 2022 Treasurer.

3rd: Merrie Krisl, 2022 Recording Secretary; Deni Marrone, 2022 Venues; Patricia Marina, outgoing ABS Chair.

Other 2022 Chairs: Lorraine Stribling, Membership; April Lynch, Publicity; Linda Loveland Reid, Apple Blossom Show; Kathleen Andre, Susan Barri, Kathy Byrne, Hospitality; Beverly Bird, Historian.

Riley Street
art supply

103 Maxwell Ct, Santa Rosa
707-526-2416
Mon. - Sat. 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sunday 11am - 4pm

Remember to mention your AWS membership
for a 10% discount
(on non-sale items & matboard)

Dear AWS Friends -

When I took over the ABS Chair position for 2020 I was a newbie in the group. Although there has not been an Apple Blossom show in the last two years, I have learned a lot about coordinating the show and made friends through putting myself "out there."

Big Thank You to the AWS Board - it has been my pleasure to serve alongside you - even if mostly on Zoom and through emails. **Linda Loveland Reid** will be taking over the position for 2022 - Thank you and Best of everything to Linda.

The Apple Blossom Show is a group effort we all can participate in on some level and I will help as much as possible as my family works toward our daughter's wedding here on our property in Sebastopol this coming summer.

Best,

Patricia Marina



A Bit of AWS History



Betsy Shimmel, a founding member of AWS who was very active in the organization for many years, died in 2006. Her daughter Susan Stewart sent AWS a copy of a history evidently written by Betsy in 2003. Once transcribed, the document will appear in its entirety on the AWS website.

This history, edited, will appear as a multi-part series in this newsletter. It is interesting to see how and when the many traditions of AWS began and the

ups and downs of the “Workshop” throughout the years. It has always been an association of artists working together to make things happen! It is also interesting to read of Sebastopol’s historic changes.

PART ONE

A number of local artists who had met in Angelo DeBello’s Analy evening art classes had been trekking to Petaluma to attend the art group there. Six people (including Betsy Shimmel) decided to start a new group in Sebastopol, and met in 1965 at the home of Dorothy Anderson, the group’s first president. (They did a bit of everything, from enamel on copper to silkscreen.) The first general meeting was held in the Optimist Youth Center next to the theater on North Main Street (now the Safeway parking lot). A monthly newsletter was developed to keep members aware of the Workshop activities, edited by two people and published.

Outdoor painting trips were begun early; locations included the Round Barn, Bodega Bay, Griffith Woods, Trappe’s Ranch, Marshall Boat Yard and the O’Farrell Ranch on Bodega Highway.

In May of 1966 the meeting place changed to St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church recreation room. In October it moved to the Chamber of Commerce building in the point between Sebastopol Avenue and Depot Street on Petaluma Avenue. These early meetings were all in the evening.

Critiques of members’ work by guest artists became a big part of the evening meetings and became an important part of the Workshop’s continuing attempt to help in the development of each artist.

At some point there was an Art Workshop show upstairs in the Odd Fellows Hall above Carlson Department Store (SE corner of Main and McKinley) – “a totally impossible location with all those stairs to climb carrying screens.”

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH...

Gratitude from Paula

Dearest Gail,

I just read the entire fabulous AWS November newsletter. Your skill and talent as a graphic designer, writer, artist all come shining through this impressive document month after month!!! Thank you so much Gail for your dutiful superb dedication to our AWS success. Words alone fall short to express the volume of delight you give to us every month. Happy Thanksgiving.

I was intrigued by the little numbered tags on the last page. Please know that **#1: “Thankful for being a member for over 20 years and these recent years shine more brightly because of all our members and officers on task beyond the ordinary.”** I also am thankful I can participate doing the Member Profile articles because it allows me to get to know these members on a depth I would never know otherwise.

With Love, Paula Pearce

And from Gail

Dear Paula and each of you in AWS,

It is my pleasure to put together the newsletter each month and it makes me happy that my efforts here and with the Zoom meetings have contributed to keeping our group together!

Happy Hannukah!

Merry Christmas!

Love, Gail Mardfin (Editor)