



ART WORKSHOP OF WESTERN SONOMA COUNTY

AWSOMEART.ORG • DECEMBER 2024

AWS HOLIDAY PARTY! DECEMBER 19 • 12:00-2:30

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

No board meeting or demo • JANUARY PROMPT: Diversity

HOLIDAY PARTY CHECKLIST

Arrive 11:45-12:00 with...

- Your Nametag on your Holiday Apparel
- Your \$45 Membership Dues
(cash or check to "AWS" if not yet paid)
- Something for the Potluck Table*
(for 8-10 people - please include a label with what it is & ingredients used; mark your serving dish/spoon with your name - and remember to take your dish & leftovers home)
- Seasonal Miniature Masterpiece, if you are participating in the Holiday Art Exchange
(no larger than 5x7, original artwork only)
- A place setting (and bag to carry home the dishes if you would like to avoid disposables)

***Note: Although your attendance does count toward your meeting requirement for the ABS, everyone is expected to bring a potluck item and it does not count toward the refreshments requirement.**



**The annual holiday party
is a great time to get to
know one another!**

**Please wear your name tag
and make an effort to sit at a
table with some members you
know and some members you
don't yet know. Thanks!**



FROM THE PRESIDENT JUDY GRIGG GOLDBERG

Ah! The holidays...
and then a new year...
a time filled with
expectations and
excitement about
what lies ahead.

But before jumping into what's to come, a look
back on these past few years...

AWS has become an integral part of this
booming and blooming artistic community of
Western Sonoma County.

In keeping with the most recent celebration of
the season, a HUGE amount of THANKS and
credit for this good fortune goes to our most
supportive and excellent AWS Board of Officers
and Committee Chairs. Their dedication and
unflagging efforts make everything work well for
everyone. Equally appreciated are all who raise
a hand to show up and volunteer at our
gatherings and events.

Personally, I feel grateful for the continuing
existence of AWS. What has made this possible
is *us*, all of the AWS members.

Our group has grown in membership and along
with that, a growing enthusiasm for our own
artwork and that of our fellow artists. With every
meeting, recent paintings, drawings, sculptures,
fiber arts and other fantastical works crowd the
pegboard walls and tables while the creators
wait eagerly to share the stories and
experiences the artwork holds for them.

*“You ask me what I came into this life to do,
I will tell you: I came to live out loud.”*

~ Emile Zola

How does a person live out loud? Be curious.
Explore. Take creative risks. Try new things.
Read about artists. Read about art. Read about
anything. Observe. Listen to others. Listen to
music. Join the discussion. Share ideas. Fear
not. Look on the bright side... Get excited!
Our creative minds will love it. Our artwork will
show it.

WISHING YOU ALL...
WITH EXCITEMENT & VERY LOUDLY...

A JOYOUS HOLIDAY!

Judy Goldberg



Judy Goldberg -
“Beside the Blackberry Trail”
7x10 watercolor

**And to our outgoing
President Judy Goldberg...**

A BIG LOUD



**for TWO years of
excellent leadership.**

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT • LONNA NECKER

Greetings,

Thank you all for your artwork for our November meeting. The November Prompt was BARNNS. You took advantage of our wonderful array of Sonoma County barns and barny structures! It is always a delight to see different interpretations of the prompt and all the other offerings. JOB WELL DONE!

As you know, there is no prompt for our December celebration but you are invited to bring a winter-themed small art piece for the special Holiday Art Exchange.

The **January Prompt will be DIVERSITY**. Interpret that any way you'd like.

Our **November Demonstrator was Robert Benson**, a watercolorist, who gave a comprehensive demonstration of his preparation and execution of a landscape. It was fascinating and very informative. The steps to his finished painting are shown at right.

Please see Beverly Bird's demonstration description on page 6. Beverly, who does reviews of most of our demonstrators, does wonderful and thorough reviews and I would like to thank her so very much for those.

There is no demonstration in December, but our **January Demonstrator** will be our own **Gail Mardfin** who will demonstrate working with **Masa paper and watercolor**.

Have a happy and safe holiday season,

Lonna



Two stages and Robert Benson's final watercolor of a scene from the Meridian Lake park in Novato, CA



Mary Ann Wakefield -

"Birch Haven" watercolor triptych

Each section is 6.5x4.5



**Annual Membership Dues
must be paid by Jan. 1, 2025**

**Pay in person or mail check
(payable to "AWS") to:**

**Lorraine Stribling
2161 Bohemian Hwy
Occidental CA 95465**

**AWS BOARD MINUTES
NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

Meeting Called to order 10:37am by President Judy Goldberg.

Members Present: Judy Goldberg, Gail Mardfin, Fran Nielsen, Lonna Necker, Linda L. Reid, Merrie Krisl, Judy Boles, Deni Marrone, Susan Nestor, Judy McFarland, Lorraine Stribling, Patricia Marina, Patty Bird, Judy Pagnusat, Carol Mills, Allene Donato

Discussion:

- **Sebastopol Center for the Arts (SCA):** A meeting is to be held today at 2:30 to discuss the contract for 2025. We will request to pay quarterly. The contract should be ready by next week.
- **Community Funds Grant:** Carol Mills reported that the grant request has been accepted at \$500, which is half the amount granted last year. This is funded by the Sonoma County Transient Occupancy Tax, with the aim at promoting tourism.
- **Holiday Party:** The annual Holiday Party will take place on December 19th. Instead of the mini-masterpiece raffle with tickets sold, a mini artwork exchange will take place for those who want to participate. The hope is that people will get to know each other better by sitting with someone they know and someone they don't know. Carol Mills has holiday decorations to share. Carol and volunteers will begin decorating around 11:15. The luncheon is Noon to 2:30. All attendees should bring a potluck dish to share, for 8-10 people, and should attach a tag telling what the dish is and ingredients. Paper plates and plastic utensils will be available, but people are encouraged to bring their own reusable place setting to help the environment. Lorraine Stribling will accept AWS dues if paid in cash or by check. No credit cards.
- **Annual Overstock Sale:** This event has been moved from the Holiday Party to the January meeting. Carol Mills and several other volunteers will be accepting donations at an intake table from 11:30 to Noon. The sale will begin at Noon and continue to 12:30 when the meeting starts. Sales continue between the meeting and the presentation, then again after the presentation. All sales must be cash or check, no credit cards. All sales are for the benefit of AWS. Anything not sold can be taken home. Anything still remaining will be donated to SCA for their children's program.
- **Presentations and Prompts:** Lonna Necker reported that today's presentation is Robert Benson. There will be no presentation or art sharing in December. January's presentation will be about watercolor and Masa paper given by Gail Mardfin. The prompt for January will be "Diversity".
- **Medical Exemptions:** Regarding attendance and food requirements for participation in the Apple Blossom Show, two medical exemptions were approved.
- **Treasurer:** Merrie Krisl reported the general checking account balance is \$6,273.03 and the Mielke awards account balance is \$4,483.12. Insurance is due in January (\$500). We collected \$338 from ABS raffle. This will be donated to the children's programs at SCA. **(continued)**

Board minutes, continued

- **Board Luncheon:** Linda L Reid will host a lunch at her home for the incoming board with the aim of discussing improvements that can be made to the club programs and shows.
- **Venues:** Members must visit a venue before signing up and should contact Deni Marrone to sign up. A contract with The Livery is being negotiated. The owners of the new restaurant Campanella, located where the old Flavors used to be, are interested in having a rotating art wall and Deni will be talking with them in the next few weeks.
- **Membership:** **Dues for 2025 have increased to \$45** and should be paid by January 1st. Checks written to AWS or cash should be given or mailed to Lorraine Stribling by that date. **If dues are not paid by January 1st, the member will not be eligible to participate in the Apple Blossom Show.**
- **Communications:** Any member wanting to put up a new artist's web page or who wants to change the artwork on their current web page should contact Gail Mardfin by December 31st. Web pages can be changed once a year.

11:46 a.m. Motion to adjourn: Gail Mardfin Second: Linda Reid. Motion passed.

Submitted by Judy Boles, Recording Secretary

SEBASTOPOL VENUES November 21 - January 16

Coffee & Moore

CURRENTLY: Lorna Ho
JANUARY 16: Marcella Ford

Fandee's Restaurant

CURRENTLY: Enid Barnes & Carol Mills
JANUARY 16: Lorna Ho

Hair Masters

CURRENTLY: Carol Mills
JANUARY 16: **AVAILABLE**

Hole in the Wall Restaurant

CURRENTLY: Elizabeth Gomes & Carolyn Jarvis
JANUARY 16: Linda Grainger

Sonoma Chocolatiers

CURRENTLY: Linda Dove-Pierson
JANUARY 16: Carolyn Jarvis

Specialty Center

CURRENTLY: Kathy Byrne
JANUARY 16: Kathleen Andre

Umpqua Bank

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

DO YOU WANT TO SHOW IN A VENUE?

You MUST visit the venue FIRST so you know what shape & size art would work best on the various walls. In most Venues, anything smaller than 16"x 20" would be too small.

Check your calendar FIRST to avoid last-minute changes, which can be hard to fill.

[AFTER YOU'VE SEEN THE SPACE and checked your calendar, you can sign up with the Venues Coordinator Deni Marrone \[deniomarrone@gmail.com\]\(mailto:deniomarrone@gmail.com\) 408-202-3875](#)

Shows can be for one artist, or if done in partnership, collaborations are welcome in Fandee's, Hole in the Wall, Specialty Center, and Coffee & Moore.

To be fair to our many members, please don't sign up to be in a venue if you have been in it within the last 12 months.

The Livery

December 5th/6th/7th are the switch-out dates for the current/incoming artists at the Livery Co-Work, 10am-4pm.

Confirm with Deni and coordinate with the other artist in your display space.

NOVEMBER ART DEMO: Robert Benson

by Beverly Bird

Robert Benson's strong background in art, specifically in watercolor, was on full display in November's demo. He covered his process, tools, and generously responded to multiple questions posed by a rapt audience.

PROCESS

To start, he is a great believer in sketching – he shared sketchbooks showing detailed sketches he makes to work out composition and values. For example, the reference photo used for the demo painting was initially drawn up as a vertical (*shown*), but he felt the compositional pitfalls could be best overcome by changing to a horizontal.



He advised that he doesn't want to "trap the eye" – the composition needs to move the viewer into, then around, the painting. ("Just dance around the painting.")

Another key is to move around the painting as he is working, as well as establishing the bright and dark areas early on. He

finds this helps establish a "roadmap" for working. If there is a compositional problem, looking at the painting in a mirror is a good tip to discover the problem areas.

Surprising many, his pencil drawing was very full and detailed. Most often Robert works from his own photos; for complete accuracy, he projects onto paper using an opaque projector and uses a Ticonderoga #2 pencil. Robert noted that he can erase most of the graphite after the painting is dry, but what doesn't come off becomes part of the work. He uses a hair dryer to speed up the drying process.



TOOLS

Paper: Robert prefers Arches 300 lb. rough (cold press) paper – this has a lot of tooth and can take a beating. He recommends working in standard frame sizes to avoid costly professional framing.

Paints: What brands does he use? "All of them," and both tube and pan paints. During the demo, he did reveal some faves: Winsor Newton and especially Holbein. As for colors,

he shies away from staining colors (lifting off can be very difficult) such as Bamboo Green and Bright Rose. For darks, he likes Paynes Gray and Ultramarine Blue. Other colors he favors include Lilac, Lavender, and Shell Pink, colors which would otherwise be hard to achieve. Leaf Green, Shadow Green, Yellow Gray (great for olive trees – "they are not Kelly Green"), Jaune Brilliant, and Horizon Blue are other favorites.

Brushes: He uses various rounds, and flats include 1 ½" and 2" brushes. He noted that they do not need to be expensive; synthetic sables are good.

Buckling Prevention: Best to use 300 lb paper. To remove buckling on thinner paper, he uses a process of wetting the finished painting on the back (except the outer inch or so), laying the painting on particle board (absorbs water), and placing plexiglass on top with weights.

FINISHING

Robert uses various forms of finishing and framing, from the traditional framing under a mat and glass, to varnishing and waxing to eliminate the need for the glass. He also mounts paintings, using gel medium and cradled panels (applied to both the back of the

continued on next page

Robert Benson, cont.

painting and the board) – he likes the clean look of works finished in this way and it avoids the whole framing debacle.

ARTIST'S BACKGROUND

After graduating from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh in 1975, Robert moved west to Boulder where he worked as an art director for many years. An earlier body of work focused on urban landscapes, many soon to disappear. Moving to Sonoma County in 2001, his focus shifted to Northern California landscapes, still life, and figurative works. He exhibits locally and in Oregon; he is currently featured as a guest artist in the Sebastopol Gallery in downtown Sebastopol.

BensonFineArts.com



Two watercolor application techniques used by Robert Benson:

ABOVE: "Rolling" the paint on

LEFT: "My fingers!"



Sandi Maurer -
glazed stoneware figures, each approx 5x2x3x



Joyce Terres -
"Cairn"
10x8 fiber art



Judy Boles -
"Tahoe Boat Barn" 20c16 oil
After a memory-filled weekend with close friends, Judy painted her window view over Lake Tahoe as a gift for the hostess.

Art Openings & Opportunities

BOB HART

Nature Photography

Sebastopol Library Forum Room

RECEPTION & PRESENTATION

Saturday, December 7, 3-5pm

Don't miss it! During the reception Bob will show videos of the Aurora Borealis he's filmed in various locations.

The exhibit features images from Bob's extensive photo-travels within the United States and abroad. The show runs
November 19 - January 10

710 Bodega Ave., Sebastopol



Paintings by NANCY TULLOH are on the walls of the Dutton-Goldfield Winery Tasting Room through February 4

3100 Gravenstein Hwy N, Sebastopol

Congratulations, Nancy!

(Photo by Kim Winter)



SebArts Annual Member's Show!!

Registration deadline: Dec 2 or just show up

Delivery: Tues, Dec 3, 10-3

(Bring a can of food for the canned food drive)

Reception: Sun, Dec 8, 2-4pm

(Bring food to share, please)

Exhibit: Dec 7-29

Gallery hours: Tue-Sun 10am-4pm

Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/242666585496171>

\$25 entry fee. (40% commission if sold)

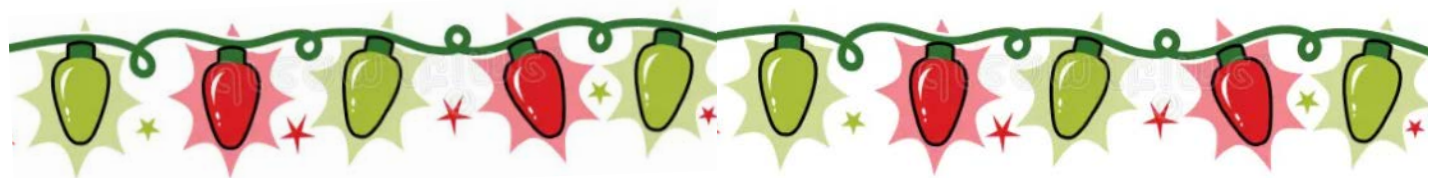
Interested in showing your art at J&M Midtown Cafe in Santa Rosa?

Owners Marla & Joel are looking for artists for January/February and beyond to show in their cafe at 1422 4th St.

Enid Barnes & Gail Mardfin recently had a show there and both sold pieces.

If interested, contact Marla at bluedelhezillc@gmail.com





HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & PARTY!

Dec 15 • 10am to 5pm

Grand Re-Opening of
Linda Dove-Pierson's Art Studio
following the Tubbs fire!

Paintings – Scarves – Gifts
by **Linda & Lorna Ho**

3580 Parer Hill Rd, Santa Rosa
707-596-0686

Linda_pierson321@yahoo.com

HOLIDAY ART MARKET

Dec 14 • 8am-5pm

Featuring work by Patricia Marina

Outside Taylor Lane
Organic Coffee in The Barlow,
Sebastopol

Cards, plants, suncatchers for sale



Diana Jones - "Winter Bliss" 9x12 watercolor

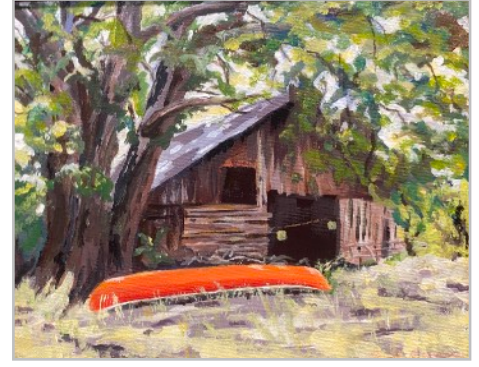


Hale Darby - "Butterflies" 10x14 watercolor

Carolyn Jarvis' recent marketing newsletter was filled with beautiful sunset paintings, such as "Vineyard Sunset Rays" and "Carmel Beach Sunset."

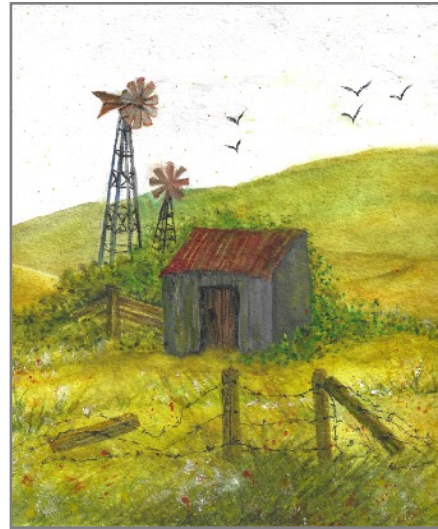


November Prompt: Barns



Becky Brendlin -
"Old Barn and Silo" 11x14 pen & ink

Enid Barnes -
"Yolo County Barn"
9x11 acrylic
I painted this during a workshop given by David Lobenberg in Sacramento many years ago.



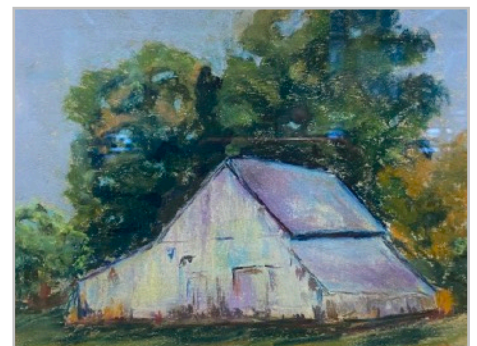
Judy Pagnusat -
"With the Wind" 10x8 watercolor

Merrie Krisl -
"Aging Together"
8x10 pastel
I was attracted to the fact that the lichen was coating the tree and the barn. I tried some new Pan pastels for the underlying colors.



Carol Mills -
TOP: "Neglected" 11x14 watercolor
MIDDLE: "Sheltered" 16x20 watercolor
LOWER: "Tin Roof" 16x20 watercolor

Cindy Gillespie -
"Barn at Dusk" 4.5x6.5 acrylic



Cathy Collins -
"Grey Ghost" 16x20 watercolor



Lonna Necker -
"SoCo Barn" 8x9 pastel

Paula Pearce -
"Barn" 11x14 watercolor

NOVEMBER ART SHARE... Despite "atmospheric rivers," more than 70 members made it to the meeting!

Here are some of the presenters at November's **ART SHARE**. Lining up in **two lines** and **using the microphone** makes things go smoothly. Time will determine how many presenters can go in each meeting. **Let's encourage folks who haven't spoken in awhile to go first.**

Photos by Gail Mardfin. Captions by Judy Goldberg.



Linda Reid's HUGE canvas began its adventure flat on the floor. Paint was strategically "thrown all over the place."



During a photo shoot at Swift Water Falls, intrepid photographer **Bob Hart** managed to capture a bear in this shot!



ruchul leah bloom shares an emotional rendering of a small boat moving through rough waters.



With fantasy and humor, artist and poet **Pamela Heck** presents her flying pig.



Chosen from her many pieces, new member **Michele de Luca** brightened our day with an abstract of bright pinks and blues.



This geometrically puzzling wooden sculpture, "Endless Parallel Loop," by **Rod Morgan** will be in the SebArts member's show.



Beautiful hand painted silk scarves from **Lorna Ho**.

Please stand close to your art work when you share - makes it easier for photos!
Thanks!



From a vantage point nearer to the sky, **Linda Immer** painted *en plein air*, a view of Jenner Headlands, with workshop leader Gage Opdenbrouw.



Look closely and the creatures will magically emerge in **Nancy Tulloh's** richly textured abstract.



Having fun with an A.I. program, **James Reynolds** painted a larger than life and new to this world individual.



CALL FOR ENTRY:



Deadline: Dec 15, 2024

For a full prospectus of this ABSTRACT show, visit

<https://www.sebarts.org/call-for-entries>

Exhibit: Feb. 6- March 16, 2025



Discover an amazing selection of work from local crafters, artists, and artisans (including AWS member **Christine Paschal**) The **Member's Show Opening Reception** in the gallery is the same day, 2-4pm.

Applications for SebArts' "INCUBATOR PROGRAM"

Applications are now open for the 3-month Spring 2025 program for Emerging Artists.

6 places are available to *artists of all ages*. (AWS members **Brian Kellogg & Alyson Dobbert** were part of the inaugural program last spring.)

The cohort will meet for a minimum of 4 hours per week for weekly meetings and workshops, plus special events and exhibits.

Entry Deadline: 12/31/24

For more details on what an "Emerging Artist" is and application, visit

<https://www.sebarts.org/incubator>

KIM WINTER, winner of the "Food Show" Coordinator's Choice Award



"The Core of Our Existence"

Congratulations, Kim!

Other works by AWS members were spotted on the walls of the juried exhibit, shown here.

Christine Field - "Artichokes and Lemons" watercolor pencil



Marilyn Sommer - "Delectable Desserts" oil



SUSAN BRADFORD writes, "I took a workshop taught by Aline Ordman and there were 13 of us, mostly all accomplished painters. She was great and she forced us to paint things that were difficult and challenging. Others here I painted on my own when I was back east." LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM: "The Hills are Ablaze" • "Covered Bridge, North Bennington, VT" • "Fall in Waitsfield, VT" • "Sugar House in Vermont Foliage" • "Farmer's Market, Rockland, ME" • "General Store, North Bennington, VT" • "Two Boats, ME" • "Camden, Maine from Atop Mt. Battie" • "McLoon's Lobster Shack, ME" All are 9x12 oils.



**CALL FOR ARTISTS:
Russian River Art Gallery**

16357 Main Street, Guerneville
is looking for new members.
For inquiries or any questions please
contact

Patty Bird at 707-869-9122
or Deni Marrone

408-202-3875 denijomarrone@gmail.com



ARTIST'S CHRISTMAS TREES



Botticelli



Dalí



Matisse



Michelangelo



Mondrian



Monet



O'Keeffe



Picasso



Seurat



Van Gogh



Vermeer



Warhol

Riley Street
art supply

103 Maxwell Ct, Santa Rosa
(707) 526-6421 • www.RileyStreet.com
Mon. - Sat. 9-5:30 | Sun. 11-4



* HOLIDAY SALE ENDS DEC 15 *

**LOST
& FOUND**

Left after the
November meeting.
Contact
Judy Goldberg
(714) 330-5752



**Jingle
and
Mingle**

Can't wait
to see you
at the
annual
AWS
Holiday
Party!

Details on
page 1.