



Phoenix Artists Guild

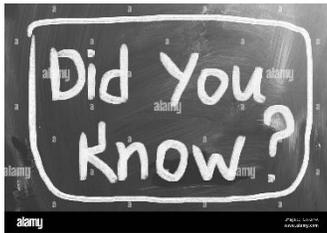
Volume 168

March 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – March 2026

Welcome to all the new members and some returning faces. It's wonderful to see so many people at the meetings.



That you can send photos of your artwork to Julie, and they can be added to the website in the gallery section. This is a great way to showcase your work. Right now, it is at the end of the membership section. But we are going to have it under its own headline. This way people looking at the website can see works from all our talented members. So, submit your photos and check the website for updates.

Elections are coming up in April. If anyone is interested in being an officer or heading up a standing committee position, Please tell a current board member. The slate will be presented at the March General Meeting.

REMEMBER: When criticizing painting your words should be like a fine painting. Use soft strokes. Constructive criticism is always appreciated and criticizing that is generally in a negative context, is not part of PAG Critiquing. Let your words make them feel they are glad that they attended the meeting and glad they shared their art.

BE RESPECTFUL
BE KIND

Cindy Chambers

PAG President





Creative Corner

Using Value to Create Excitement By Julie Frye

Something taught me at Kachina School of Art eons ago but well remembered: “A good rule of thumb is that a painting should be 1/3 and 2/3 – one third light and two thirds dark” (or vice versa!). That set me to thinking that this principle, unbeknownst to me is what gets me excited about choosing a subject to paint – DRAMATIC LIGHTING – yes, a light source that produces patterns of light and dark with one being dominant – That is, very early morning or early evening when the sun is lowest in the sky. This illuminates areas with stunning, brilliant color (caused by the intense light) and rich dark shadows upon which the painter can contrast a brilliantly lit focal point!

I have long advocated “The Golden Mean” division of space – one third to two thirds, placing the focal point ideally where (after dividing your canvas or paper into thirds vertically and horizontally) two lines intersect. But now we are talking about another tool to make our compositions exciting! Distribution of light and dark, not in equal parts but 2/3 light and 1/3 dark or vice versa! Now it has become A COMPOSITIONAL ELEMENT! One that will make our viewer sit up and take notice! (Of course, if your intent is to have a high key painting with an abundance of light values or a low-key painting with mostly darker hues than the theory may not come into play.) However, if what you are after is exciting, then let’s explore some ways we can utilize this great concept.

I often choose photos that contain dramatic lighting since that helps define form at its utmost. Ninety percent of the time I work from photos that I have taken myself which are often not ideal for dramatic lighting. Depending on where I am and what time of day it is when I click the shutter. However, I can CHANGE that by deciding upon an interpretation of it which is not exactly like the photo but is enhanced by deepening or lengthening the shadows, increasing the contrast and making the colors in the brightly lit areas more intense. I most generally do a small value sketch in pencil, establishing my light source and blocking in the composition with large areas of dark, middle and light areas, thus planning the composition using value placement AND division of space. If you choose wisely, the result is visual excitement and a painting with interesting patterns of light and shadow, brilliant hues and more subdued colors. If you get a minute, check out the paintings of Matt Smith who uses these elements to an outstanding degree!

Remember – light is color, color is light! HAPPY PAINTING!

March Demonstrator – John Erwin –



John Erwin is a prominent Arizona-based watercolor artist, instructor, and signature member of the [Contemporary Watercolorists of Arizona](#). With over 40 years of experience, he teaches watercolor, sketching, and workshops at venues like the [Arizona Artists Guild](#) and Sonoran Arts League. His work focuses on landscapes and, more recently, urban sketching.

Key Details About John Erwin (Watercolor Artist):

- **Affiliations:** Member of the Arizona Artist Guild, Arizona Watercolor Association, and a Signature member of the Contemporary Watercolorists of Arizona.
- **Teaching Focus:** Specializes in teaching watercolor basics,,, and urban sketching, known for his "Taste of Watercolor" workshops.
- **Style:** Known for capturing detailed scenes, including winter landscapes and, recently, urban scenes using perspective tools.
- **Locations:** Actively teaches and exhibits in the Phoenix, Carefree, and Cave Creek areas of Arizona.



Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 23, 2026

- 6 – 6:45pm – Group Critique
- 6:45 – 7:15pm – Business Meeting
- 7:15 – 7:30pm – Social Time
- 7:30 – 8:30pm – Demonstration – John Erwin

OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026

President	Cindy Chambers
1st Vice President (Program)	Lois Miller
2nd Vice President (Exhibits)	Nancy Donovan
Treasurer	Tim Morrison
Recording Secretary	Tonnie McBroom
Corresponding Secretary	Sheila Bellinger



Artist of the Month:

- 1st: Roger Fournier
- 2nd: Tim Morrison

Remember to only enter 1 piece of artwork each month. Also, once you have won, you can't enter another monthly competition during the current year. You are eligible for Artist of the Year, held at the May general meeting.

August – Mary Groves, **September** – Gary Merrill, **October** – Dean Grissom, **November** – Lois Miller, **January** – Tonnie McBroom, **February** – Roger Fournier



March Birthdays



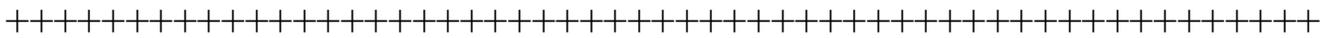
Lynne Rogers



Grant Washburn, Art Alliance Representative



Ways and Means please remember to buy your 50/50 raffle tickets at the general meetings.



Members' Activities:

March 2026: "Awakenings"

Theme: As nature stirs, so can creativity — celebrate rebirth and emergence.



- Prompt Ideas: Blossoms, eggs, seedlings, birds, melting snow.
- Bonus: Incorporate textures or mixed media.



April 2026: "The Poetry of Nature"

- Theme: Let the natural world inspire a lyrical or abstract response.
- Prompt Ideas: Rain, wildflowers, insects, clouds, trees in bloom.
- Bonus: Pair your art with an original or favorite poem.



Membership forms will be at each of the General meetings and on our website. Annual fees are \$50.00.



Please remember to submit your artwork for Back Page art. Send to Cindy Chambers at: tees2others@gmail.com

Remember also to submit your artwork for Members Monthly Activity and Artist of the Month.



OUTREACH Top 9 items food banks need MOST:

Peanut Butter, Canned Proteins, Canned Beans, Pasta and Pasta Sauces, Pantry Staples (flour, sugar), Canned Vegetables, Cooking essentials, Baby Formula and Baby Food



For just \$25.00 a year!!!

This includes one additional mid-year image exchange! Then you can change-out again. Include it in your annual membership dues – how easy is THAT?!

We are increasing traffic flow and visitors to our site and piquing their interests WHEN THEY GET THERE!

Julie Frye is now your webmaster, (Chuck and Alika Kumar assisting) so get YOUR LINK on the PAG website and get these advantages WORKING for YOU!

Just send the following info. to Julie Frye, juliefrye381@gmail.com, A JPG (as least 300dpi) of one of your pieces

- The title of the piece
- unframed sizes, media
- Your name, email address, website link, (remember-link it back to PAG site, to increase traffic) Organizations to which you belong.

Computer Corner



Investment scammers are getting more savvy and increasingly personal. They may pose as investment professionals, leaders of trusted financial institutions, and even Schwab employees, all to gain your confidence and trust. With vigilance and a few tips on imposter tactics and techniques, you can recognize these fraudsters and steer clear of their traps.

Here are four signs to watch out for:

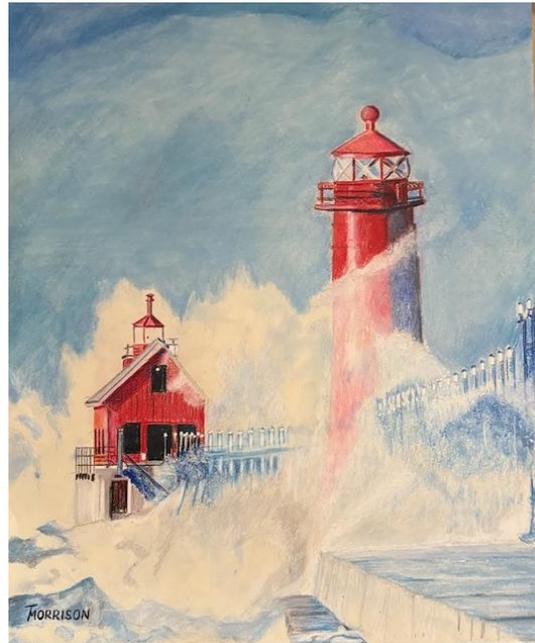


- **Too-good-to-be-true offers.** If you're getting an unsolicited investment offer, especially one claiming guaranteed or unusually high returns, watch out. Opportunities that sound too good to be true probably are.
- **High-pressure tactics.** Messages or social media ads that demand your attention are trying to press your panic button. Don't fall for any urgent requests to act immediately to "protect" your account, avoid losses, or accept a special offer.
- **Contacts from out of the blue.** Unexpected messages you receive through social media, messaging apps, texts, or emails you didn't initiate are often a good sign you're being targeted by a fraudster.
- **Access and download requests.** Think twice if you receive any requests to download software, share one-time passcodes, or allow remote access to your device. You never want to give fraudsters access to your accounts

BACK

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ART



“Grand Haven”, Colored Pencil by Tim Morrison

 **Arizona Art Supply**
The largest Fine Art Supply Retailer in the Southwest
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Is a proud supporter of Phoenix Artists Guild.
PAG Members Receive 20% Off All Non-Sale Items!

www.arizonaartsupply.com
Phoenix—Tempe—Scottsdale—Sun City—Tucson

Meetings:

4th Monday of Month
AAG Building
18411 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix

Contacts:

Cindy Chambers - President
Pat Washburn – Membership

Membership \$50.00 per year/May-April