

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE –February 2021

“We must be willing to let go of the life we planned so as to have the life that is waiting for us.”

Joseph Campbell

This wisdom from Joseph Campbell seems to me to have always been true, but never so starkly as it has been in 2020. I must admit, planning ahead has always been important to me. From plotting out my educational goals in order to achieve my desire to be ordained in the United Methodist church, and pursuing my career in the ministry, I have never felt free to just see “what is waiting.” I have always felt the need to be proactive. So too, a combination of planning and good luck allowed me to retire in 2011. But, 2020 came along and upended a lot of my plans. My family and I have been

fortunate enough to have escaped contracting Covid so far, but most of the activities that have structured my life since retirement have either been cancelled or forced onto ZOOM, which for me is not a good substitute for face to face encounters. So, the challenge for me and, I assume, for a lot of other people is to open myself to “the life that is waiting for us.” For me that includes participation in PAG on ZOOM for now and looking forward to that good day when we can put this pandemic behind us and be with each other again.

Grant

February meeting will be a Zoom meeting.



illustrations of.com #434720

Members Activities for each month:

1. February: Rock or rocks
2. March: Natural water (stream, river, ocean...)
3. April: Bird or any furry creature
4. May: Something made of copper or brass



Creative Corner

PROBLEM SOLVING

By Julie Frye

What if someone told you “You could learn to be a better painter if you knew how to ask the right questions?” We all hit snags sometimes after we have begun a painting (any medium – your choice) and something just doesn’t look quite right. Even the most experienced painters have...trust me!

A couple of good start-off questions come to mind: Is there a good abstract idea underlying the composition? Does the painting have focus? Are the unessential parts subordinated?

Also consider the shapes: Are the dominant shapes as strong and simple as possible? Are the shapes too similar? (static – we’ve talked about that one!)

Value is a common flaw – Could the value range be increased? (Or reduced)

Lighting: Is the subject effectively lit? Is the light gradated? Is the light area big enough?

Conversely: Do the shadow shapes describe the form? Are the shadow areas consistent with the light source throughout the composition?

These questions apply to almost any approach short of total abstraction (non-objective) Some abstract artists ask these same questions though. At least I would not be surprised if they did. Painting realistically is not a mechanical art. Painting loose realism as we have called it (perhaps painterly is a better term) is not either. It is intrinsic, within oneself. To truly capture the quality of a subject you must have a feeling about its literal qualities. This means being able to interpret in paint, pastel, watercolor, whatever, the essence of the subject within the confines of a canvas (paper, whatever) in the simplest way using the tools at your disposal. (And asking the right questions if things go awry as they sometimes do!)

Often, we need to think in terms of larger ideas: lighting – is it dramatic enough to indicate forms, space, distance, texture: Is the content simple enough that the viewer is not confused as to the statement you intended to make? When it’s clear in your mind what the focus of the painting is, the next problem to address is how to underplay the other elements. Remember that nothing should go into it that doesn’t make it a more intense visual event.

Focus: Is there a pathway the viewer can follow to the center of interest and is the latter well placed? A painting’s “readability” is also enhanced by having the light flow in the same direction that our eye is moving. (Old Master’s trick!)

As your painting progresses ask yourself if there are a variety of shapes (or too many of the same size and shapes scattered about) Think Papa bear, Mama bear and Baby bear. If things appear scattered consider consolidating them into a larger shape. Does the light describe the form? If a landscape is the subject, does aerial perspective play a part? Linear perspective is important too... if there are buildings is the perspective correct?

All these questions (and there several more I don’t have space for here) are important to ask if the road gets bumpy. Here are a few important P.S. Are your colors clean? Is the light consistent? Does the composition lead the eye to the focal point? Is it well placed? Do you think the viewer will want to look at it for a while or move on? Problem solving is just one of the responsibilities of a good painter regardless of the medium chosen. I hope this has been helpful!

February Demonstrator – Andrew Pitt



Andrew Pitt was born in Maldon and educated at the Gilbert School, Colchester and St. Andrew's University. He has been painting landscapes since he was 11. For many years he painted exclusively in watercolor concentrating on East Anglia landscapes and particularly marine scenes. He now paints with equal facility in both watercolor and oil and has greatly extended his range of subject matter. Although he has remained a figurative artist, his oils exploit the full potential of the texture of the paint and his aim remains to get a painterly image, which captures the essence of the subject. Andrew is well known for his loose, fresh approach to watercolor and the simplicity of his style has made him much in demand as a tutor in this medium.

He has had 15 one-man exhibitions since 1980 and contributed to numerous mixed shows. His work is included in "The Encyclopedia of Watercolor Landscapes" and he is a regular contributor to the "Leisure Painter" magazine. He is a frequent art club demonstrator and workshop/painting holiday tutor. Andrew's pictures are in many private collections in Britain as well as Canada, Holland, North America, New Zealand, Slovakia and Australia.

Meeting Agenda

Monday, February 22, 2021

6 – 6:45pm – Critique

6:45 – 7:15pm – Business Meeting

7:15 – 7:30pm – Social Time

7:30 – 8:30pm – Demonstration Featuring Andrew Pitt



Time to renew your membership. Forms on the website. Still only \$40.00 yearly. Please send in as soon as possible.



Artist of the Month-January

No one submitted any artwork. Please remember to submit your work for Artist of the Month.



At the time of the Newsletter there was no information.

Stay tuned for important updates.

Dr. Carl

PAG Rep.

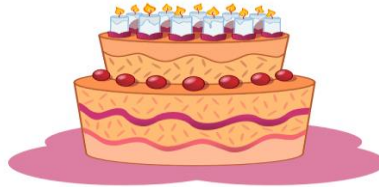
OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021

President	Grant Washburn
1 st Vice President (Program)	Pat Washburn
2 nd Vice President (Exhibits)	Cindy Chambers
Treasurer	Paula Sandera
Recording Secretary	Jo Allebach
Corresponding Secretary	Sheila Bellinger



On going Eye Glass Collection for the Lion's Club

+++++



BIRTHDAYS – February

Sheila Bellinger	Ashwini Bharathula
Katherine Kurgan	Grant Washburn

Artist Information

JO Allebach

I am a guest curator at Herberger Art Center at the Herberger Theater. The theme is Vacations. The exhibit is February 5th till March 29th.



50/50 raffle will be at the next general meeting. So, there is time to buy your raffle tickets.

Ways and Means will be raffling off a couple of special items at the next 2 general meetings. Come and find out.



Please remember to submit your artwork for Back Page art.

Remember also to submit you artwork for Members Monthly Activity



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), or me- (chuckc1@cox.newt)

- 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.
-

CHUCK'S COMPUTER CORNER "TIPS":

Be Prepared!

The fake tech. support scammers pretending to be from Microsoft – and it's because some people still fall for their spiel.

They may claim that you have a malware infection or a Windows upgrade/update issue, now that Win. 7 has been retired and is no longer supported.

What they are trying to do is keep you on the phone long enough to convince you to run a few tests of your own to prove what they are saying is true.

If they convince you to run a diagnostic program, they'll tell you to look for a specific word when the results are displayed.

The problem is that the specific word or words that they are having you look for are actually part of the Windows operating system and will always show up.

If that convinces you that they are legit, they'll request remote access to help you clean things up.

Needless to say, if you fall for this, they'll try to get you to give them a credit card number to cover the service or worse yet, buy an annual protection plan.

Here's what you need to understand about the tech world - no legit company, especially Microsoft, is ever going to call you out of the blue to tell you that you're having a problem.

Now that you know what to watch for, you can avoid these silver tongue devils and just hang up.

Only allow remote access to your computer when you are the one initiating the request for help.



“Gate” Watercolor by Cindy Chambers



Arizona Art Supply
The largest Fine Art Supply Retailer in the Southwest
Serving Arizona Artists for over 65 years.

**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:

Grant Washburn - President
Alika Kumar – Membership

Membership \$40.00 per year/May-April