



December 2023



# Wet Paint

The Waterloo Watercolor Group Newsletter

## Upcoming Dates

- **December 2**  
WWG Christmas Party and General Meeting  
11 am, Colette Sirhal's home  
Board Meeting 10:30
- **January 27**  
Bookworms at Eileen Pestorius' at 9:30
- **Feb 10**  
One Day Workshop  
**Sue Kemp** *Capturing Light in Watercolor*
- **March 9** Open  
Contact Sue if you'd like to suggest a class or teach. [kempart64@gmail.com](mailto:kempart64@gmail.com)
- **April 15–17, 2024**  
Ric Dentinger workshop. Demo April 14.
- **May 11** Al Kline subject will be announced.

## From the WWG President

Happy Holidays Members!

Before we all get lost in our holiday planning I wanted to share a few opportunities with you. WWG is going to procure one or two spaces on the plaza at Riverbend Church for their "Art on the Bend" event the weekend of April 13-14. It will be an opportunity to show and sell one or two pieces of your art. Depending on the interest of members, maybe more. There is no fee nor commission collected by Riverbend. Any sales will be handled by each individual artist. If you would like to participate, you will be required to donate approximately two hours either Saturday or Sunday at the booth. If you are interested, please email me at [president@waterloowatercolor.org](mailto:president@waterloowatercolor.org). When we have an accurate count of participants, we will advise about additional details.

There are also spaces for individual artists to display and sell their work at this event. Individual artists will have space in the inside galleries. If you would like your own booth, you can contact Carol Sue Witt or check online

at <https://riverbendcentre.org/call-for-art>.

Dougherty Center also has open applications for the JCB Gallery 2025 Season. Deadline is February 4, 2024. WWG as a group will not be filing an application (the group is too large), but members may want to apply as an individual or in small groups of 3 or 4. Information can be found in the Dougherty Arts Center November 2023 Newsletter online.

WWG plans to offer more shows for our members starting in 2025. We are searching different venues around Austin to hold our shows. If you have a recommendation, please email me or any Board member. We are open to any and all suggestions!

I hope to see you Saturday at our Holiday Party. Wishing all of you a joyous celebration of the upcoming holidays!

Colette Sirhal  
WWG President

## Martha Paisley Ruth — Waterloo Watercolor Group's Honorary Member Award 2023



Thank you for distinguishing me with Waterloo's Honorary Member Award. It has been an enriching pleasure for me to serve in many capacities for WWG. Waterloo's mission of education and the selfless volunteering by many members to make and keep Waterloo such a vibrant organization reminds me of the impact my parents, many of my teachers, neighbors, co-workers, and friends had in my life choices. I witnessed these people passionately share their time and expertise with me and others. They truly cared.

I began my professional career employed and eventually freelancing as a graphic designer/art director for 15 years. When my children were in elementary school I began offering after-school, evening and summer group drawing and painting classes for 15 years. I realize how this in-depth variety of experience gave me a great foundation for using my skills for volunteering and giving

back to my community. One learns best by doing! Facilitating others' appreciation of art and growth in drawing and painting has been my greatest joy.

When I joined WWG in 1996 I asked if there were extracurricular activities—and of course, got the job! For the first three years, monthly I arranged for and found locations to offer members a variety of free, one-day workshops from our volunteer members about painting techniques and figure drawing, lecturers, painting-on-location, parties, and discounted bus trips to art museums—many of which took me out of my comfort zone but opened a whole new world of learning and growth for me. Of course, all this led to my creating monthly camera-ready pages for the newsletter to advertise these activities, chairing shows, creating painting labels, brochures, publications' ads for our shows, obtaining awards from businesses, making our group's new name tags, for several years creating the camera-ready prospectuses for our two annual shows, and years of serving on the Board in many capacities.

When I moved to the Apache Shores neighborhood in 2005, as a resident, I was able to contract their community hall for meetings, demos, and workshops for Waterloo Watercolor Group, Austin Pastel Society, and the Waterloo-sponsored 1-day workshops for the children of CASA of Travis County. I also arranged for discounted frame and brush sales with vendors. I organized fundraising and handled the hall's new lighting, ceiling, paint, and repairs of the kitchen/bathrooms. WWG was able to have free storage for their supplies at this hall for many years. This led to my helping and then VP/Co-chair for the bi-annual WWG workshops in the Hall through 2012. I've given demos, workshops, and presentations for WWG members.

In 2005 I arranged for the free use of the hall for painting activities. It began as free days to learn from those who took the WWG week-long workshops and grew to become the 620 Group, a weekly painting/critique group in whatever mediums the individual artists wish. We even offered monthly figure drawing sessions for a time. I've kept the group "going" by creating my monthly News emails and membership directory. It's been a dynamic group of 105 artists

*continued on page 3*

*continued from page 2*

so far over the years, even with moving to new locations. I've arranged for over 50 Home/Studio Tours by our members, paint-outs, parties, and museum trips. And the artists have had many art shows & sales in the various venues around Austin.

As most of you know, when one is involved with one arts group, it overlaps with others! Through the years I've volunteered in most of the jobs for Austin's Capitol Art Society; RRISD's research/instruction for presentations for Art in the Classroom, created backdrops for school musical presentations, invitations/PR for high school functions; in Tucson

AZ I was elementary school PTA VP/Fundraising, school designs for apparel and a new library floorplan, check-out desk/bookshelves and painted 19 murals, newsletters/activities for a new mothers' association and my neighborhoods, and Activities Chair for Southern Arizona Watercolor Guild, Tucson Advertising Club, and Binghamton NY's Public Relations Society of the Southern Tier; and I created posters, banners, brochures for various churches. You can read more about my history, paintings, and awards on my website [www.martharuth.com](http://www.martharuth.com).

## Do you need more darks?

---

Colors take the credit, but values do the work.

Have you heard that before? During a critique, many watercolorists hear that they need more darks in their painting. I believe that is the most common critique of watercolor paintings. It's easy to stay in the middle value range when doing a watercolor painting. Most

watercolorists paint the light areas first and the dark areas later. Because watercolor paint dries 15-20% lighter, it means that your painting may need some more work to make the important areas pop. Much of this may involve using darker paint near the "star of the show" as some artists call it.

I like to do negative painting which simply means painting

around objects usually with darker paint. Sometimes I paint a slightly darker area around the various objects and then later paint around more objects with even darker paint to create another dimension. This might be leaves around flowers or waves in the water. There are many times to use negative painting in watercolor, but it doesn't always do the job of having darks in all the right places. You may still need more value work.

Let your painting dry completely and then ask what areas need to stand out. How can you achieve this? Don't be afraid to mix really dark blue, brown, black, purple, green or combinations to accomplish this. Sometimes just a few touches with dark paint will do the trick. Make your values your goal and your colors will bring rave reviews. Think of it like packing for a trip to Europe. Remove half the clothes and pack more money.



One of Leslie's paintings that shows how darker colors highlight the "main event."

Colorfully,  
Leslie Kjellstrand

## One-Day Workshops — Sue Kemp



WWG had a great workshop in November, taught by another of our talented members, **Rashmi Thakur**.

Students enjoyed her step-by-step process of painting animal eyes and fur, focusing on a TIGER. Color theory was explained as she stayed within color families in her mixtures, to unify the painting. Detailed drawings were provided. Thanks, Rashmi!

Join us in the New Year, if you can! Here are the dates, and details will be posted in January on our website. Everyone is welcome and classes are limited to 12 painters.

Location St Matthews Episcopal Church on Mesa Dr. from 10–4

Feb 10 , 2024 **Sue Kemp** *Capturing Light in Watercolor*



March 9 **Open** Contact Sue if you'd like to suggest a class or teach. [kempart64@gmail.com](mailto:kempart64@gmail.com)

We will skip April, since we have the 3-day workshop that month, with Ric Dentinger.

May 11 **Al Kline** subject will be announced.

## Attention members - Membership Renewal is underway.

All 2024 members will be receiving a membership renewal notice based on the month you renewed last year. There will be a link in the email for you to access the renewal process. Please use this link to access and fill out the form. You will be able to pay the dues of \$40 by Paypal or by

credit card. With our new website fully active, each following year the renewal process will be fully automated. You will not have to re-enter your information each year. At anytime throughout the year, you can change your contact information by signing in to your WWG online member account.

It is important that you use the link provided in the email. If you do not receive a renewal reminder or have trouble using the link, please contact any Board member to let us know. We will be happy to assist.

## News from our Members

Congratulations to **Kathleen Stafford**. The article, **The ambassador and the artist: How real life Austin 'Argo' couple cultivated life abroad**, came out Sunday, November 26, in the Statesman and AOL news. Read the full article at the following link:

<https://www.aol.com/ambassador-artist-real-life-austin-120049648.html>

Kathleen's art is currently on display at Chez Zee



*Kathleen and Joe Stafford at their home in Southwest Austin. Joe was a diplomat who worked for the foreign service in Africa, Asia and Europe. Trained as an artist, Kathleen produces art inspired by the countries where they lived. The couple was trapped in Iran after the revolution and were whisked out of the country by a scheme that was the subject of the Oscar-winning movie "Argo."*

## Pre-Holiday Home Show & Sale

Please join us at Sara Goodman's home,

2805 Diddley Cove, Cedar Park, TX  
78613

Saturday, December 9th  
Drop by anytime  
between 12-5 pm



Sara will be showing her fused glass pieces & jewelry



Priscilla Wicker will bring watercolors, giclee prints & cards



Mary Ann Nailos is bringing her textile art

**Priscilla Wicker** is part of a Pre-Holiday Home Show and Sale on Saturday, December 9th from 12-5. She will be joined by two fused-glass artists and one textile artist. It is a great opportunity for holiday shopping.

**More News from our Members**

---

**Christine Gilbert** will have her studio open December 2 & 3 from 11-6 for the annual Thornton Road Studios Holiday Art Market. She has watercolor and acrylic paintings, earrings, and hand-knitted jewel yarn scarves. Other artist studios will also be open for your holiday shopping. Come see what Thornton Road Studios is all about at 2309-2311 Thornton Road, Austin.

**From Betty Jameson — North Hills Gallery**

---

Tatiana Nicolova-Houston's show at North Hills Gallery 7050 Village Center Drive continues through December. You can buy prints in plastic sleeves. There is a price list on the cabinet in the Gallery.

**THORNTON ROAD**  
*Studios &*  
**GALLERIES**  
**HOLIDAY ART MARKET**

**ABSTRACT ART**

**PAINTINGS**

**JEWELRY**

**METAL WORK**

**CERAMICS**

**POTTERY**

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

**MOSAICS**

**SAT/SUN**  
**DEC. 2-3**  
**11-5PM**

**2309-2311 THORNTON ROAD, ATX**

## And now for your moment of inspiration from Anders Zorn

One of the most famous living artists at the turn of the 20th century, Anders Zorn (1860 – 1920) dazzled the art world with his bravura paintings, watercolors, and etchings. His early travels took him to Spain and Algeria where the intense color and light inspired the virtuoso watercolorist to perfect his craft.



## Do you know someone who would be interested?

We welcome new members to Waterloo Watercolor Group. We are a non-profit group interested in the advancement of watercolor and other water-based media as an art form. Whether you are a beginning painter or a seasoned one, we invite you to join our group.

Among the benefits of membership, you can participate in workshops, juried shows or classes

given by members. You'll hear about other art shows in the area and even be able to save money on some supplies. We also have a library of art books and DVDs available to members.

Look for us on the web, [waterloowatercolor.org](http://waterloowatercolor.org). If you are interested in joining, you can find an application on our website and pay the \$40 dues through PayPal. For more information, contact Amanda Green.

## 2022 WWG Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	Colette Sirhal
<b>Vice President</b>	Dan Spanton
<b>Secretary</b>	Susan Dunning
<b>Treasurer</b>	Beth Fox
<b>Directors, shows</b>	Helen Green, Jen Polnaszek
<b>Directors, long workshops</b>	Kathleen Stafford, Lonnie Swanson
<b>Directors, 1-day workshops</b>	Sue Kemp, Carol McCollum
<b>Director, Activities</b>	Janet Fulk
<b>Membership</b>	
<b>Newsletter</b>	Priscilla Wicker
<b>Board Member</b>	Sandra Carlton
<b>North Hills Gallery</b>	Betty Jameson
<b>Past President</b>	Leslie Kjellstrand

# Wet Paint

is a monthly publication of Waterloo Watercolor Group in Austin, Texas. To submit news to the newsletter, email [npwicker@gmail.com](mailto:npwicker@gmail.com)

Also, visit our Facebook page. Open to all.