



Coachella Valley  
Watercolor Society  
Est. 1989

# Brush Up

## January 2018

**Next General Meeting:  
at Joslyn Sr. Center, Jan. 8, 2018 - 6:30PM**

### **Demo by Susan Keith**

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Susan Keith is a native California watercolor artist. She was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Hacienda Heights. Her interest in art began very early, as a child, drawing and painting. She attended San Diego State University where she completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Painting and Printmaking. Later on in life, Susan became a teacher and taught all levels of high school art.

Upon retiring from teaching Susan has pursued watercolor with a renewed love and interest. Her professional art career started in 2013, in which she began exhibiting her watercolor paintings publicly. Her work has been shown in local, regional, national and international shows where she has won various awards. Her work has been juried into the National Watercolor Society, California Watercolor Association, the San Diego Watercolor Society, Watercolor West, the Georgia Watercolor Society, the Louisiana Watercolor Society, Northwest Watercolor Society, Kentucky Watercolor Society, Illinois Watercolor Society, the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies, and the Society of Watercolor Artists.

Susan's watercolors have a sense or impression of realism. She incorporates bright colors in her paintings to catch the viewer's eye. She is intrigued by light and shadow in so many subjects; from foliage, florals, and still life, to plein air landscapes, architecture and portraits. Most days you can find Susan painting in her studio/gallery or on the look out for a beautiful subject that has found her attention to capture in watercolor.



**The CVWS Annual Show entries must be received by January 24th**

# President's Message



*"If I create from the heart, nearly everything works; if from the head, almost nothing."* **Marc Chagall**

We are off to a wonderful beginning in 2018. And as we go forward, I am grateful for all the volunteers we have in our watercolor society. We have fun. We get things done. We solve problems. We come up with innovative ideas. We create. Thank you!

I encourage everyone to show their work in Painter of the Month. I'm always proud of you for entering. Yes, it does take courage, and you have it. We have all entered and not won a ribbon... including me, several times. I just enter again. Choose a different painting the next time. How do I handle not winning? You mean...after thinking: 1-They don't like me; 2-They don't like my painting; 3-My paintings aren't good enough; 4-I'm never going to enter again. I give myself no more than 3 minutes for those thoughts. Then I go to Plan B.

Plan B means; 'take action'. Ask a teacher to critique a few of my best paintings or maybe get into a Critique Group (might have to form one myself). Take some lessons or watch a DVD to learn some new techniques. (We have many excellent ones in our DVD library that you can borrow for free). And that is creating a positive outcome from the experience. I have a choice how I will react. And Plan B leads me to become more developed as an artist. Then I'll sign up again, and enter another painting. Some of you know that I submitted my work to Desert Art Center and was not accepted this year.

Our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Show is in about 5 weeks. You have time to get ready. There are lots of options to share your paintings...several categories...framed or unframed. Get your work ready and invite your family and friends to our fabulous reception on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Look for more information about it soon.

You know the most wonderful thing about our Annual Show is that ALL members can enter!

I'll be looking for your paintings soon!

Diane Moore, President

## **CVWS 2017-2018 Officers**

### **President:**

Diane Archie Moore

### **Exec. VP:**

Marcia Slater Hatfield

### **Programs:**

Robin St. Louis

### **Shows:**

K. Scoggin, Alicia Siegler

### **Publicity:**

Marilyn Blitz

### **Treasurer:**

Cindy Mason

### **Secretary:**

Nancy Rizzardi

### **Newsletter**

Connie Zane

### **Website**

Lance Brechbill

## **2017-18 Committee Chairs**

### **Equipment:**

John Ressler, Jim Nelson

### **Field Mice:**

Sue Ober

### **Historian:**

Joyce Kingman

### **Hospitality:**

Donna Clack

### **Life Drawing:**

Imelda Gregov, Vera Knowles

### **Membership/Directory:**

Connie Collins

### **New Member Liaison:** Open

### **Painter of the Month:**

Maira Johannessen

### **Raffle:**

Tracy Hartman

### **Sunshine:**

Gloria Mucciolo

### **DVD Library:**

Mike Collins

### **Workshops:**

Diane Moore, Nina Harlan

### **Special Activities:**

Sonja Ravet, Sylvia Smith

Please wear your CVWS name tag to meetings. If you don't have one, contact Connie Collins, Membership Chairman.

# December Painters of the Month



1st Place: Linda Hanna



2nd Place: Shirley Celli



3rd Place: Loey Siering



Hon. Mention: Alicia Siegler

Please sign up for Painter of the Month at our monthly meetings. Updated Painter of the Month rules have been emailed to members. If you didn't get a copy, See Moira Johannessen.

## Art News and Kudos

Many thanks to Tracy Hartman and Sue Ober for organizing a lovely Holiday Potluck in December and to Moira Johannessen and Jim Nelson for the commentary on Watercolor West.



### LIFE DRAWING

Sessions begin January 12th. As usual, we meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the months Jan., Feb., March, and April. from 9-12 noon at the Portola Community Center, [45480 Portola Ave. Palm Desert](http://www.portolacommunitycenter.com).

Clothed Models, No instruction.

Bring your own equipment. Cafeteria type tables and chairs are available. Model gets \$60. We hope to have at least 6 people sign up so the fee stays at \$10 each. If more people come, the extra money goes in the kitty for use when we need it to pay future models. If anyone knows of a possible model PLEASE let me know as there is a short supply! I Will send out reminders early January.

Happy Holidays.

Mimi Gregov - email me at: [mimi42@mac.com](mailto:mimi42@mac.com)



### Looking for Volunteers:

Life Drawing Chair for 2018-2020

Hospitality Chair and volunteers 2018-2020

*Note: Hospitality is a great way to meet people. You sit at the entry desk and check members in. Or you can bring cookies and help organize the refreshments. Both jobs are very appreciated.*

Alicia Siegler, a member of the Heritage Palms Cultural Committee, has invited the residents of Heritage Palms to the CVWS Annual Show Reception. She will act as a docent, escorting visitors through the gallery to explain paintings and answer questions. **Other CVWS members are encouraged to do the same to stimulate visitor interest in our artwork.**

**Framing/Matting Workshop** will be held Jan. 13th, from 9am-3pm at Desert Art Center, in Palm Springs. Class is offered by Diane Moore and Kathleen Scoggin. It covers matt and plexi cutting, matting and framing, Cost is \$75. Call or email Diane Moore: [butterfly@dc.ff.com](mailto:butterfly@dc.ff.com) or phone 760-345-3531

Contact [cpinenuts@gmail.com](mailto:cpinenuts@gmail.com) with your achievements/kudos. Emails are due by the 20th of each month. No email reminders will be sent so YOU must remember to let us know your painting news. Please include a photo & title of your painting, if possible.

## Field Mice

### *January Plein Air Schedule*

#### January 9

##### -Jackalope Ranch Restaurant

80-4000 Highway 111, Indio.

Beautiful gardens and water features. Restaurant opens at 11:00 AM. Beware-the grass has Sprinklers! (so don't set up there.)

#### January 16

##### -Cabots Pueblo Museum

- 67616 E. Desert View Dr., Desert Hot Springs\_\_

#### January 23

- Old Town La Quinta, 78100 Main Street, La Quinta 92253

#### January 30

- Cathedral City Hall, Hwy 111, Cathedral City

- Town Square Park, Festival, Lawn and Fountain of Life.

December 11th at the Empire Polo Grounds. A great group of painters showed up to enjoy the morning. There were lots of sweeping views and vistas of the San Jacinto Mountains and the Polo Grounds Rose Gardens. Had a wonderful lunch at the Tack Room. Thanks Mike!

Hoping to see you all again at the Jackalope Restaurant in Indio in January. It's a beautiful spot with wonderful landscaping with old wagons and waterfalls and it's superb for lunch as well. Sue Ober.



# Member Profiles

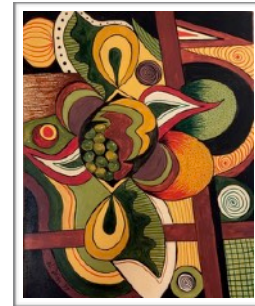
I'm Pat Easton. My husband and I first came to the desert in 1987 and moved here permanently in 2001. I started taking watercolor lessons in the 1990's with Pat Cole whose work I love, and was with her for about 20 years. I met a nice group of artists and we still paint together every week.

I love all styles of watercolor. My favorites are painting detailed patterns and textures, all in bright colors. My very favorite is painting flowers and leaves. It usually takes me a day to do a very detailed drawing. Once that is done the actual painting is not quite as intense. I guess you'd call my painting style realistic.

It's such a great feeling of accomplishment when I finish a painting I've designed myself. And if someone else likes it and buys it - that's even better!



Nancy Dion, a CVWS member since 1999, has dabbled in art all her life. Starting with pen & ink life drawing, tempura painting (for prom decorating) to illustrations for patient info pamphlets while an Occupational Therapist. Started watercolor after retirement and for the past year is experimenting with acrylics. Next: collage!



I'm Annette Fragasso. I've been a member of CVWS for several years. I am very appreciative of the opportunity the club provides for me both in showing my work and encouraging the creative process by the programs it offers.

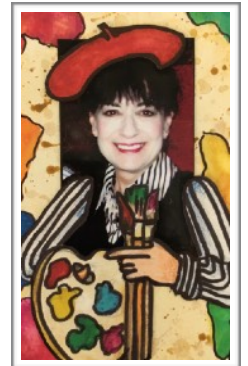
I begin my paintings with a plan, using a small sketch to establish the composition then choose my colors. Lately I have been painting just two or three subjects several times, using both watercolor and acrylic. By familiarizing myself with a subject I find my technique improves.

A quote from my lifetime friend and artist, Carol Collins, "The act of painting involves observation, dreaming and playing. Our response to a painting stimulates our imagination and we experience a moment's respite from the practical world". So true, it's more fun



I, Jan (Julie) Jones, was an apple who fell from the tree and rolled away. In the process, I became an orange and occasionally, a lemon. Growing up in a small town, I spent my youth doing all the art work I could. After graduating from college with a degree in design, I rolled to a large city. For thirty years, I worked as a commercial illustrator. Now, it is my turn to do the art work I *want* to do —what a blessing!

I love planning a piece of work, then moving forward, after using watercolors. The work never goes as planned — just like life! My work is not loose and has too many details. Sometimes I try to change those aspects, but sometimes I add even more detail! Watercolors are a wonderful way to express a variety of things—and they dry quickly. I don't think of any paintings as a failure: it's possible to learn from mistakes and poor choices. The only mistake, in my mind, is not trying again. Watercolor painting offers endless opportunities for personal expression. So I say, "Paint on, and have fun!"



**Editor's Note:** These member profiles are a way for members (both old and new) to get to know one another. If you'd like to share your story, a painting and your photo, please send them to: [cpinenuts@gmail.com](mailto:cpinenuts@gmail.com)



## Tips & Techniques

### Perfection

by Ron Hanner

The artist's usual form of Compulsive Perfection is the staunch enemy of fresh, spontaneous watercolor painting. But it's understandable since perfection comes in part from the survival of the species instinct. And it is extremely difficult to break from the tyranny of this natural drive. Where this comes into play is when our inclination demands that we paint exactly what we see at our painting site. Painting what we see is a huge **NO**, by the way. Improve on nature, paint a **BETTER** painting than what we see at the scene!

I've focused on this counter force for 63 years, and have just barely got it under control to consistently make a good painting. I'm getting closer, but they are not consistent yet. It's like hitting a jackpot when one works.

For crisp, fresh, spontaneous paintings, it is necessary to curb ones hard-handed perfectionist propensities that are led by the tyranny of nature. Without trying so hard, perfection will then come back in a different form with crisp, spontaneous paintings that other people will more enjoy looking at. But better yet, you will like them better too.

#### CVWS Instructors

Ron Hanner	760-636-5766
Moira Johannessen	760-322-2523
Pat Kodet	530-388-8241
Diane Morgan	760-902-8855
Sonja Price Ravet	425-747-6748
Kathleen Scoggin	503-515-9633
Connie Zane	775-846-9719

Create Center for the Arts, on Hwy. 111 in Palm Desert offers a wide range of art classes. Check them out at:

[www.createcenterforthearts.com](http://www.createcenterforthearts.com)

#### Reminder

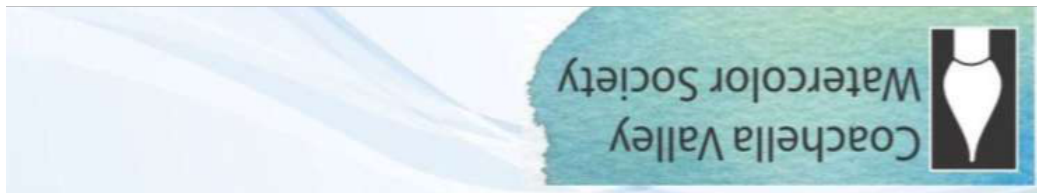
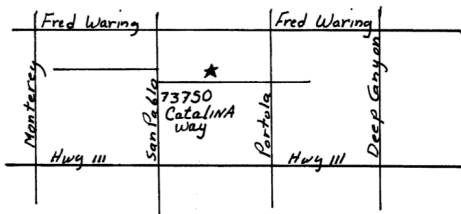
Deadline for mailed entry forms for the CVWS Annual show is January 24th.

Be sure to **carefully** read all the rules.

Three paintings can be entered in each of 3 different categories, plus 10 bin paintings.

That means 19 paintings.....Get busy!

Joslyn Center is located at 73750 Catalina Way, Palm Desert, CA 92260. It is about half way between San Pablo Ave. and Portola Ave, South of Fred Waring Dr. and North of Highway 111. You can access is from either Portola or San Pablo.



**General Meeting - Joslyn Center, 6:30 PM**

Joslyn Center is located at 73750 Catalina Way, Palm Desert, CA 92260. It is about half way between San Pablo Ave. and Portola Ave, South of Fred Waring Dr. and North of Highway 111. You can access is from either Portola or San Pablo.

