

Poulsbo Artist League Newsletter

Poulsbo Artist League
P.O. Box 764
Poulsbo, WA 98370

<http://poulsboartist.com>



WEDNESDAYS FEBRUARY 4, 11, 18, 25 12:30 – 3:00

"THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE I REALIZE THERE IS NOTHING MORE ARTISTIC THAN TO LOVE OTHERS." VINCENT VAN GOGH


Birthdays
February
Patricia Huelle, Nita Johnson
Nancy Sefton

2014-2015 Officers:
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Prose from the PAL President:



Ah, February - the short month - but then, lately, they all seem short. If the weather continues to be mild, we can be doing outdoor activities all the sooner - gardening, clearing up things from winter, and hopefully painting. It's been good to see everyone at weekly meetings; and I encourage the rest of our membership to come out and visit with us too.

We have another Stella workshop coming up this month. If you need more information, contact Jan or Judy - and Jan needs everyone who has signed up to please pay the \$40 fee.

And finally, I'd like to thank everyone who showed up to help hang the latest show at Central Market. Extra hands are always welcome. The next switch-out will be around the middle of April. This is a great venue for getting your work seen, so keep it in mind while you work. I would also like to mention that several people came to Central Market to collect their returning paintings. This is very helpful for the people who have to haul your work home; so if you are in the position to do so next time, please keep it in mind.

Maggie

PAL Ponderings and February Workshop

PAL Ponderings:

by Bill Futon

I always have a hard time finding subjects to paint. When the inspiration to paint hits me, I go in search of a subject, but nothing seems to pop out at me. This seems crazy, because there are subjects to paint everywhere. It's just that I can't seem to visualize them as a painting.

So I've been thinking about ways to find a painting in the world around me. Someone once said, "There are no bad subjects, only bad paintings." In other words, any subject, no matter how drab, can be interpreted by a good painter.

Often I look for a focal point, something that would be the center of interest in a painting. A building, maybe, or a tree. I look for interesting angles that will give a sense of depth and perspective. I love to drive around rural areas looking for old barns or remnants of the old farms that used to be everywhere. Kitsap County is fascinating to me because of the rural character.

Marine subjects – boats, docks, and bays - are always interesting because of the play of light and the interesting shapes found in decaying pilings, boathouses, and beaches.

When I'm looking for a subject, I look for differences in value, especially interesting shadows that provide some contrast in the painting. "Paint the light, not the subject," is what I've heard. And I look for interesting shapes to paint. A mass of trees, or an old truck.

It's well known that early morning and late afternoon are good times to paint because the light illuminates the landscape and gives shadows and shapes that disappear in mid-day. It's just that I'm usually busy in the early morning and late afternoon!

I always keep a camera handy so I can record an interesting subject and paint it at home. Or I can go back to it later when I have more time. Taking photos of people in a larger setting is one way I can put human figures in my paintings – sometimes successfully, sometimes not!

Gray days when the light is flat make it difficult for me to find a subject. Nothing seems to stand out, and all the values are flat. I need to learn how to pull something out of a gray day.

Another challenge I have is to use a telephoto effect in a painting. Just because things are far away doesn't mean I can't paint them closer up and arranged in a more pleasing composition. I'm still learning to move things around in a painting. I have to convince myself that my painting doesn't have to be an exact replica of the scene in front of me!

Inspiration is a great thing. But it's important to just get out and paint no matter what the inspiration is, and paint whatever is there. Visualizing a painting, moving things around, accenting the light or shapes, putting in some human figures...these are things I'm trying to improve on.

What are your favorite subjects, and how do you find them? I hope my rambling about subjects to paint has helped you think about the subjects you paint.

February Workshop: Stella Canfield is returning Monday, February 9th from 9 to 4 at the Vinland Lutheran Church. At press time, only a few spaces remain. Cost for this all day workshop is \$40. Sign up with Jan Lytle or Judy Guttormsen. Bring your acrylic or watercolor paints and your lunch and plan to enjoy this rewarding workshop.

Current Exhibits and Sales

Poulsbo City Hall ~ various members Contact: Nancy Sefton contact for an inventory list of what's hanging there. This list itself has already appeared in a previous newsletter

Central Market in Poulsbo ~ various members Contact: Richard Daugherty

Hospice in Silverdale ~ various members Contact: Marge Keeton

Edward Jones Building~ various members

Laura Dicus has her art at Bluewater Artworks gallery on an ongoing basis.

Liz Haney has her art at Savage Plant Nursery, Highway 104, Kingston.

**If you are exhibiting anywhere and would like to have it listed here, you need to let the secretary know at least by the last week of the month. Also – if you have a show that closes, please let me know so I can remove it from the newsletter.

<i>Venue</i>	Collect Art	Hang Art	Return Art
Central Market	April TBA	April TBA	April TBA
Hospice	April TBA	April TBA	April TBA
Edward Jones	TBA	TBA	TBA

New Members and Art Cartoon

New members:

Jill Newkirk, Kathleen Dassel and Ellen Barnett all recently joined PAL. Both Kathleen and Ellen heard about PAL in Nancy Sefton's watercolor class at the Poulsbo Parks and Rec. Jill enjoys painting in acrylics and is currently finishing a rusted boat, forgotten in time.

