



# Newsletter

## September 2015

Verdugo Hills Art Association, P.O. Box 8059, La Crescenta, CA 91224  
[verdugoarts.org](http://verdugoarts.org) Dave Crandon, Editor, [dave\\_vhaa@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_vhaa@yahoo.com)

## Rob Sherrill to launch new season on September 4

by Sara Griggs

We are pleased to have Rob Sherrill kick off the 2015-16 VHAA season, doing a watercolor en plein air. Rob's exuberance and joie de vivre spills over into every painting medium he touches. As Rob states "nothing is as raw and basic and subtle as the organic substance called paint." I like to think Rob's specialty is en plein air utilizing all media: oil, acrylic, gouache and mixed media.

I first met Rob over 10 years ago in a watercolor class at Creative Arts Group in Sierra Madre. I was immediately struck by his mantra that there is more than one way to paint a painting, and by the fact that he always gave positive criticism. Since that time I have taken a number of his plein air classes and witnessed his demos and supportive one-on-one critiques.

Rob has been an artist all of his life. Starting with competition in regional shows, he graduated to doing the scenery in plays. His first job was as a technical draftsman. A graduate of Art Center College of

Design he continued to pursue painting, exhibiting his work wherever he could. He went on to become a Designer and Art Director but discovered that took him away from his true passion - painting.

Rob is currently teaching at the Huntington Museum and Art Center. He is a commissioned artist in figures, landscapes and urban areas. His work is shown in a number of local galleries.

Please visit his website if you have a chance, at [robertsherrill.com](http://robertsherrill.com).



*Rob doing a plein air demo*



*Arroyo Bridge view towards the Rose Bowl - oil*

### **You are invited, so save the date!**

We have an artists' reception scheduled on Saturday, September 5, at 6 P.M. to kick off our month long exhibition at Whites Gallery, in Montrose, at 2414 Honolulu Avenue. Food, fun, and fabulous art! Please, join us.

# The Presidents' Letter

by Sue Peacock and Nikki Thomas

**We are looking forward to some changes** this year. Our Artist of the Month chair Judith Apablaza is introducing a major change: To encourage more of our newer artists we will have two divisions for Artists of the Month. Everyone in the Open Division of our jurored art shows (ten or less points) will compete only with each other; members in the Premier and Honors categories will be combined to compete without the Open group. The art will be separated by division to facilitate your choices. You will vote for one piece of art in each division. We will award two first place ribbons and we hope there will be enough entries for two second place awards as well. So, novices get your paintings, photographs, sculptures, and ceramic art ready to enter in September; there's no need to hold back until later in the year. We are so proud of our members who get blue ribbons every year and we wanted to spread some of that pride onto our other members.

**VHAA's first ever gallery show** will be at Whites Gallery, 2414 Honolulu Avenue, Montrose, for the entire month of September. We have over forty artists signed up to have their work on display. We hope everyone will support our artists and the club by attending the artists' reception on Saturday, September 5 from 6:00-8:00 PM.

**One of our challenges** this year is to increase our membership. At our September general meeting we will have new membership brochures thanks to Joseph (Pepe) Apablaza and Mary Talwar. Please carry a few with you; pass them out to friends, artists, businesses, schools, and other organizations including other art clubs. Let's make Verdugo Hills Art Association a better known feature of our community.

**Coming up this year** will be great demonstrators; three juried shows, our non-juried member show, and our Artists of the Month end of year show, plus workshops, paint-outs, the gamut. Check out the calendar of events on the website and in our newsletters.

We hope to see all of you at our September 4th meeting

## Lainie Lim - 2015 Scholarship Winner

by Joyce Peterson

An audience considerably older than the lovely young Lainie Lim were reminded of their teenage years when Lainie read and displayed her senior thesis from her Advanced Placement Art class at Crescenta Valley High School. Her work, created using watercolors, ink, and graphite, was visually stunning and thought-provoking. Lainie created a series of 12 paintings addressing the theme of teenage depression. Depicting symptoms and effects of depression, including binge-eating, insomnia, chronic pain, and guilt, Lainie made the point that many teenagers suffer these problems while feeling the need to mask their problems and conform with social expectations. Lainie hopes her work will provoke much-needed communication to help better recognize and address teenage depression. You can see the video that Lainie used to introduce her work by visiting <http://www.verdugoarts.org/scholarship-winner.html>, and clicking on the "Lainie's video" link at the bottom left corner of the page.

As one woman said to her friend, "When I was a teenager, all I thought about was boys, dates, and clothes." It is clearly a different world out there today. We caught a glimpse of the new world from seeing and learning about Lainie's work; by hearing from her teacher, Sarah Wiggins, about the 24 projects that her art students must complete during their senior year; and by learning about how students have to accomplish this while juggling the demands of heavy academic workloads and college applications.

This thoughtful and very talented teenager, our 2015 scholarship winner, is headed to UC San Diego, where she will pursue a career in the sciences. She plans to continue her art work as well, as a hobby she can pursue as she wishes, not as the obligation it would be were she to major in art.



*Sarah Wiggins and Lainie Lim*

# A message from Cherrie O'Hagan, our Membership Chairman

Hi everyone! It's hard to believe that summer is more than half over, and that our first meeting is on September 4, only a month away! Your Verdugo Hills Art Association board members have been busy planning our activities for the upcoming year. We have some exciting demonstrations lined up for this fall: Rob Sherrill demonstrating his plein air watercolor technique in September; Julie Hill doing an impressionistic watercolor in October; and, in November, Pete Morris demonstrating how he captures the ordinary life of passengers while they are riding the Metro to work. We also have a members only exhibit scheduled at Whites Gallery in Montrose, including an artists' reception on Saturday evening, September 5. If you want to sign up or learn more details, please visit our fabulous new website, [www.verdugoarts.org](http://www.verdugoarts.org). And of course we have our regular member exhibits at the La Canada Library occurring throughout the year.

Please don't forget to send in your dues of \$35, which covers your membership for our upcoming year - September 2015 through June 2016. Your dues help us in our planning efforts and especially in producing our member directory. Also, it is important that you pay your dues by the end of August if you are participating in the Whites Gallery exhibition.

Unsure if you are up-to-date on your dues? Email me at [cherrieohagan@gmail.com](mailto:cherrieohagan@gmail.com). Also, you can send your \$35 check, made out to VHAA, to:

Cherrie O'Hagan  
5045 Hill Street  
La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011

Please make sure to note my new address, as some of you with old directories had sent checks to my previous address.

## VHAA Officers 2015 - 2016

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# Cherrie O'Hagan chosen as Artist of the Year

At our June meeting members chose Cherrie O'Hagan as artist of the year, choosing her work from a selection of work created by VHAA's eight artists of the month. Cherrie's winning watercolor painting is titled "Variations in Blue." She chose a collection of blue jars and bowls, purchased at a local Salvation Army shop, as an exercise at getting the right shade and temperature of blue. She set her still life in front of a deep orange/russet background that she thought would best bring out the blueness in the objects. She added a persimmon from her garden to tie in the background.

Cherrie enjoys working with watercolors, acrylics, and oils. She feels that different scenes call for different mediums. For instance, if she wants a happy and lively painting of a scene in Italy or a painting of roses on a hot summer day, she would choose to use oils or acrylics. On the other hand, if she wants to have an air of stillness or contemplation to a painting, she usually chooses watercolor.

Cherrie earned a bachelors degree in Architecture. She explains that this is the reason her watercolor paintings are a bit "tight." There was no autocad (computer assisted design) during her time in school. Students drew everything by hand back then!



Having lived in several different countries for the past few decades, Cherrie has had the privilege of attending various art associations and art workshops. She has enjoyed being a part of VHAA. It has given her a lot of exposure to visiting artists, and she has been inspired by the works of different members.

## You are invited, so save the date!

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Verdugo Hills Art Association, P.O. Box 8059  
La Crescenta, CA 91224

### Upcoming Meetings

Sept 4, Oct 2,  
Nov 6, Dec 4

### Board Meetings

Aug 17 at Gloria Clark's  
Sept 7 at Cherrie O'Hagan's



# Newsletter

## October 2015

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## Julie Hill to paint watercolor street scene on October 2

by Sara Griggs



Be prepared to be entranced as Julie Hill's paint brush dances across the paper. Julie will be demonstrating her method of painting a watercolor street scene. Her work is beautifully loose and impressionistic, allowing the flow of colors we all so love.

Julie is a native Southern Californian who has been painting since 2004. In describing her painting,

Julie states "When painting, I really like to play...I play with colors and shapes and keeping things loose and fun. I think by keeping it loose I encourage viewers to let their imagination engage so that they can see their own lives, see their own beauty, and tell their own stories. This is art to me."

Her work is represented in a number of fine art galleries on the West Coast and held in private collections, and has been selected for international art publications. You may have seen her work in in the September 2014 Southwest Art Magazine.

Please visit her website [www.jhillpaintings.com](http://www.jhillpaintings.com) and her artistic blog for a real treat and a listing of her upcoming workshops and events.



*Pop's Cafe*

### 2015 - 2016 Key Contacts

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Artist of the Month - Judith Apablaza  
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# The Presidents' Letter

by Sue Peacock and Nikki Thomas

The two divisions for our Artist of the Month ran very smoothly and we had many more Open division people bring in their work than we usually do for September. Thank you Judie Apablaza for the idea and execution of something innovative. I expect more ideas will be coming soon too.

Rob Sherrill gave a fast, free and bold watercolor demonstration of a still life and talked about working in plein air. He spoke of the need to let the paint be the story teller. He did not use a preliminary pencil sketch but very faintly painted in the grid lines and then the general outlines of the components of the painting. Thank you Sara Griggs for arranging for Rob to be the demonstrator, and thank you Ann Carpenter for taking over for Sara in introducing our speaker.

We hope you all were able to attend the Whites Gallery artists reception. What fun! What a crowd! What beautiful art! There was enough enthusiasm for our first gallery exhibit that talk is already underway for doing it again next year. Thanks to everyone who helped. The entire board was involved in some way.

Jeanne Windoffer has already planned our first paint-in, Saturday, September 19th at the Montrose Citibank, 2350 Honolulu Ave, in the room at the bottom of the back stairs.

We have arranged a pizza dinner fundraiser before our next meeting. Have a pizza at Blaze Pizza between 3:30 and 6:30 on October 2. This is the first of several of these fundraisers; please support them. Details and a coupon are just below the Presidents' Letter.

Our first juried show is in November and our show chair, Leona Sanderson, is very excited about the new hanging system at the La Canada Library. The club has purchased extra hangers, so please plan to participate by bringing in three pieces of art for each of our shows.

The Whites Gallery pick-up is scheduled for September 30th. That's a Wednesday. You can pick up your art between 2-5 that afternoon. If for some reason you cannot, absolutely cannot, pick up your art or have someone else pick it up for you, please let us know.

## Have a pizza before our meeting on October 2nd

by Kimberly-Ann Talbert

Friday October 2nd, before our membership meeting - Purchase any pizza at Blaze Pizza in La Canada and VHAA will receive 20%.

I suggest interested members meet at Blaze Pizza, about a block from our meeting location at the La Canada Community Center, at about

5:00, enjoy a pizza together, and then stroll over for a demonstration by Julie Hill.

Personal (build your own) are \$7.99, Gluten-Free are \$10.99..... House menu pizzas are less. They are all hot fired and ready to eat in less than 5 minutes!



Fundraiser: Friday, October 2, 3:30 - 6:30 PM  
Mention VHAA when you pay and we will receive 20% of your purchase  
Blaze Pizza, 990 Town Center Drive, La Canada Flintridge (818) 790-8900  
You can order online at <https://blazepizza.aloorderonline.com>

# Chuck Kovacic to lead plein air workshop October 17



Chuck Kovacic -- Plein air oil painter, actor, and comedian will lead a one day plein air workshop on October 17 at the Deukmejian Park in La Crescenta. Deukmejian Park is a convenient location offering a variety of scenes especially great views of the mountain/hills. The small amphitheater provides a great shaded spot for presentation and review. Parking and restrooms are easily accessible. Bring a picnic lunch.

Chuck paints in the traditional plein air style of the impressionists rendering a diversity of subjects. This workshop will explore the importance of shadow and light when putting together a composition. There will be demonstration, instruction and critique. Both oil and watercolor artists are welcome for this workshop.

----- To sign up complete and return this bottom portion to Jeanne Windoffer (address below) -----

## Registration form for Chuck Kovacic's workshop, October 17, 2015, 9am – 3pm

Name \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ (or mailing address if no email)

Amount enclosed (circle one) : \$65 VHAA member \$70 non-member or guest

Make check payable to **Verdugo Hills Art Association**

Mail check to: Jeanne Windoffer, 1137 N. Cedar St., Glendale, CA 91207

[jwindoffer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jwindoffer@sbcglobal.net) (818) 415-4667

## Artists of the Month

*by Judie Apablaza*

**Peterfield Turpin's** watercolor, "*Driftwood At Moonstone*" was a club favorite in the "Premier" category. Peter has had a long and varied career as a commercial and fine artist. He has worked for advertising agencies doing production, layout and illustration in both New York and Los Angeles. He has also rounded out his skills by painting and drawing science fiction illustration for pulp fiction over the years.

He attended the Rhode Island School of Design gaining a broad background in art. Two years in the U.S. Army gave Peter a wonderful opportunity to practice his German language skills while his travels in Europe allowed him to expand his appreciation of the arts.

Peter's favorite medium is watercolor, although he has painted in oil and has done woodcuts. His current painting, "*Driftwood At Moonstone*" is representative of the best that watercolor has to offer. Peter states that the quickness, transparency and portable nature of watercolor lends itself to catching the mood of an overcast day on the central coast in Cambria, California.



*Artist of the Month continued on next page*

# Artists of the Month, continued

by Judie Apablaza

**Rosina Maize** is our first place, blue ribbon winner in the “Open” Category. “*The Apple Basket*,” an oil painting, was completed in a studio group setting which allowed various artists to have completely different views of this still life. She states that she has matured and grown in her skills over the last year while working with Margot Lennartz (since passed away). Margot had been a great mentor in advising students beyond just painting, to such important points as how to frame, price and title their work.



Rosina also credits Richard Scott with encouraging student to observe and see color more clearly. His recent classes have also given her confidence in mixing colors with greater accuracy and confidence. Whether working in oil, acrylic, watercolor or mixed media, the color theory is the same. Rosina is excited about showing her work in galleries as she branches out with new artistic opportunities. She also states that she is so appreciative of the positive feedback from the VHAA members.

**Sara Griggs** started her artistic career later in life in both oil and watercolor. Over the last several years she has focused on watercolor as Sara feels it is her true medium and she loves its portability. “*Poppies On Fire*” was one of several renditions on that subject, working wet into wet, and varying backgrounds to create different effects. She liked the looseness of the poppies contrasting with the negative painting.



## Rob Sherrill kicked off 2105 - 2106 season

by Dave Crandon

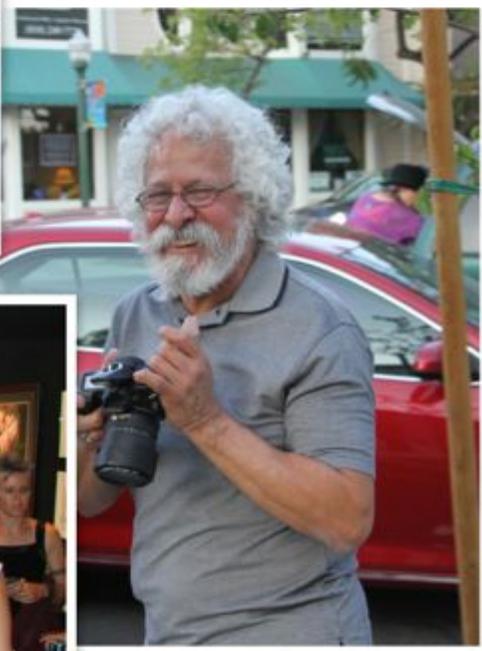
Rob Sherrill, who teaches at the Art Center College of Design, the Creative Arts Group in Sierra Madre, and at the Huntington Museum and Art Center, kicked off



our 2015 - 2016 season, painting a still life with watercolor. He started by setting up a vase of mixed flowers and a few pieces of fruit. To many of us attending the demonstration, the still life was incredibly complex - a chaos of colors and shapes and shadows. Looking at his subject, I imagined how painful it would be were I to attempt painting it - hours of painstaking effort with a very small brush. For Rob it was a 30 minute effort from beginning to end, starting with big, flat splotches of color and no detail. I found myself wondering how anyone could transform a page of color splashes into a still life that I would be able to recognize as flowers and fruit. And somehow he did it, all the while explaining his style of painting, which he described as being somewhere between impressionist and expressionist. His goal, he said, is to produce an end result that not only represents his subject, but also celebrates the beauty and characteristics of the paint.



# Artists Reception at Whites Gallery



# It was Quite a Party!

Our Artists Reception at Whites Gallery was a real hit. We had a crowd beyond any of our expectations, and many visitors came early. Fortunately, we had lots of food and drink, good music, and of course a great selection of member artwork. We also had several sales during the reception. Thanks to Jen, Kimberly-Ann, Sue, Nikki and everyone else involved for producing this extravaganza! And thanks to Miguel for hanging the exhibition so beautifully.



If you did not make it to the reception, please stop by Whites, in Montrose, to see the exhibition. It will be on display through the end of the month. The Gallery's hours are Tuesday through Saturday, between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

Our next exhibition will be in November, at the La Canada Flintridge Library. This will be a juried show, judged by Chuck Kovacic. So get your paintings and photographs ready. We will provide details in our next newsletter.



Verdugo Hills Art Association, P.O. Box 8059  
La Crescenta, CA 91224

## Upcoming Meetings

Oct 2,  
Nov 6, Dec 4

## Board Meetings

Sept 14 at Cherrie  
O'Hagan's house

October 5



# Newsletter

## November 2015

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[verdugoarts.org](http://verdugoarts.org) Dave Crandon, Editor, [dave\\_vhaa@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_vhaa@yahoo.com)

## Pete Morris, "The Metro Da Vinci," to demonstrate on Nov 6

by Sara Griggs

Pete Morris, known as "The Metro Da Vinci" makes the time to paint wherever he goes. This month Pete will be illustrating his technique for doing a quick portrait and a street scene in watercolor for our VHAA monthly meeting. His work spans from drawings and paintings of scenes along the classic Route 66, the daily grind of people going to work as in his Metro series, images from a LA jazz scene, to paintings illustrating a mission to Guatemala of life changing surgery on children in need. Pete Morris puts down his reflections of life on paper as he lives it.

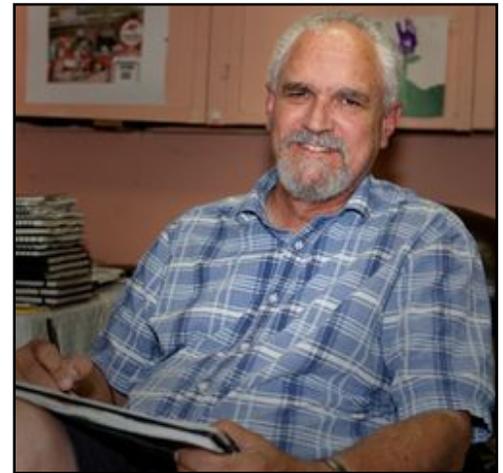


*6:00 AM Tree*

He prefers to draw on location - to interact with his environment. "There is really nothing that can take its place. It might not be better, but it's more real than real." His work is that of a storyteller and he captures the essence of daily life.

Pete has published a few books of his paintings and sketches, and has been featured in a number of YouTube videos. His work was recently displayed at a one-man show at Azusa Pacific University and at the SPACE gallery in South Pasadena. Please take the time visit [his Facebook page](#) to see a beautiful selection of his work.

In addition to his Facebook page, we particularly enjoy two Youtube videos that give a great introduction to Pete as a good painter, teacher, and person. First, check out [a video called "The Metro Da Vinci,"](#) a wonderful introduction to his work. After that, watch [a video called "The Artist in the OR,"](#) about a series of watercolor paintings Mr. Morris recently completed while in Guatemala on a surgical mission with Mending Kids, a non-profit organization that deploys surgical teams worldwide to provide life-changing surgeries to children here in the U.S. and in developing countries.



*Far East Cafe*

### 2015 - 2016 Key Contacts

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Artist of the Month - Judith Apablaza  
818-243-7290 [apablaza.j@sbcglobal.net](mailto:apablaza.j@sbcglobal.net)

# VHAA November Exhibition

by *Lee Sanderson*

Due to the library being tied up on Saturday, October 31, Verdugo Hills Art Association has set the take-in date and judging date to Saturday, November 7th, from 9:00 - 10:00 AM. We have a new hanging system with limited hooks and lines but it is very efficient and improves the overall appearance of our art exhibits. There is a limit of three submissions per member and it costs \$10.00 per work. Chuck Kovacic is our juror and he will begin the judging promptly at 10:00. The take-down date is the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, November 28, from 9:00 - 10:00 AM. If members who have submitted work for the show are intending to be out of town that weekend, they need to make arrangements to have their work picked up by another member.

## Artists of the Month

by *Judie Apablaza*



***Judie Apablaza,***  
***"A Splash of Color"***

Judie Apablaza is our first place winner, with a still life titled "A Splash of Color." Judie works in watercolor and prefers to work with the natural world in the form of still life, florals and landscapes. April Drew Foster's recent class presented a unique opportunity for painting a still life set up with Hydrangeas. Judie completes a fairly detailed drawing before she adds any watercolor. Jay Ewing, Fealing Lin and Richard Scott stand out as instructors who have also added tips and encouragement over the last three years.

Judie is a recently retired college professor in the field of Psychology. She has also worked with victims of domestic violence and adults with disabilities, besides other mental health issues requiring testing and counseling. Now, she states, is the time to return to her childhood passion: drawing and watercolor.



***Diane Bernstein,***  
***"Self Portrait"***

Judie always sketched as a child and received a summer scholarship to Otis Art Institute while in middle school. Her pastel art was featured on the walls at Swain's Art Supply while she was in high school. Many mentors have stated that the field of art, like any other discipline, requires dedication and practice. Judie is so appreciative of the encouragement and community spirit that the VHAA provides to its members.

Diane Bernstein is our second place winner. Diane was interested in replacing her self portrait on her Facebook page. The original watercolor that she had painted in the past featured her in costume and seemed "too stiff." She felt that it did not adequately reflect her personality. The new self portrait in watercolor reflects her "true self" as she is at the present time. Diane had been taking Sheri Garwood's classes at McGroarty Art Center. With Sheri's encouragement she produced her current self portrait. She states that "portraits are easy" for her and the process just seems to flow naturally.

Diane attended the Art Center College of Design and worked in the commercial art field before she was a stay-at-home mom. Diane identifies herself first and foremost as an advocate for the special needs community. She calls herself an "art coach" and works with children with disabilities and their families. She states that she was changed by her own child and has worked tirelessly to attain funding to support programs for children and parents dealing with the challenges of autism and other special need issues. We are so pleased to have such a dedicated person as a member of our art club.

# President's Letter

*by Sue Peacock*

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find all the activities of VHAA so this month I'll just share some thoughts with you.

As I write this I'm in Las Vegas watching the Sweet Adelines' international contest. The quartets and choruses are at various levels of mastery of their craft, although all qualified at a lower level to compete. In art or music we are being judged on our current abilities; whether we paint, do collage, sculpt or throw, shoot photos, or sing only for our own enjoyment, we want to show improvement.

Next year I will be a chorus competitor at international. I know we will not win because there are many other choruses bigger and better but we will be there to face the world, to show how much we've improved. And we will have amazing fun doing it!

My focus this year is improving my technical and artistic skills in both my art and music. So I am going to bring my art to the world - my world of VHAA. And again I will have amazing fun doing it! You'll see me entering the Artist of the Month contests and our shows, because no one will know that I've improved if I don't show where I've started. Please join me on the risers - oops the Artist of the Month tables and library exhibits. Show the world your love and enjoyment of your art!

See you at the meeting,  
Sue

## 100 Paintings for \$100

*by Lee Sanderson*

(Editor comment: Lee is having an inventory reduction sale of paintings she has accumulated over her years of painting. The sale is at her home, 828 Landmark Lane in La Canada, on October 17 and 18, from Noon until 4PM. Following are her thoughts and feelings on undertaking such an effort.)

Holding such a sale is a big decision because when you put up so many for sale, many of the paintings are like your children. You are attached to the creative process that produced the work and there is something about each one that you rather like and many are outright bargains...ones that you will miss emotionally. The sale includes works from the last 20 years. It is somewhat like a retrospective of my work. They are all sizes, many are quite large and more than half are framed. Even the unframed ones are on canvas and the sides are painted for immediate hanging.

They all have a mini history. Some were featured paintings from my three years of exhibiting at Descanso Gardens, some like the ones that I painted for my son-in-law's wine store, are paintings that were created with a sense of celebration and have come to be a bad reminder of a wine store business that didn't work and a marriage that didn't work. Those are three large paintings of vineyards on black canvas. My daughter and her children have moved on in life so we will all be glad to say farewell to those pieces.

Water colors, oils, and acrylics are offered for sale. They represent a variety of subject matter and they seem to appeal to a variety of people off the street and from the neighborhood. There are racing horses, potted flowers, sunrise on a pier with a surfer walking down a beach, charcoal drawings of French waiters etc. I rather like being a 57 Varieties artist. Speaking of the people who come to the sale, these are often people who would not go to a gallery. They are people who are not going to shell out what the paintings are actually worth but when they come to examine all that color and choice that is on display the length of my long driveway, there is a sense of joy and there is a lot of interaction and discussion of the works. The shoppers seem to enjoy the sense of possibility to buy such works on a whim. If they don't buy anything, they've had a gallery experience without the pressure or the stuffiness of a gallery.

On the monetary side, it helps to clear the storage house that my husband built for me. It leaves room for something new that I might yet paint and my granddaughter can use the proceeds for college. All in all, the paintings, too, get to be displayed somewhere, enjoyed by someone who entertained a "whim." Everyone benefits.

# Not-to-be-missed happenings

**Watercolor West** - Recognized as the leaders in the transparent watercolor technique, Watercolor West once again presents an exhibition of the finest examples of the watercolor medium. This year's juror, Stephen Quiller, selected entries submitted from all over the world. A demonstration and lecture series will accompany the exhibition. The exhibition runs from October 17 through December 13 at the Brea Gallery, located at the Brea Civic and Cultural Center, 1 Civic Center Circle, in Brea. For more information, please visit <http://breagallery.com>.

**Works on Paper** - Right in our own backyard is a superb show, the Brand 43 Works on Paper Annual Juried Exhibition at the Brand Library, at 1601 West Mountain Street in Glendale. The juror is Ken Twitchell, a muralist and grand scale artist whose larger-than-life portraits, often of celebrities and artists, are iconic in Los Angeles and beyond. The exhibition runs through the end of October.

**Gerold Brommer 200** - The San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center is hosting *Gerold Brommer 200: For the Love of Art*. Brommer has produced 200 new works for this show (primarily his signature watercolors) and is generously gifting 60% of all sales to help the Arts & Cultural Center, which is located at 18312 Oxnard Street, in Tarzana, and is open Tuesday - Saturday from 11AM until 5PM. The show continues through October 24.

## Julie Hill's Demonstration

*by Sara Griggs*

Julie Hill, who is currently teaching an online computer watercolor course, and has taught at the Creative Arts Group in Sierra Madre, was the VHAA demonstrator for October. Julie shared her palette colors and brush preferences with the group. She uses as a reference photographs which she has taken on her iPad. For our demonstration she did a street scene of the intersection of Hollywood and Vine - buildings, cars, people and the requisite palm trees. She had lightly sketched her topic and applied frisket to save some of her whites prior to the meeting. Working quickly, Julie's brush danced across the paper. Her tips were great. One was if you have signage, people, cars or a door, that turns out to be a painting's focal point. Any time you have lettering melt it up a bit so that it doesn't look contrived and take the viewer out of the picture. You want the eye to question what it is seeing - keeping the viewer engaged. Try not to distract from the story or focal point that you are creating. Using contrasting warm and cool paints she tells her story. I think the group thoroughly enjoyed her demonstration and I envied the person who won her picture.



Verdugo Hills Art Association, P.O. Box 8059  
La Crescenta, CA 91224

Upcoming Meetings  
Nov 6, Dec 4

Board Meetings  
Nov 9, Dec 7



# Newsletter

## December 2015

Verdugo Hills Art Association, P.O. Box 8059, La Crescenta, CA 91224  
[verdugoarts.org](http://verdugoarts.org) Dave Crandon, Editor, [dave\\_vhaa@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_vhaa@yahoo.com)

## Mixed Media Artist Lisa Agaran to Demonstrate on December 4th

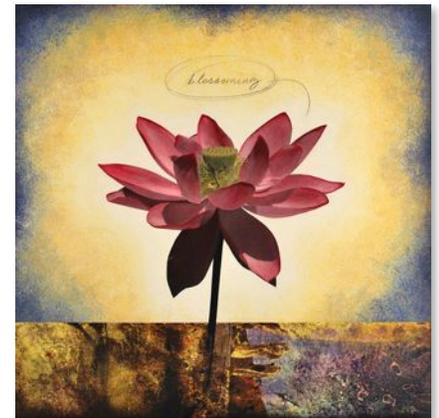


Lisa Agaran is a professional Mixed Media Artist and Instructor. After graduating from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, Lisa began her artistic career as a graphic designer. She worked in the corporate arena for 18 years with companies such as Disney, Nestle and Toyota. With a background in psychology specializing in creativity, she also worked as a therapist, creativity coach and taught one of the core certification courses at the Creativity Coaching Association where she also trained under renowned creativity coach, Eric Maisel. Lisa currently teaches various Mixed Media, Visual Art Journaling and Creativity Enhancement Workshops.



*Mixed media collage and found objects  
on up cycle wood*

Lisa's technique is spontaneous and often intuitive. She allows each piece to dictate the direction it wants to go. Forms, themes and textures organically emerge, guiding the next step in the process and so on. She finds this mindful path an opportunity to surrender to the moment, without a predetermined plan. Through a blend of different acrylic mediums, her original photography, collage and found objects, she channels and transforms the subconscious into art. As Lisa describes her work, "One of the most marked characteristics in my work is the mysterious, ethereal dream-like feel of the imagery. When we dream, our subconscious creates scripts as an avenue to uncover meaning, clarity and resolution to our waking life. In the same way, I strive to produce work that invites the viewer to cultivate his or her own individual experience by projecting their own interpretations onto the piece."



*Mixed media acrylic and collage  
on 3/4" wood panel*

To learn more about Lisa, and to see her work, visit [her web site](#) and check out two videos, one showing [her lotus series](#), and another in which [she introduces herself and describes her workshops](#).

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Artist of the Month - Judith Apablaza  
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# A fantastic November exhibition

What an event! We had one of our highest participation exhibitions in years, with 60 entries, and including the largest collection of photographs in more than 20 years! And all of this member creative work was submitted on a day when our take-in time was constrained to just one hour. Fortunately, Lee Sanderson had the help of a record number of volunteers taking in and hanging the work. The result is a beautiful display of some very impressive member work. Please make sure to stop in to visit the exhibition during November, before the 28th, at the La Canada Library.

Best in Show	David McCully, <i>Backstreet View</i>
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	Open Division	Premier Division	Honors Division	Photography
First Place	Jeanne Windoffer <i>Last of the Golden Days</i>	Grant Wood <i>First Out</i>	April Drew Foster <i>Medieval Brittany</i>	Kimberly-Ann Talbert <i>Illuminated Splash</i>
Second Place	Lee Johnson <i>Blue Fish</i>	Joyce Peterson <i>Chicken Feed</i>	Cherrie O'Hagan <i>Prelude in D Minor</i>	Kimberly-Ann Talbert <i>Egret</i>
Third Place	Lee Johnson <i>The Umbrella</i>	Ann Carpenter <i>Morning Ablution, Santa Barbara</i>	Cherrie O'Hagan <i>Stormy Day</i>	Pepe Apablaza <i>Crossing the Petals</i>
Honorable Mention	David Wolf <i>Quiet Afternoon</i>	Barbara Thorn-Otto <i>Coast Line</i>	Dorothy Shepherd <i>Artist's Block</i>	Joan Whitmore <i>Morro Rock</i>



*Backstreet View*  
David McCully



*Medieval Brittany*  
April Drew Foster



*First Out*  
Grant Wood



*Last of the Golden Days*  
Jeanne Windoffer



*Illuminated Splash*  
Kimberly-Ann Talbert

## Please join us for our paint-in on Nov 21. It's free!

I will be at the November paint-in at the Citibank in Montrose on Honolulu at 9:00 am. The room is in the back and down the stairs. Please join me and others to have a place to paint without any obligations from the home front. Just come to have a good day painting and have feedback if you want. Bring your own paint supplies. Montrose is having their Art Walk the same day and you could walk around visiting other painters. Don't forget a snack and lunch, either brought from home or bought in Montrose. Every third Saturday we will be having an activity, such as paint-ins or workshops. Check our website for the current month. Hope to see you there, Nikki

# Artists of the Month

by Judie Apablaza



*Light, Lilacs and Lace*  
Ann Carpenter

Our first place winner in the “Premier Category”, Ann Carpenter, titled her lovely watercolor composition “Light, Lilacs and Lace.” We can almost catch the scent of the blue lilacs in the vase as they sit on a drawing room table, crowning the middle of a 100 year old Battenburg lace tablecloth. (Battenburg lace was developed in the 1800s and revived the English lace-making industry.) Ann has borrowed the tablecloth on many occasions from her sister-in-law who inherited it from her grandmother. There is also a deeper connection to family, with memories of gathering wild lilacs around the family cabin in Big Bear.

Ann rediscovered the drawing of her lilac and lace composition that she has put away in storage. After eleven years she resumed her painting. The painting will be given to her sister-in-law with all the fond memories and hours of work that went into this intricate watercolor painting. Ann would like us to be aware that she did not use any masking fluid in the preparation and completion of this art work. We have written about Ann on other occasions and always look forward to her display of skill and attention to detail.



*Pot Full of Daisies*  
Barbara Thorn-Otto

Our second place winner, in the “Premier Category” is Barbara Thorn-Otto. Barbara is not a stranger to the winners circle and we have been pleased to interview her about her career and accomplishments in the past. Her watercolor titled, “Pot Full Of Daisies” was a standout with the members and guests. The fluid composition and delicate nature of the painting was balanced out by a contrasting, darker background and the pastel quality of the well-placed flowers. The composition has an almost animated quality. Barbara completed this painting in her neighbor’s backyard. Barbara and several painting friends still get together with their teacher from Brand Studio in Glendale. Her neighbor has a stunning garden, thanks to her knowledge and expertise gleaned from her part-time work at Sheridan Gardens. Truly the airiness and spontaneity of the painting makes us think of a sunny day. We are pleased to have Barbara as one of our Verdugo Hills Art Association’s loyal and active members.

Nikki Thomas was our blue ribbon winner in the “Open Category.” She gave us a playful moment with her watercolor painting titled, “Give Me A Kiss.” These two elephants romping and playing caught Nikki’s eye, as she happened to see the pair at play in a unique magazine photograph. The pair had their trunks crossed as they turned and greeted one another. Her inspiration was the spontaneous action and fluid quality of these seemingly ponderous animals. She captured the moment in a delicate and luminous quality that only watercolor can capture.



*Give Me a Kiss*  
Nikki Thomas

Nikki has many interests and tireless energy. She describes herself as a “practical person” but we know that her practical bookkeeping career in the field of banking has also balanced out with years of musical and visual art expressions. She started out with childhood “paint-by-the-numbers” and tole painting. Her other passion has also been music and specifically singing with her church choir and with the Sweet Adelines for 10 years. When she explored an art class at Cal State Los Angeles, she said “she was hooked” on art. Nikki is not content to hide her talents and interests, rather she shares and encourages us with her warmth and enthusiasm for art.

## Local Shows by Members

Please let us know if you are doing a show so we can publicize it. For instance, Nikki Thomas and Arda Derian are both selling their art at the Woman’s Club of South Pasadena, 1424 Fremont Ave, South Pasadena, on December 5th, 9:30 to 3:00. There will also be a bake sale, jams, candies, \$7.50 lunch and a raffle. Also, Kimberly-Ann Talbert, who just placed first in the photography division in our November exhibition, will be showing her Spirit Gourd Vessels at the La Canada Library during November. In addition, if you feel like a drive to the ocean, Kimbelry-Ann will be showing her photography and jewelry at the Buenaventura Gallery, at 700 E Santa Clara St., Ventura, CA 93001 from November 17th through December 31st.

# Presidents' Letter

*by Sue Peacock*

Thank you all for your contributions to our fall show! We have sixty pieces of art hanging in the La Canada Library, and the exhibition looks tremendous. Come by and check out the show! You'll find there are more photos and photographers, as well as perhaps some of the highest quality of art in years. Thanks also go to all the volunteer workers who jumped in to help with the much shortened take-in and judging time.

It is a privilege to be allowed to display our work at the library. If you plan to visit, please remember that the library uses the Community Room for occasional activities, at which times the room may be closed.

The Watercolor West juried show continues in Brea through December 13th. Three of our members have entries: Julie Crouch, Tom Fong, and Devorah Friedman.

We want to get ideas from our members about ways in which we might make our club more fun and/or valuable for you, and encourage more participation in our many activities. A committee from the VHAA board will be phoning some of you to ask a few questions, so please think about the club: what makes it special to you; how might we improve what we offer; what would you like to see and hear; how can we improve our meetings?

We hope your celebrations of the holidays at this time of the year are joyous, filled with good food, family and friends.

We hold our monthly meetings on the first Friday evening of the month at 7:00P.M. at the Community Center of La Canada Flintridge, located at 4469 Chevy Chase Dr, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011



Verdugo Hills Art Association, P.O. Box 8059  
La Crescenta, CA 91224

Upcoming Meetings  
Dec 4, Jan 8

Board Meetings  
Dec 7, Jan 11



# Newsletter

## January 2016

Verdugo Hills Art Association, P.O. Box 8059, La Crescenta, CA 91224  
[verdugoarts.org](http://verdugoarts.org) Dave Crandon, Editor, [dave\\_vhaa@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_vhaa@yahoo.com)

## Tracey Noce at VHAA January 8, 2016

Tracey Noce is an accomplished and versatile artist, highly skilled with several traditional media, including watercolor and gouache, as well as with high end digital media tools and software. A graduate of Pasadena's Art Center College of Design, Tracey works at Walt Disney Imagineering, which is the design genius behind Disney Parks, beloved by families all around the world. She has worked on numerous lands and attractions during her tenure - Aulani a Disney Resort and Spa, Toy Story Land in Paris, Mystic Manor in Hong Kong, EPCOT's Spaceship Earth, and Disney's Animal Kingdom to name just a few. As a creative director in themed family entertainment, Tracey believes that every piece of art is a form of storytelling.



At our meeting on January 8 Tracey will be reminding us of the fundamental steps we must take to produce our best possible paintings. She will demonstrate the process and the importance of using sketching and value studies to recognize and choose from among the compositional and color choices we have every time we paint.

She will do this using the types of digital tools she uses every day at Disney, starting with a quick drawing that will demonstrate that the skills required for digital painting are exactly the same as the skills

used by painters using traditional media. Her goal is that this will allow us all to focus on fundamental painting processes, and recognize that she is using digital tools simply to facilitate painting lessons.

Once she has done this, she will take full advantage of digital tools to show how we can best plan our painting by creating and evaluating different composition choices. The tools she uses will allow her to sketch different versions of a painting, quickly testing the impacts of changing design elements in much the same manner we should be, but more flexibly and rapidly. Her objective is that we should all want to spend the planning time to help ensure that, when we finally start our paintings, we will be well prepared to do our best work.



# The Presidents' Letter

*by Sue Peacock and Nikki Thomas*

**Free guest night in January!** Bring your friends for the January meeting. We are offering guests a free night with a coupon from Meet-Up! Check it out. Print and pass out the coupons. Tracey Noce, our demonstrator, should be very interesting and exciting. You can read all about her elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter.

**Remember the meeting is on January 8th**, that's the second Friday because New Year's Day just wouldn't do. We are having our second Blaze Pizza fundraiser that evening. Last time we made \$61. Let's try to break that amount this time.

**Several of our members had their art for sale this holiday season.** But almost none of them let us know! Please email us at least a month advance of any of your shows so we can include them in the newsletter and on the web site.

We wish you all a very happy holiday season. However you celebrate, may it be filled with love, laughter and joy.

## A Fun February Workshop - "Save It, Don't Toss It!" with noted watercolorist JoAnn Formia

Don't forget! Sign up for JoAnn Formia's workshop "Save It, Don't Toss It" which will be Saturday and Sunday, Feb 20 and 21 at the CitiBank location. In this workshop you'll learn how to bring a not-so-hot watercolor painting back to life, how to get some interesting textures, and use some different media to create or transform a painting into a better work of art. JoAnn Formia is a local artist, who has learned from some of the best throughout her career, and has received numerous awards for her paintings. She currently has work exhibited at the La Canada Country library through Dec 24, and in the Pasadena Society of Artists 90th Annual juried exhibition at White's Gallery in Montrose, through Dec 30. Come have some fun with fellow artists trying some new techniques to enhance your art experience! Please visit our web site, [verdugoarts.org](http://verdugoarts.org), under the "activities" tab to get the workshop flyer, or just [click here](#).

## An enthralling mixed media demonstration

*by Joyce Peterson*



If your list of New Year's resolutions includes your art aspirations then December's demonstrator, Lisa Agaron, was a great holiday gift. Want to broaden your horizons? Try something new? Then get excited about a totally enthralling experience of collaging on gessoed wood panels using photos, paint, stones, shells and anything you find. Creativity emerges, as Lisa expresses it, in a "mysterious, ethereal, dream-like feeling that expresses your individual path."

With a smaller than usual audience, Lisa showed us the joy of art-making, the fun of experimentation, and the excitement in seeing a creation evolve. Her personal philosophy revealed her vast background of psychology as a therapist and a hands-on graphic artist in the corporate world for 18 years.

A graduate of the Art Center College of Design, Lisa shared tricks of the trade and made several of us want to take one of many [local workshops](#) to try her mixed media technique. Do you want to try something new? Want to join us?

## Please join in on our January fund-raising exhibition!

Our next exhibition is the Non-Juried Show in January at the La Canada Library. Unlike our juried shows, this is an exhibition in which you can enter any paintings or photographs you like - new or old, and even artwork that has been shown before! Our goal with this event is to show off our best work and our personal favorites while raising money for VHAA. So please, share your work. You can bring three pieces to take-in on Saturday, January 2, from 8:30 to 10:30AM. Take-out will be on Saturday, January 30, from 9:00AM to 10:00AM. The entry fee is \$10 per piece. We will hang entries first-come first-served until we have used up all available space.

## December Artist of the Month

Sara Griggs was our Artist of the Month winner for December. Her watercolor, plein air gem was titled “Green On Green.” Painting with Rob Sherrill’s Wednesday painting group, Sara found a bench in the park with a view of the Castle Green, also known over the years as the Hotel Green.

This historical landmark was built in 1893. The “Green” has a complex history of revival and decay, and rests on a full city block. It was originally designed to set back from the street and was surrounded by lush plantings, fountains, ponds and gardens. The style of the Green Hotel is Mediterranean Revival with interior rooms still containing its original Moorish Revival furnishings and architectural style.

Sara was considering purchasing one of the condominiums at one time, for the old hotel had a mysterious draw for artists, event planners and lovers of historic places. Needless to say, Sara has an emotional connection to this unique place, inspiring her to paint this snippet of Pasadena history. Sara caught the historic architecture and landscape with her impressionist style with an underlying sketch.

She paints quickly in the true, plein air style. She feels that the secret to painting outside is to not overburden yourself and to travel light. Her palette consists of cools and warm of watercolor shades and she enjoys the splash of turquoise and violets. Sara mixes her shades of green rather than using greens directly from the tube. She tries to capture the “moment” in her unique style and strives to not overwork her paintings.



**We hold our monthly meetings on the first Friday evening of the month at 7:00P.M. at the Community Center of La Canada Flintridge, located at 4469 Chevy Chase Dr, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011**

# Pizza Party before our January 8 meeting!

We had a fun pizza party fundraiser before our October demonstration meeting. And we are doing it again. Please join us at BLAZE Pizza on Friday, January 8, between 3:00 and 6:30 P.M. BLAZE is located at 990 Town Center Drive in La Canada, just a block away from our meet-

ing at the Community Center. Please bring this coupon to the event. Mention VHAA when you pay and we will receive 20%. Also, feel free to give coupons to your family and friends. It's fun and for a good cause!



**FUND RAISER: Friday, January 8th 3:30-6:30**

**Mention VHAA when you pay and we'll receive 20% of your purchase**

La Cañada Flintridge, 990 Town Center Dr. La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011 (818) 790-8900

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Upcoming Meetings  
Jan 8, Feb 5

Board Meetings  
Jan 11, Feb 8