



# Newsletter

## January 2016

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



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.com

# 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