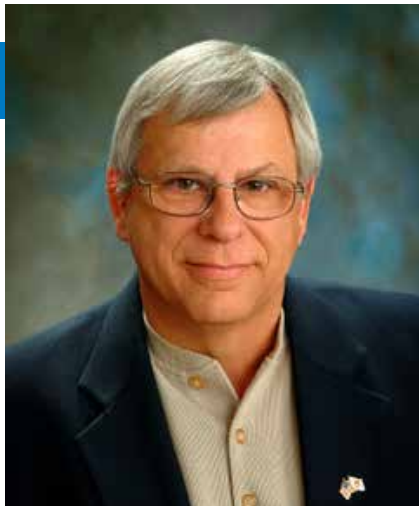


JANUARY 2026

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AWA - AZ Watercolor Association



President's Message

Welcome to the Arizona Watercolor Association!

Celebrating 66 years, 1960-2026

Your existing 2025 board of directors was voted back in at our November meeting. I will start the new year off with a call for volunteers. There are several positions that the present holders would like to see replacements come forward this year. We are searching for a new President, Treasurer, Membership chair and member program director. If anyone is interested in pursuing one of these offices or others, you can use this year to learn what the position entails and then take over at the beginning of 2027 or even sooner. Think about it and contact me or any board member. If you don't

know who they are look at your newsletter for the list.

Our 65-year committee has been active over the last several months working on the publication to celebrate our 65th anniversary. We are making headway and as of this printing of our newsletter we have lots of spots left. 65 artists will be featured in the book, and it will be on a first come first served basis to be in the book. ALL members are eligible. One artist per page and we will be limiting it to the first 65 AWA member artists. We know the holidays put a dent in all our pocketbooks, so we have extended the deadline to enter. See the entry form on the website for all the details.

The Robert Oliver paintings I received from the Oliver family did not sell at the Architects Gallery showing in November. I will continue to advertise them for sale in the Architectural community and if anyone is interested in purchasing a Robert Oliver Painting please contact me and I will send you copies of the images and pricing. Remember it all goes to the AWA Robert Oliver scholarship fund.

We are starting this year off on a solid financial footing and that is due to your support in paying your dues and entering our 3-day workshops and supporting our membership programs each year. The Western Federation of Watercolor Societies (WFWS) entries are now open, more info in this newsletter. We are all automatic members of WFWS by being a member of AWA. Remember you can't win if you don't play. Also, your AWA Spring show is coming soon. And your 2025 Fall show was a hit. Get painting!

Ron Peters

President

Keep on laying down that creative water media.

Next Meeting

***Our Programs start at 4 pm.
Social Time at 3:30 pm.***

Next Program: **Thursday, January 8.**

At the AAG Building- In Person - 4:00pm

There will be a demo by Melanie Harman.

Exhibition News

By Karen Donmoyer and Betsy Aguirre

Happy New Year AWA Artists!

Kick off your 2026 by preparing your entries for the AWA Spring Members' Exhibition to be held at the Fountain Hills Community Center from March 31st through April 30th.

You should have already received the eblast announcing the submissions are open and if you did not, please go to <https://azwatercolor.com/spring-2026-exhibition>.

Pertinent dates are as follows:

Thursday, February 12th	Submission deadline 4 p.m. (MST)
Week of March 2nd	Notice sent by email and posted on website
Tuesday, March 31st	Drop off at venue from 10 to noon
Thursday, April 23rd	Awards Reception from 4:30 to 6:30
Thursday, April 30th	Pick up from venue between 10 to noon

As always please take the time to review the prospectus and the rules for acceptable entries on the website (<https://azwatercolor.com/acceptable-entries/>). One change for this show will be that a larger frame size will be allowed than what was acceptable for our most recent exhibition.

As usual a variety of cash and merchant awards will be presented at the awards reception.

All artists entering must be current members of AWA so make sure your 2026 dues are paid!

We look forward to seeing your amazing artwork!

Discover the Benefits of AWA Membership

Comprehensive Membership Benefits

Your exclusive AWA Membership provides a wide range of benefits designed to enhance your artistic journey and connect you with a vibrant community of artists.

- Monthly Programs and Demonstrations: Participate in engaging monthly sessions that offer valuable learning experiences and creative inspiration.
- Discounted Member Workshops: Enjoy reduced rates on special Member Workshops, held four times a year, where you can develop your skills and explore new techniques.
- Nationally Recognized Artist Juror Workshops: Take advantage of workshops led by nationally acclaimed artist jurors twice a year, offering expert guidance and professional insights.
- Member Art Exhibitions: Showcase your artwork in two exclusive member exhibitions each year, providing opportunities for recognition and feedback.
- Western Federation of Watercolor Societies Membership: Automatically become a member of the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies and participate in their annual member's exhibition.
- Camaraderie and Friendships: Build meaningful connections and friendships with fellow artists who share your passion for art.

Affordable Membership Fee

All these exceptional benefits are available for only \$50 per year. It's an outstanding value—don't hesitate to invite your friends to join and share in the creative experience!

Western Federation of Watercolor Societies

2026 Western Federation of Watercolor Societies 51st Exhibition Entries Open

The 51st Exhibition of the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies (WFWS) in 2026 welcomes participation from all members of ten western regional societies, including the Arizona Watercolor Association (AWA). To be eligible, artists must be current members in good standing and have all dues paid to their respective societies prior to entering the exhibition. The Colorado Watercolor Society will host this prestigious event in Denver, Colorado.

Exhibition Dates

The WFWS 51st Exhibition will be held from May 4 to June 27, 2026.

Key Deadlines

- December 15, 2025: ArtCall Opens
- February 1, 2026: ArtCall Closes
- February 27, 2026: Jury Results Released
- February 28, 2026: Xi Guo Workshop Registration Opens
- April 3, 2026: Paintings Delivered to Delegate

Events

- May 5–7, 2026: Xi Guo Workshop at Curtis Center
- May 8, 2026 | 6–9 PM: Awards Dinner at Hilton Garden Inn, Denver Tech Center
- May 9, 2026: Exhibit Opening Reception

Additional Information

For the prospectus and further details, please visit <https://wfws.org/>.

For questions or assistance, contact the WFWS delegates:

- Tanya Lemma: azwatercolormembership@gmail.com
- David Amsellem: damsell@mindspring.com

Showcase Your Work in AWA's 65th Anniversary Fine Arts Book

This is AWA's opportunity for you to showcase your artistic talent. The committee has received paintings from a wide variety of watermedia compositions, we still have room for more.

When your online entry is received, you will get an information packet with publication details. A fee of \$150 buys one page showcasing one of your paintings, your choice. This fee offsets the cost of publication.

Participants receive eight (8) copies of the book to distribute as they see fit.

The deadline is February 16, 2026 -- but entries received sooner will allow the graphic designer time to coordinate the books pages.

Don't miss this chance to make your mark in AWA history.

Barbara Freedman is available if you have questions or trouble with the Entry form. Contact phone: 623-687-7867 or bfreedman474@gmail.com

Juror Workshop News

Enrollment available now for Two New Juror Workshops in 2026

By Marion Droge

Spring 2026 and fall three-day workshop are now available for online enrollment. Please enroll today to reserve a spot.

Spring 2026 Juror Workshop – April 9, 10 & 11, 2026

Artist Kristi Grussendorf <https://kristigrussendorf.com>

Fall 2026 Juror Workshop – October 8, 9 & 10, 2026

Artist Carl Purcell <https://carlpurcell.com/>



Kristi Grussendorf

Kristi doesn't remember a time without art. Her mother earned her degree in art & also taught so it was something that was valued & encouraged at home. Kristi graduated with a BFA (painting & drawing emphasis) from the University of Utah & is privileged to have studied under many world famous artists. Over the years, she has earned signature status in the top professional organizations. She has been included in several national & international publications & has work in many private and public collections.



Bella's Stick

Juror Workshop News

Fall 2026 Juror Workshop – October 8, 9 & 10, 2026

Artist Carl Purcell <https://carlpurcell.com/>

Carl Purcell taught painting and drawing at Snow College in Utah for 30 years. He is currently retired from the college but is a popular painting and drawing workshop instructor, having conducted workshops throughout the West, from Alaska to Arizona, and in Great Britain.

Carl is the author of the North Light publications, *Painting With Your Artist's Brain* (a watercolor book) and *Drawing With Your Artist's Brain*. In addition his art has been featured in numerous articles published in *The Artist's Magazine* and in *Splash I*. He has been invited to jury exhibits in Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Michigan and California.

Carl has achieved signature member status in the National Watercolor Society and was given honor member status in the Utah Watercolor Society for his contributions to watercolor in the state. He has won numerous awards, including a purchase award in the 2008 National Watercolor Society's international exhibition. In 2009 Carl was chosen as one of the panel of three judges for the National Watercolor Society Annual Exhibition.



Virgin River Bend

Member Workshop News

MEMBER WORKSHOPS FOR 2026

*By Karen Gray
AWA Member Workshop Chair*

In February, Linda Pullinsi's workshop "Water Reflections in Watercolor" will illustrate using watercolor to capture reflections of light in water as seen in lakes and streams. Capture the transparency of the water while staying true to your chosen color harmony. Stunning landscapes will surely be our result. Linda is an award-winning artist who has taught courses in painting at local venues. She is an excellent instructor.

In March, AWA's noteworthy and nationally recognized abstract artist, Stan Kurth, will conduct his workshop titled "Intuitive Painting Mindset" for abstract art. Everyone's creativity will be energized. Turn your right brain on and feel the artist deep inside you.

Using various mark-making tools, watercolor, and gouache, lessons will begin without reference or preconceived ideas. You'll create paintings from arbitrary design elements and bring them to completion using principles of design. The goal is to develop a painting that aligns with your personal aesthetic—whether representational or nonobjective. The only criteria: no reference, and a willingness to let the process guide the outcome.

You can find the registration opportunity for all workshops on the AWA website under Member Workshops. You will be able to complete the registration conveniently online with your credit card.



Reflections by Linda Pullinsi



Loner by Stan Kurth

Thank You to Cindy Welch

In November the AWA member workshop featured Cindy Welch as the artist instructor. While she resides primarily in Colorado, we are fortunate in having her part time in Arizona. Cindy is a highly recognized artist who has won numerous awards. She is also an experienced instructor who conducts workshops both in-person and online. Her planning and helpful teaching style was evident during the class.

The shared reference photo featured pine cones nested among snow covered branches. Cindy coached the participants in her step-by-step process of painting the image. Techniques included initially using masking on all of the snowy areas, and then applying soft layers of color, and finally following up with fine tuning on the branches and pine cones. All the talented AWA members in attendance successfully met the challenge. It was a fun day with good company.



AWA Scholarship News

Three Scholarships Given to Art Major Students

*By Dyanne Locati
Scholarship Chair*

When you attend the next AWA meeting, January 8, 2026, you will be able to see an informative demonstration and say hello to your art friends. We always enjoy seeing everyone after our December break. Also, remember to bring some extra dollars to purchase a raffle ticket.

The table usually has one \$25. gift certificate from Arizona Art Supply – Thank you for your continued support!!!! Along with this certificate are other donated items that you may choose to place your raffle ticket.

We also have books and other supplies that may be purchased as a donation to the fund.

Raffle tickets are \$1.00. This money goes to the scholarship funds.

We will be giving out three \$1,000. Scholarships to art major students. Each one is in the name of the donor. Del Decil, Gayla Bonnell and this year we have a new scholarship in the name of Robert Oliver. These funds were given to AWA from the Arizona Architecture Foundation – Preserving the Legacy of Arizona Architecture. We thank the foundation for their generous Grant Award.

Please support these SPONSORS!

Our sponsors provide us with FREE magazines and thousands of dollars in gift cards, paint, and art videos. In return, some of the sponsors ask for our email addresses to send us their product information, discount offers and specials. Our information will not be shared elsewhere.

We want you to know that AWA will be providing emails to these art companies in return for their wonderful awards. What a great way for us as artists to find out about the newest and best products available!

If you do not want to receive these emails, you can unsubscribe when you receive them.



AWA Board Members

President: Ron Peters
 Past President: Ruth Phillibin
 1st VP Programs: Donna England
 2nd VP Exhibitions: Karen Donmoyer
 3rd VP Membership: Tanya Lemma
 Recording Secretary: Christine Oliver
 Treasurer: Karla Milinovich
 WFWS Delegate: David Amsellem
 WFWS Alternate: Tanya Lemma
 Director Juror Workshops: Marion Droge
 Director Member Workshops: Karen Gray

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Parliamentarian: Candice Diaz
 Scholarship Chair: Dyanne Locati
 Scholarship Co-chair: Carole Matthews
 Webmaster: Rupali Holmes
 Webmaster Assistant: David Amsellem
 Honor Society: Christine Oliver
 Honoree: Sherry Kimmel
 Newsletter Editor/Publisher/Publicity: Janice Wittwer
 Social Media: Mona Houle
 E-Blast Publisher: Rupali Holmes

Welcome New Members

Holly Hand
 Cera Linehan
 Jane Ahler
 Laura Gray

Our membership is invited to contact the editor with ideas and articles for this newsletter.
 Please contact the editor, Janice Wittwer at: janwittwer@icloud.com.

News for the newsletter will be due by the 20th, for publication by the 1st of the following month.