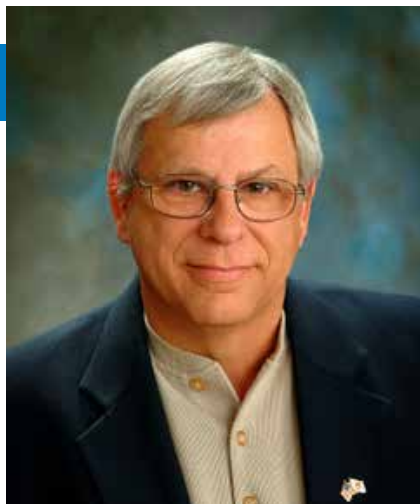


# FEBRUARY 2026

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AWA - AZ Watercolor Association



## *President's Message*

### **Welcome to the Arizona Watercolor Association! Celebrating 66 years, 1960-2026**

I hope you are all taking time out to paint and enter your works in our Spring/Fall shows. The prospectus is out for the Spring show, and you should all READ it to make sure you are preparing your entry correctly. I have made mistakes myself and we all will, but if you take time to read the rules, you will do ok.

I hate to keep repeating myself in my president letter...but I will. If you are starting the new year off with a list of resolutions, make sure to add to your list to investigate volunteering for a position in your watercolor association. We are always looking for help in continuing in making our association successful. It takes a lot of time and effort to run AWA. Your help is really needed. Contact me or any board member for more information on available positions.

If you have not done so, take time out to enter one of your paintings into the 65-year publication for members only. There is no jury or review. You just need to be a member of AWA. More information is on our website. We have some great artists coming for our two 3-day workshops this year and don't forget to support our monthly member workshops. Without your support we don't have a successful AWA.

You have a great board of directors that work very hard to make AWA successful. Take time to find out who they are (end of this newsletter) and introduce yourself to them at the next membership meeting and thank them for all they do.

#### **Ron Peters**

*President*

*Keep on laying down that creative water media.*

**Membership renewal for calendar year 2026 was due on January 1st.** Members who did not renew were deleted from the database and will no longer receive the newsletter. Pass the word to your art friends and neighbors! AWA has wonderful advantages with your membership. Join us!

<https://azwatercolor.com/>

### **Next Meeting**

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

Next Program: **Thursday, February 12.**

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

There will be a demo by Linda Pullinsi.

# Exhibition News

By Karen Donmoyer and Betsy Aguirre

There's still time to enter the AWA Spring Members' Exhibition.

Entry closes on Thursday, February 12th at 4 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. Please do not wait until the last minute.

The Exhibition will be at the Fountain Hills Community Center from March 31st through April 30th.

You should have already received the eblast announcing the show and directing you to the prospectus. If you did not, please go to <https://azwatercolor.com/spring-2026-exhibition>.

## **Pertinent dates are as follows:**

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

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 before you enter!

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

February 16, 2026 deadline is almost here. Your Painting is powerful, exciting, dynamic, or atmospheric. Yes, AWA wants to showcase your Watermedia painting in the AWA's 65th Anniversary Fine Arts Book.

The committee has received some paintings from a wide variety of compositions, we have room for more.

Information below may be used to enter.

When your online entry is received, you will get a packet with publication details. A fee of \$150 buys one page showcasing one of your paintings, your choice. It can be a current painting or an earlier art work, completed during your membership in AWA. The fee offsets the cost of publication.

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

You will have Images of many of your colleagues to view and share.

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](mailto:bfreedman474@gmail.com)

# *Western Federation of Watercolor Societies*

## **WFWS #51 is in Denver Colorado**

See websites for more information!

Entries Due!

### **ArtCall closes on February 1 at 11:59pm MST**

The deadline is quickly approaching for Western Federation of Watercolor Societies #51 Exhibition in Denver! As an AWA Member, you qualify to enter! Information is on our websites. Contact us with questions!

### **Exhibition Dates**

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

### **Additional Information**

- Tanya Lemma: [azwatercolormembership@gmail.com](mailto:azwatercolormembership@gmail.com)
- David Amsellem: [damsell@mindspring.com](mailto:damsell@mindspring.com)

## *AWA Scholarship News*

*By Dyanne Locati  
Scholarship Chair*

When you attend the next AWA meeting, February 12, 2026, you will be able to see an informative demonstration and say hello to your art friends. Remember to bring some extra dollars to purchase a raffle ticket.

The Raffle 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.

On February 8, 2026, I will be selecting our new Art Major Student Scholarships. There will be a complete report about this event in our next newsletter.

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.



# *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. The spring workshop is fast approaching but there is still time to enroll.**

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 Pulinsi'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. The workshop is on February 14, and there are only a few openings left.

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. Stan's workshop will be held on March 14.

Here is a brief description of Stan's workshop: 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.

The AWA member workshop in November will feature Agustin Vargas as the artist instructor. With an architectural background, Agustin will illustrate abstraction to a contemporary flare.

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*

## 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

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 Past President: Ruth Phillibin  
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 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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 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

Janet A Blum  
 Sebastiao Pereira  
 Susan Hoffman  
 Marsha S. Owen  
 Bruce Black  
 Deborah Correnti

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](mailto:janwittwer@icloud.com).

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