



Paint Strokes

Murrieta's Gem of the Valley Art Association

January 2024

January Demonstrator

JoDee Luna

JoDee Luna is a portrait artist, graphic designer, youtuber, author, and business owner of [Luna Arts & Ed, LLC](#) and [JoDee Luna Art](#).

She wrote *Refrain from the Identical: Insight and Inspiration for Creative Eclectics*, a self-help/creativity book, for people who simply cannot commit to a single form of creative expression. She describes herself as a “creative eclectic,” and draws from a lifetime of artistic pursuits to offer hope, encouragement, and advice for others who, like her, thrive on myriad artistic expressions. She is passionate about helping creatives overcome blocks so they can realize their artistic potential.

Before retirement, she served as an instructional coach, overseeing ed-tech literacy programs and arts integration for her former district. She currently works with school districts to integrate the arts into classroom instruction. Her expertise as an educator meld with her experience as an artist to inspire and teach people of all ages to create.

Artist's Statement

Art is the soul made visible...the spirit tangible...the unseen possible! When I write, my soul escapes through a pen; but when I paint, imagination finds gentle expression through the tip of a brush.

Eyes draw the viewer into my paintings because they are the windows of the soul. A face reflects a person's essence, so each portrait envisions various aspects of faith, traits, and aspirations. Painting helps me to process thoughts and feelings, embrace God's grace, decide on direction, and encourage others.

Favorite art mediums: oils, acrylics, mixed media, and multimedia



ATTENTION:

The January meeting is on the 2nd Monday of the month as the first Monday is on New Year's Day.

Gem of the Valley Art Association

General Meeting

Date: January 8, 2024

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: Senior Center Main Hall
41717 Juniper, Murrieta

Gem Mailing Address: 24930 Washington Ave., Suite 113, Murrieta, CA 92562

President's Message



The CHRISTMAS PARTY was amazing!!

If you were there (about 40 of us were!) you know this is true! Special guests, friends of members, and our entertainer, local musician John Crutchfield, filled the room with warmth and love. In addition, the decorations, the wonderful potluck dishes, and the time spent together made for a beautiful gathering party to kick off the holiday season and wrap up 2023.

A couple of notable events were:

1) The presentation of our "gifts of art", of course, to El Roi Foster Ministries rep, Sandy Allen. Twelve feet (two 6' tables!) covered in art supplies and projects were the main attraction and the response that I saw was amazement and extreme gratitude.

2) The announcement of the Board's unanimous decision to move forward with creating a website for our organization! Our member, Steve Staudenmeir, was introduced as our website designer. Steve has been creating websites for several years for all types of businesses and he has offered to DONATE his expertise and time to work with both Kathleen Nauman and myself in creating the best darned website we can come up with. Gem's only costs will be for a domain name and the host, which are minimal. THANK YOU, STEVE!!! So that's what you missed if you couldn't come to our incredible party, but HOPEFULLY you'll be with us for our JANUARY 8th Gem meeting! That's right, it'll happen on the SECOND MONDAY in January so mark your calendar! This is when we get to watch and experience Gem's new member and incredible acrylic artist, JoDee Luna's demo! This is going to be a treat for you all so please join us don't miss this one (party-goers)! JoDee danced the Electric Slide with Christine & me) – yep, she's multi-talented! And, remember, the ribbon winners will fill the Murrieta Library's display case again, so bring your best!

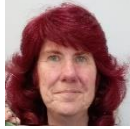
I want to wish you all a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Gem ~ we're all about art!!
Cathy



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**Roxanne Miskam
Hospitality**

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Your Board Members & Committee Members

**We currently have 41 paid
members for the
2023/2024 season.**

Treasurer's Corner

Balance as of 11/30/23: \$2,841.20

Postage	\$ - 16.05
Demonstrator	\$ - 200.00
Donation	\$ + 8.90

Dec. Ending Balance: \$2,634.05

Cathy Keeney
Treasurer

Christmas Luncheon Pics



Sandy Allen accepts our gifts for El Roi Foster Ministries



YUMMY FOOD.....





.... *And all had a good time!*

← John Crutchfield entertained us



..We had beautiful table settings
→



..And more entertainment ↓





Hospitality Corner

Members are welcome to bring goodies for the snack table. We encourage you to bring homemade snacks, fruit, cheese, etc, as bags of chips and wrapped candies seem to be less popular with the members.

GATHER & PAINT

Join us every Tuesday in the Senior Center Main Room from 12:30-3:30 to paint & create! Most of us are GEM members so you'll be among friends. Bring your project and supplies, the tables & chairs are set up for us. No instructor, just a great room with perfect lighting and good friends. And it's FREE!

The Gathering Place

Good Friends, Good Food, Good Times



MACarts951@gmail.com

Call For Artists

Art @ The Alleyway
Artist vendor fee: \$25

Thursdays All Year

Join us, and many others, each and every Thursday in Downtown Murrieta. Murrieta Market Nights is held on the 1st & 3rd Thursday year-round. 60+ vendors, music, food & of course ART! Open Mic Nights are held on the 2nd & 3rd Thursday @ The Alleyway. All ages & all talents are welcome!

