



# Paint Strokes

## Murrieta's Gem of the Valley Art Association

February 2026

### President's Message



#### **BY LETTING GO, WE REALIZE WE WERE HOLDING ONTO NOTHING.....BUT FEAR**

At about 1:20 p.m. we watched in awe as a familiar figure stepped up to fearlessly prove his well-honed talent – it was Gem's January meeting and Joe Oakes' demo was, again, A+. The magic happened within minutes of his introduction.....people got busy typing painting tips on their phones, questions were being asked about the light source & colors; it was a full-on conversation between Joe and the whole room.....and, as is his nature, he just rolled with it, creating beauty all the while as his paintbrush danced across that canvas. Yes, on that same rosy pink background.

I'm picking on Joe here I want to make a point. How does he brave those fears that most people – heck, almost all people – have? He lets go of it! None. Nada. No fear at all, he just goes with his heart, with what works, enjoying every minute of it. His palette of paint is always the same, his litany of Southwest mesas continues to draw you in, so similar but always different. And the glorious clouds start rolling in above. That's his calling and he does not waver. I want to be like Joe. No fear!

President's Message Continued.....

So, I'm dubbing next month as Fearless February! Bring your fearless art to be admired! We need more paintings entered, folks, as only one category was judged in January while other categories had one or two paintings, sitting and waiting. Bring your best or bring your worst, but bring it! Guess what.....I bet we'll love it.

Gem ~ we're all about art!  
Cathy

### Welcome New Members

**Sian Greenwood**

### Gem of the Valley Art Association

#### General Meeting

**Date February 2, 2026**

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

**Place: Senior Center Main Hall  
41717 Juniper St., Murrieta**

## February Demonstrator



### Barbara A Parish

Watercolor Artist/Teacher/Author  
www.barbaraaparish.com  
e-mail: [barbaraparish@verizon.net](mailto:barbaraparish@verizon.net)



Barbara is a Professional Watercolor Artist and a juried member of Women Artists of the West and an Exhibit Judge.

She teaches watercolor techniques and the courage to paint:

- Classroom
- Plein Air Workshops
- Lecture/Demo

She authors Watercolor Instruction Books

Barbara authors watercolor instruction books that help beginning and intermediate painters understand the watercolor painting process.

- Watercolor Instruction Books [amazon.com/author/Barbara-A-Parish](https://amazon.com/author/Barbara-A-Parish)
- Watercolor ~ Meet The Brushes Watercolor
- Value To Color Parallel Soon to Publish: Watercolor ~ Artistic Perspective One Point
- Two Point Perspective
- Coming in 2026: Watercolor ~ Composition and Design The Visual Story

She is a member of:

WAOW ~ Women Artists of The West, Signature, Emeritus Member  
SDWS ~ San Diego Watercolor Society, Gallery, Plein Air  
WW ~ Watercolor West, first time juried in, and receiving.  
California Watercolor Association Reciprocal Award  
CAC ~ California Art Club  
CWC-HD ~ California Writers Club ~ Hesperia Branch Member

**Be Sure to come to the February Meeting as Cathy will be discussing an upcoming “Fine Art and Crafts Sale” at the Murrieta Hot Springs Resort in May. This will be an opportunity for you to sell (or display) your art to the public.**



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**Your 2025-2026 Board Members & Committee Members**

**We currently have 47 paid members for the 2025/2026 season.**

**Treasurer's Corner**

Dec. Ending Balance	\$ 4,572.57
Monies Out	\$ 849.18
Monies In	\$ 594.00
Jan. Ending Balance	\$4,317.39
Check to Kids & Art	\$ 565.00

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR DONATIONS!**

Cathy Keeney  
Treasurer

*January Demonstrator*

*Joe Oaks*



Roxane Miskam was the lucky winner to choose between Joes' donated paintings. 



January Awards

Master Category

1<sup>st</sup> Place

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

3<sup>rd</sup>Place

Not Enough Entries

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Advanced Level

1<sup>st</sup> Place

2nd Place

3rdPlace

Not Enough Entries

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**Intermediate Level**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**



Julie Byrd  
"Glass & Red Wine"

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**



Kim Padulo  
"Snow Day"

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**



Lesley Quigley  
"Pineapple Rave"

**Entry Level**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**

**2nd Place**

**3rdPlace**

**Not Enough Entries**



## Photography Category

1<sup>st</sup> Place

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

3<sup>rd</sup> Place

No Entries

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## People's Choice



Kim Padulo  
"Snow Day"

# Valentine's Art & Craft Show

2/14 - 2/15, 11 am - 5 pm

Emerald Creek Winery ([38642 Hwy 79, Warner Springs](https://www.warnerspringsartisansguild.com/events1))

*Free admission!* Looking for a special outing on Valentine's weekend to share with people you love? Take a scenic drive to Emerald Creek Winery where you can sip award-winning wines and savor unique dessert pairings. Enjoy live music amid a beautiful vineyard backdrop. Discover new treasures by local artists as you browse original paintings as well as handmade one-of-a-kind woodwork, pottery, glasswork, jewelry, and apparel. For details, please visit: [warnerspringsartisansguild.com/events1](https://warnerspringsartisansguild.com/events1)

**SIP, SAVOR, SHOP**  
**VALENTINE'S ART & CRAFT SHOW**  
**EMERALD CREEK WINERY**  
38642 HIGHWAY 79, WARNER SPRINGS, CA  
*JUST TWENTY MINUTES SOUTH OF TEMECULA*  
**FEBRUARY 14 - 15, 11 AM - 5 PM**  
WINE BARREL & DESSERT PAIRING \$18 WHICH INCLUDES CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2021 PAIRED WITH A CHOCOLATE DECADENT CUPCAKE.  
PLEASE SCAN CODE BELOW TO RSVP BY 2/9/26

LIVE MUSIC ~ FOOD  
ONE-OF-A-KIND  
GIFTS

**CATERED BY:**  
LALU'S FEATURING THEIR FABULOUS FLATBREADS ON 2/15  
NO RSVP REQUIRED & CHAD'S LAKESIDE KITCHEN SERVING  
RIGATONI ALLA VODKA WITH ROASTED BELL  
PEPPERS AND FOCACCIA ON 2/14....MUST  
RSVP BY SCANNING QR CODE

**JOEY HUMBRICK ON SUNDAY**

**DEBRA TURNER & VINCE MENDOZA ON SATURDAY**

# The Gathering Place

Good Friends, Good Food, Good Times



MACarts951@gmail.com

## Call For Artists

Art @ The Alleyway

Check website for vendor fees & requirements

## **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!