



Paint Strokes

Murrieta's
Gem of the Valley Art Association

December 2025

President's Message



HELLO DECEMBER!!

Are you excited? There's so much to love about this upcoming month. Joy and good cheer. And, yes, there's family time, gift-giving, parties to attend.....it's all so fun and pretty darned exciting. But, ya know, if it wasn't for **ART**, this month, (and every other month) wouldn't be so **VISUALLY** exhilarating, right? But December seems to have the lion's share of visuals, right? I mean, here you go:

Gift wrapping (someone created the beautiful images/colors for the paper and ribbons you chose)

Tree ornaments (nope, not even Hallmark can match our own artistic hand-painted beauties! They are amazing! But any & all ornaments are truly an essential)

Shops & decorated houses – they're all lit up in the early hours of the evening (is it the lights, the lawn ornaments or how crisp the air is?).

But mostly, I think, it's the LOVE that goes into it all that makes it so great. If we don't really feel it during the months before, suddenly our heartstrings are tugged and we're filled with creativity as the air is bursting with the wonder of winter. Our artwork becomes an extension of the traditions of old. And with hearts true and pure, our giving and loving flows easy.

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We will NOT be judging member's paintings at the Christmas Luncheon, so please DO NOT bring paintings to the December meeting.

Welcome New Members

Carol Grieve'
Marcci Herrmann-Jones

Gem of the Valley Art Association

General Meeting

Date December 1st, 2025

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

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

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It's a "say hello to friends we know, and everyone we meet" time of year! This alone, I think, has always been a miracle.

NOW.....let's talk about you.....I have to ask: Did you love creating your ornaments? They are all beyond expectations!! If this was a joy, a unique and fun creative activity for you, I'd say let's make it an annual Gem members event! We, as a Board, got our feet wet in presenting it, but WOW, you all took it and flew!

So.....here's another idea I'm thinking about.....

I'm ready to stop by a local Murrieta shop to see if we could sell our ornaments as "Gem of the Valley Artists' Hand-Painted Ornaments." I envision it to be a "pop-up brand" that could start next year and occur annually, something our town would clammer for. Well, that's just me, knowing that the talent of Gem is worth sharing in a big way. But whaddya think? We can talk about it at the December Party!!

OK, ONE LAST THING.....All of the Ribbon Winners from November have a choice:

1. You can leave your paintings in the Library display case during December, OR
2. You can take them home right after the Christmas Party.

I'll ask this question at the party to see what you think. Or you can respond to me at my email (cathy.baca@gmail.com) and let me know.

Gem ~ we're all about art!
Cathy



Christmas Luncheon

The December 1st Christmas Luncheon will be sure to put us in a festive mood for the Christmas season. Lots of Christmas decorations, sale of member-designed Christmas ornaments, a raffle for art supplies and lots of fun.

The buffet will include turkey and ham plus all the side dishes and desserts the members will provide.

Help Needed!! For those of you who can come early, I will need help with the table settings. Please arrive by 12:30 and we'll get to work! Patsy Kile is in charge of the table settings, so please see her to give you your assignment. Thank you all so much!!



Patsy

If you missed the November meeting and didn't sign up to be at the Christmas Luncheon on December 1st, please reply to this newsletter to let me know if you and/or you and a guest will be attending.....we need to know how many tables & chairs to set up.



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

**We currently have 46 paid
members for the
2025/2026 season.**

Treasurer's Corner

Beginning Balance	\$4,508.21
Monies out:	\$ 216.64
Incoming:	\$ 281.00
Nov. Ending Balance:	\$ 4,572.57
Kids & Art Donations	\$265.00
Cathy Keeney Treasurer	

November Demonstrator

Devon Yuhas



Lori Herrick was the lucky winner of Devon's donated painting.



Master Category

1st Place

2nd Place

3rdPlace

Not Enough Entries

Advanced Level

1st Place

2nd Place

3rdPlace



Gina Wilson
"View from Churon Winery"



Nancy Cox
"The Sandpiper Dance"



Kathleen Nauman
"Bindie"

Intermediate Level

1st Place



Gloria Casteneda
"Sister"

2nd Place



Julie Byrd
"Strutting in the Snow"

3rd Place



Carol Grieve'
"Into the Light"

Entry Level

1st Place



Kim Padulo
"Lighting Up The Autumn "Dusk"

2nd Place



Gilly Jones
"No Title"

3rd Place



Marcci Herrmann-Jones
"Classic Vintage"

Photography Category

1st Place



Marian Cobb
"Awe"

2nd Place

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3rd Place

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People's Choice



Kim Padulo
"Lighting Up the Autumn Dusk"

Christmas Ornament Contest

1st Place



Kim Padulo

3rd Place



Gilly Jones

2nd Place



Leslie Quigley

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!