

## Lees Slips

### Please Save Lees Slips!

Thank you to our members who donate their slips to us. Lee's will donate 1% of the total. We received **\$801.17** from the Lees program for 2015.

Lees will send us money if YOU:

- give the slips to a board member or art class student
- mail the slips to WAG, PO Box 157, Westport Point, MA 02791

NOTE: Please don't circle anything on the slips!

## BrushStrokes Deadline

Wednesday, February 26 for the March/April 2016 issue. Send info to: Mary Sexton  
66 Peaceful Way, Tiverton RI 02878,  
914-217-7900 or email  
[info@westportartgroup.com](mailto:info@westportartgroup.com).

## Members Gallery

All members are eligible to have their artwork shown in the Members Gallery. Send 4 or 5 digital images with titles, plus a brief bio or artist statement to Mary Sexton at [info@westportartgroup.com](mailto:info@westportartgroup.com) for inclusion. It's FREE! Please participate.



## Photo Show at Westport Library

There is a display of landscape and nature photography by WAG Member Steve Connors, at the Westport Library throughout the month of January.

## Board Meetings:

Thursday, January 14, 1:30 PM  
Thursday, February 11, 1:30 PM

### 2015 - 2016 WAG OFFICERS

**Bruce Hubbard**, President  
**Janet Gendreau**, Vice President  
**Brianna McAvoy**, Treasurer  
**Peter Lenrow**, Recording Secretary  
**Nancy Mackay**, Corresponding Secretary  
**Sharon Connors**, Membership Secretary

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>BUILDINGS &amp; GROUNDS</b> <b>Jim Constantine</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY</b> <b>Nancy Nagle</b>
<b>GALLERY MANAGER</b> <b>Sarah Brown</b>	<b>YOUTH EDUCATION</b> <b>Emily Sutton</b>
<b>EXHIBITIONS</b> <b>Mary Benefiel</b>	<b>ADULT EDUCATION:</b> <b>Barbara Healy</b>
<b>SCHOLARSHIPS</b> <b>Doris Magovern</b> Nancy Mackay	<b>EVENTS</b> <b>June Roche</b>
<b>WEBMASTER</b> <b>Mary Sexton</b>	<b>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</b> <b>Peggy Call-Conley</b>
<b>MARKETING, PRESS RELATIONS &amp; SOCIAL MEDIA</b> <b>Christina Glaser</b>	<b>MEMBERS AT LARGE</b> Madeleine Ferraz Heide Hallemeier Judy Keeley Sharlie Sudduth Paul Vien
<b>NEWSLETTER</b> <b>Mary Sexton</b> Toni Keavey	

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# BrushStrokes

## WESTPORT ART GROUP

January/February 2016

## President's Letter

Dear Members,

The New Year brings with it hopes for new opportunities and resolutions for improvement of old skills or habits. As WAG greets 2016 we are engaged in a renovation of the oldest section of our building. This will provide us with brighter, safer and more useable space in the form of two, all person-access bathrooms, a new utility room and a redesigned kitchen with better lighting, new flooring, and a new ceiling with appropriate insulation above all this section. While the electricians were working on the renovations, they returned power to our parking lot spotlights on the northwest corner of the building. This will benefit us as we anticipate more evening activities.

Some of these activities include proposed evening classes in watercolor instruction at the beginner and advanced beginner levels (the class which started last fall), instruction for beginners in oil painting, a workshop in figurative painting and portraiture, and printmaking workshops in

the spring. If you have an interest in any of these or suggestions for other offerings, please leave a note for us at [info@westportartgroup.com](mailto:info@westportartgroup.com). Please use this same address for any suggestions for preparing for our celebration this summer for our Diamond Jubilee (60th anniversary).

It was good to see many of you at our Holiday Fair. Decorations were beautiful; the artwork inspiring, affordable and flying off the walls and, the craftwork was superb. Thanks to all who participated. The New Year holds great promise!

Peace and Progress,  
Bruce Hubbard, WAG President



## The 2015 Annual WAG Holiday Fair was Festive, Fun and Fruitful!

A beautiful sunny day encouraged shoppers to get outside and make selections for their holiday gifting. The choices included carefully crafted jewelry, handknitted scarves & hats, wooden cutting boards, trellises and bird houses, holiday décor, glass garden ornaments, stoneware pottery, soap, greeting cards and more. Small paintings at the perfect size for a perfect price found their way to new homes. Fair goers purchased Raffle Tickets for items and gift certificates donated by local businesses. Rediscovered Treasures, donated by WAG members, were scooped up and found new purpose. The Silent Auction art was donated by WAG artists. Red ribboned holiday swags and free branches of holly made a welcoming walkway into the Fair. What a wonderful way to start the winter season.

Thanks to all who participated to make the Holiday Fair a success. All proceeds support art education programs at WAG.

Always be inspired!  
Mary Benefiel,  
Exhibitions  
Chairperson



**WAG**  
WESTPORT  
ART GROUP  
P.O. BOX 157  
1740 MAIN RD.  
WESTPORT PT.  
MASS. 02791  
508-636-2114



facebook.com/  
westportartgroup

## Dates to Remember

January 4, 11, 18, 25

January 6, 13, 20, 27

January 7, 1, 21, 28

Monday Essential Drawing

Wednesday Figure Workshop

Thursday Painting Session

February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

February 3, 10, 17, 24

February 4, 11, 18, 25

February 29

Monday Essential Drawing

Wednesday Figure Workshop

Thursday Painting Session

Painting with Friends

## Holiday Fair Donors, Volunteers and Participants

### Local Business Donors, Raffle

Although they are often asked for donations, the businesses listed below were graciously willing to donate to WAG and the Community. Please support these businesses in return for their generosity!

Bayside Restaurant, Beautiful Things, Carolyn's Sakonnet Vineyard, Country Woolens, Dick Blick, Grums Family Restaurant, Elias Studio – Jennie and John, Marguerite's, Osprey Sea Kayak Adventures, Partners Village Store, Providence Picture Frame, Riverside Art, Sisters of the Wool, Westport Rivers Winery

### Silent Auction Artists and Artisans

Robert Abele, Barbara Chadwick, Janet Gendreau, Heide Hallemeier, Susan Strauss

### Holiday Swags and Holly

Meredith Cornell

### WAG Volunteers and Gallery Attendants

Phyllis Adams, Christine Belanger, Sarah Brown, Ginny Casey, James Constantine, Sarah Desjardins, Janet Gendreau, Heide Hallemeier, Maryteresa Hicks, Bruce Hubbard, Christine Mathieu, Robin Nunes, Sharlie Sudduth, Emily Sutton, Paul Vien



### Craft Participants

Cheryl Deane, Vintage Glass Garden Décor; Sara Mackinstry-Barrington, Barrington Bangles; Liz Wilcox, Lookout-Designs; Ed McGarvey, Stoneware Pottery; Jennifer Jones Rashleigh, Cedian Studio; William Burdett, Knitted Items; Eileen Flaherty, Handcrafted Holiday Décor; Vera Gassar, Ukranian Style Crafts; Howard Burbank, Handcrafted Wood Items; Paul Trenouth, Trellisman – Adirondack Chairs; Brenda Murphy, Jewelry; Kate Choate, Silver Sea Jewels; Maryteresa Hicks, Bella Cotta Italian Cookies; Jackie William, Handcrafted Soap; Paul Vien, Jewelry

### Artist Participants

Phyllis Adams, Christine Belanger, Mary Baldwin Benefiel, Sarah Brown, James Constantine, Sarah Desjardins, Kris Donovan, Janet Gendreau, Heide Hallemeier, Barbara Healy, Maryteresa Hicks, Antoinette Keavy, Peter Lenrow, Alita Marks, Jill B, Moran, Robin Nunes, Mary Sexton, Alice J. Shire, Grace Stevens, Sharlie Sudduth, Emily Sutton

### Thanks to all WAG members who donated to the Rediscovered Treasures Table!



Left: Holiday Fair 2015  
Below, The Graphite Group (Essential Drawing)



## Calendar of Events 2016

Open Studio: Painting with Friends	February 29, 6 – 8 PM
Drawing Workshop/ Demo, Out on a Limb	March 14, 6:30 – 8 PM
Watercolor Painting Class for Advanced Beginners	March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 April 6, 13; 6 – 8:30 PM
Watercolor Painting Class for Beginners	March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 April 7, 14; 6 – 8:30 PM
Deadline to sign up for SCA Tour at WAG	March 1
Watercolor Animal Portrait Workshop	April 2, April 9; 9 AM – 2 PM
Members' Spring Juried Show	April 15 – 24
Portraits in Oil, Painting Workshop	May 13 & 14; 9 AM – 2 PM
Kid's Art Workshop(s)	TBD
Kid's Summer Art Camps	July 11 – 15 and August 1 – 5
Open Studio Tours	July 16 & 17 August 20 & 21
Summer Community Show	July 22 – 31
Diamond Jubilee Celebration	July 23; 5 PM – 7 PM
Exhibition for Classes	September; Date TBD
Annual Meeting	October 24
Holiday Fair	December 3

## Robert Abele's Atelier:

If you know me, you will agree that I love to buy art supplies. Being passionate about your painting equipment is essential, especially if you paint outdoors. So, I decided to start each Brushstroke article with my recommendation for an art supply. I'm calling this endorsement the Golden Brush Award. The first recipient of the Golden Brush Award goes to the Judson's Flex Easel. At \$75, the Flex easel is worth every penny. The easel can be attached to any camera tripod by using the universal mount on the rear. The Flex Easel can accommodate any watercolor block, canvas, or canvas board up to 22" high and it weighs in at an amazing 1 pound. It's great for those long treks looking for a painting spot. ([judsonart.com](http://judsonart.com))

We are so lucky to live on the beautiful South Coast. Painting subjects are endless and there is special quality of light that is unique. But what happens to the plein air artist in the dead of winter? We are faced with having to paint indoors; still life can become boring very quickly. Winter allows studio time to work on enlarging a few of my favorite paintings I did over the summer. I start with paintings that are dear to me because I find I have the greatest recollection of doing them. This vivid recollection helps in a studio setting. Lets say I have a 6 x 8 panel I would like to enlarge. I try to keep the proportional dimensions as close as possible. I would enlarge it to 18 x 24. If the original painting is dry, I put it in a zip-lock plastic bag in order to match colors by painting them directly onto



Frame Shop by Robert Abele

the bag. This is a useful trick. I keep the painting loose and work quickly but realize this painting, because of the size, will not be done in one session. It could take 10 or 12 hours spread out over a few weeks. Using your original painting for reference is key, but I also like to have some photos of the original scene.

Painting en plein air is a great experience, but having the time to compose and design at a slower rate in the studio can get good results. What really improved my painting experience was a year of a personal study of values. I worked with acrylic paint indoors and its tendency to dry quickly was an advantage. When I moved back to working with oil, I was pleased with the results. Maintaining a limited palette is important to allow color mixing to become intuitive resulting in paintings with more color harmony. I recommend using Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Orange, Alizarin Crimson, Brown Madder, Viridian, French Ultramarine, Violet and Titanium White. These colors are timeless; when used often, the combinations of color you can achieve are endless. The good news – June is just around the corner!

Robert

**Please Note: The Monday Drawing and Thursday painting classes are being held at Westport Point United Methodist Church's Howland Hall during construction. The Figure Workshop is being held at Sandywoods in Tiverton.**

## From the Classes



Thursday Class Critique at Robert's Studio

### Essential Drawing

Mondays at WAG, 9 am – 12 pm

Learn the basics of drawing!

\$15 per session

\$40 per 4-week month

\$50 per 5-week month

### Thursday Painting

Thursdays, 9 am – 12 noon

Class will be at the Edna Lawrence Nature Lab Nature Lab, Rhode Island School of Design in Providence on Thursday, January 28. Drawing materials and watercolor only. Classes will resume at WAG when Phase II renovations are complete in late February. Artists will work on still lifes, from photos, or on paintings in progress. Instructor Robert Abele has encouraged artists to try larger paintings when painting in the studio. A clothed model will be available for a class in February.

Information regarding class location is updated on WAG's Facebook page: [facebook.com/westportartgroup](https://www.facebook.com/westportartgroup). If you would like to be included on the Thursday Painting email list, please contact Barbara Healy at [edlundhealy@comcast.net](mailto:edlundhealy@comcast.net) or [info@westportartgroup.com](mailto:info@westportartgroup.com), or (508) 636-6773.

\$15 per session

\$40 for a 4-week month

\$50 for a 5-week month

### Figure Workshop

Wednesdays, 9 am – 12 pm

The fee is \$10 a session if paying monthly or \$15 a class. No instruction. Call Carolyn Winter at 401-316-8272 for more information.

Visit [www.westportartgroup.com/classes](http://www.westportartgroup.com/classes) for more information about our classes.