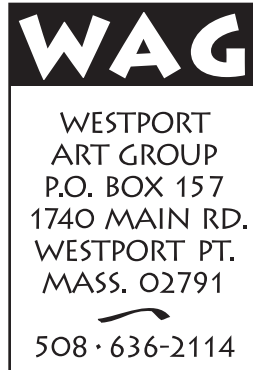


WAG welcomes Rebecca Levi, Youth Art Education Instructor

In addition to Jennifer Rashleigh and Paula Becker, Rebecca will be offering workshops for children.

Rebecca is a recent graduate of the Columbia Teacher's College Masters program in Art Education and is certified to teach K-12 Visual Arts. She is an avid printmaker, sculptor and draftsman with a passion for teaching students of all ages. Her philosophy of teaching is student centered, aiming to facilitate the expressive power and style of each individual. Her training has taught her to tailor art lessons to each age group and to appropriately assess and create activities for each child's unique place on the developmental spectrum. To see some of her works, visit rebeccaleviart.com.



BrushStrokes Deadline

Friday, December 19 for the Jan/Feb 2014 issue. Send info to: Mary Sexton
66 Peaceful Way, Tiverton RI 02878,
914-217-7900 or email
info@westportartgroup.com.

Lees Slips

Please Save Lees Slips!

Lees will send us money if YOU:

- drop Lees receipts at the building
- or give them to a board member or art class student
- mail them to WAG, PO Box 157, Westport Point, MA 02791

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

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 for inclusion. It's FREE! Please participate.

Board Meetings:

Thursday, November 13, 1:00 PM
Thursday, December 11, 1:00 PM

2014 - 2015 WAG OFFICERS

Mary Benefiel, *President*
Paul Vien, *Vice President*
Heide Hallemeier, *Treasurer*
Peter Lenrow, *Recording Secretary*
Nancy Mackay, *Corresponding Secretary*
Sharon Connors, *Membership Secretary*

COMMITTEES

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS Bruce Hubbard	NEWSLETTER * Mailing, Toni Keavey
GALLERY MANAGER Sarah Brown	PROGRAMS June Roche
EXHIBITIONS Jackie William Sue Prideaux	HOSPITALITY Nancy Nagle
SCHOLARSHIPS Doris Magovern Nancy Mackay	YOUTH EDUCATION Emily Sutton
WEBMASTER Mary Sexton	EVENTS June Roche *
SOCIAL MEDIA Jackie William	NOMINATING COMMITTEE Madeleine Ferraz
MARKETING & PRESS RELATIONS Christina Glaser	MEMBERS AT LARGE Judy Keeley Sharlie Sudduth

* Position is open.

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WESTPORT ART GROUP

November/December 2014

President's Letter

EXPLORE WHAT WAG HAS TO OFFER!

Over the years at the Westport Art Group, we have become a large arts family. Reflecting on the past year, the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and fellow members have worked diligently to carry out our shared vision and achieve important goals. These include, welcoming new members, improving our building and workspace, and continuing to fulfill our mission: To stimulate and promote the appreciation and encouragement of the arts and crafts.

I wish to celebrate during the coming year the feeling of convivial camaraderie and invite those who love the arts to explore all that WAG has

to offer—adult classes, youth classes, exhibitions, educational lectures, art excursions, workshops and our art library. In addition, over the years, WAG has awarded approximately \$25,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors pursuing higher education in the arts.

WAG has so much to share, and I hope you will join us in enjoying all of the learning opportunities WAG provides. The Westport Art Group is so much a part of what makes Westport great!

Always be inspired
Mary Benefiel
President



Update on WAG Building Fund and Construction

Thanks to all who have reached into their pockets and supported WAG's Building Fund. The response has been heart-warming and at the same time exciting that our goal is within sight. At this time, we have raised approximately \$130,000 and are within \$30,000 of our goal of \$160,000. Construction will start soon. We are in the final phase of filling our palette...your donation to reach our goal is appreciated. Ground Breaking Ceremony coming soon!

To make a tax-deductible donation, send funds to The Westport Art Group, Inc., PO Box 157, Westport Point, MA 02748 (check payable to the WAG Building Fund).

For more information contact: Mary Benefiel at marybenefielart@gmail.com.

From Barbara Chadwick:

The Family Holiday Wish List and WAG

This time of year, I usually make a wish list that each of my family members makes. We pass the lists around to help each other with holiday gift ideas. Instead of my usual list, I've decided to ask my family to make tax deductible donations to the WAG Building Fund. If any members would like to suggest this idea to their family, remember to make their check payable to the Westport Art Group Building Fund. Please consider joining me!



See Barbara's Beautiful Sailors' Valentines and Shellcraft Paperweights at the WAG Holiday Fair.

Dates to Remember

November 3, 10, 17, 24
November 5, 12, 19, 26
November 6, 13, 20

Monday Essential Drawing
Wednesday Figure Workshop
Thursday Painting Session

December 1, 8, 15, 22
December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
December 4, 11, 18
December 6
December 6

Monday Essential Drawing
Wednesday Figure Workshop
Thursday Painting Session
Holiday Fair at the Westport Library
Children's Holiday Workshop at WAG

From the Classes

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
We will be painting indoors. The class is usually smaller this time of year so you get more instruction time and get to see what the other artists are doing. Robert is a great teacher, his passion for art is contagious. We usually have a still life, or you can bring a photo or sketch to work from. You can also bring a painting you have started. We will have a model the first Thursday of the month. Classes may have to move when we start construction of our new addition. Our WAG Facebook page will have our location and any other information about class. If you are not already on the Thursday email list and would like to be added, email Barbara at edlundhealy@comcast.net.

Call Barbara Healy at 508-636-6773 with questions.

\$15 per session
\$40 for a 4-week month
\$50 for a 5-week month

Figure Workshop

Wednesdays at WAG, 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 for more information about our classes.

Winter Wonderland

**Art Workshop For Kids,
December 6, 2014,
9 AM to 12 noon.**

At the Westport Art Group Center
1740 Main Road, Westport Point, MA
02791. Contact Emily Sutton, Youth
Education Director at [emilyhsutton@
gmail.com](mailto:emilyhsutton@gmail.com).



Judy Keeley extends the Plein Air Painting season at Peckham's Greenhouse in Little Compton



Lois Marshall, Karen Melanson, and Sharlie Sudduth at the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting featured a delicious potluck supper, a new greeter, and a fabulous slideshow highlighting the recent events at WAG. We welcomed new board member Christina Glaser, and gave a heart-felt thank you to Mary Lou Murphy and Janet Gendreau for their years of service and commitment to WAG.

Go to our website to see the slideshow or visit You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pB_GZYrT1A.

Video courtesy of Mary Benefiel.

**The Allure of Monhegan Island Exhibition
People's Choice Award Winner:
Misty Day on Monhegan
by James Constantine
(Watercolor)**



Tom Robinson comes forward to receive his Lifetime Membership certificate.



Judy Mclean's floral design graces the entry way at WAG.

Robert Abele's Atelier: A NEW SEASON FOR PAINTING

Another summer has ended and by now we are embedded in our studios. The Thursday painters have given in to mother nature and now assemble at the WAG building instead of some beautiful, private locale on the magical South Coast. Bringing our French easels indoors presents the artist with a new set of challenges. Slathering sun tan lotion all over ourselves, floppy hats and bug spray all get shelved, but the most important question arises, "what do I paint?"

I have always felt that we are lucky to have the seasons and at some point during the year we know we will have to create indoors. The indoor studio offers so much for the artist. What a great time to repaint some of those summer paintings that might not have gone so well. You could easily drive back now to those locations that gave you trouble and do some quick sketches, take some photos and refer to your failed painting. Now, with the luxury to compose, you have the time to contemplate your images.

I also like to take stock in what I've done throughout the painting season and see if I can identify any themes in my work. This is important for giving your work some continuity. If I have done five paintings of the salt marshes over the summer, that might be a theme to develop over the winter and plan on doing five more. When people see a selection of my work, I like them to at least see a theme. This helps the viewer see your vision much more clearly. I also feel having a few larger images in your collection helps balance out your body of work. This shows you have range as an artist and it may bring on



a large commission from a client who sees your work on a different scale and falls in love with it.

Breathe, slow down and approach your winter work with an open heart. Getting inspired may take some work but when you finally get into the flow, amazing things will come from the winter studio. Challenge yourself to experiment with subjects you have never experienced. I would be weary of continuing to do what's familiar and seek out subjects that challenge you. Try to keep your themes simple and have some locale significance. Over the summer I spoke with a Thursday painter about a theme she had been working on for about a year. She noticed that she had painted about three or four Adirondack chairs in landscapes; she was adding to the collection weekly. She had accumulated about 20 paintings of these chairs. Right there you have a show that would be attractive to any gallery owner, a body of work with locale potential. Another example would be the Monhegan Island work done this summer by WAG members—what a show it was and the theme was so strong. Although I always look forward to spring, I am looking forward to seeing our winter studio work this season.

WESTPORT ART GROUP
Holiday Fair
Fine Arts Fine Crafts
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 9 AM – 3 PM
Westport Public Library
Manton Community Room
408 Old County Road, Westport
Gift Basket Raffle Home-baked Goodies
WAG westportartgroup.com • 508-636-2114

Lifetime Members

The end of the summer season was celebrated with an art exhibition, *Savor the Summer*. It provided a perfect setting to host reception to honor WAG Lifetime Members. As of September 19, 2014, WAG had 44 Lifetime Members!

Sharon Andrade
Christine Bean
Jeanne M. Bird

Dennis Broadbent
Nancy Burkholder
Susan Bush

Virginia Casey
Jane Cissel
Carolyn Cody
Sharon Connors
Anthony Connors
Meredith Wildes
Cornell
Sarah B. Desjardins
John Lloyd Eddie
Susie Emery

Betty Fitton
Heide Hallemeier
Alice Huff
Judith A. Keeley
Barbara Klatt
Betsy MacDonald
Theresa Manning
Lucille Maynard
Susan McGoff
Alice McKinnon

June Moore, Jr.
Sarah Moran
Carlton Nickerson
Virginia Nyman
Anne Ott
Janie Owen
Katherine Preston
Johanna Robinson
Tom Robinson
Robert Russell

Carol Russell
Elaine Stevens
Clara Stewart
Susan Strauss
Sharlie Sudduth
Martha Mullen
Taradash
David Wadsworth
Elizabeth Waring
Josie Woollam