

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 \$370.45 from the Lee's program for a total of \$742.18 for 2014.

Lees will send us money if YOU:

- 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!

BrushStrokes Deadline

Wednesday, December 30 for the Jan/Feb 2016 issue. Send info to: Mary Sexton
66 Peaceful Way, Tiverton RI 02878,
914-217-7900 or email
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 for inclusion. It's FREE! Please participate.

In Memoriam

Longtime WAG member Hope Atkinson, passed away Sunday, October 18, 2015. She was the daughter of Hazel P. Tripp and Walter W. Atkinson and sister of Ruth S. Atkinson. Her Celebration of Life Service will be held on Sunday, November 22, 2015 at 11:00 am at the Waterfront Grille, 36 Homers Wharf, New Bedford, MA. Please rsvp to Katrina at kb-internet@comcast.net. For tributes or directions visit www.waring-sullivan.com.



Board Meetings:

Thursday, November 12, 1:30 PM
Thursday, December 10, 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

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

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BrushStrokes

WESTPORT ART GROUP

November/December 2015

President's Letter

Dear Members,

We are at the start of the new year for WAG and it is an exciting time. We have had our new studio for a few months and now know how well it works for both exhibits and studio activities. We have even had exhibits in one gallery and classes in the other at the same time.

One of my goals for this year is to make greater use of our space with the offering of new courses, workshops, demonstrations, lectures and presentations. Our recent successful offering of An Introduction to Watercolor Painting has shown that we may be able to attract more people (some of whom work during the day) by offering classes in the evenings. Our offering this past year of the Graphite Group, a drawing class that offers differentiated instruction to accommodate both beginner and advanced artists has been a great success. Both of these classes have brought increases to our membership while offering the opportunities for personal growth through engagement in the Arts.

Members have also expressed appreciation for group trips we have arranged such as the MFA visit for the Jamie Wyeth exhibition and the private tour of the American Illustration Museum in Newport last winter. Recommendations for future trips are welcome and we will try to arrange one or two from your suggestions.

Finally, as a backdrop for all of these activities, is our effort to complete phase two of the construction project—completion of two all-person accessible bathrooms and remodeling of the kitchen/members room area.

This is the year WAG turns 60. We plan to celebrate this Diamond Jubilee in grand fashion and ask anyone with pictures and stories (newspaper or anecdotes) to share them with us, so we can further document this great achievement. With your help and support this promises to be a great year

Peace and Progress,
Bruce Hubbard, *WAG President*

WAG's Annual Meeting

WAG's Annual Meeting took place on Monday, October 19, 2015. Members participated in a brief business meeting during which the proposed slate for the WAG Board of Directors for 2015–2016 was approved. The meeting was followed by fabulous food provided by members, good conversation and an inspirational film featuring landscaped painter Clyde Aspevig. Hospitality Chair Nancy Nagle provided the perfect ambiance and decorations in our new studio for the event. We extended our thanks to retiring Board members Heide Hallemeier, Paul Vien, Madeleine Ferraz and Sue Prideaux for their many years of leadership and service to the Westport Art Group, and we thanked Mary Benefiel for her years as President and Special Thanks to Madeleine Ferraz for her many years of service as Nominating Chair.

Board of Directors 2015–2016

Officers

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

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: James Constantine
Gallery Manager: Sarah Brown
Exhibitions: Mary Benefiel

Scholarships: Doris McGovern, (Nancy MacKay)

Webmaster: Mary Sexton

Marketing, Press Relations & Social Media: Christina Glaser

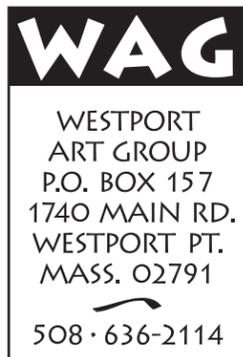
Newsletter: Mary Sexton (Mailing – Tony Keavy)

Hospitality: Nancy Nagle

Youth Education: Emily Sutton (Maryteresa Hicks)

Special Events: June Roche

Members At Large
Madeleine Ferraz,
Heide Hallemeier, Judy Keeley,
Sharlie Sudduth, Paul Vien



facebook.com/westportartgroup

Dates to Remember

November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

November 4, 11, 18, 25

November 5, 12, 19

Monday Essential Drawing

Wednesday Figure Workshop

Thursday Painting Session

December 7, 14, 21, 28

December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

December 5

Monday Essential Drawing

Wednesday Figure Workshop

Thursday Painting Session

Holiday Fair

Art for Giving WAG Holiday Fair

DECEMBER 5, 2015 – 10 AM TO 4 PM

Shop for **Artwork** the **Perfect Size at a Perfect Price**. Framed artwork priced at \$200 or less. Purchase special gifts of **Unique Handmade Crafts** by WAG members and local craftspeople. Arrive early to purchase **Holiday Greens**. Stay late to win items in the **Silent Auction**. Buy a chance or two in the **Rediscovered Treasures Raffle**. Take the opportunity to own one of the **Desirable Paintings** donated by well-known local artists in our Silent Auction.

Please come, join the fun and find the perfect gift!

CALL FOR ARTISTS

ELIGIBILITY To participate as an artist, you must be a WAG member. Entries must be original work completed within the last three years.

ARTWORK Oil, Watercolor, Acrylic, and Pastel, Photography, Mixed Media (e.g., encaustic photography and painting, artwork with more than one medium applied.); Collage (e.g., assemblage of different forms), Prints (one of a kind, hand-pulled), Digital Art. No Giclée prints.

PRICING All Artwork must be priced at \$200 or less. Sales commission to WAG is 25%.

SIZE Entries may measure up to 64" around the perimeter, including frame (**Perfect Size at a Perfect Price**).

THREE WALL ENTRIES AND SIX (6) BIN PIECES Non-refundable entry fee: \$15 (one wall entry), \$20 (two wall entries), and \$25 (three wall entries).

DROP-OFF Hand delivered only. Entries may be dropped off at the WAG Center, 1740 Main Road, Westport Point, MA, on Wednesday, December 2, from 5–7 PM.

PICK-UP Work may be picked up on Sat, Dec. 5, 4–5 PM or Mon, Dec. 7, 5–6 PM.

Providence Gallery Night

Join Barbara Healy for an excursion to Gallery Night Providence on Thursday, November 19th. Plan on going on one of the free bus tours from the central Art Bus depot and info booth at One Regency Plaza. Each tour goes to a few but not all of the galleries. Car pool, meeting at the Plaza at 5:15 PM. Email Barbara Healy edlundhealy@comcast.net if you would like to go.



Heading Out by Paul Vien



Good Company

*The painting is done—
after several earlier finishes
I look it over as I clean the brushes*

*Satisfied, but surprised at the outcome
The most pleasing parts, discoveries
How did this come about?*

*It seems I did this as an agent
of something more than me—
beyond my composition and strokes*

*Suddenly, it occurs to me
many painters, through ages
must have had the same surprise*

*It's so striking, we speak of a muse
who has a big part
in what we wind up with*

*Not just beginners like me
but accomplished artists—
pleased by a surprise at their hands*

*What a host of explorers I have joined—
solitary and unique
but colleagues linked by this inner wonder*

Peter Lenrow
10/29/2015

WAG Brags

Paul Vien's Watercolor, "Heading Out" was accepted to the Rhode Island Watercolor Society's National Show. WAG member Susan Strauss is part of a show "Poetica" at the Van Vessem Gallery, Tiverton, November 14–December 13, 2015. Opening, Sat. Nov. 14, 5–8 pm. WAG member Wanda Edwards is featured in a double page spread in the latest North Light book, *Incite 3—Best of Mixed Media*.

Robert Abele's Atelier: GETTING READY FOR WINTER WORK

Now that the winter is creeping in on us this might be a good time to review and sharpen some fundamental skills that keep our paintings looking sharp. The importance of maintaining a palette that is organized and clean serves a few important functions. Clean color makes clean vibrant paintings. If your palette is a disorganized array of colors you can count on your paintings looking the same way.

Lay your colors out in order from cool to warm or warm to cool depending on which way feels comfortable to you. Always replace the colors in the same order. What you are striving for here is for you to become intuitive about making your color choices. Musical instruments all have their strings or keys placed in the same order and as an artist becomes familiar with their placement they begin to produce beautiful music. This is so important and I promise as painful as it is to organize the placement of your colors, it will, within time, show wonderful results.

Using a limited number of colors helps produce harmony in your work. While organizing the paint on a student's palette recently, I put aside 10 to 15 tubes of paint and told them they would not need them anytime soon. Remember that strong colors infect the harmony in your work making your images look amateurish. If you are looking to incorporate a color onto your palette, think of it as adding a warm or cool value to an existing color group. When using oil and acrylic, the primary palette of red, yellow, blue and the secondary palette orange, green, violet plus white is the best place to start. A watercolor palette needs a few more values because it is a transparent medium and you are technically staining your surface. I do not exceed 16 colors.

When working indoors this winter, have your reference material ready to go before you arrive at the studio. Throughout your week, pay attention to things in your life that inspire you.



Nantucket Beach Rover by Robert Abele

The mobile phone in your pocket takes amazing pictures. The best reference is always your own design. If your printer is low on ink your image will have all kinds of crazy color and distortion. Wal-Mart and various drugstores make beautiful copies cheaply. Printing 20 images from a recent walk through a park or a trip abroad will give you plenty of inspiration for the winter season.

Even better, sketch out your project at home. When you get to class, you can dig right into painting. Start to think about your work as a series of related subjects that will help to create a body of work that is mature and centered. Two Artists who have explored a theme or subject are Giorgio Morandi and Jane Wilson; they are worth looking up.

Carrying a sketchbook everywhere you go is the best practice you can do to improve your skills. I have carried a sketchbook with me for 30 years and have every one to prove it. Looking back on my visual diary is a gift that I have never taken for granted. You are never too old to start this practice; it will help you compose your work and keep a record of what inspires you. I sketch in the same way a person bites their nails: it is a habit, a form of nervous action. I sketch at the coffee shop, the DMV, the emergency room. Hey, I have a five year old and a newborn; I'm there frequently!

Looking forward to a productive winter!

Robert

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 critique at the Acoaxet Club

Thursday Painting

Thursdays, 9 am – 12 noon
The Thursday class had a great plein air painting season. We will be painting inside at WAG during the cold weather. Artists can work from a photo, study, or still life. We will have an occasional clothed model to paint. WAG is planning on the bathroom renovation during December and class may have to move for a short time. We will post on WAG's Facebook page if we are going to be elsewhere: [facebook.com/westportartgroup](https://www.facebook.com/westportartgroup). If you would like to be included on the Thursday Painting email list, please contact Barbara at edlundhealy@comcast.net or info@westportartgroup.com. If you have questions, call Barbara Healy at (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 for more information about our classes.