

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!

Small Group Shows for Members

WAG invites all artist members to consider a unique program for small group shows in our beautiful New Gallery! More information will be available soon on westportartgroup.com.

BrushStrokes Deadline

Friday, June 17 for the July 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.



Board Meetings:

Thursday, April 14, 1:30 PM
Thursday, May 12, 1:30 PM
Thursday, June 9, 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	NEWSLETTER Mary Sexton Toni Keavey
GALLERY MANAGER Sarah Brown	YOUTH EDUCATION Emily Sutton
EXHIBITIONS Mary Benefiel	ADULT EDUCATION: Barbara Healy
SCHOLARSHIPS Doris Magovern Nancy Mackay	EVENTS June Roche
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MARKETING, PRESS RELATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA Christina Glaser	MEMBERS AT LARGE Madeleine Ferraz Heide Hallemeier Judy Keeley Sharlie Sudduth Paul Vien
HOSPITALITY Nancy Nagle	

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BrushStrokes

WESTPORT ART GROUP

April 2016

President's Letter

Dear Members,

The carpenters, plumbers, electricians and flooring contractors are finishing up their work. The new house is almost built and now it is time to move in and start living, finally. That is the feeling that I get with regard to our renovated space at 1740 Main Road. Following years of planning, fundraising and a general hustle and bustle to meet with people and attend to myriad details, we are ready to enjoy the new space.

Now comes the fun part, the living in these new quarters with a resolve and a plan to make our group more robust. We need to build our financial well being after a long drain on resources to accomplish the renovations. We need to strengthen and grow our membership to new levels with members who also want to fulfill our mission: *To stimulate and promote the appreciation and encouragement of the arts and crafts.*

The way to achieve these goals is a simple plan: Offer more of what our members want in the way of courses, workshops and educational opportunities in the arts. We are already gearing up for a new section of beginning watercolor painting classes offered in an expanded, seven session course beginning in early March. We plan to offer this course regularly, as often as there is a sufficient demand for it. This

is paired with a continuation course for advanced beginner watercolorists. Other plans are in the works for beginning oil painting and figure drawing classes.

I'm sure you've noticed that some art centers have a fantastic range of offerings, but unfortunately, many of these are cancelled, as they are under-enrolled. To plan realistically, so that what is planned meets your needs and we have robust participation, I need your input. Please take time to write, or email me at brucehubbard49@gmail.com, and let me know your ideas for classes, workshops (include suggestions for instructors) trips, exhibitions, etc. Please include preferred days of the week and preferred times (weekend, evening classes, daytime classes). Let's pack our calendar with personal growth opportunities for all!

Peace and Progress,
Bruce Hubbard, WAG President



WAG

WESTPORT
ART GROUP
P.O. BOX 157
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WESTPORT PT.
MASS. 02791

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[facebook.com/
westportartgroup](http://facebook.com/westportartgroup)

In Memoriam: WAG Member Jane Cissel

Jane DeBevoise Cissel, 93, of Little Compton, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016. She is survived by her beloved husband of nearly 73 years, Edward W. Cissel.

She is also survived by her four children, Sally C. Greenwood, Mary C. Suttell (Paul), John R. Cissel (Peggy) and Charles D. Cissel; in addition to seven grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Her son, Edward W. Cissel Jr., predeceased her in 1978.

Born on March 9, 1922 in Newark, NJ, Jane graduated from Kent Place School and attended Smith

College. In 1967, she and her family moved to St. Louis. Jane and Ed retired to Little Compton in 1986 where she was an active member of the Westport Art Group, the Little Compton Garden Club, and served as a deacon of the United Congregational Church. She enjoyed gardening, tennis, bridge, painting and needlepoint. Jane also served as President of WAG.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, March 12, at 11 a.m. at United Congregational Church in Little Compton.



She was a dear friend to many.

Coastal Light

Spring Open Juried Show

Opening Reception:

Friday, April 15, 2016, 4–6 pm;
Prizes awarded at 5 pm

Show Dates: Saturday, April 16 (closed Sunday, April 17),
Monday, April 18–Sunday, April 24; 10 AM to 4 PM

CATEGORY I *Oil, Watercolor, Acrylic, Pastel and Drawing*

First Prize: \$100, Second Prize: \$50,
Three Honorable Mentions

CATEGORY II *Photography, Mixed Media (encaustic photography and painting, artwork with more than one medium applied, Collage (assemblage of different forms), Prints (one of a kind, hand-pulled), and Digitally Assisted art.*

First Prize: \$100, Second Prize: \$50,
Three Honorable Mentions

Plus a special prize for best interpretation of the theme.

FEES Up to three works of art allowed per artist. Members: \$15 (one), \$20

Portrait Demo

by Kathy Weber

Tuesday April 12; 6:30 pm



All are welcome!
Suggested donation: \$10

Watch as Kathy paints a portrait with only 4 colors. Using a limited

palette can simplify portrait painting. This is the palette made famous by Swedish master painter Anders Zorn, a contemporary of John Singer Sargent. We will be raffling the chance to be the model and take your portrait home.

(two) and \$25 (three). Non-members: \$25 (one), \$30 (two) and \$35 (three). All art must be for sale. Sales are subject to WAG's 23% commission.

PRESENTATION Work must be properly framed and wired for hanging. Gallery wrapped canvases and panels are acceptable. No saw-tooth hangers. Please have your name, address, phone number and price on the back of your work. Entries must have been completed within the last three years.

SIZE The distance around each, framed artwork should not exceed 144 inches.

DROP-OFF Hand delivered only. Entries may be dropped-off at WAG, 1740 Main Road, Westport Point, MA, on Tuesday, April 13, 4–6 pm and Wednesday 9 am–12 Noon

PICK-UP Work may be picked-up on Sunday, April 24, 4–5 pm, or Monday, April 25, 9 am–12 Noon.



Critter Creations

by Betsey MacDonald

April 2 & April 9; 9 am to 2 pm

\$100 for WAG members,
\$135 for nonmembers.

The Critter Creations workshop will emphasize new ways to approach an animal drawing or painting. Creative animal art will be shown and discussed. Everyone should bring drawing materials on the first Saturday and watercolors for the second session.

Calendar of Events

Watercolor Painting Class for Advanced Beginners	April 6, 13; 6 – 8:30 PM
Watercolor Painting Class for Beginners	April 7, 14; 6 – 8:30 PM
Watercolor Animal Portrait Workshop	April 2 & April 9; 9 AM – 2 PM
Portrait Demo by Kathy Weber	April 12; 6:30 PM
Spring Juried Show "Coastal Light"	April 15 – April 24; 10 AM – 4 PM (closed April 17)
Kid's Art Workshop Mosaics for Mom	May 7; 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Portraits in Oil, Painting Workshop	May 13 & 14; 9 AM – 2 PM
Kid's Art Workshop Creative Creatures & Monsters	June 4; 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
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 24; 5 PM – 7 PM
Exhibition for Classes	September; Date TBD
Annual Meeting	October 24
Holiday Fair	December 3

Portrait Drawing & Painting

by Kathy Weber

May 13 & May 14; 9 am to 2 pm

\$100 for WAG members,
\$135 for nonmembers.

This workshop is for beginner to intermediate. Kathy will do a short demonstration both days. Oil or acrylic are recommended, although watercolor is acceptable if you're comfortable with that medium.

Please visit westportartgroup.com or email info@westportartgroup.com for more information about our programs and classes or to register.

Robert Abele's Atelier: The Critique

The definition of critique is a careful judgment in which you give your opinion about the good and bad parts of something (such as a piece of writing or a work of art). The most important area of an artist's development is the critique. In school, my training as an artist revolved around the critique on a daily basis. I have seen many approaches, some of which offered no help to the artist and only served to discourage. Although artists have strong opinions, I can't see the purpose of breaking down another person's art in a negative way.

The instructor who sets the tempo guides the flow of a critique. The participation of other artists is vital to its success. I always start with the positive points of an image and slowly work my way to what I feel needs attention. These suggestions are exactly that and not meant to be taken as law but hopefully leave artists thinking about their work in a new way that will guide them to a more complete painting. Dialog for an artist is so important especially with one's peers. This is how we grow as creative beings. I have spent long periods of time creating art without the input of others leaving with a sense of being in limbo in my creation process.

One of the most exciting moments for me during the critique is the first look I get at all the work up on the wall. I get a chance to see how all the images relate to one another. This is also where I begin to see mistakes in paintings as well as successful images. Some mistakes for me would be bad composition and lack of strong value and muddy color. A good critique would proceed with the participation and support of the other artists voicing their opinions coming to some conclusion for the painter. Sometimes as artists we feel so strong in our creative decisions that our art suffers for very simple mistakes.

We so often forget the rules and fundamentals of making good art. Chatter in the studio or personal issues weighing heavily on our minds can distract us. We also defend the choices we make in our paintings because let's face it, we are artists and isn't that the point! We are creators of

our own vision and personal style. I always take this into account and will never attack an artist's vision or style. I will often subtly push in a direction using references and examples from art history but never intentionally guide an artist down the wrong path. If an artist decides not to take my advice, I will never take it personally. I respect that and move along to the next student. A critique is valuable to the artist in the same way a check up is valuable to our health. We take the temperature of our work and try to come up with a cure. Having the support of our artist friends helps heal the wound.

I often see images during a critique that need no scrutiny; this is wonderful because everyone in the group benefits. These paintings become examples of what we want to achieve. My critiques at the School Of Visual Arts, NYC, always started with the professor saying, "Ok, which is the worst painting up here and why"? That was stressful but if your painting was the last chosen, boy did that feel good. My thoughts have always been that for the group to truly advance, the entire class needs to be working on the same subject, for example a model or still life. The benefit from seeing all the work together and the different approaches contributes to the growth of everyone.

Always remember to keep an open mind during a critical discussion. The thoughts expressed are always meant to improve and never to hurt; every opinion is considered. Never think what you have to say is not important. Your voice could be what changes your fellow artist's work to move them forward in a better direction.



Truo Entance, oil by Robert Abele III

From the Classes



Essential Drawing

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

Thursday class is at the newly renovated WAG building during cold weather but we we will heading out to paint on location as soon as the weather permits. We are working on some new places to paint and will be returning to some of our great past locations, including many special private places we get invited to. The class is planning on being out to paint some daffodils soon. Until then inside, we have been working from still lifes; from photos and studies; with Robert giving some demos to inspire us to try new things.

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

\$15 per session

\$40 for a 4-week month

\$50 for a 5-week month

Visit www.westportartgroup.com/classes for more information about our classes.