

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:

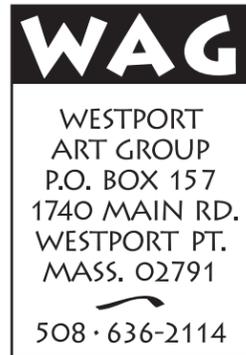
- give them to a board member or art class student
- mail them to WAG, PO Box 157, Westport Point, MA 02791

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

Member Show

WAG member Claire Tremblay is having a solo exhibit at the Greater Fall River Art Association.

My Journey In Paint—A Retrospective
The Greater Fall River Art Association
80 Belmont St., Fall River, MA



BrushStrokes Deadline

Friday, June 26 for the June/July 2015 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.

Opening Reception:

Saturday, May 30, 4–5PM

Exhibit Dates: May 30–July 8, 2015

Visit www.greaterfallriverartassoc.org for directions. For further information: Call 774.264.0346 or 508.636.2016.

Board Meetings:

Thursday, May 14, 1:00 PM
Thursday, June 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*

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* Position is open.

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BrushStrokes

WESTPORT ART GROUP

May/June 2015

President's Letter: GO ARTING!

On the South Coast, *Arting* or making and appreciating art, is as popular as sailing, swimming and fishing. Trips to museums and galleries throughout the year, as well as workshops, classes and exhibitions are favorite pastimes of Westport Art Group members.

On a recent visit to the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, I discovered the following statement:

"Living with and studying good paintings offers greater interest, variety and satisfaction than any other pleasure know to man." —Dr. Albert C. Barnes

You'll want to put the Barnes Collection on your *Go Arting* list. Barnes and his collaborator, philosopher



Barnes gallery

John Dewey, formed the Foundation and developed classes to encourage students to "see" paintings as light, line, color and space. These are the compositional building blocks used by artists and artisans today. It's a collection like no other in the world. The collection includes 181 paintings by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, 69 by Paul Cézanne, 59 by Henri Matisse, 46 by Pablo Picasso, 21 by Chaim Soutine, 18 by Henri Rousseau, 16 by Amedeo Modigliani, 11 by Edgar Degas, 7 by Vincent van Gogh, and 6 by Georges Seurat. The Foundation has an intriguing history that you might want to research before you visit,

including the documentary film about the relocation of the Barnes Collection, "The Art of the Steal," 2009. Perhaps Philadelphia is a destination for WAG in 2016?

Another *Arting* outing took us to The Florence Griswold Museum: Home of American Impressionism.

The grounds and gardens are lovely and the paintings are inspirational providing an enjoyable

Arting experience. The artists of the Old Lyme Art Colony embraced the invention of collapsible

tubes developed in the 1840s. These metal tubes made extended outdoor painting possible. The Westport Art Group Thursday Plein Air Painters carry on the tradition of coping with varying weather conditions and pesky distractions. Although they do not wear tweeds, knickers and carry a canvas stool, they are outdoors *Arting* and creating paintings for fun and local exhibitions.

Next proposed *Arting* adventure: The Sterling and Francine Clark Institute. The Exhibition is *Van Gogh and Nature*, June 14–September 13, 2015. If you are interested in making a journey to the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts to visit Van Gogh in early September, please let me know at info@westportartgroup.com.

Always be inspired
Mary Benefiel
President, Westport Art Group

facebook.com/westportartgroup

find us on facebook stay up to date

facebook.com/westportartgroup

Donate to the WAG Building Fund! Send a check to P.O. Box 157, Westport Point, MA, 02791. Please make checks payable to Westport Art Group, Inc.

Dates to Remember

May 4, 11, 18, 25

May 6, 13, 20, 27

May 7, 14, 21, 28

May 19

May 26

Monday Essential Drawing

Wednesday Figure Workshop

Thursday Painting Session

Plein Air Evening Demo

Tuesday Plein Air Evening Class

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

June 2, 16, 23, 30

June 3, 10, 17, 24

June 4, 11, 18, 25

June 6

June 20

June 26

Monday Essential Drawing

Tuesday Plein Air Evening Class

Wednesday Figure Workshop

Thursday Painting Session

River Day

Children's Workshop

Opening Reception and Construction Preview

Construction Update

Windows, doors and concrete floors!

Construction is on pace and the building is expected to be ready for WAG's summer programs. The New Wing Construction Preview and Reception will be held in conjunction with WAG's Juried Exhibition, Visions of Westport on June 26.

Renovations and new construction are always fraught with delays; this project is no different. We've made some interesting discoveries in the existing building but all are manageable. No ghosts of the past have been uncovered nor have we discovered a Renoir stowed away in the rafters. We could use a Renoir about now. The discoveries have added to our construction costs and more funds are needed to cross the finish line. If you have not done so already, please consider donating to this project that provides positive benefits for Westport and the surrounding communities. Please add your name to our growing list of generous supporters. Every dollar amount, large or small, counts.

Visit westportartgroup.com to see a video of the construction!

Project Team

Building Committee: Paul Vien (Chair), Mary Benefiel, Heide Hallemeier, Bruce Hubbard and Peter Lenrow

MAY Architects: Damon F. May, AIA

Yates Construction & Restorations Services: Joe Yates

SITEC, Inc: Sean Leach

Kids' Art Workshop

Paper Possibilities

Saturday, June 20

Children will create their own Art Booklet. Participants will experience transforming cotton pulp into paper. Several techniques for making decorative papers will be utilized: marbling, painted papers, and printing on paper. The decorative papers will be used for mixed media collage techniques using the kid's ideas for themes. Visit westportartgroup.com for more information.

Instructor: Peggy Call-Conley

Donate to the WAG Building Fund! Send a check to P.O. Box 157, Westport Point, MA, 02791. Please make checks payable to Westport Art Group, Inc.



Westport Point
Sharlie Sudduth



Pond Boat
Sarah Desjardins



Head of Westport
Paul Vien

VISIONS OF WESTPORT

A JURIED SHOW

June 27–28, 10 am to 4 pm

Reception & Awards Presentation + New Wing Construction Preview
Friday, June 26, 6 pm to 8 pm

Founded in 1956, the Westport Art Group celebrates its heritage with the dedication of our New Wing. Throughout the years, WAG has nurtured the vision of cultivating the arts in Westport and the surrounding communities. This juried show celebrates that vision with two-dimensional art that depicts the rich, natural environment of the shore, land and sea, as well as the architecture, culture and people of the South Coast region.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

ELIGIBILITY AND ARTWORK

Open to all artists working in Oil, Watercolor, Acrylic, Pastel, Photography, Mixed Media, Collage, Prints (one of a kind, hand-pulled) and Digitally Assisted art. No Giclée reproductions.

FEES

Up to three works of art allowed per artist. Members: \$15 (one), \$20 (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 25% commission.

PRESENTATION

Stretched canvas or panels with finished sides are permitted as long as no staples show. Work must be properly framed and wired for hanging on a wall. Please have your name, address, phone number and price on the back of each work. Pieces that do not meet the criteria will not be displayed.

SIZE

The distance around each work of art should not exceed 144 inches.

Visit westportartgroup.com for more information and entry forms.

DROP-OFF

Hand delivered only. Entries may be dropped off at the WAG Center, 1740 Main Road, Westport Point, MA, on Sunday, June 21, 1–4 pm and Monday, June 22, 1–3 pm

PICK-UP

Work may be picked up on Sunday, June 28, 4–5 pm, or Monday, June 29, 10 am–2 pm or 5–7 pm.

AWARDS AND CATEGORIES

Best Interpretation of Theme:

Visions of Westport

Gift Certificate from Sponsor Organization/
Judge

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

First Prize: \$100

Second Prize: \$50

Three Honorable Mentions

CATEGORY II: Photography, Mixed Media, Collage, Prints, and Digitally Assisted art

First Prize: \$100

Second Prize: \$50

Three Honorable Mentions



From the Classes

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.

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

The Thursday morning painting class has been meeting at the Westport Point United Methodist Church while WAG's new addition is under construction. In the weeks to come, we plan to paint at various locations. You can find details and updates about classes through emails, www.westportartgroup.com and [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.

Robert Abele's Atelier:

KEY COLOR

Thinking about the upcoming class on plein air sunsets, it's important to say something about key color and overall color in a painting. The key color, in simplest forms, is how the painting feels based on the prominent color value. If the key of an image is blue and grays, the image will usually feel cool; if an image contains oranges and tans, the key is warm. Working late in the evening with fading light is challenging. First, not many of us have done this from life; we usually resort to a photo for reference. Secondly, this way of working, at best, captures a nanosecond of time creating an illustration of a sunset.

Nothing to me is worse than seeing that formulaic sunset that we all know how to do: Red, yellow, orange and a splash of dark blue. This reminds me of a design that belongs on a circus sign behind a magician. Don't get caught in this representation of a sunset! It is easy to fall into this a strong trap.

It's important to get in the right mood. When you are the moment, standing at your easel with a setting sun before you, your breathing should be slower; your mind should be still before you start. Take a few minutes to just sit there and try to feel the light. Is it warm or cool? Do you see golden hues and deep purples with gilded edges of pink and dusty green? Since the light moves fast at this time of day, you don't have a moment to lose. The sun is falling, the light is changing and you're racing with your brush. What you're after is a feeling, not an illustration.

Edward Hopper made a few paintings of the light on Cape Cod where the sunsets are stellar. His paintings were meditative and passive and far from tacky and formulaic.



"Beach Bonfire" by Robert Abele

Once, in Jamaica, I made a watercolor of the sunset. At first, I wasn't crazy about it but every time I look at it I'm reminded of that beautiful evening on the beach; the sketch is doing its job.

This Evening Plein Air class offers the artist a moment to play and have some fun in an unfamiliar landscape. I suggest working small, 8x10 or smaller. Use a limited palette of yellow, red, and blue with white and maybe throw a nice purple or pink in there. I would rather do two or three paintings than one big one that looks labored over. I would also choose simple subject matter (dunes on the beach or the sweep of the shore) and focus on the color more than the subject. I'm looking forward to having some fun in this class... hope to see you there.

Demonstration: May 19, 2015; 6–7 pm at Apponagansett Park, South Dartmouth, (Open to All; Suggested Donation \$5)

Six-Week Session begins on May 26, 2015, 5–7:30 pm. See www.westportartgroup.com for Registration, Materials List and Locations.

As artists, pick your battles, look back to the past and follow the lessons learned by those who walked before you. Optics, devices, tools, tricks and more are essential!