

*Art League West*  
*500 N. Estrella Parkway B2/137*  
*Goodyear, AZ 85338*

Dear Art League West Members,

I am getting ready to leave town for awhile and since I won't be at the first general meeting of the season, I did want to bring you up to date on what has been happening with Art League West over the summer.

We've made a few changes to the structure of the general meetings. Critiques will still be held at 6 p.m. so please bring a piece of your artwork if you'd like to have our guest professional give you some great advice on how to strengthen your artwork. The demos will now follow the critique session. This way the guest artist can take his/her leave and will not have to sit around while we hold our meeting. A short business meeting will follow the demo and then time for socializing and awarding "Artist of the Month". We hope to have a little less meeting and a little more and sharing and socializing. It's apparent that there is a wealth of knowledge and talent among the members of ALW and I think we can learn more from each other. Perhaps a little more time to network will help open up some new avenues and opportunities for each of us.

This year we will award an "Artist of the Month" for each month including December until next April when we will award "Artist of the Year". By the third week in May many of our members have already left for the summer. By having the award in April, we hope all the monthly winners will be able to participate in our "Artist of the Year".

During the summer, Cyndy has been working hard at getting some great talent lined up for the demos this fall. It's a pleasure to announce that the following artists will be appearing at our meetings this fall. For September Malcolm Blazer, who does fabulous pastels, will demo the "Principles of Chiaroscuro—Using Light and Geometric Models". For October, David Flitner will be showing us how to create atmospheric perspective with color recession and how to handle those troublesome greens in our paintings. Julie Gilbert Pollard will be our November guest artist and demonstrate for us either how to "Recreate Fabulous Fall Color" or "Achieve Water Realism." For January we are working on having someone in to discuss how to mat and frame your work to help get it sold. Matting and framing has been on several of the questionnaires I've received. There are some other ideas in the works for the New Year but we want to wait and see what other responses we get with the rest of the questionnaires.

The new cycle of the Avondale City Hall Exhibit is now in place and will run through November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you to all the members who are participating in this cycle: Ada German, Bill and Marilyn McDonald, Veronica Verdugo-Lomeli, Cyndy Kersztyn and Nancy Hampton. I hope everyone will have a chance to stop by and see the exhibit. Thanks to those who helped pull this together: Marilyn McDonald, Nancy Hampton and Cyndy Kersztyn. Also Veronica has already sold a painting and is working on another sale. Congratulations, Veronica!

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While you're at City Hall, stop in at the Civic Center Library Gallery for a peak at our new show which was installed August 31<sup>st</sup> and will run until November 30<sup>th</sup>. The show looks great! Prizes were awarded as follows: Best of Show went to Donita Hillis for her watercolor "Leeks"; 1<sup>st</sup> Place to Nancy Hampton for her oil painting "Tuscany Hills"; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place to Veronica Verdugo-Lomeli for her oil "Mourning Love—Woman" and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place to Anne Rudolph for her photo "Door in San Gimignano". You can visit our website to see the winning artwork but my photos don't do them justice so get by and see the real deal when you can. Congratulations and a big "thanks" to all the artists who participated. A special "thanks" to Anne Rudolph and Joyce Dodd Harcharik for helping with the installation and to Nancy Hampton and Jean Fondelier for checking in the art and handling the paperwork. Anne and Joyce will be organizing the next cycle for the Library Gallery and I'm sure they are expecting some great pieces to be entered.

By now you're all aware that I am no computer wiz! In fact, I'm really in the dark about most of it. Some of you have had trouble receiving the questionnaire and I have had some trouble being able to read your responses. Never fear. We will have the questionnaire at the meeting in September. If you have not already sent yours back to me, please fill one out at the meeting and leave it with Cyndy. The future will be structured on the voices we can hear!

Nancy Hampton had another successful summer program at Opportunity House and I have attached some photos of her classes. She and the other artists who teach these classes are providing a much needed community service and certainly doing a wonderful job bringing out the "artist" in these children.

We had some new members join Art League West over the summer and I would like to welcome them to our group. Doris and Gus Schoenamsgruber are wonderful photographers and you only have to view their photo entries at the Library Gallery to see the proof! Also Ranae Selmeyer of Peoria has joined. Additionally, we may have some people attending the September meeting to check us out and see if they **want** to join. If you spot anyone with that "deer in the headlights" look on the 21<sup>st</sup>, be sure to introduce yourself and make them feel at home.

We are still looking to fill some positions and Cyndy will go over that at the meeting. Being on a committee is a great way to get to know other league members and learn some new skills so I hope you will think about it. It can be a rewarding experience and frankly, we can use some help.

I am sorry that I will miss the "kick off" to the new season but as Cyndy will be leading the meeting, you will be in good hands. I think I'll be in Asheville, NC by then but I will be thinking about you all and looking forward to the October meeting. I'll have my laptop with me and although I may not be able to access it every day, I will be checking for emails and continuing to follow up on Art League West business. Have a great September!

Michele

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