



## Message from the President

Spring is not far away. I remember saying that in past years only to be surprised with a late winter storm or two.

Watercolorists don't care in some ways because we can always make art in spite of the weather as long as we are willing to work inside. I hope this newsletter finds you having had a productive winter of painting. It's a good feeling getting new work behind you and looking ahead to a spring, summer, and fall outdoor painting experience.

Speaking of painting outdoors, this spring and summer Kappy Schwab, our itinerant painter of many European excursions, is organizing some summer painting opportunities for our membership. Look for Kappy's information in another part of this newsletter. Thanks for all of your effort Kappy.

Do you have an interest in getting involved in posting and making changes in our web site as the need arises? If so please give me a call. Our web site is going through some redevelopment as I alluded to in my letter to the membership at the beginning of the year. We are encouraging our members to establish their own web site and WWS would provide a link as we do now. The cost of producing your own web site has dramatically dropped in the last couple of years. Toward that end we are going to have a workshop this fall, (date to be determined), to help you do just that. If you are interested in having your own Web site look for this opportunity.

Our next exhibition is at the Jura Silverman Gallery in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Judy Gahn-Murphy has been busy finding exhibition venues. She has us booked through the spring of 2012. Look for our exhibition information in another part of this newsletter. Great work Judy.

Our annual meeting is coming up at 1:00pm on April 17th at the Marcia Coles Community Room below the Lake

Park Bistro in Milwaukee. We are lucky to have Bridget Austin with us to do a demonstration. More information is contained in this newsletter.

This will be my last Presidents letter as I will be stepping down from the WWS Board. I am very thankful for all of the help I have received from the Board this past year and grateful for the opportunity to have been able to serve the WWS membership.

See you at the Annual Meeting.

Steve Horvath

## Board Notes

Our last board meeting was held on Saturday February 6, 2010 and called to order by president Steve Horvath. Those present were Bill Davis, Joyce Eesley, Kappy Schwab, Steve Horvath, Karen Finerty and Alice Struck. Membership Chairperson, Karen Finerty reported that artists submitted applications for jurying. From the artwork juried one artist, Vicky Lilla was accepted pending membership approval at the spring show.

Some questions arose as to the originality of some of the submitted work. Specifically, we had questions about the ownership of some of the reference materials. WWS and all of our exhibition venues require that we show 'original' work. All of our members use their own photos for reference. I think there are a lot of artists that aren't aware of copyright issues. These are serious issues and one can have their work removed from a show or an award stripped, as recently happened in one of the national watercolor shows because the artist didn't abide by the copyright rules. The Board has decided to revise some of the material sent to applicants so that they understand that artists must have ownership and rights to any reference material they might use for their paintings.

Exhibits Chairperson, Judy Murphy reports that exhibitions are booked through spring of 2012. She has some wonderful exhibit venues for our two annual shows. Information on our Spring and Fall Shows in 2010 follow in this newsletter.

## Copyrights

**Question:** "I've found a lovely photo on the Internet and want to make a painting of it. Can I do this?"

**Answer:** " No. A painting made from a photograph is known as a derivative work. But that doesn't mean you can simply make a painting from any photo you find -- you need to check the copyright situation of the photo. Don't assume because the likes of Warhol used contemporary photos that it means it's okay if you do.

The creator of the photograph, i.e. the photographer, usually holds the copyright to the photo and, unless they've expressly given permission for its use, making a painting based on a photo would infringe the photographer's copyright."

The easiest solution to avoiding copyright issues when painting from photos is to take your own photos.

## Annual Meeting

April 17 is the date for our Annual Membership Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Marcia Coles Community Room, Lake Park, Milwaukee at 1:00 pm. A board meeting will precede our member program. Nominations Chairperson, Alice Struck reports:

Greetings from your Nominating Committee! It's time again to elect the individuals who will keep our beloved organization running and shape it into the presence we want it to be in the arts world. We have wonderful volunteers on our board, some new this year and others who have served several years. The majority of these board members have accepted nomination again for the coming year. However, we do have an open board position and a special position we would like to see filled.

We are searching for a candidate for President, as Steve Horvath has decided to step down after his current term. Steve has set up solid groundwork for successful leadership with the support and camaraderie of a strong, passionate board. The other position we would like to fill is that of an Art Historian. This individual, or team, has the potential to communicate who we are as we approach our 60th Anniversary in 2012. Many opportunities exist, such as creating a commemorative booklet, assisting in the curating of our anniversary exhibition at the new Museum of Wisconsin Art and putting together a focus within the exhibit about some of our founding members.

I could also use assistance with items relating to publicity. If you are interested in knowing more about these opportunities or would like to nominate someone, please contact me, Alice Struck at (262) 242-3853 or e-mail me at [aastruck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aastruck@sbcglobal.net).

We would like to see more interest in member participation. It is a great way to get to know more members and to contribute to the organization. Some of these positions could also be a co-chaired. Ask a friend to join you in being nominated for one of these open positions.

Vice-president, Bill Davis, is happy to announce that Green Bay artist and WWS member, Bridget Austin will give a watercolor demonstration following the board meeting. Known for her skilled use of negative painting, Bridget is wonderfully talented, exceptionally modest and a humorous teacher. Her paintings reflect her love of the Midwestern landscape as well as inspiration from her travels. They have received awards in many national and regional shops including the American and National Watercolor Societies.



Bridget Austin, "A Market Mix"



Bridget Austin, "Summer Shore"

Bridget has received Master Status from the Transparent Watercolor Society of America. This year we also invite friends of WWS members to join us for this special event.

## Spring Show

Exhibits chairperson, Judy Murphy reports that our Spring Show will be held at the Jura Silverman Gallery, 143 S. Washington, Spring Green, WI. The show dates are May 8 – June 27, 2010 with an Opening Reception scheduled for Sunday, May 16, 2:00 – 5:00pm. The gallery will receive works from 1:00 – 5:00pm on May 1, 2 and 3.

We are looking for ten images from the show for promotional pieces in March. If you can send Judy a jpeg of work you will be showing at the Spring Show please send by email, [rtbyjudy@gmail.com](mailto:rtbyjudy@gmail.com).

A Fall 2010 Show is in the works for New Visions Gallery, 1000 North Oak Avenue, in Marshfield, WI. The show dates are September 12 – October 30, 2010. More information will follow in the August newsletter.

## Plein Air Painting

Think Spring and painting outdoors! We would like to organize a group of plein air painters meeting weekly or bi-weekly in the Milwaukee area May through October, weather permitting. There are an unlimited number of good painting locations. Several members have plein air experience and could help those unfamiliar with the logistics of painting outdoors. Please email or call me, Kappy Schwab, if you have an interest. I will need email or contact information to send additional information and schedule of dates. I would love your input. [kschwab1@wi.rr.com](mailto:kschwab1@wi.rr.com)

## Annual Banquet

The Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, October 24, 2009. We again enjoyed the wonderful Italian food served at Carini's La Conca d'Oro, 3468 N. Oakland Avenue, Milwaukee, WI. We had a great time. The dates for our 2010 Banquet can be seen in the August 2010 newsletter.



Harold Hansen, "Souviens, Pere Lachaise"

## Member News

WWS member and Racine artist, Lyle Peters reported that the WWS was well represented at Racine's Wustum Museum *Watercolor Wisconsin 2009* show. Members with work in the exhibit are **Kathy Armstrong, Jean Crane, Joyce Eesley, Harold Hansen, Earl Kittleson, Judy Murphy, George Ronsholdt, Dan Simoneau, Alice Struck, Jean Thielen** and **Lee Weiss**. The painting "Dream Stream" by Lee Weiss was used for the cover of the exhibit catalog. Harold Hansen's painting, "Souviens, Pere Lachaise" won an Award of Merit and George Ronsholdt received a merchandise award for his painting "Lobster Fest".

**Shirley Gruen** and **Kitty Sturrock** were juried into *The Little Show*, at the Cedarburg Cultural Center, Cedarburg, WI. The show features miniature art in all media.

**George Ronsholdt** had two paintings in the *2009 Winter Juried Exhibition* at the Anderson Art Center, Kenosha, WI. His painting titled, "Lobster Fest" received a solo show award for 2010. The solo show will take place April 11 – May 4, 2010.

**Joanne Nock Olsen** received the Mary Alice Fisher Award for her painting, "Fall-Northern Wisconsin" in the *22nd Annual Northern National Art Competition*.



Joanne Nock Olsen, "Fall-Northern Wisconsin"

Sheboygan artist, **James Michael's** painting, "Blue Harbor" has been accepted into the 34th Annual TWSA Exhibit. Another painting, "Opening Curtain" was juried into the Kohler Arts Center Eight Counties show currently on view in Kohler, WI.

## Artist Profile

### Quick Sketch

By Steve Horvath

*Several years ago when I was the newsletter editor I started a series of mini biographies of members as a way of introducing ourselves to each other. I found the interview process to be very fascinating and enlightening on how individuals pursue their craft. This article is an attempt to revive that series.*

### **Shirley Schanen Gruen**

**Port Washington**, September 5, 2009 - Shirley Gruen has always been an artist it seems. She started her knowledge quest at UW Madison in Applied Arts but through the encouragement of her mother took the necessary education credits so that she might be able to pursue a career in teaching. Shirley really liked the practice teaching, she said.

She went to California after college to go to art school for another year or two attending the Art Center School in Los Angeles, (now in Pasadena). One of the most interesting classes she took at the college was a light and shadow course. Students were asked to create a free form sculptural piece out of clay then light the work from one side and interpret the piece through drawing exploration.

Besides wanting to take more art classes Shirley thought this would be a good location to welcome Gerald, her husband to be, back home from WWII. Shirley and Gerald returned to Port Washington, WI to be married in 1947.

While she and Gerald were raising their son and two daughters Shirley was also focused on her painting. She likes to work in many mediums like oil pastel and charcoal and also likes pottery but has not done much in that area. She settled on watercolor and more specifically its water-based cousin acrylic because of its color saturation.

Shirley continued to take classes working with John Triba and Mel Kishner at Cardinal Stritch in the 60's. She also shared her artistic knowledge at MATC's Nicolet campus teaching portrait painting. She said that Mary Knoll was one of her students.

In the 70's Shirley moved into her own studio in Glendale. In 1980 she moved to Port Washington to rent a space from Dan Smith (Smith Bros.). She kept this studio for 3 years then moved and rented for a handful of years in the space she is in now in before she purchased the building.

She has ensconced her studio on the second floor of her building in the front with a view of N. Franklin Street below. She has all of the accouterments a good artist needs: drawing board, files for reference material, shelves for art materials, and a desk for paperwork. She also has a couple of additional rooms on the floor to use for students that she works with from time to time.

A few weeks before this interview I visited with Shirley in her studio and she showed me the rather detailed pencil layout she was doing for a painting idea she was starting from an interior figurative scene she saw and responded to when she was in New York a few weeks before. After doing pencil studies from various pieces of photo reference to determine what the content of the painting will be, she grids the pencil for enlargement to a large piece of illustration board.

She has done a lot of experimenting on how to lay color down but has shown a lot of success by using an old credit card to 'move' the pigment around her illustration board to cover larger areas of her work. Brushes, of course, are used for some of the finer details visible in her work.

Shirley is very much a businesswomen as well as an accomplished artist. She believes in marketing herself as well as her work. Towards that end she has a very busy gallery / retail shop on the first floor below her studio that displays her original work. She also has a selection of prints of various sizes of her work as well as boxed note cards that show images of her work.

Shirley will be showing one of her new pieces,

“Window to Paradise” at the American Artists Professional League in New York. The opening in New York was on October 31st at the Salmagundi Club.

**What:** Shirley Schanen Gruen Studio  
**When:** Weekdays 10 – 4:30  
Saturdays 10 – 2:30  
**Where:** 303 N. Franklin Street  
Port Washington, WI 53074  
**Telephone:** 262-284-2273



**Shirley Schanen Gruen  
in her studio**



**Shirley Gruen Studio/Gallery**

## Note from the Editor

Please send any change of contact information (address, phone or email) to Kappy Schwab and Steve Horvath.

## In Memorandum



### *Earl Frederick Kittleson (1927 – 2009)*

A past president and greatly admired friend of the Wisconsin Watercolor Society, Earl Kittleson age 82, passed away November 4, 2009.

Earl was born in Milwaukee and was a graduate of the Layton School of Art and the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee (BS-1957, MS-1961). Between 1957-1992 Earl taught at Menomonee Falls High School.

For many years after retirement from teaching, Earl was involved as a volunteer at the Museum of Wisconsin Art in West Bend and previously as a Print Room Assistant to the curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs at the Milwaukee Art Museum. His etchings and paintings have been exhibited widely since 1961 and were featured in 28 one-person and numerous group shows. His award winning art is represented in many corporate and private collections. One of his many awards include the prestigious Skyledge Prize at the 1994 Exhibition of the Midwest Watercolor Society.

Earl is survived by his wife, Dorothy and son Mark and daughter Kristi.



Mary Jeanne Larkin, "The Anniversary Table"

## **Mary Jeanne Larkin (1925 – 2009)**

Mary Jeanne Larkin passed away September 3, 2009 at her home in Mequon. She was 84. In the 1940's, she earned an art degree from Rosary College of Dominican University in Lake forest, Illinois.

Mary Jeanne devoted much of her life to the Arts, in particular to creating fine art paintings filled with color and light. An avid watercolorist and painter, she found unending inspiration along the shores of Lake Michigan, down the back roads of Door County and traveling the rolling farmland of the Midwestern prairie.

Mary Jeanne was a member of The League of Milwaukee Artists, the Wisconsin Watercolor Society, Door County Art League and Cedarburg Artists Guild. She was also a mentor to younger artists. Through her work, she inspired and delighted both her family and community, revealing the beauty that lies before us.

Jeanne is survived by her husband Robert and daughters Sheila, Patty and Kathleen.

## **Wisconsin Watercolor Society**

### *Activities for the 2010 Annual Calendar*

#### **April April 17, 2010 - Annual Meeting**

##### **Board meeting**

1:00 – 3:00pm

Marcia Coles Community Rm.

Lake Park, Milwaukee

Election of officers (Alice, Chair,

Nominating Committee)

##### **Member Program / Demonstration**

2:00 – 3:00pm

Bridget Austin

#### **May May 1, 2010 Board Meeting**

1:00 – 3:00pm – location TBA

Produce/mail membership roster

Update web, coordinated with the

Web Master

## **Watercolor Workshops**

Mary Whyte – *The Best of Watercolor*

Alvaro Castagnet – *Passionate Watercolor*

August 30 – September 3, 2010

Radisson Fisherman's Wharf Hotel, San Francisco, CA

There are still openings in these two workshops.

Art in the Mountains, [www.artinthemountains.com](http://www.artinthemountains.com)

503-930-4572, [info@artinthemountains.com](mailto:info@artinthemountains.com)

## **Bridget Austin**

### ***Fine Tune Your Watercolor***

August 22 – 27, 2010

Dillman's Creative Arts Foundation

Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538

[www.dillmans.com](http://www.dillmans.com)

### ***Lighten Up Your Watercolors***

August 16 – 19, 2010

Peninsula School of Art

Fish Creek, WI

## **Exhibit Opportunities**

Investigate the **Wisconsin Visual Artists** website, [www.artinwisconsin.com/index.php](http://www.artinwisconsin.com/index.php) for great information about art opportunities in Wisconsin.

## **Shows to Enjoy**

### ***Eight Counties***

Through March 21, 2010

Kohler Arts Center

608 New York Ave, Kohler, WI

[www.JMKAC.org](http://www.JMKAC.org)

### ***Alive in the Arts***

A Joan Kohn Juried Exhibition

March 26 – June 4, 2010

Artists Opening Reception

Friday, March 26, 5:00-8:00pm

Plymouth Arts Center

520 East Mill Street

Plymouth, WI 53073

### ***Watercolor Wisconsin 2009***

#### ***43rd Annual Competition***

Through April 24, 2010

RAM's Wustum Museum of Fine Arts

2519 Northwestern Avenue, Racine, WI

[dzaleski@ramart.org](mailto:dzaleski@ramart.org), 262-638-8300

### ***TWSA 34th Annual National Exhibit***

May 1 – July 25, 2010

Kenosha Public Museum, Kenosha, WI

[www.watercolors.org](http://www.watercolors.org)

### ***Matisse: Radical Invention, 1913-1917***

March 20 – June 20, 2010

An exhibition of this modern master's most ambitious and inspiring work.

The Art Institute of Chicago

111 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL

## Eric Wiegardt Lesson on Figures in Landscape

Frequently I am asked: “How do you paint people in a landscape?” Aside from the academic study of the figure to learn proper proportions and anatomy, a concept has helped me tremendously in incorporating the figure in a landscape.

As in all aspects of painting, design is crucial. Not only must the artist consider the relationship of shapes to each other, but also the joining of adjacent shapes to make a better pattern. This principle that is so effectively applied to the landscape shapes needs to be seamlessly transferred to the figure shapes. Note I said “figure shape” and not “the figure”. The artist must shift in his or her thinking to perceive the figure as just a shape, as any other shape in the painting, and not a separate entity. (Try to avoid thinking of a group of people as individual figures. If painted disjointedly, they will have the bowling pin look – a static shape pattern that will be a visual discomfort.) The shift to abstract thinking from the mere recording of information is where true art and creativity begin.

I have found that if I can create a good abstract pattern first, and then suggest a group of figures from this pattern, I have a much higher success of integrating the figures in the landscape. I try to make the initial figure pattern reflect the nature, or flavor, of the patterns already established in the painting.

Also, I don’t wait to put the figures in at the end, when I get the “nerve up” to put them in – most likely they will tend to look pasted on. Rather, as I progress through the painting, I incorporate surrounding shapes into the figure shapes, so as to lose edges and meld the figure into the background, creating unity and helping me to concentrate on the abstract patterns. I don’t want to think “figure” until the completion of the painting. I try to keep a steady focus on the abstract patterns all the way through the process.

Whether painting a group of people, or a single figure, I try to look at it as an abstract shape, and connect those shapes to each other and to the background to create a better abstract shape and thus a better design.

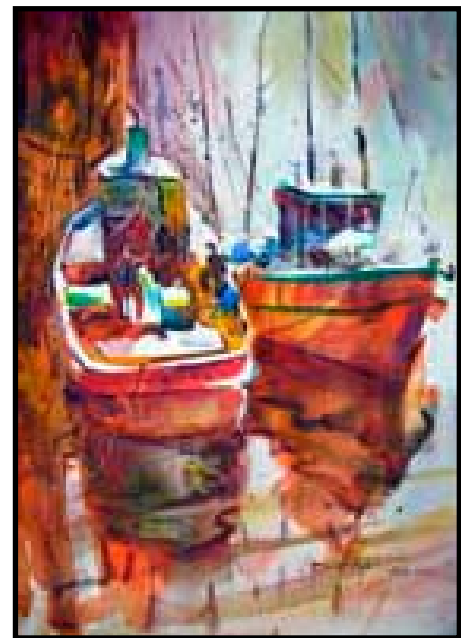
Keep your brush wet,  
Eric

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Eric Wiegardt’s website, [ericwiegardt.com](http://ericwiegardt.com)*

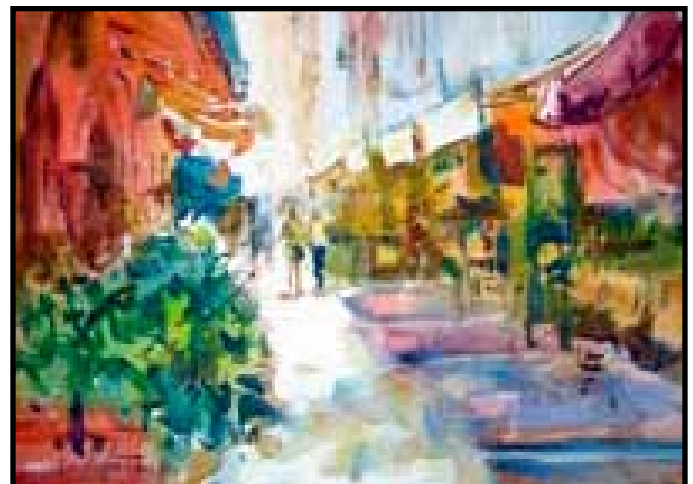
Kappy Schwab, Newsletter Editor



Eric Wiegardt, “Figures in Landscape”



Eric Wiegardt, Ilwaco Conversation



Eric Wiegardt, Noon, St. Remy, France

## I NEED YOUR NEWS!

Let me know what is happening in your area-exhibitions, workshops, painting trips, current museum exhibitions, awards. I would love to hear from you! Send articles about members, photographs/digitals of artwork. Deadline for August issue is August 1, 2010.

Please send any information by email:  
kschwab1@wi.rr.com,  
By regular mail:

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**3800 W. Grace Avenue**  
**Mequon, WI 53092**  
**Fax: 262-242-2246**

Please, no-handwritten or phone-in submissions.  
Submissions may be excluded due to space restrictions.

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