



The Chaparral Sketch

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This issue of the Chaparral Sketch is dedicated to
Muffin Hill.
 Oct. 8, 1930 – May 16, 2014



Muffin with the plaque she received from Chaparral Artists in 2012.

Muffin Remembered

Patricia Quandel

Occasionally a person comes along who touches the lives of a whole community. In the case of Muffin Hill the community is the artists and art lovers she came in contact with. Her commitment to the arts and artists impacted people

throughout the Morongo Basin and far beyond.

Muffin had the knack of seeing promise in an artist and convincing that person to let her display their work thus giving the artist confidence, exposure and a nudge toward creating more works of art. I was one of those people.

In 2009 Muffin convinced me to let her display some of my photographs. Over the years she displayed my photographs at the Hi-Desert Medical Center, the Adult & Senior Services Center, the Hi-Desert Water District, and the Joshua Basin Water District. This exposure gave me the confidence to begin entering art shows and opening my own photography business.

My story isn't unique. At the January 2013 Chaparral Artists meeting Muffin announced that she had exhibited 2000 pieces of art since the beginning of 2006. At that time she also announced that she would be retiring in 2014.

Muffin was the volunteer art coordinator for various public buildings in San Bernardino County. She was featured in an article by Lou Gerhardt in the 2011 February/March Sunrunner magazine and she received many awards for her volunteer and charitable contributions. Besides the contributions that many of us are aware of there were also contributions that she made anonymously. These are just a few of her more recent awards. In 2012 Muffin was honored by the Morongo Basin Senior Support Center for the volunteer work that she did for the seniors. The same year Chaparral Artists presented her with a plaque and lifetime membership for her service to Chaparral Artists members. In 2013 she was one of 10 Morongo Basin women honored

by Congressman Paul Cook for their accomplishments and contributions to their community.

Muffin passed away at age 83 shortly before her planned final Water/Water Show at the Hi-Desert Water District. The Art Colony of Morongo Valley as well as other friends of Muffin were instrumental in making her final show a success. There was art by 36 area artists along with a photo tribute to Muffin. Those who attended the reception were many of Muffin's friends which included quite a few well known artists. The show will be on display through July 14.

The following are just a few of the people whose lives Muffin touched.

Stephanie Salter - Muffin Hill's contribution to the arts was immeasurable, contributing her own art as well as supporting and displaying the art of so many other artists, including that of myself and my husband. The loss of Muffin Hill will be felt throughout Southern California and beyond.

In our hearts, Muffin, you'll always remain.

Vickie Culver - I am so

broken hearted to find out that my friend Muffin Hill passed away. She was such a fantastic lady. She helped teach me confidence in myself as an artist. I will miss her so much. I know that I will always feel valued as an artist because of her. The art community has lost a treasure.

Bonnie Rainey - I just met her a short time ago but knew she was a very special lady. I am so sorry for your loss and for all of her friends and family.

Snake Jagger - So sad to hear this news even though it was coming. So very sad, I'm honored to have known her, even if for a short time. She was a very special human being.

Janis Commentz - She has been a caring and persistent supporter of artists in our community for many years. Many of you know her because of her love for her animals--especially kitties. She has made sure the hospital walls are filled with beautiful art! We will miss you, Muffin!

Editor - Muffin's beloved cats have been given a home in Los Angeles.

She was a very special lady!

Janine Cleveland - Muffin Hill was one of the nicest, sweetest business women I have ever met. I really loved her after getting to know her. I'm sad she is gone but maybe to a better place!

Chuck Caplinger - Sorry to hear about Muffin's passing. I have fond memories of our shared friendship. She loved art and her artist friends, and she would go out of her way to assist and promote them.



Judy Nagel, Muffin Hill, and Barbara Wells-Roberts at Judy's art reception in 2012.

Bonnie C. Brady - Rest in Peace, dear Muffin - thanks for all you have done for the arts community.

Susan Abbott - Godspeed - peace and blessings to her soul and condolences to you and the beloved community to which she was so vital.

Norma Mackie - So sorry to hear of her passing. A very classy lady!

Dianne Fratto Swella - She will be missed. God bless her!

Mary Maxson - She indeed was a very special lady. HUGS...

Herman Platzke - Thank you, Muffin, for kind words and encouragement

Hilary Sloane - She was the spirit of the High Desert.

Andy Woods - RIP Muffin. A true and strong advocate for the arts. I was always amazed at her ability to keep giving and doing so much. Amazing tenacity that is a shining example of a community supporter.

Tami Wood - Muffin was a fire cracker and absolutely loved



supporting artists. She will be missed but not forgotten.

Lori Herbel - Muffin's light, as bright as the brightest star...



Julianne Koza, Mies Broome, Raini Armstrong & Muffin Hill at the June 2012 Lavender Festival.

The following article by Muffin appeared in our November 2010 newsletter.

You're On The Wall!
Muffin Hill

My life as a photographer began in earnest after a gorgeous black cat arrived at my door (fully loaded) in 1994. After the kittens were born my camera never stopped clicking.

We moved to 29 Palms in 1999 and I became very involved in the "art scene" learning as much as I could about curating and promoting art.

In 2006 the Hi Desert Medical Center celebrated a 30th anniversary and I was asked to curate the permanent art collection. In 2007 I was appointed their Public Art Coordinator. Soon after; Public Art Coordinator appointments followed for Hi Desert Water District and Joshua Basin Water District. In 2009 came the appointment as Public Art Coordinator for the Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) for the County of San Bernardino. Artwork is hung in San Bernardino and each show is enthusiastically received.

Thousands have seen the wonderful art produced by members of Chaparral Artists. Our artists are among the very best to be found anywhere.

Final Words: Get busy. I've got walls!

Chaparral Artists Spring Art Show

This year's Chaparral Artists sponsored Spring Art Show brought several pleasant surprises.

I was worried that by limiting the number and size of the entries each artist was allowed to submit that there wouldn't be very many entries. Thankfully, I was wrong on both counts.

Whether it was the change of venue or some other reason; this year's show had artists who hadn't previously entered one of our shows. We had new participants in almost every category, if not all, with many of them coming out as winners.

The Best of Show award was won by Chaparral Artists member Sharon Nieters with the People's Choice Award going to Barbara Prestridge for her third place winner in the 3D category. Barbara's win goes to show that thankfully not everyone has the same taste. Imagine how boring that would be.

Each category featured a wide range of styles and subject matter, with the 3D category showing it the best.

Here are this year's winners.

Best of Show

Sharon Nieters – "Moving Along"

People's Choice

Barbara Prestridge - "A Good Life"

Animal

1st – Sharon Nieters
2nd – Noreen Lawlor
3rd – Sharon George

Flowers

1st – Roberta Blomster
2nd – Sharon George
3rd – Beverly Schmuckle

Landscape

1st – Ron Dalberg
2nd – Raini Armstrong
3rd – Hugh Huffman
Honorable Mention – Debbie Eggleston
Honorable Mention – Sue Dailey



Judge Janis Commentz poses with Sharon Nieters' Best of Show winner "Moving Along".

Other

1st – James Thompson
2nd – Amber Albertson
3rd – Gordon Crawford

People

1st – Gordon Crawford
2nd – Noreen Lawlor
3rd – Joann Petersen
Honorable Mention – James Thompson
Honorable Mention – Jassica Voss

Plants & Trees

1st – Debbie Eggleston
2nd – Nancy Miehle
3rd – Amber Albertson
Honorable Mention – Ron Dalberg

Sunrise/Sunset

1st – Raini Armstrong
2nd – Hugh Huffman

3rd – Joann Petersen
Three Dimensional
 1st – Barbara Prestridge
 2nd – Nichole Vikdal
 3rd – Barbara Prestridge
 Honorable Mention – Nancy Miehle
 Honorable Mention – Nikki Pollak

Congratulations to all of the winners and thank you to Janis Commentz who was the judge. A special thank you goes out to the ladies of Rainbow Stew for providing us with a place to hold our shows.

Winning artists in attendance posed with their work.. The only exception was Nancy Miehle who always seemed to be busy and who, truthfully, I forgot to get to pose.

Editor – We signed up nine new subscribers to the Chaparral Sketch at the reception.

In Memoriam

On May 24th a final goodbye was said to our fellow Chaparral Artist member Muffin Hill at Faith Lutheran Church in Joshua Tree in a memorial service officiated by Brother Anilananda of the Self-Realization Fellowship who traveled from Hollywood to pay his respects.

From Brother Anilananda who had known Muffin since the 1970's to those in attendance who had known Muffin only a short time; everyone had favorite memories to share of Muffin. Several attendees spoke about Muffin during the service which at time brought chuckles and laughs.

There were many photographs of Muffin on display including a collage that was brought by members of the Associated Artists of the Inland Empire. Many of those in attendance



Nikki Pollak



Sharon George



James Thompson



Beverly Schmuckle

**Chaparral Artists
 Spring Art Show
 April 27, 2014**



Ron Dalberg



Nancy Miehle



Noreen Lawlor



Barbara Prestridge



Raini Armstrong



Joann Petersen



Jessica Voss

wore Muffin's favorite color of purple which helped make the service a less somber affair.

Everyone I spoke to agreed that Muffin would have approved of the service.

Muffin, you touched many lives and you will be greatly missed.

Chaparral Meeting

Chaparral Artist member Sharon Nieters was the speaker at our May meeting.

Sharon is a watercolor artist and instructor who has even published an instruction book on the subject. Even though she lives in Minnesota Sharon manages to enter many of our shows and this year her painting

“Moving Along” won Best of Show at our Spring Art Show.

Sharon created a painting and explained the various steps as she went along. Even though I'm not a painter I found the information easy to understand and very informative.

Sharon donated one of her paintings for the door prize and Sharon George was the lucky



Sharon Nieters

winner. The other door prize winner was Nancy McHenry who won a prize donated by Gordon Crawford.

Dan Redmon will be our speaker in June. He will be demonstrating his art of carving images on apples!

This is our end of season meeting and party. This year instead of a potluck we are requesting that everyone bring a dessert.

We will be having a basket opportunity drawing. I've been told that there will be some really nice items in the baskets. So come prepared to win one.

All members and non-members are strongly encouraged to attend.



Sharon George & Sharon Nieters

Odds & Ends

The Chaparral Artists Spring Photography Show at Rainbow Stew closes on June 11. Artists can pick up their work on either Thursday, June 12 from 1 – 4 p.m. or Friday, June 13 from 10:30 to noon.

Chaparral Artists Member **Darlene Morris** will be teaching an intermediate-advanced adult class on experimental watercolor and collage painting at the 29 Palms

Art Gallery on **June 21 from 9 –noon.**

The class is limited to 10 students. The fee is \$10.00 plus a material fee of \$5.00. For a list of the materials email Darlene@dhmorris.net.

Please visit or call (760-367-7819) the 29 Palms Art Gallery to be added to the roster.

5th Anniversary! Celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Glass Outhouse Gallery on Saturday, June 7, from **5 - 9 p.m.** with artwork by **Snake Jagger and Tami Wood**, music by the **Daytime Moon** band from CMC, and an anniversary cake designed by artist Rik Livingston! Desert fun and admission is free.

The Glass Outhouse is located at 77575 Hwy 62 & Thunder Road in Wonder Valley. It is 3 ½ miles east of Utah Trail on the right hand side of the highway.

“Water in the Desert Scarcity and Abundance” is the theme for the summer Art in Public Places exhibition at Twentynine Palms Visitor Center and Gallery and Chamber of Commerce. The art show will be exhibited from **July 1 to September 26, 2014.**

Artists are requested to read the complete Exhibition Guidelines available at the visitor center and on the Art in Public Places page at www.29palms.org.

Artwork submissions are due on **Friday, June 27.** The time will probably be 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Artwork from the “The Desert Rocks!” Life on the Faultline.” can be picked up at the same time.

The gallery is in the Visitor Center and Chamber on the highway at the corner of Desert Queen Ave., downtown Twentynine Palms. Art in Public Places exhibitions are presented

by the Public Arts Advisory Committee of the City of Twentynine Palms.

For more information, contact Jon Beard at (760) 367-7562 or email publicarts@29palms.org.



Rainbow Stew owners Michelle Nemecheck & Valerie Eagle Heart Meyer (Not shown Stacey Clayton.)

Muffin
Her light was bright.
Her smile warmed the heart.
With wisdom of years she looked into your eyes when she spoke with you.
Gifted, she eagerly shared her talents that overflowed into blessings for all that would partake.
When she spoke of her beloved cats her eyes would fill with joy.
We will all miss you.
We all love you.
You will live in our hearts forever dearest friend.
By Lori Herbel

The **Morongo Valley Firefighter's Auxiliary** will be holding our annual **Casino Night fundraiser** to raise monies for our Morongo Valley Fire Department. We are looking for raffle items and table sponsors (\$100). Deadline for both is June 2. Casino Night

will be June 7. Contact Debbie Harris (760)861-8765.

Abracadabra Show at the Joshua Tree Art Gallery (JTAG) in Joshua Tree

June 8, Sunday - Deliver Abracadabra art work to JTAG from 10 a.m. - Noon

June 14, Saturday - Abracadabra show opens at JTAG from 6 - 8 p.m.

June 28, Saturday - All artwork to be picked up from 3 - 6 p.m. at JTAG. Any work not picked up, will become the property of JTAG.

Joshua Tree Art Gallery (JTAG) is located at 61607 29 Palms Hwy. in Joshua Tree.



Muffin Hill & Guila Gilmore at the end of season party in 2011.

Chaparral Artists next regular meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. on June 9 at Desert Hills Presbyterian Church at 56750 Mountain View Trail in Yucca Valley. OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN SEPTEMBER.

Editor – Articles previously planned for this newsletter will appear in a future issue.

Artists Discounts Offered

The following businesses offer discounts to artists or incentives for those who present their artist membership card prior to checkout.

Cowboy Attic

Located in the Historic Plaza Twentynine Palms, CA
(If you are a Chaparral Artists member and create an account at Cowboy Attic then 10% of what you spend will be donated to Chaparral Artists at the end of six months.)

Ground Control Hobbies

55696 29 Palms Hwy.
Yucca Valley, CA
(10% off on all art supplies)

Oasis Office Supply

56925 Yucca Trail, Suite D
Yucca Valley CA
(10% off on all art supplies)
(Custom orders for all the supplies needed for your art classes with a 15% off discount to your students for those supplies.)

Whitaker's Art Supply

5684 Historic Plaza
Twentynine Palms, CA
(10% off everything in the store)



The Event Calendar is on the next page.

Event Calendar

Chaparral Artists & club member events are highlighted.

Now – June 11
Chaparral Artists Spring Photography Show at Rainbow Stew in Yucca Valley

Now – June 27
The Desert Rocks!™ Life on the Faultline.™ at the 29 Palms Chamber of Commerce & Gallery

June 2
Deadline to submit raffle items & sponsor tables for the Morongo Valley Firefighter’s Auxiliary Casino Night in Morongo Valley

June 7 (5 – 9 p.m.)
Reception for Snake Jagger and Tami Wood at the Glass Outhouse Gallery in Twentynine Palms

June 7
Morongo Valley Firefighter’s Auxiliary Casino Night in Morongo Valley

June 7 - 29
Snake Jagger and Tami Wood at the Glass Outhouse Gallery in Twentynine Palms

June 8 (10 a.m. – Noon)
Drop off entries for Abracadabra at Joshua Tree Art Gallery in Joshua Tree

June 9 (1 – 3 p.m.)
Chaparral Artists meeting in the Desert Hills Presbyterian Church at 56750 Mountain View Trail in Yucca Valley

June 12 (4 – 6 p.m.)
June 13 (10:30 a.m. – noon)
Pick up artwork from Chaparral Artists Spring Photography Show at Rainbow Stew in Yucca Valley

June 14 (6 – 8 p.m.)
Opening reception for Abracadabra at Joshua Tree Art Gallery in Joshua Tree

June 21 (9 a.m. – noon)
Darlene Morris Experimental Watercolor and Collage Painting at the 29 Palms Gallery

June 27
(Probably 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.)
“Water in the Desert Scarcity and Abundance” submissions due and “Water in the Desert Scarcity and Abundance” pick up at the 29 Palms Chamber of Commerce & Gallery

June 28 (3 – 6 p.m.)
Pick up artwork from Abracadabra at Joshua Tree Art Gallery in Joshua Tree

July 1 – September 26
“Water in the Desert Scarcity and Abundance” at the 29 Palms Chamber of Commerce & Gallery

Memorial Service for Muffin Hill

