



# Chaparral Sketch

February & March 2023

Volume XIV, Issue 02

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## Presidents Palette

Hello! It has been a time of great activity for this historic Chaparral Artists organization. In February we lost and then regained our meeting and teaching/outreach space at the Center for Healthy Generations. We then quickly expanded our outreach and connection to the Yucca Valley Community Center. I would like to thank some of our members who are actively contributing to the arts community, our mission and to our members.

Beverly Schmuckle recently taught another one of her popular alcohol inks classes. Jennifer Grandi has taken over Beverly's Open Studio class and continues the tradition of creating a nurturing environment for

artists of all levels and mediums. Raini Armstrong will again be teaching her wonderful watercolor class at the Center for Healthy Generations and will also teach a class at the Yucca Valley Community Center.

Nancy Miele graciously has offered and opened her home and studio to us for the upcoming March meeting on 3-13-23. She will be our guest speaker and will share a project she is working on. Details are within the newsletter.

Note: The April meeting will be back at the Center for Healthy Generations and will feature a guest instructor.

Please also note that the March judged show in photography at Rainbow Stew is open to other artists. If you know of artists/photographers who might be interested, please invite them!

I would also like to acknowledge Raini and Myrtle, who met with me several times (including snowy conditions!) in order to plan ways for Chaparral Artists to move forward and to be better

### At a Glance Reminders

#### **General Meeting**

*Artists Home! - Nancy Miehle*

Monday, March 13th at 1pm

#### **Open Judged Photography exhibit**

*Rainbow Stew*

Thursday, March 16th, 4:30-6pm

Friday, March 17th, 12:30-2:30pm

#### **Call for Officers**

We still need a Vice President, please consider the position. Contact us if interested. We vote at the next meeting after hearing your ideas!

publicized. Their efforts will help us to survive, develop and thrive. We strive to meet the needs of our ever-growing group and to work with other arts organizations and community to keep our artists inspired, educated, creative and free to express their ideas and feelings in a joyful way.

We will need a few outgoing members to assist in public relations and educational outreach.

In order to move forward it is vital to know what each of you want to experience and to know what you are able to contribute to the group. Do you like to write or research? Run errands or connect with other groups? Scout fun places to visit?

If each person contributes something then none of us will be overburdened.

Also,

Thank you so much to those who have shared their ideas. Many of them are viable and some are already in the works!! You are so appreciated!

I will be in contact with you very soon!

Please share your ideas, your talents, and your skills by contacting me, Victoria Sebanz, at sanddancer99@gmail.com. Please title your correspondence as Chaparral for ease of perusal. Thank you so much!

With Ease and Grace

VS

### Thought/Quote for the month:

*Carpe Diem (Seize the Day)*

## General Meetings

Our January meeting was held on the 9th of the month. There were 11 in attendance to welcome our new and returning officers - Victoria Sebanz as President, Myrtle Cassell as Membership, and Nancy Miehle as Treasurer. Raini Armstrong remains as Secretary, Nancy McHenry as Hospitality, and Julia Terpening as Sunshine. Nancy Kimes was tentatively welcomed back as Vice President, however, she cautiously declined with concerns regarding competing focuses, sharing her interest in remaining an officer if truly needed. Robert Rufer provided a brief demo on his photography, Victoria Sebanz gave a short demo on her art, and Julia Terpening won the door prize.

Thank you, Nancy Miehle, for taking minutes during the January meeting.

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Our February meeting was held on the 13th of the month. There were 11 in attendance. President Sabanz shared the hope for Chaparral's ability to thrive despite changes affecting the organization. An increase of committees would support this endeavor. Education Outreach and Public Relations are examples that will help Chaparral grow and support artistic focuses with the public. Paperwork was provided for members to share their ideas and skills. Two new members were welcomed - Iris, a creator of greeting cards and sewn projects with an interest in painting, and Joyce, a musician and glass artist. We

learned that Healthy Generations could not support our monthly meetings, workshops, and current classes. Discussion for where to move our operation transitioned into sharing information about featured artists at the Presbyterian Church and Healthy Generations. The upcoming show themed "Celebration" was announced. A draft brochure for Chaparral was shared for comment and alterations. Attendance of the next Leads luncheon was recommended. The meeting was wrapped up with time to mingle.

Our NEXT meeting will be on March 13 starting at 1pm. Please arrive early to secure a parking place because we will be meeting at Nancy Miehle's Artist home. She has graciously agreed to host AND to speak/demonstrate, introducing us to a topic that may come in handy over the next year. I am very excited to hear what she has to present. We will open the meeting with organization updates and then hear from prospective volunteers interested in the position of Vice President, PR, and Education Outreach, followed by a silent vote to round out the officers of Chaparral.

We meet at 57604 Sunnyslope Dr. in Yucca Valley. The easiest parking can be found along the street. Cars can also be parked on the driveway if packed in well. Additional parking *could* be available behind the house, but arrangements must be made prior to the meeting to open the

gate and direct cars to the house, so please show up with time to spare to find a parking place! We absolutely recommend parking on the street for simplicity. Dress warmly.

Chaparral Artists will be returning to the Center for Healthy Generations in April. We will meet on the regular schedule and time - the 2nd Monday of the month at 1pm, excluding July and August. We are happy to continue meeting at Healthy Generations now that new management is doing their best to keep the doors open with regular programming slowly returning.

## **Board Meetings**

Our next Board meeting will be on March 13 from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM at Nancy Miehle's home, right before the General Meeting! Remember that members are invited to join these meetings.

## **Group Outings**

We are happy to announce a trip to the zoo this month! On Wednesday, March 29th, we are visiting The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens. For those that can, plan on spending the entire day at the zoo - pack

a lunch, or plan on grabbing something at a restaurant, making sure to get your hand stamped so that you can return. The park is open from 8am to 5pm daily. There is so much beauty, life, and energy at this slice of heaven in the desert, so take advantage. Admission is \$29.95 for adults (13+), \$27.95 for seniors (65+), and \$19.95 for children.



Desert Chill, a snapshot of snow in February

Prefer to caravan? We will meet at Jack in the Box in Yucca Valley at 7am to caravan from the high desert. Carpooling is possible, but please reach out to us, or those you plan on driving with, directly to plan ahead. (The 7am meetup time may be adjusted to later in the morning, we will share that during the next regularly scheduled meeting.)

## **Gallery Displays**

### ***Previous Exhibit***

The January exhibit of "Amóre" was on display from January 12th to February 15th. This was a members only show, no fees associated to participate. We urge members to take advantage of the opportunity to share their work at the well visited Rainbow Stew. The submissions were lovely. We received a total of twenty-five (25) entries from ten (10) artists, making this a heartfelt showing of love, fit for Valentine's Day!

The February exhibit of "Celebration" is still showing - February 16th through March 15th. The celebration theme was open to imagery of joy, excitement, and pride. We took in nineteen (19) submissions from six (6) artists. These open themes do not place a limit on the age of creation, the medium, or the style. These exhibits are one way that we can thank our members and celebrate their talents.

Thanks to all who share their works with the public at Rainbow Stew.

### ***Upcoming Exhibit***

In March we show the Open Judged Photography show at Rainbow Stew. This exhibit is open to all

interested photographers. You need not be a member of Chaparral. We invite professionals or educators in the field to judge the open shows. Look out for the Facebook or Chamber of Commerce announcement to pass along to family and friends, or copy the paperwork directly from the Chaparral website. These open judged shows are perfect for hobbyists, students and professional photographers alike.

Intake for the Spring Photography show will be held at Rainbow Stew on the 16th and 17th of March - a Thursday from 4:30-6pm and a Friday from 12:30-2pm. As always, let's have fun! There are fees for this show, ribbons and prizes will be awarded for first, second, third, and honorable mention in three different categories - Creatures, Nature, Manmade. Best of Show and President's Award over the entire exhibit.

Information about upcoming shows *should* be available on the Chaparral Artists website by navigating to Publications, then Exhibits, and locating the show paperwork that you are interested in. Be sure to check in regularly for updates and if you notice something missing, reach out to an officer to notify us of the absence.

## **Artists of the Month**

We feature Chaparral members at both the Desert Hills Presbyterian Church in Yucca Valley AND the Center for Healthy Generations in Yucca Valley. We do not control when these venues open, so calling in advance to a visit is recommended.

The featured artist at the Center for Healthy Generations in February and into March is Julia

Terpening. Julia is sharing a beautiful selection of watercolor and pastel creations, each with a soft touch and a lovely eye for detail and calming color. Stop by on one of the open days for the Center (Monday, Wednesday, or Friday) and take a look at how Julia has represented the world.

The featured artist at Desert Hills Presbyterian Church during March is Victoria Sebanz. A multi-talented artist voicing truth and beauty and quirky wonder through a variety of mediums, Victoria's representation of the world is engulfing.

If you are interested in sharing your work at these locations, contact Jennifer Grandi for the Presbyterian Church and Raini Armstrong for the Center for Healthy Generations.

## **Art - Basin and Beyond**

If you know of an opportunity to show and sell work that we should announce, please contact us. Share announcements about YOUR current or upcoming show as well via email, and it can be placed in THIS issue of the Sketch. We want to celebrate one another's accomplishments so please reach out to one of our officers directly or email us at [ChaparralArtists@gmail.com](mailto:ChaparralArtists@gmail.com).

## **Chaparral Collage**

### ***Officers Needed***

We need a Vice President and there is still time to throw your hat in the ring! The Vice President must be able to take on the role of President, if absolutely necessary, but this is typically rare. The overarching focus more often centers on keeping track of local and

far events that may be interesting for our membership. Gallery openings, cultural events, college art presentations, zoos & gardens, paint-outs and photo opportunities, art or architectural tours. These are only examples of potential outings/events. Finding and coordinating these outings, announcing the possibilities, and then managing participants is quite the job, and if you already do this in your own life, you might be PERFECT for Vice President.

We are in need of an Education Outreach team and Public Relations to help us grow and continue to meet our goal of promoting arts culture and potential in the high desert through art related programs and demonstrations that stimulate the interests of youth and adult populations.

Volunteers considering any role in the organization will have help. We have members that have served in these roles who could lend advice. We have paperwork and history to share for inspiration. Some of what we do from day to day and month to month is on a reliable schedule, and hopefully it all results in an easier transition into the position.

Please keep us going strong by lending us your support. If you are considering the role of Vice President, Educational Outreach, Public Relations, or another role you might prefer, please contact us immediately so that we can add you to the March agenda and we can listen to your ideas. Email [chaparralartists@gmail.com](mailto:chaparralartists@gmail.com) or call 760-383-3005. Questions and comments welcome.

### ***Art Walk Experience***

The art world is active all around us and sometimes all it takes is to hop in the car one day to

take some of it in. An event called Artwalk in Indian Wells was held on the 4th weekend of February and some of the officers got together to visit. Weather was poor that weekend, so artists' attendance was lighter than planned, but the creativity on display was captivating all the same. Sculpture, painting, photography, jewelry, and more with an especially wonderful treat - a fellow Chaparral member, Jeni Bate showing her refractured watercolors and poetry. An artist out of Salton City, Jeni is active in both the festival show scene and the gallery scene. This requires such dedication to travel, not to mention the creative process itself.



Jeni Bate, refractured watercolor, Artwalk in Indian Wells - March 2023

Venturing out to festivals, art shows provide inspiration for any seeking a boost and you might just find a little something to brighten your day, be it the conversation gained with friends or the handcrafted beauty purchased. A win, win, so don't let those weekend art events slip by. Make a day of it and experience the art world around you.

### *Art Creation Workshops*

We have so many opportunities to create art here in the Morongo Basin from finding solace with our thoughts and taking advantage of plein air

opportunities OR seeking out group projects and art workshops.

If you have Thursday mornings free consider attending the **Open Studio Art Workshop** held at the Yucca Valley Community Center from 9am-11:30am. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$3, and are free to work on whatever they are interested in.

On Friday mornings a **Watercolor Workshop** is held at the Center for Healthy Generations in Yucca Valley. Classes follow a structured 'workshop' format where you work on your own watercolor projects, or follow the syllabus provided by the instructor. Participants bring their own watercolor materials and classes are \$5 per session. If you have questions about the class, contact Raini directly at 760-383-3005.

A new day is being added for Watercolor instruction! In April, **Watercolor Workshop** will also be held on Thursdays, 1-3pm at the Yucca Valley Community Center. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$5, and can work on their own watercolor projects or follow along with the instructor.

### *To Teach is to Learn*

by Raini Armstong

I teach watercolor, or rather it teaches me!

I did not plan on teaching, in fact, I had no such desire and because of this, I often put the emphasis on my class following a loose 'workshop' format rather than a strict syllabi format. I took over the watercolor class held at the Center for Healthy Generations back in 2017, and I can hardly believe how it has progressed.



I took over the course not because I had teaching experience, but rather I had watercolor painting experience. There is a difference between painting for fun and painting to educate or inspire. I cannot say if I adequately do either, but I certainly try!

I realized the difference soon after taking over the class when specific questions started rolling in. I could often share my own limitations, the struggles I had experienced, but the varied nature of requests soon pushed me toward avenues in watercolor that I had little experience with. This lack of experience in painting specific subjects initiated the need for practice on my part. And wow, has it been a wonderful journey.

As a painter, I admit to falling into a comfort zone - I paint what I enjoy and the subjects I love can be limited in scope. Joshua trees, night skies, sunrises and sunsets, landscapes are my favorite. However, as a 'stand-in' teacher I got questions of *how* to paint portraits, animals, buildings and fruit. I was asked about paint brand differences, paper, and brushes. Concepts like *when* and *why* to use a particular painting technique required a quick expansion of my abilities. It has been an interesting road, learning watercolor all over again so that I can help someone else to do the same!

It really all came down to this... practice. Getting out the brushes, the paints and paper, and learning all over again. *Teaching* watercolor has taught me more, forced me to practice more, than any other workshop that I have attended myself! For that, I am grateful to be 'teaching' watercolor!

## Ongoing Invitation to Share!

Members and friends of Chaparral Artists, it is never too late to share your artistic accomplishments, stories, poetry, art snapshots, or art advice that you have learned or devised along the way. Your voice belongs in this newsletter!

Please share art-related information by sending your thoughts to [ChaparralArtists@gmail.com](mailto:ChaparralArtists@gmail.com). For anyone that cannot access the internet, call Raini Armstrong at 760-383-3005 to arrange the conveyance of your submission via phone or in person.

Administrative Assembly 2023	
<b>President</b>	Victoria Sebanz
<b>Vice President</b>	Unfilled!
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nancy Miehle
<b>Membership</b>	Myrtle Cassell
<b>Secretary</b>	Raini Armstrong
<b>Advertising</b>	Rainbow Stew
<b>Historian</b>	Unfilled Position
<b>Newsletter</b>	Raini Armstrong
<b>Show Committee</b>	Raini Armstrong (chairperson), Board members
<b>Sunshine</b>	Julia Terpening
<b>Website, Social</b>	Raini Armstrong
<b>Publicity</b>	Unfilled!
<b>Hospitality</b>	Nancy McHenry

## Events Calendar

### March 11

Landers Craft Fair, 10am-2pm  
Bellfield Hall  
58380 Reche Rd, Yucca Valley

### March 13

Chaparral Artists General Meeting, 1-3pm  
Artist Home - Nancy Miehle  
57615 Sunnyslope Dr., Yucca Valley  
*Park on the street OR pack into the driveway*

**March 16 & 17**

Judged Spring Photography Show

OPEN TO ALL Photographers

*Drop-off Day 1*

**March 16 at 4:30-6pm**

*Drop-off Day 2*

**March 17 at 12:30-2pm**

Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

**March 29**

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

Caravan from Jack in the Box, Yucca Valley 7am (this time may be adjusted to later in the morning, we will share that during the meeting)

**April 6**

Thursday **Watercolor Workshop** Begins!

Yucca Valley Community Center - Ocotillo Room

57090 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley

**April 8**

Landers Craft Fair, 10am-2pm

Bellfield Hall

58380 Reche Rd, Yucca Valley

**April 10**

Chaparral Artists General Meeting, 1-3pm

Center for Healthy Generations

57121 Sunnyslope Dr., Yucca Valley

**April 13 & 14**

Judged Spring Fine Art Show

OPEN TO ALL Artists

*Drop-off Day 1*

**April 13 at 4:30-6pm**

*Drop-off Day 2*

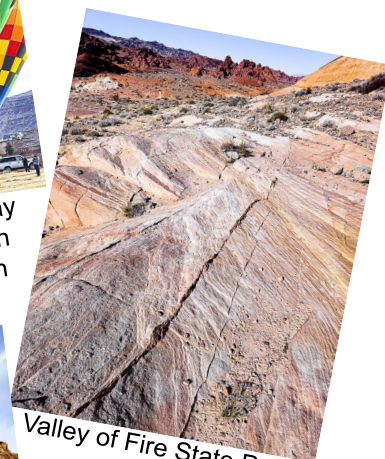
**April 14 at 12:30-2pm**

Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

The following photos summarize just some of the places I have been over the last couple months. Because of my travels, the Chaparral Sketch was delayed, resulting in the merging of February and March. Busy but fun!



Up Up and Away  
Hot Air Balloon  
Festival, Utah



Valley of Fire State Park,  
Nevada



Zion National Park,  
Utah



Coral Pink Sand Dunes State  
Park, Utah



Snow Canyon State Park, Utah