



Chaparral Sketch

January 2026

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Inside this issue

Presidents Palette	1
General Meetings	1
Board Meetings	2
Group Outings	2
Gallery Displays	3
Previous Exhibit - Creativity	3
Next Exhibit - "Anything Goes"	3
Artists of the Month	3
Creative Opportunities	4
Workshops and Paint-outs	4
Membership Dues	6
Chaparral Collage	6
Art as Desert Dialogue	6
Ongoing Invitation to Share!	7
Events Calendar	7

General Meetings

The December meeting was held on the 8th at the Joshua Tree Community Center. This was our annual holiday party, making it a special opportunity to celebrate with other creators and enjoy one last reason to celebrate with great people in 2025. Hot Coffee, spiced cider, hot cocoa, amazing cookies and treats and some wonderful dishes brought in by our amazon attending members and their family filled several tables. Ten (10) attended the meeting and unlike other general gatherings, we did not get around to many organization updates, but rather we jumped into enjoying the company of members and visitors, we ate cozy foods, we partook in a couple fun and lighthearted contests (greeting card & ornament), and we enjoyed a gift exchange. We thank all who participated to make this special. We hope to dedicate meetings in the future to more of this sort of feeling, where guests and members can chat about creative concepts and enjoy guest speakers and short hands on demonstrations, rather than focusing on too many organization updates.

Presidents Palette

Hello and Happy New Year to all—new members, returning members, and friends of Chaparral Artists!

As we step into 2026, we carry with us the reflections of the past year—the highs, the lessons, and the creative sparks that keep us moving forward. A new year invites fresh ideas, renewed hope, and the courage to imagine what's possible. We are excited for the exhibits, events, and collaborations ahead, and we warmly invite your voices to help shape what comes next. Your creativity, feedback, and participation are the heart of this organization. Here's to a year filled with connection, inspiration, and art that continues to grow and surprise us all.

Our NEXT meeting is on January 12, 2026 at the Joshua Tree Community Center in Joshua Tree. We hope to start out strong with plenty of visitors and returning members. Remember that you can renew your membership during the meeting, if you have not already done so! Come by to pick up your show

schedule for Rainbow Stew, sign up to display your creations at AquaFit or Desert Hills Presbyterian Church in Yucca Valley, or just to hang out for a couple of hours.

Board Meetings

Our Board meetings are held on the same day as our general meetings to keep things simple. The January 12 meeting will be at 11:30 AM, also at the Joshua Tree Community Center. Remember that members are invited to join these meetings!

Group Outings

We took a break from group outings during the holiday seasons across November and December, and no outing was officially held in October because of the Art Tours, though many of us were busy taking in the beauty visiting and supporting fellow creators as we ventured out together. Yet we hope you are interested in starting up the group excursions in the January and through the next few months while weather is especially amenable for short travel.

Chaparral Artists are considering a trip to the Southwest Arts Festival, held at the Empire Polo Club in Indio. The festival features a diverse selection of traditional, contemporary, and abstract artwork, along with handcrafted jewelry, pottery, glass, and more.

Live music, scenic mountain views, and the opportunity to connect with talented artists draw us to this particular annual event. The festival takes place January 23–25 (81800 Avenue 51, Indio). Hours are 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission includes

parking and is \$25 for general admission and \$22 for seniors ages 55 and over. Contact us ASAP if you are interested. FYI, Saturdays and Sundays are typically best for those that work on Fridays. If enough are interested, we can carpool or caravan.

If you take part in—or have already experienced—any memorable outings, please share them with us! We'd love to include your recommendations in the next edition of THIS newsletter for anyone interested.

Remember to share your trip recommendations and requests. The rest of the year and into the next is open to suggestions! ChaparralArtists@gmail.com

Gallery Displays

Previous Exhibit - Creativity

In December, we held our judged exhibit, an all mediums combined show open to submissions from anyone. The exhibit is on display at Rainbow Stew in Yucca Valley. Featuring eighteen (18) entries from six (6) creators, the exhibit is on display between December 13, 2025 and January 14, 2026. It turned out to be another smaller judged show and because of that, the entire show was judged as a single category. Though we try to arrange entries into multiple categories, we always give the invited judge the option to treat the show as hung in categories OR as a single group of submissions if they choose.

Our judge, Wendy Sherman, Wendy Sherman is a curator, arts manager, and graphic artist. She has managed galleries in Pasadena and Los Angeles's Chinatown Arts District and has curated exhibitions throughout Los Angeles and Orange County since

2014. Her projects include the traveling exhibition Hearsay: Artists Reveal Urban Legends, featuring 37 artists. Wendy has served on several arts boards and holds a BFA from CalArts and an MFA from CSU Fullerton.

Congratulations to the artists that placed!

1st - "Desert Life" by Raini Armstrong

2nd - "Rousseau Leaves" by Victoria Sebanz

3rd - "Big Morongo Canyon Preserve!" by Krista Wargo

HM - "Desert, Earth, & Sky" by Linda Chollar

HM - "Finding Peace" by Donna Webb

HM - "Dance of the Night" by Linda Chollar

HM - "Lunar Calm Against Chaos" by Raini Armstrong

BEST OF SHOW

"Sweeping Embrace" by Raini Armstrong

Next Exhibit - "Anything Goes"

This January, we invite members to submit up to five pieces - **Anything Goes** celebrates artistic freedom and personal expression. This exhibit invites members to share any work they wish—from their latest creations to longtime favorite pieces. Artists are encouraged to bring work that speaks to their unique style and creative voice, regardless of when it was made. Whether experimental, traditional, bold, or subtle, this showcase is about individuality, passion, and the joy of creating and sharing art.

Artwork intake will take place at Rainbow Stew on Thursday, January 15, from 4:30 to 6:00 pm, and Friday, January 16, from 12:30 to 2:00 pm.

The reception will be held on Saturday, January 17, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM during the Third Saturday Old Town Artwalk. Everyone is invited, and we especially encourage exhibit participants and their

friends to the reception because we are celebrating you and your works.

Information about upcoming shows can be found on the Chaparral Artists website. Navigate to **Publications**, then **Exhibits**, and locate the show paperwork you're interested in. Be sure to check back regularly for updates. If you notice any missing information, please contact an officer to let us know.

Artists of the Month

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

During December 2025 through January 2026, Desert Hills Presbyterian Church in Yucca Valley is pleased to feature the artwork of **Linda Chollar**. Linda's work is richly textured and deeply sensory, drawing inspiration from nature's quiet power—from the sands beneath our toes to the swirling dust and expansive skies above. Her pieces often incorporate layered surfaces and subtle dimensional elements, inviting viewers to slow down, look closely, and experience a sense of grounding and calm. The palette and textures evoke meditation, connection, and the natural rhythms of the earth. We invite you to stop by sometime in January to experience her work before it moves on to its next exhibit.

On display until the end of January, **Nancy Miehle** is showcasing her art at AquaFit. Nancy presents a display featuring large oil paintings inspired by the desert and the ocean. Her work

highlights gentle landscapes and friendly animal subjects, brought to life with confident brushstrokes. While Nancy works in several mediums, this exhibit focuses on her oil paintings, where her style feels both soft and expressive. Her warm, inviting color palette reflects the beauty of our surrounding regional home. Be sure to stop by and enjoy her latest work.

If YOU are interested in sharing your work at these locations, contact Raini Armstrong to select an available month.

Creative Opportunities

Workshops and Paint-outs

There are numerous chances to make art in the Morongo Basin, whether by enjoying solitude, joining plein air sessions and writing opportunities, or participating in group projects, creative workshops, photography trips, and writers' groups.

✨ Special LIMITED OFFER - We're excited to invite you to a special, hands-on clay workshop led by **Nancy McHenry**, hosted in her home studio. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore clay in a supportive setting—and space is *very limited*.

Workshop Dates:

- Saturday, January 17, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- Saturday, January 24, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Over the course of two Saturdays, participants will create a small collection of original clay pieces from start to finish. On the first day, each student will receive clay to roll out, cut into shapes using a variety of tools, and form up to four unique pieces. Stamps and mini-rollers will be used to add texture and personal detail.

Upcoming 2-Day Clay Art Workshop

Instructor: Nancy McHenry

Location: Nancy's Home Studio

Join us for a hands-on, two-day workshop where you'll create your own small clay artworks from start to finish!

Space is limited to just 10 participants, so be sure to reserve your spot soon.

Workshop Dates:

- Saturday, January 17
11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- Saturday, January 24
11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

What to Expect:

On the first day, each student will receive a piece of clay and learn to roll it flat, cut out shapes using various tools, and create up to four unique pieces. You'll then use stamps or mini-rollers to add texture and detail.

During the second session, you'll paint and complete your pieces in preparation for the final glaze



Only 10 spots are available—sign up soon to secure your place in this fun and creative workshop!

The second session will focus on painting and finishing your work in preparation for glazing. Nancy will glaze and fire all completed pieces and bring them to the February meeting for pickup.

Only 10 spots are available, making this a rare and special opportunity to learn and create in a small group. We encourage you to sign up quickly to secure your place!

Mil-Tree Writers Group meets Monday evenings, online via Zoom, 7-9pm. This writing group welcomes individuals of all writing levels and fosters a relaxed and friendly environment. The primary expectation is that members are open to providing feedback on their peers' writing, but all are

encouraged to share their own written work as well. Interested in joining? Contact info@mil-tree.org and ask questions OR signup.

Open Arts & Crafts Workshops are offered at the Yucca Valley Community Center on Thursday mornings, 10-12:30pm. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$3, and are able to work on whatever they are interested in.

Watercolor Workshops are offered at the Yucca Valley Community Center most Thursday afternoons, 1-3pm. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$5, and can work on their own watercolor projects or follow along with the instructor.

Watercolor Workshops are offered at the AquaFit in Yucca Valley most Friday mornings, 9-11am. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$10, and can work on their own watercolor projects or follow along with the instructor. *Visit instagram @watercolor.yv or Facebook by searching for watercolor.yv or contact Raini directly to confirm workshop days, as she often travels!!*

Plein Air meetups, organized by Krista Wargo, happen in the desert almost every month and are listed on the Chaparral calendar once confirmed. Participants bring their own art supplies, prepare for weather changes, and bring enough food and water for painting outdoors. Locations chosen by Krista have basic amenities like restrooms, but you need to bring everything else you need.

Contact Krista directly if you plan to attend, so she knows to expect you.

Membership Dues

Join Chaparral Artists in 2026 for another year of creativity and camaraderie! Membership includes:

- 8-9 FREE themed shows @ Rainbow Stew
- Discounted fees on 3-4 public judged shows
- Two featured artist spaces - FREE monthly ops to show your creations
- 10 FREE short demos during meetings annually
- Group outings, group popups, and group events

Renew your membership in person by swinging by Rainbow Stew during our January intake, send in application/fee via post (P.O. Box 2202, Joshua Tree, CA 92252) or online on the website! \$25 per individual, \$35 per couple.

Chaparral Collage

Art as Desert Dialogue, an invitation to join!

Living and creating in the Hi Desert invites us into a unique relationship with 'place'. The land speaks through bold light, long shadows, resilient plant life, and wide-open quiet — offering endless inspiration for those willing to observe closely. For Chaparral Artists, the desert is not just scenery; it is an active creative partner that shapes our ideas, processes, and stories.

Art-making in this environment encourages patience, adaptability, and reflection. The desert reminds us that beauty often emerges slowly and unexpectedly. Our members respond to this rhythm through painting, photography, fiber, sculpture, mixed media, and more, translating personal experiences of

the land into visual language that is both intimate and universal.

Community remains at the heart of Chaparral Artists. Through exhibits, pop-up events, workshops, and shared creative experiences, artists of all backgrounds come together to exchange ideas, learn new approaches, and support one another's growth. These connections strengthen not only individual practices but the creative fabric of our region as a whole.

By sharing desert-inspired work with the public, Chaparral Artists helps foster a deeper appreciation for the environment we call home. Each piece becomes an invitation — to slow down, look closer, and engage with the land and the people who interpret it. In this way, art becomes a bridge between artist, community, and place, celebrating the High Desert's enduring influence on creativity.

Are you an artist inspired by place and process?

Chaparral Artists welcomes creators of all experience levels working in a wide range of mediums. Join us for upcoming exhibits, workshops, and events, and share your unique perspective with a supportive and engaged community by becoming a member. If you are *already* a member, keep up the great work! Keep creating, learning, inspiring, and expanding.

Ongoing Invitation to Share!

Members and friends of Chaparral Artists, it's never too late to share your artistic accomplishments, stories, poetry, art snapshots, or the valuable advice you've learned or devised along the way. Just like the piece above, your insights can help inspire and

support your fellow colleagues. Your voice belongs in this newsletter!

We aim to continue featuring fun and concise write-ups, overviews, and summaries about various creative art forms. If you have insights to share on topics like Abstract Art, Sculpture, Music, Dance, Writing, Theatre, or any other form of creativity, we encourage you to lend YOUR voice to this publication.

Worried about length or grammatical correctness? Don't be! Your submission will be reviewed and formatted to fit seamlessly into the newsletter, just like the article above. You'll also receive proper credit. Whether it's a short piece of advice or a quick update, we want to hear from you!

Please share art-related information by sending your thoughts to 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.

Events Calendar

January 3

29 Palms Art Gallery Reception, 4-6pm
74055 Cottonwood Drive, Twentynine Palms

January 12

Chaparral Artists - General Meeting, 1-3pm
Joshua Tree Community Center, 6171 Sunburst St, Joshua Tree

January 15 & 16

Chaparral Artists - "Anything Goes"
Themed Members Exhibit

Drop-off Day 1

January 15 at 4:30-6pm

Drop-off Day 2

January 16 at 12:30-2pm

Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

January 17

Chaparral Artists Reception
"Anything Goes" members exhibit, 4-6pm
Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

January

Chaparral Featured Artist - Nancy Miehle
AquaFit, 57121 Sunnyslope Dr., Yucca Valley

January

Chaparral Featured Artist - Linda Chollar
Desert Hills Presbyterian Church
56750 Mountain View Trail, Yucca Valley

January

Kathy Miller displaying her creations!
Opening Reception, 2-5pm
Glass Outhouse Art Gallery
77575 29 Palms Hwy, Twentynine Palms



Administrative Assembly 2026	
President	Raini Armstrong
Vice President	Meilani MacDonald
Treasurer	Nancy Miehle
Membership	Myrtle Cassell
Secretary	Krista Wargo
Advertising	Rainbow Stew
Historian	Victoria Sebanz
Newsletter	Raini Armstrong
Shows Committee	Raini + available Board members
Sunshine	Julia Terpening
Communication (Email, Website, Socials)	Raini + Myrtle + Meilani
Publicity	<i>Volunteer NEEDED!</i>
Hospitality	<i>Volunteer NEEDED!</i>

