



Chaparral Sketch

April 2026

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Presidents Palette

ALL HANDS ON DECK, PLEASE!

I'll be away for the April events—including meetings, intake, and the reception—due to travel to Washington, D.C. (exciting and educational, but admittedly not the best timing!).

That means we'll need some extra support, especially for our April exhibit, the judged show "Creative Arts." I'm asking everyone to pitch in where they can. We could really use helping hands during Thursday and Friday intake to:

Write submission cards, ensure forms are completed, and collect entry payments..... If you're able, please also stop by the reception to support the exhibit and help welcome and inform visitors.

Can you step in to help keep April running smoothly while I'm away? Please share your availability via email or phone—I truly appreciate it!

General Meetings

The March meeting was held on the 9th at the Joshua Tree Community Center, with twelve (12) in attendance. We moved briskly through updates, shared member announcements, and distributed Chaparral Artists schedules to any that needed them. Our show-n-tell portion highlighted a few pieces brought in by Jenifer Palmer-Lacy, Myrtle Cassell, and Raini Armstrong.

We were pleased to welcome members of the Rock Hunt Morongo Basin to our Monday meeting, where they shared insight into their community-based activity.

Our visitors came well-prepared, bringing pre-painted rocks as examples, as well as stones that had been pre-coated with a base medium for members to try. They also provided the acrylic paint pens they typically use. While only a few members chose to participate in painting during the meeting, the focus

At a Glance Reminders

Outing - Sunnylands "Slow Art Day"

Saturday, April 4

*Jack in the Box, Yucca Valley Meetup (8am)
Spaghetti Western, Morongo Valley Meetup (8:30am)
Sunnylands Center & Gardens (9ish)*

General Meeting

Monday, April 13 (1pm)

Judged Exhibit - Creative Arts

Rainbow Stew

Thursday, April 16 (4:30-6pm) Intake Day 1

Friday, April 17 (12:30-2:30pm) Intake Day 2

Saturday, April 18 (4-6pm) Reception

of the visit centered on the meaning behind the project.

The group introduced the concept of “kindness rocks”—decorated stones that are left in public places for others to find. These rocks often travel surprising distances, as each person who discovers one may choose to keep it for a time before re-hiding it in a new location. In many cases, finders share their discoveries online, allowing the original artist to follow the rock’s journey and see how it continues to connect people.

This simple but meaningful activity has been embraced by communities across the country, and it was a pleasure to connect with a local group participating in this shared effort. If you happen to find a kindness rock, you can post it on Facebook or Instagram through Rock Hunt Morongo Basin—whether you choose to keep it or hide it again is entirely up to you.

We look forward to the possibility of collaborating with this group in the future. If you are interested, please let us know, and we will organize a member painting event.

[Our next meeting is April 13 at the Joshua Tree Community Center. We hope to see you there!](#)

Board Meetings

Our Board meetings are held on the same day as our general meetings to keep things simple. The April 13 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

March Review: Moorten Botanical Garden

If you can steal away for a bit while visiting Palm Springs, a stop at Moorten Botanical Garden is well worth your time. Steeped in history yet wonderfully

approachable, the garden offers an unencumbered journey through a thoughtfully curated cactus and desert plant collection.

Our March Chaparral Artists outing was dedicated to this charming gem on a Monday, March 16th, with a planned 10am visit. While only two people attended, humor ensued, as we were meeting up at the venue and due to a later arrival by me—we managed to miss each other by just a few minutes. Still, the spirit of the outing remains, and it’s a location well worth experiencing, whether together or in quiet solitude.

The drive alone is part of the experience. Passing through Palm Springs, you’re treated to its iconic mid-century modern charm—clean lines, bold design, and a legacy shaped by its rise as a hub for entertainment, relaxation, and even a touch of Hollywood politics. It’s a place where history and style quietly coexist.

As temperatures climb quickly this season, outings like this may become fewer and farther between. But if you find yourself nearby, consider slipping in for a late morning visit. For just a few dollars and a little time, you’ll discover something special. As desert dwellers, we are surrounded by desert flora in our everyday lives, yet seeing it presented with such care and intention offers a fresh appreciation for the mini-forests of cacti possible..

And for those cultivating their own cactus gardens, the nursery is a hidden gem—filled with beautiful, hardy specimens already acclimated to life in our striking, sometimes unpredictable desert environment.

April Plan: Slow Art Day at Sunnylands

Join us for a relaxing spring outing to Sunnylands Center & Gardens on Saturday, April 4 • 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM as they celebrate Slow Art Day with live portrait painting demonstrations by artists from the

California Art Club Portrait Society. This worldwide event encourages visitors to slow down and truly observe art while enjoying the peaceful desert gardens. Free admission and parking. All ages welcome

Carpool Options:

- 8:00 AM departure: Jack in the Box, Yucca Valley
- 8:30 AM departure: Spaghetti Western, Morongo Valley

Bring comfortable walking shoes, sun protection, and a sketchbook if you'd like to capture inspiration from the gardens. Join us for a refreshing day of art, nature, and good company.

Sunnylands Center & Gardens is a cultural and historic desert estate known for its peaceful gardens and community programs focused on art, nature, and learning. The gardens are designed to highlight the beauty of the desert landscape and the nearby San Jacinto Mountains, making it an inspiring location for sketching, painting, photography, or simply enjoying the scenery.

Visitors often come to walk the garden paths, explore desert plants, and participate in art-focused programs, workshops, and community events throughout the year.

What is Slow Art Day?

Slow Art Day is an international event celebrated in museums and galleries around the world. It encourages visitors to spend 5–10 minutes observing just a few artworks, rather than rushing through entire exhibitions. The goal is to deepen the experience of art and spark meaningful conversations and personal discoveries.

The movement began in 2010 and now involves over 1,500 museums and art spaces worldwide, all promoting the simple idea that slowing down helps people connect more deeply with art.

If you've taken part in—or already experienced—any memorable outings, we'd also love

to hear about those. Your recommendations may be featured in an upcoming newsletter to inspire others.

The rest of this year—and into next—is open to suggestions. Let's plan something wonderful together!

Gallery Displays

Previous Exhibit - "Creative Photography"

In March, we invited our photographers to share their work in the "Creative Photography" exhibit at Rainbow Stew. The show featured 16 entries from 5 artists and was on display from mid-March through mid-April, with a reception held during the Third Saturday Old Town Artwalk.

Though smaller than usual, the exhibit offered a meaningful experience. We had the pleasure of working with judge Bob Stevens, who generously provided thoughtful comments on every piece—something truly appreciated by all participants.

One of the standout qualities of this show was the creative perspective of the artists. Alongside beautiful landscapes and familiar scenes, many works explored unusual angles and quirky moments, offering fresh, slightly off-center views of the world. It was a wonderful reminder of how photography can shift our perspective and spark curiosity.

We remain committed to supporting our members and look forward to seeing even more participation in future photography exhibits.

Next Exhibit - "Creative Arts"

We invite you to take part in our OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Creative Arts Exhibit, a friendly competition open to all creators. This showcase features three categories: Nature, Creatures, and Man-Made.

Please submit only works that have not previously received an award at Chaparral. We define "arts"

broadly to include painting, mixed media, digital illustration, and digital compositions.

Artwork intake will take place at Rainbow Stew on Thursday, April 16, from 4:30 to 6:00 pm, and Friday, April 17, from 12:30 to 2:00 pm.

The reception will be held on Saturday, April 18 (4-6pm), coinciding with the Third Saturday Old Town Artwalk!

We're honored to support this continuing community art initiative and help create a fun day or evening exploring Yucca Valley's galleries. While Joshua Tree hosts events on the 2nd Saturday and 29 Palms on the 1st Saturdays, Old Town Yucca Valley galleries are featured on the 3rd Saturday!

Everyone is welcome! Artists, bring your friends and celebrate your work. Stop by Rainbow Stew as you explore Old Town Yucca Valley and Pioneertown.

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.

Nancy Miehle continued to share her stained glass until March 25th AND she sold some of her art during the open invitation to introduce oneself during a Sunday after service, when attendees often have lunch. Congratulations, Nancy!

Myrtle Cassell is showing her art through April at the Desert Hills Presbyterian Church.

Victoria Sebanz is sharing a delightfully diverse collection of works from photography to paints and ink works, and gorgeous mixed media for the remainder of March and through April at the Aquafit Activity Center.

Be sure to visit these displays while you still can, and consider being the next artist to step forward for MAY, or JUNE! During the Summer we feature a few pieces from hopefully all of our members - a sign up sheet will be available during the May and June General meetings. 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

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.

Juniper Clay offers 'Clayground' for all interested in the very tactile medium of clay. Clayground is a monthly event hosted by Juniper Clay Shop on the first Sunday of each month. Created as a welcoming introduction to ceramic arts, the event provides each participant with 2 pounds of clay to play with. If you're happy with what you have created, they will fire and glaze it for you (service included in the workshop price). You must sign up in advance as spots fill fast, visit their website for details <https://juniperclayshop.com/> For only \$26.94 per person, you get 2 pounds of clay and up to 4 hours of fun. No refunds will be issued for Clayground events! Hours are from 1pm to 5pm with a last call at 4pm. Don't forget to wear your messy clothes or bring an apron!

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. February and March 2026 are dedicated to Animal Portraits!

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. February and March 2026 are dedicated to Animal Portraits!

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. Scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Friday, they will be listed on the Chaparral calendar online. 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.

Chaparral Collage

Call to Artists: Honoring Brent Lewis

Chaparral Artists invites members to create work inspired by the sounds, rhythms, and spirit of Brent Lewis. This call remains open to all creative interpretations—paintings, drawings, and photographic montages that reflect your personal response to his music.

Known for his expressive, rhythm-driven style, Brent's music blends improvisation, mood, and layered percussion—offering rich inspiration for abstract, intuitive, and emotionally driven work.

Dates are getting closer, so now is the time to start creating—or finish up those pieces already in progress. This one-day celebration is planned to coincide with a 3rd Saturday HDA reception, likely in July.

More details to come—but for now, keep listening, stay inspired, and let the music lead.

Riverside County Fair Fun

The Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival was held February 13–March 2, 2026. The creative contests were a delight to experience. Entries from across the region showcased an impressive range of talent, with particularly striking photography, craft, and fine art sections that engaged the senses and highlighted the depth of creative expression on display.

The youth submissions were especially vibrant, filled with bold color choices, strong emotion, and influences from current cartoon and pop culture trends—offering a gentle reminder of how entertainment and culture work into and shape artistic voices.

It was a joy to attend and take in such a diverse and inspiring exhibition. We're also proud to share that several Chaparral Artist members participated and each received ribbons in their respective categories. Congratulations to Otter Smith, Manny Martinez, and Raini Armstrong!

Wondrous Waste is on Display!

The Wondrous Waste reception will be held on March 28th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.—and you won't want to miss it! This year's exhibition is the Hi-Desert Nature Museum's 20th annual recycled art show running March 21 – May 9 and we are delighted to share that several Chaparral artists submitted works this year! As always, this exhibit is a vibrant celebration of creativity and inspiration. Discover imaginative ways everyday discarded materials are

transformed into art—from wildly whimsical cardboard creations to beautifully repurposed furniture forming the building blocks of a replica semi-truck. The 2026 show is truly something special!

The exhibit will remain on display for several weeks giving visitors plenty of time to experience it during regular business hours at the High Desert Nature Museum.

Be sure to look for works by Chaparral members Raini Armstrong, Myrtle Cassell, Sharon Davis, Manny Martinez, Jenifer Palmer-Lacy, Victoria Sabanz, Otter Smith, and Tami Wood, along with Chaparral friends Audrey Green and Eddie Tucker.

Ongoing Invitation to Share!

Share your artistic accomplishments, stories, poetry, snapshots, lessons learned, or creative advice. Short and simple is perfect. Your voice can inspire fellow artists, and it belongs in this newsletter.

We welcome brief write-ups on any creative form — painting, abstract art, sculpture, music, dance, writing, theatre, and more.

Worried about length or grammar? Don't be. We'll review, format, and make sure you're properly credited. Send submissions to our email or call Raini Armstrong at 760-383-3005 to arrange sharing by phone or in person.

Events Calendar - 2026

March 28

Wondrous Waste Reception, 4-8pm
Hi-Desert Nature Museum, 74055 Cottonwood Drive, 29 Palms

April 4

Chaparral Artists Outing - Sunnylands "Slow Art Day"
Those interested in Carpooling - TELL US YOU ARE COMING FIRST, then meet up at 8am outside Jack in the Box, or 8:30am outside Spaghetti Western
Jack in the Box, 57930 29 Palms Hwy, Yucca Valley
Spaghetti Western, 50048 29 Palms Hwy, Morongo Valley

April 4

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

April 11

SpringFest Arts & Crafts, 10-5pm
Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway, YV

April 11

Dessert Soiree, Charity Benefit Party & Auction, 6pm
 Proceeds to Benefit Animal Action League! \$45 tickets online
Yucca Valley Community Center, 57090 29 Palms Hwy, YV

April 12

Arts & Crafts Faire, 10-3pm
29 Palms Art Gallery, 74055 Cottonwood Drive, 29 Palms

April 13

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

April 16 & 17

Chaparral Artists - "Creative Arts"
Judged OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Exhibit
Drop-off Day 1 - April 16 at 4:30-6pm
Drop-off Day 2 - April 17 at 12:30-2pm
Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway, YV

April 18

Chaparral Artists Reception
"Creative Arts" judged exhibit, 4-6pm
Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway, YV

April 18

Hi-Desert Artists Reception
 Multiple exhibits celebrated, 5-7pm
HDA, 55635 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley

May 2

75th Diamond Jubilee fundraiser, 5-8pm
 Tickets online at the 29 Palms Gallery website!
29 Art Gallery, 74055 Cottonwood Drive, Twentynine Palms

Chaparral Artists, a non-profit organization, is one of the oldest artists groups in the Morongo Basin. Its mission is simple, to promote arts and culture in the Hi-Desert through accessible, affordable, friendly programs and demonstrations that inspire and educate.

Chaparral Artists

P.O. Box 2202 | Joshua Tree, CA 92252

- Email** ChaparralArtists@gmail.com
- Website** www.chaparralartists.com
- Facebook** facebook.com/ChaparralArtists
- Instagram** instagram.com/chaparralartists
- Bluesky** chaparralartists.bsky.social
- YouTube** youtube.com/@ChaparralArtists

Administrative Assembly 2026

President	Raini Armstrong
Vice President	Volunteer NEEDED (Meilani MacDonald)
Treasurer	Nancy Miehle
Membership	Myrtle Cassell
Secretary	Krista Wargo
Marketing 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>All members needed to talk up Chaparral!</i>
Hospitality	Donna Webb