



Chaparral Sketch

July 2026

Volume XVII, Issue 07

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Presidents Palette

Chaparral Artists is currently seeking a volunteer to serve as Vice President—a position that is presently vacant.

The Vice President's primary responsibility is to step in when the President is unavailable. While I do my best to schedule travel around our meetings, that is not always possible, so it is important to have someone ready to keep things running smoothly when needed.

The role can be as active or as relaxed as you choose, making it a wonderful opportunity for anyone who has considered becoming more involved with the organization. If you are interested or simply have questions, please reach out to us at info@chaparralartists.com. We'd be happy to tell you more about the position.

General Meetings

Our June 8 General Meeting was held at HDA in Yucca Valley, with only a handful of members and guests in attendance.

The smaller-than-usual turnout was likely due in part to an incorrect meeting location remaining on our website graphic, which still listed the Community Center. Combined with late meeting reminders, many members may not have realized that June was our final meeting before our summer break. Several members also shared that they already had other commitments that day, further contributing to the lighter attendance.

Despite the smaller gathering, we were treated to a delightful performance by Jenifer Palmer-Lacy, whose music brought smiles to everyone in the room. Thank you, Jenifer, for generously sharing your talent with us!

We do not meet in July or August!

Our NEXT General Meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, at Hi-Desert Artists (HDA).

Let's kick off the fall season together! Bring your recommendations, your summer art adventures, new ideas, and stories to share with fellow artists. We'll cover the latest Chaparral Artists updates, enjoy a possible guest speaker, and, time permitting, spend a few minutes creating together.

Our hands-on activity will feature bookmark-sized paper for quick sketches, doodles, patterns, or whatever inspires you. Even the simplest creative exercise has a way of sparking new ideas and reminding us why we make art in the first place.

We hope you'll join us after our two-month summer break. We can't wait to see what you've been creating!

Board Meetings

Our Board meetings are held on the same day as our general meetings to keep things simple. The September 14 meeting will be at 11:30 AM, also at HDA in Yucca Valley. Remember that members are invited to join these meetings as long as they don't mind listening to a few things twice!

Group Outings

We are on a break from group outings for the summer as well, but we still want to hear from YOU about places you would love to go or attend with a few artistic friends along the way. Please get a hold of us via email or phone to put in your recommendations!

Gallery Displays

Previous Exhibit - "Looking DOWN"

Our members shifted their perspective for our latest themed exhibit, Looking DOWN, on display at Rainbow Stew from mid-June through mid-July. The exhibit features 24 entries by 7 participating artists, each exploring the theme in a unique and thoughtful way.

As with many themed exhibits, the interpretations proved wonderfully diverse. Some artists embraced the theme with only a subtle downward shift in perspective, while others directed their attention squarely at the world beneath our feet—capturing intricate shadows, desert textures, tiny plants, insects, stones, and the often-overlooked details of life along the ground.

That variety is one of the joys of themed exhibitions. A simple prompt can inspire entirely different ideas, reminding us that there is rarely only

one way to see the world. Whether looking just beyond the horizon or straight down at the smallest details, each artist found a personal way to respond to the theme.

We hope visitors enjoy discovering these different perspectives and perhaps leave inspired to pause, look down, and notice something beautiful they might otherwise have passed by.

Next Exhibit - "Shape & Mood"

Our next themed exhibit invites artists to explore the relationship between design and emotion through Shape & Mood.

Whether using bold geometric forms, flowing organic lines, expressive color, or thoughtful composition, artists are encouraged to create works that evoke feeling. From peaceful and contemplative to energetic or dramatic, this theme celebrates the many ways visual elements communicate emotion. Artwork may be abstract, representational, or conceptual, and all artistic mediums are welcome.

Artwork Intake:

Thursday, July 16 (4:30–6pm)

Friday, July 17 (12:30–2:00pm)

Opening Reception:

Saturday, July 18 (4–6:00pm)

The exhibit will remain on display for one month at Rainbow Stew in Yucca Valley.

As always, participation is open to all current Chaparral Artists members. We look forward to seeing the many creative interpretations of this quirky theme!

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

Artists of the Month

We are currently seeking Chaparral members who would like to showcase up to three pieces at either or both of our featured artist venues for the SUMMER GROUP SHOWS. Each exhibit will remain on display for approximately two months, and participation is free. Intake is coming up FAST:

Desert Hills Presbyterian Church

Thursday, July 2 (11:00 am–12:00 pm)

AquaFit Activity Center

Friday, July 3 (11:00 am–12:00 pm)

If you plan to show at both locations, simply bring all of your artwork to Desert Hills Presbyterian Church on Thursday. We will transport and install your AquaFit selections the following day for your convenience.

There is no theme for these Featured Artist opportunities—this is a chance to share the work that best represents you. Bring in recently created pieces and/or past favorites. All mediums are welcome, as long as work is properly prepared for hanging and display-ready.

These are wonderful opportunities to share your artwork with the community and connect with fellow artists and visitors. We encourage you to take part and let your work be seen.

We do not control when these venues open, so if you are bringing you friends in to see the exhibit, please call ahead to make sure the location will be open. 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.

Open Arts & Crafts Workshops are offered at the Yucca Valley Community Center bi-weekly on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 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. April and May 2026 are dedicated to Landscapes!

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. April and May 2026 are dedicated to Landscapes!

FYI, The SUMMER months of July and August will be sporadically offered! Please visit [@watercolor.yv](https://www.instagram.com/watercolor.yv) or Facebook by searching for [watercolor.yv](https://www.facebook.com/watercolor.yv) or contact Raini directly to confirm workshop days, as she has a messy couple months ahead!!

Plein Air meetups, organized by Krista Wargo, happen in the desert almost every month. Scheduled bi-weekly for as long as the weather permits, 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 and/or to receive her announcement emails.

Chaparral Collage

Creativity inspired by Brent Lewis Reminder

Just Under Two Weeks Until Intake!

There's still time to finish your piece for our Brent Lewis-inspired exhibit, where artists are invited to create while listening to Brent's music. If you haven't started yet, now is the perfect time to set aside a quiet hour, press play, and simply listen.

Don't worry about illustrating the music. Instead, let its rhythm, emotion, or energy influence your colors, shapes, marks, and composition. Every artist hears something different, and that's exactly what makes this exhibit so exciting. There is no right or wrong interpretation—only your own creative response.

Trust the process, experiment, and let the music take you somewhere unexpected. We can't wait to see the incredible variety of work this unique challenge inspires.

Artwork Intake: Tuesday, July 14 (4–6pm) AND Thursday, July 16 (11am–2pm)

Opening Reception: Friday, July 17 (6–8pm)

We look forward to seeing you—and your music-inspired creations!

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.

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

Events Calendar - July 2026

July 4

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

July 13

NO MEETING IN JULY - SUMMER BREAK!

July 16 & 17

Chaparral Artists - "Shapes & Mood"
Members only Exhibit

Drop-off Day 1 - July 16 at 4:30-6pm

Drop-off Day 2 - July 17 at 12:30-2pm

Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway, YV

July 18

Chaparral Artists Reception
"Shapes & Mood", 4-6pm

Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway, YV

July 14 & 16

Brent Lewis Celebration art intake!

Drop-off Day 1 - July 14 at 4-6pm

Drop-off Day 2 - July 16 at 11am-2pm

HDA, 55635 29 Palms Highway, YV

July 17

Brent Lewis Celebration! 6-8pm

HDA, 55635 29 Palms Highway, YV

July 18

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

Administrative Assembly 2026

President	Raini Armstrong
Vice President	Volunteer NEEDED
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