



# Desert Wash

Nevada Watercolor Society Newsletter

September 2020

September Meeting Will Be Virtual Due to Coronavirus  
Next Board Meeting Date: September 3rd at 1 pm Via Zoom

## President's Message



I just finished reviewing the **President's Message** from the May newsletter. Back then, we were full of optimism about our ability to reconvene, in person, in September. Who would have guessed that in September 2020 so little would have changed? The good news is that we are now prepared to offer alternative means to provide you with informative and entertaining programs. As recently announced, our monthly general meeting will be in virtual format until further notice. You have my promise that we will meet again in-person as soon as it is practical and safe to do so.

For our **September 9** meeting, we are excited to welcome **Tesia Blackburn** from **Golden Artist Colors** who will demonstrate a variety of acrylic & watercolor paints and mediums. Golden has generously contributed goodie bags containing sample sizes of the demonstration products. To help you follow along with the demonstration, the goodie bags will be available for pick up on **Tuesday, September 8, from 10:30 to 12 noon** in front of the Spanish Oaks Clubhouse. Our supply is limited (45 bags), so we hope those that pick up a bag will also be watching the demonstration. If you intend to pick up a bag for someone else, please let us know the recipient's name at the time of pick up.

Monitor your email for your special invitation to the virtual meeting. The email will be sent within a few days of September 9. The meeting will be presented in webinar style, i.e. only the presenter and a moderator will appear on screen so you don't have to dress up! You will have a chance to ask questions via a chat feature. We hope you can join us on **Wednesday, September 9, at 7 p.m.**

*Gail Montoure, President*

## Summer Painting Challenge

In May, we announced "**Reunion**" as the theme for this year's Summer Painting Challenge. It has been decided that we will hold off displaying the Challenge paintings until such time as we can actually have an in-person reunion. If you haven't completed your entry yet, the "**Reunion**" theme can be with people, places, or things. The only limit is your imagination.

## The Nominations Are In...

Thank you to everyone who voted in our first ever on-line elections. Here is the list of Board Officers you elected for the 2020/2021 year:

**Gail Montoure – President**

**Judi Moreo – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/ Programs**

**Molly McClain – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/ Membership**

**Carmen Egolf – 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President / Shows & Exhibits**

**Sue Roach – Treasurer**

**Luz Stoffer – Secretary**

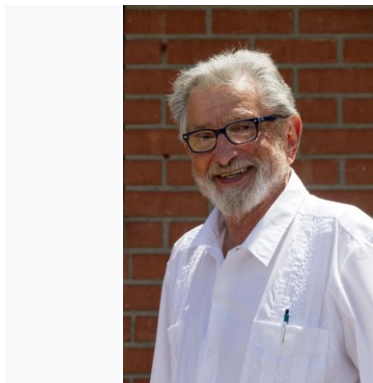
## NVWS Website Facelift

If you haven't been on our website in awhile, you might want to take a look. The functionality hasn't changed but, it was time we gave our site a more modern appearance, with greater appeal to the casual site visitor. We hope you like it and look forward to your feedback. The changes include:

- A new banner featuring the artwork of member **Gail Brito-Watson**.
- Banner consistent page-to-page.
- Elimination of the vertical menu, freeing up space for more Home page information.
- Pages accessed via horizontal drop-down menu.
- **News Updates** identifying community art-related events that may be of interest.
- Access to the current newsletter via a link in **News Updates**.
- A slide show of award-winning paintings – soon to show a full year of award winners.
- Poster for upcoming NVWS workshops on the Home page.
- Elimination of the newsletter and show brochure carousels.
- Expanded Upcoming Events section.
- Icons to access membership applications, on-line store, donations, and archives.
- Link to new NVWS Instagram site.

**Tip:** If you experience issues opening website documents, note our web host does not perform optimally with Internet Explorer. Instead, try using Google Chrome, Safari, Microsoft Edge, or Firefox for browsing.

## In Memoriam – Ed Klein



Cat Shelling, Ed Klein and Nancy Buford just before Ed left

As you know, we recently received the sad news that Ed Klein passed away in February 2020. Ed won multiple awards in NVWS shows. At least one of his paintings was accepted into the Western Fed before he moved to Florida in 2017.

Many NVWS members took classes with Ed at City Lights, and we all adored him. He showed us so many techniques as well as tricks to fix our mistakes. He inspired so many of us and was always patient as we imperfectly implemented his lessons.

These are the paintings that qualified Ed for Signature status:

Fall 2008 Washday in Tuscany  
Portrait of a Straw Hat  
Red Umbrellas  
Spring 2009 Light at Vancouver  
Fall 2009 Red Umbrellas

*In case you didn't see it, we are also reprinting the tribute to Ed Klein from City Lights.*

Ed Klein, long time member of City Lights Artists' Co-op, Boulder Art Guild and the Nevada Watercolor Society passed away in February 2020.

Ed was a driving force behind the on-going success of City Lights. He served as both President and Gallery Director for a number of years. He was a driving force in coordinating juried shows and launching the very 1<sup>st</sup> ArtTrain fundraiser for City Lights. Ed taught watercolor and was instrumental in ensuring the gallery was staffed. He was tireless in helping new artists understand the basics. He retired and moved to South Daytona, FL in 2017 where he continued to paint and teach watercolor.

Ed studied fine art at Cass Technical Institute and Wayne State University in Detroit Mi. After a very successful career in the food industry, he retired to Las Vegas, NV. In 1992, he began doing portraits and landscapes in pen and ink. He began painting watercolors in 1995 and it became his medium of choice. He studied with watercolorists Carl Purcel and Frank Francese. Most of his works represented his love of travel, in fact, one show was titled 'Been There, Painted That.'

His paintings won many awards. Ed will be sorely missed by all who knew him!

—Chris Mazglad

## Member Notes

We continue to grow and are attracting artists who are diverse in age, background, and art experience. We've added twenty-seven new members, including five student members, since May 2019. Many of these new members have already volunteered for committees! Our Society benefits from this influx of new energy and ideas.

### **Put a link to your website in the Member Directory**

It's simple. Login to [www.nevadawatercolorsociety.org](http://www.nevadawatercolorsociety.org) and edit your member profile and insert your link.

If you teach art, and would like your information in the Member Directory, do the same thing! Login to [www.nevadawatercolorsociety.org](http://www.nevadawatercolorsociety.org) and edit your member profile.

Please make sure that your contact information is correct and complete. If you have never logged in or are unable to, please contact Molly McClain, Membership at [mcclainbill@yahoo.com](mailto:mcclainbill@yahoo.com) or call her at 702.769.4852.

## Reminder

Any payment made to the Nevada Watercolor Society using a credit card or Paypal account will show up on your credit card or bank statement as "Paypal Nevadawater" followed by a transaction number. This information is also highlighted on the email payment receipt you are sent. We have no control over how our name appears on your credit card and bank statements, and regret any confusion.

## Searching For...

We are looking for a volunteer to act as Scholarship Committee Chair. The current chair, Sheila Spargo has resigned. Once per year, the Chair reviews scholarship applications sent to NVWS by the **Public Education Foundation**, and makes a recommendation to the NVWS Board for approval. If you can volunteer and/or have questions, please contact any board member or Sheila at 702-254-4817.

## Spring Show Update from Carmen Egolf

Please see the virtual Spring Show on the NVWS website and look there for any updates.

Upcoming Workshop – Change to Zoom from In-Person

## **NEW ZOOM WORKSHOP with Kristi Grussendorf**

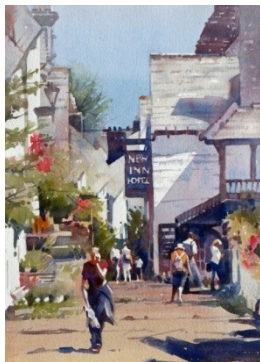
**Please Read the NEW INFORMATION Regarding the Changes in Workshop Format and Price**

**NEW DATES!!!\*\* October 13, 14, 2020 (TUES. WED.)\*\***

**TIME: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. each day**

**PLACE: The comfort of your own home!**

**COST: \$100 for the two-day session**



### **A LESS IS MORE APPROACH**

Join international workshop presenter, award winning artist, and teacher Kristi Grussendorf in a two-day workshop where she will employ her thoughtful instructional style in helping you maintain a fresh, loose, and painterly approach to your work. Kristi will take you through her process in a step-by-step paint along. Or, if you desire, sit back and watch, and review the entire process throughout the week at your own pace. You can learn more about Kristi and her work at: [kristigrussendorf.com](http://kristigrussendorf.com)

**To register, go to: [NEVADAWATERCOLORSOCIETY.ORG](http://NEVADAWATERCOLORSOCIETY.ORG).**

**PayPal and Credit Cards are accepted.**

**For more information contact: Linda Smith**

**Email: [lsmith.lv@outlook.com](mailto:lsmith.lv@outlook.com) or call: 509-499-1156**

**\*Full payment is due by October 1, 2020 in order to give the artist ample notification if we have to cancel. All payments are non-refundable, but transferable. Feel free to sell your spot if you need to cancel.**

## Member Artist Profiles by Hyrum Huskey

This month we are highlighting two profiles of member artists by Hyrum Huskey. Sadly, Jim Champlin passed away before his could be published, but we've included it this month along with one on Sharon Menary.

Hyrum is ready to interview any other member artists who would like to be profiled! Please contact him at [hyrumjr@cox.net](mailto:hyrumjr@cox.net) to arrange a time for an interview. Since we're not meeting in person for the near term, this is a good way for all of us to be reminded of the diversity and talent of our membership.

Questions? Contact Hyrum Huskey at Tel: 702 998 4620 and leave message please. Email: [Hyrumjr@cox.net](mailto:Hyrumjr@cox.net)

## Member Artist Profile – Jim Champlin



### **Pilot, Painter, and Monument Maker** by Hyrum Huskey

Jim Champlin loved challenges. A long-time Nevada Watercolor Society Signature Member and past president, Jim grew up in Ames, Iowa. He graduated in 1954 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Then, things became interesting.

Jim's passion for adventure, and his willingness to meet challenging opportunities took off, literally and figuratively, when he accepted an offer for flight training. After qualifying and earning his wings, Jim remained for a service career--flying on to earn two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star, eleven Air Medals, and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross. He also earned a Master of Science degree at Texas A&M University in 1961. Along the way, he raised six children with his wife Trish, who passed away in 2010.

After retiring at the rank of Major, Jim and his family stayed in California where the former pilot took up a lifelong pursuit of his hidden artistic side. He began by enrolling in San Jacinto Community College Art classes in 1997, and continued as a self-taught artist, painting in a variety of mediums. Between 2006 and 2009, Jim challenged himself to paint the twenty-one California missions, using watercolor.

"I still consider those paintings one of my greatest achievements" Jim said in our interview. "I painted some on location and others from photographs I took."

While working on his mission paintings, Jim was putting his mechanical engineering skills into practice as well. He wanted some type of memorial to honor fellow pilots who had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. So, he began by designing a monument in his own

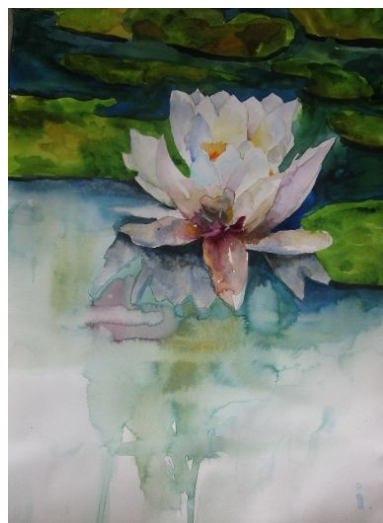
backyard, which he described as “mostly just a pile of rocks.” Over the next four years, Jim designed a monument, cajoled a plot of ground at March AFB for a permanent memorial, worked toward congressional legislation, and started fundraising for the needed \$200,000 to build his dream. Today, the Distinguished Flying Cross-National Monument can be visited at March AFB near Riverside, CA.

“In the end, though, I still had \$20,000 of my own money in it” admitted Jim.

Jim maintained his passion for watercolor painting by taking workshops from professional artists and attending the Snow College summer school on watercolors with Carl Purcell in Ephraim, UT.

*This interview was conducted on Wednesday April 17, 2019*

## Member Artist Profile – Sharon Menary



### **Saucy, Stylish, and Successful** by Hyrum H. Huskey

HH: Tell me a little about your childhood. Where did you grow up?

SM: I was born in Canada, in Ontario in a small farming community. I am the oldest of three siblings--all girls. My parents went to California when I was 12 but returned to Ontario a year later. When I was an adult, I lived in both Las Angeles and San Francisco. In 1965 I went to Vancouver, B.C. for about a year to help an ill sister and cared for her 2 young children.

HH: So, what did you do for a living? Did you go to college or major in art?

SM: (flashes a bright smile at me for my somewhat awkward question) No, I was interested in art from an early age, but my parents didn't encourage that as a career. When I was young, there were only about three jobs for women, teacher, nurse, and secretary. I consider myself an eclectic sort of person, an exception to the expected role.

HH: So, you did what?

SM: At twenty, I went to work for Pan American Airways as a Stewardess (they weren't called Flight Attendants then) and I was stationed in Los Angeles. After a year, I was offered a job with IBM, even though I was the exception to their rules (I was a flashy dresser, colorful, and wore very short skirts). At first, I was a secretary but later moved into computer operations as a systems analyst. I

was single a great deal of my life and free to take up new challenges. Before taking early retirement, I also was an interior designer, and sold real estate for Prudential Realty in California and Nevada.

HH: Have you painted or done work in other mediums? What do you like about watercolor?

SM: Yes, I've used oil, acrylic, collage, pastels and charcoal. Watercolor excites me because I love to continue to learn and refine my style and color combinations. The big challenge is learning how to let the painting paint itself. I volunteered as the workshop coordinator and had the opportunity to study with about eighteen different master teachers. Shirley Jeane (also a NVWS Member) was my first teacher and she was excellent. Besides learning about painting she also touched on the business aspects.

HH: Have you ever had an unusual event or incident occur while painting outdoors on location?

SM: Yes, in 2008, shortly after I had started watercolor painting, I was painting in the Ethel M Garden and a couple from Japan came by and bought the painting for twenty-five dollars. It wasn't about the money, but more for the validation that perhaps I was an artist.

HH: Do you teach lessons?

MM: Yes, I've taught for about eleven years now and I've discovered that I love teaching - beginners as well as advanced art students. I am told by my students I am patient and take time with each student to help them with problems or techniques.

HH: I saw a picture of you on your website ([www.SharonMenary.com](http://www.SharonMenary.com)) with a cute dog. Do you like dogs?

SM: Yes. Cats too. I have always taken in foster dogs.

HH: Do you have anything you would like to add?

SM: I am also a Master Gardener. My backyard is small, but it looks like a jungle (she laughs). My front yard is totally dry environment plants, (so I keep my ecology-minded neighbors happy).

*This interview was conducted on March 29, 2019*