



August 2010

Washrag

N E W S L E T T E R

Watercolor Art Society - Houston

From the President

By Jerrie Gast, *President*

You are going to find a mingling of the new and old this year at WAS-H. Figure Lab will still be on Wednesday afternoon, with Carol Rensink. Martin will still be in the building to greet you. Mary Rustay will still volunteer to teach the seniors on Thursday mornings. Many of our same teachers will be offering some of your favorite classes. At the same time, we welcome several new volunteers who are already hard at work. With new directors, our gallery and receptions will just keep growing. The Board has planned new and exciting events.

Our first Board Meeting was June 14, and what an energetic and enthusiastic Board it is.

Did you know this is WAS-H's 35th year? Well, one of our new members of the Board did. Muriel, our Public Relations Director, has planned a 35th birthday party. Watch for further details, as you won't want to miss it. I think there will be cake involved! Our new Vice President, Linda Vanek, is planning to help the Make a Wish Foundation at our December show and reception. Details to follow.

We have two new Membership Exhibition Co-Chairs this year. Karen Stopnicki will continue as Director with Kathy Farr as Co-Chair, along with our youngest chair, named Ben. Ben is Karen's baby, who attends every Board Meeting and is helping all the way.

Our organization is run by our members, for our members, and our mission is to teach and exhibit watercolor. Our monthly shows are an opportunity to learn the proper ways to exhibit work.

Our Gallery Directors, Susenne and Jan,
(continued on page 2)



Watercolor Art Society- Houston



IN THE BEGINNING . . .

WAS-H was not known as WAS-H.

In 1969, there was no organization in Houston where watercolor artists could meet and network.

Several like-minded artists began to mold the parameters of an organization that would further the cause of and interest in the art of painting using the watercolor medium. Under the guidance of Eldon Sams, who had some experience in similar societies, the following artists (to the best of my knowledge) got to work.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Lucille Brock | Roxanne McMullen |
| Judy Richardson Gard | Fran Tyler Norman |
| Dorothy Hargrave | Albert E. Riedel |
| Edith Kirkpatrick | Eldon Sams |
| Jean Lewis | Bethea Ward |
| Dr. Faber McMullen | |

They decided that since they were a small group, becoming a chapter of the Southwestern Watercolor Society with headquarters in Dallas, Texas, would be a wise decision. SWS had earned a fine reputation, and their by-laws were in place.

All chapters paid a portion of their dues to SWS. Each chapter had a representative (their President) on the SWS

Board. Members of each chapter were eligible to enter the SWS annual membership exhibitions and SWS open exhibitions. The Houston Chapter also held their own exhibitions, as did the others.

COMING NEXT. The Birth of WAS-H
— Margaret Bock

Editor's note: Does anyone have paintings made by any of the first WAS-H members that you could lend to them for our November Show, which will honor the original founders? If so, please contact Karen Stopnicki at 713-432-0306 or khouston006@yahoo.com.

Calendar

Monthly Show Take-In – Sep. 11, 10 am – 1 pm

35th WAS-H Anniversary Celebration & Monthly Gallery Reception – Sep 17, 6-8 pm

WAS-H Board Meeting – Aug. 2, 10:00 am

General Meeting, Paint-Out and Paint-In – None in the summer

Wed. Figure Labs – 12:30-3:30 pm

Open Studio – Fourth Friday, 1-3 pm

THE BIRTH OF

The Fiscal Year 1974-75 was a unique year for Houston's fledgling Watercolor Society. Having spent six years of growing discontent with their affiliation with the Southwestern Watercolor Society, in November of 1974, the chapter voted 102 to 5 to withdraw from SWS. Under the leadership of their President, Herschel Winslett, an ad hoc committee was created in December of 1974 consisting of Eldon Sams, Melba Dudley and Polly Hammett. The purpose of the committee was to administer the group's affairs pending its incorporation and reorganization in early 1975.

A hope of the proponents of the break from SWS was that the new Houston organization might become a nucleus for a loose confederation of similar independent groups of watercolorists, with these groups located primarily in the south and southwest. This hope materialized into the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies. Dr. Faber McMullen was on the board which chartered the WFWS. WAS-H became a charter member of WFWS in 1975.

During the 1970s, WAS-H held the general meetings in many different

lowing suit were Norma Jones, Marilyn Cool, Virginia Cobb and Harold Phenix.

Workshops found us searching also not only for locations, but for spaces in which painting could be done. Benefactors were Al Riedel's Canary Hill Gallery, Texas Art Supply, Dominican College, Park Plaza Professional Building, Bellaire Presbyterian Church, and St. Christopher Episcopalian Church.

Exhibitions were held in public venues in downtown Houston, such as Dresser Tower, the Prudential Insurance Building and the new Downtown Houston Public Library.



Houston hosts Paint-Out in May 1974 in La Grange at the Canary Hill Ranch at Round Top.

January 1975 found an eager group ready to deal with the business of getting the papers of incorporation signed by the state, having the by-laws in place, documenting the membership for the roster and nominating and electing officers. The first officers of the Watercolor Art Society-Houston were: Teryl Speers, President; Bob Boyle, Vice President; Carlotta Barker, Secretary; and L.H. Rather, Treasurer.

A contest was held to create a logo for the WATERCOLOR ART SOCIETY - HOUSTON. (Yes, there is supposed to be a hyphen between *Society* and *Houston* to differentiate WAS-H from more mundane entities.) The contest was won by Julian Teal, who designed the logo which we proudly use to this day.

places, depending upon the generosity of the various organizations. The first few meetings were held in the auditorium of the Sacred Heart Convent of Dominican College. Following that came the Park Plaza Professional Building, then the Museum of Natural Science classroom.

The Presidents of WAS-H during the '70s were Herschel Winslett, Teryl Speers, Dr. Ken Duff, Mary Bush, Harold Phenix and Mary Glover Rustay.

There was a great lineup of guest artists who shared their interest and expertise with watercolor through demos and workshops, starting with Ed Whitney, Robert E. Wood, Al Brouillette, Zoltan Szabo (he did two extra workshops in a row due to popular demand), Carl Molno, Claude Croney, Philip Jamison, Henry Caselli, Gerald Bromer and Maurice Schuban. Local artists fol-



Judy Richardson Gard, Founding Member, and Robert E. Wood taken at Wood's first WAS-H workshop. Wood was one of the first members of the California Plein-Aire Society. The Society was a part of the noted California School of Watercolor Painters, which was prominent in promoting an interest in art done in watercolor.

WAS-H



After 25 years as a successful illustrator in New York City, Alexander Ross turned to making a career as a painter. He garnered many awards and honors along his way to becoming a widely collected artist. Many AWS and National Academy of Design awards were among his early achievements.

Lee Weiss turned from a designing career to an active interest in painting. Along with awards from AWS Butler Institute of American Art, Weiss's collectors include the Smithsonian Institution, which placed two of her paintings for display in the White House for a year in 1989.

Extracurricular activities included Paint-Ins and Paint-Outs. A special one was a bus trip to Jefferson, Texas, for a weekend Paint-Out. Some of our friends from SWS joined us there for a fun weekend. This trip included a fish fry at Caddo Lake as the guests of SWSers Dot and Jim Delmar. Another special weekender took place in Nacogdoches and was hosted by the Nacogdoches Watercolor Society.

The Museum of Natural Science asked us to participate in their Christmas Tree celebration by decorating one of their trees with miniature matted watercolors. This was done for several years.

A very special event was the hosting of the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies Third Annual Meeting, which included mounting their WFWS Exhibit Three. Alexander Ross and Lee Weiss



Claude Croney, another leader in plein aire painters. However he hailed from the East Coast.

were the Jurors. They also came to Houston and gave demonstrations during the General Meeting which was held at St. Thomas High School Auditorium (a one-time-only privilege). Their demonstrations included their usual skills and abilities as well as their daring in experimenting and exploring for new techniques.

Many activities occurred during this event, and Houston presented itself well.

So we were off like rockets. Look where we have landed!

— Margaret Scott Bock



George Rustay; Mary Glover Rustay (President 1978-79); Emory Glover, Christmas party performer, Mary Wood Glover, Board Member.



1978 Christmas party goers and a couple of the Talent Show participants. L to R are Jean and Tom McTaggart, Margaret Bock, Betty Fritts (Stage Manager and WAS-H Treasurer), Jen Blalock, Alice Darby.



Polk Griffin made the first overhead mirror for WAS-H. He was a man of all trades, helping WAS-H operate in a first-class manner.

Julian Teal



Watercolor Art Society - Houston



Celebrating an Anniversary

is something we are all familiar with from one generation to the next. To remember and appreciate our historical journey and to look to the future with a fresh and invigorating spirit are some of the basic characteristics of anniversaries. When we come together on these anniversary occasions, we also have plenty of stories to share. The story of WAS-H is important. It carries our history, our experience, our humor and our struggles. In sharing our stories we share ourselves and express not only our past but also our renewed commitment to the future. The coming months through December 2010 will give us opportunities for these memorable expressions. We look forward to your participation in each of the shows and receptions ahead. Splash those delicate and/or bold brushstrokes and come share in the vibrancy of WAS-H's 35th Anniversary celebratory events. — Muriel Christensen, Publicity Director

Editor's note: Does anyone have paintings made by any of the first WAS-H members that you could lend to WAS-H for our November Show, which will honor the original founders? If so, please contact Karen Stopnicki at 713-432-0306 or khouston006@yahoo.com.

New Members

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kim Abbati | Betty Cuba Havens | Michael O'Brien |
| Alice J. Ahlers | Sally Hirtz | Norma Ogletree |
| Trudy Askew | Carolyn Hover | Nancy D. Parker |
| William J. Batson | Sister Deenan Hubbard | Cynthia C. Pierce |
| Maggie Battalino | Jose Iglesias | Emilie S. Robert |
| Kathleen Bernard | Maryann P. Ingersoll | Valeri Rodriguez |
| Robert D. Boutell | Karen Knutson | Barbara A. Rogers |
| Linda Buikema | Barbara Kremenezky | Sheela Sadhwani |
| Debbie Cannatella | Mary Langlinais | Sara Saravo |
| Beverly Chemin | Jan Ledbetter | Carol Scrapper |
| Richard Chiburis | Margaret B. Leiser | Margaret Rose Simons |
| Sylvia Colwell | David Lloyd | Victoria Simons |
| Donna Cooper | Franca Ma | Susan Simpson |
| Mitchell Corbett | Anita F. Marshall | Tivakorn Sirinopawongsakorn |
| Diane Cox | Susan Mayer | Lenora Stein |
| Irene Crutchley | Sandra K. McCrayer | Janet Stewart |
| Ariane Edmundson | Harriet McGonigle | Ron Stewart |
| Pat Eversole | Maria Mercado | Cheryl Thurston |
| Margaret Garces | Susan Meyer | Vida Tuminas |
| Francesca Greene | Pat Meyer | Paul Vanek |
| Barry P. Gremillion | Jody L. Miller | Susan K. Vaughn |
| Sue Burke Harrington | Louise Miller | Elizabeth Wagar |
| Jody Harrington | Sue Moore | Mary Williams |
| Kenneth L. Harris | Mary Morgan | |





November 2010

Washrag

N E W S L E T T E R

Watercolor Art Society - Houston

From the President

By Jerrie Gast, *President*

As summer turns into fall, we are reminded that much goes on and we need to jump aboard and enjoy the fun-filled atmosphere and activities in our WAS-H Building. Our Membership Exhibit is right around the corner, which means the holiday season is not far away.

A good day out for a group of your friends would be to have lunch and browse around the building from 10:00 to 3:00. I have noticed Gerry Finch and her group here several times during the year. She's one of our wonderful artists showing off our facility and enjoying the current show in the gallery. You just never know who is looking your work over.

On a fourth Friday, while painting upstairs, we heard some new voices downstairs, people we did not know. How fortunate to meet Phillip Hubble and his wife, now residing in Houston, who brought their niece from Birmingham, Alabama, just out for the day and stopping by for a visit. Look for his work in the Annual Members Exhibit and International Exhibition.

November's reception is to honor our founding and charter members. We would not be here except for their vision. Come to the reception to celebrate our beginning and where we are today.

Pick up a donation slip located in the Gallery and donate a painting to the Make-A-Wish Foundation auction in December. Linda Vanek has that well under way, and what a worthwhile charity that is. December is, as always, our small painting show and Christmas party. Make sure you join us for that.

(continued on page 3)



Our First Home was an office at 1005 Bomar.

Many programs and activities which are now the norm for us were started in those years. We had a steep learning curve to accommodate regular exhibitions, classes, outreach and painting sessions.

But most of all we wanted a home.

Having a "friend in high places" (i.e., Past President Ken Duff of WAS-H and now President of The Art League of Houston) helped us achieve this goal, for the summer of 1980 found WAS-H with an office in the Art League's classroom building. It was only one room, but it gave us an address (1005 Bomar) and a telephone number (713-524-6736). How wonderful! It afforded us communication with the outside world, which had been unable to find us or to get in touch with us.

A year later, on June 1, 1981, member Polk Griffin was hauling all our possessions in his pickup truck because we were "movin' on up" to 1735 Sunset Blvd. Thanks to member Mary Wood

(continued on page 6)

The '80s at WAS-H

By Margaret Bock & Marsha Harris

This was a time of growth for WAS-H.



"Movin' on Up" to Upstairs Gallery and Studio I at 1735 Sunset Blvd.

Calendar

Board Meeting – Oct. 4 10:00 am

Annual Members Exhibit Take-In
– Oct. 8, 10 am – 3 pm., Oct. 9, 10 am – 12 noon

Paint-Out – Oct. 9, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

General Meeting – Oct. 10, 1:30 pm,

Demo – Dale Laitinen

Dale Laitinen Workshop – Oct 11-15,
9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Gallery Reception – Oct. 15, 6-8 pm

Paint-In – Oct. 23, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Wed. Figure Labs – 12:30-3:30 pm

Open Studio – Oct. 22 1-3 pm

(80s at WAS-H continued from page 1)

Glover's fondness for and belief in WAS-H, she rented us the upstairs apartment over her real estate office. That's when we became known as the Upstairs Gallery and Studio.



Then we moved on to Upstairs Gallery and Studio II, upstairs in the far right section of the building, at 2020 Montrose.

The space was large and open, with many windows for light. There was space for a meeting/classroom, three gallery rooms and an office. We could hang exhibits at will and have ongoing classes or workshops. Best of all, we would be generating money rather than spending it for housing to accommodate these activities. However, we still had to have a larger space in which to hold larger audiences.

There was a most elegant Grand Opening. Fifty-eight paintings were on display. A candlelit refreshment table, champagne and an orchestra playing inspiring music helped the 200 guests enjoy the art and our new home.

Jean and Tom McTaggart hung a sign. Forty-two unbelievable, dedicated volunteers contributed supplies, labor and financial support to ready the space for business.



Robert E Wood Demo at our Sunset Upstairs Gallery.

We started generating money almost immediately. Our office was manned by volunteers, as well as were all of our usual activities.

Major workshops, artists and jurors for the '80s were:

Jurors for National Shows included Ruth Wynn, Carl Molno, Arne Lindmark, Ed Whitney, Murray Wentworth, Al Brouillette, Steve Quiller, Elizabeth Yaros, Fred Samuelson, Laura

Warriner, Ed Reep, Fred Messersmith, Jack Boynton, Jo Brenzo, and Katherine Chang Lu. Jurors for Membership Shows included Mario Cooper,

Michael Frary, Charles Reed, George Shook, Carol Barnes, Bill Armstrong, Maxine Masterfield, Virginia Cobb, Doug Walton, Miles Batt, Chris Schink, Martha Terrill and Arthur Turner.

Presidents for the 80s decade were:

Mary Rustay, Margaret Bock, Ken Austin, Ann Gillaspay, Ted Byrom, Linda Lamb, Liduine Beckman, Judi Coffee, Karen Ruhlan, and Carolyn McElvain.

The Firsts for WAS-H

A WAS-H Traveling Show

Past President Ken Duff organized the Traveling Show, which toured for eight months. He chaired these shows for five years, succeeded by Pat Green. A Touring Show was presented for six years to museums, colleges, art leagues and more.

Outreach

The number of members who serviced this program is legion. Beneficiaries of the program were: Museum of Natural Science, Texas Children's Hospital, Shiners Hospital for Crippled Children, UNICEF, Houston Hospice

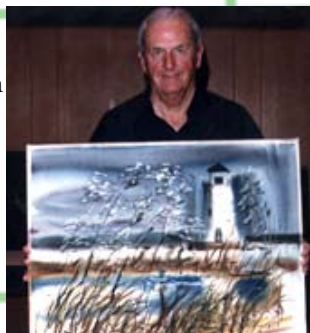
for Terminally Ill children. There were many, many demos and mini workshops for area schools and teachers, Girl Scouts and Brownies. The small matted paintings for the Museum of Natural Science were distributed to assisted-living facilities, as well as to some of the children's hospitals.



Upstairs Gallery and Studio III (downstairs as well as upstairs) followed at 3209 Montrose, where we prospered for four rent-free years.

Alternative spaces

Spaces were made available in which members could exhibit art; for instance: Foley's downtown, Gray Café, the Humana Hospital in Pasadena, TUTS,



Jack Bowen with his buddy Fred Messersmith's painting at Messersmith's workshop.



From the High School for the Performing Arts, Ursala Dai playing the harp. Eldon Sams is urging "play it again."



Mary and Ken Duff, Traveling Show Chairs, at the reception for Traveling Show in Upstairs Gallery and Studio on Sunset.



Dave King, Dennis Fowler, Warren Bock, representing Southwestern Bell Telephone Co; and Myron Blalock. SWB sponsored this traveling show.

The Houston Grand Opera, the Lions Club Art Festival, the Transco Energy Art Purchase Program, the Houston Festival

Growing and Moving

Texas Lawn and Garden Exhibit at George R. Brown Convention Center, Business After Hours exposé of the Arts to the Business Community held at the Hyatt Regency downtown.

WAS-H Signature Status

In '84 the Board of Directors, led by Ted Byrom, adopted the requirements for earning Signature Membership status, qualifying to begin at the 1985 Open (National) Exhibition.

Growing and Moving

The summer of '84 saw WAS-H moving



Mrs. Gus Wortham, who toured our new Upstairs Gallery & Studio II at 2020 Montrose.

to new quarters at 2020 Montrose. Again we were upstairs; however, this stairway was easier to climb and parking was more available. The site afforded as much space, but in a more open context. Activities continued as usual, with Hazel Youmans and Natalie Rotett at the helm as Gallery Directors.

Then a year later summer of '85, WAS-H was offered an opportunity we could not refuse. Mr. and Mrs. Ross offered us their building at 3209 Montrose rent free for three years. The space was larger than we had ever had before — a huge classroom and/or workshop area upstairs, plus a room for light boxes and our mat cutter. Also there was a small classroom downstairs, office space, and three rooms suitable for exhibitions. How lucky could we get?

We thrived and grew there for four years. However, we knew that the time would come when we could no longer be there, so we began setting aside money as a beginning "building fund."

The inevitable move came in June of 1986. After enjoying four years of the Rosses' largesse, WAS-H left the Museum District and moved out west to the edge of the Town and Country Shopping Center, we rented a space in the midst

of a retail shopping strip. The space was one large room, which we partitioned off with our portable display boards to make gallery and classroom space. Our year's classes, meetings, demos and exhibits went on as usual, but the membership



Ann Hartley and Judy Gard answering the call to paint a mural for the Houston Zoo.

• We also had a connection with the MFA through Director Peter Mario, who juried an exhibit, "5X5," for our Gallery in 1984. The winners were Andrew Thompson, Liduine Beckman, Ann Hartley, Stephanie Nadolski and Eileen Ruhberg.

• In 1985 the Houston Zoo needed artists to volunteer (unpaid) to design and execute seven painted Texas landscape backgrounds for a new building in the children's sector of the zoo. Judy Gard and Ann Hartley answered the call.

• Ben Taub Hospital was privileged to be the recipient of a requested mural

increasingly told us to "get a building."

Miscellany of interest in the '80s

• In January 1986 Transco Energy Co. began viewing slides of WAS-H members' work to purchase for offices in the new Transco Tower.

• WAS-H was honored to have Texan Dorothy Hood present a program for the January meeting about her life and her art.

• WAS-H entered a partnership with Houston's Museum of Fine Art and Transco Energy to co-sponsor two lectures on Turner's Watercolors. Others sponsoring the lectures were Exxon, Brookhollow Bank and an anonymous donor. Jack Bowen sponsored the Exhibit. We were in pretty good company, don't you think? Mr. Andrew Wilton of the British Museum of Fine Art installed the Exhibit as a bequest of the BMFA.



Liduine Cowan and Dorothy Hood at the 1985 January meeting.

Painted for them by volunteers Carolyn McElvain and Judy Presswood.

• WAS-H joined the Cultural Arts Council of Houston in the '70s to create more awareness of WAS-H in the arts and corporate communities. As a result, in October 1980, Rita Phenix, our representative at CACH secured a grant of \$1800 toward our fall Membership Exhibit (juried by George Shook). Another benefit WAS-H has enjoyed from CACH was that Jean King joined our ranks to represent us at CACH. Also, WAS-H hired her to apply her seven years of major fund campaigning to help WAS-H, inaugurate an effective fund-raising campaign.

• Britt Hollingsworth, a Business Volunteer for the Arts representative to WAS-H, worked with Bock, Ruhlan and Harris, to help us set up a budget and financial statement in readiness for presentation with our funding applications..

• Linda Lamb became the Chef (fabulous, I must add) for the Lunch Bunch's Munchies and Brushes First Fridays at WAS-H. Luncheon patrons nibbled away while watching a demo. Then the guests painted along with the artist on their paper placemats with paints supplied by

Linda. A Gallery tour was next on the menu.

- Paint-Out lovers went to San Miguel de Allende for a long weekend of great painting and fun. Nobody got sick. There was an overnigher for members to attend the Georgia O'Keeffe exhibit at the Dallas MFA.

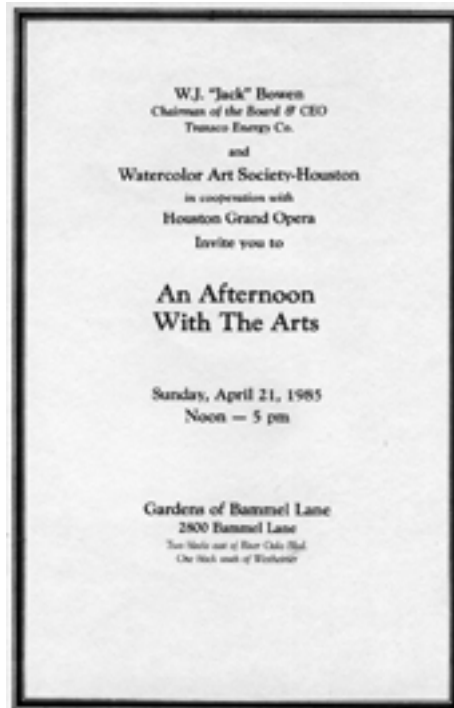
Special Exhibits Of Note

- The 20th Anniversary Exhibit, "Moments Past," at the WAS-H Gallery, September 1989, kicked off the WAS-H fall season. It featured paintings from some of our workshop instructors, they being Ed Whitney, Frank Webb, Robert E. Wood, Zoltan Szabo, Irving Shapiro, Charles Reid and Virginia Cobb. Jack Bowen loaned Craig Lessor's *The Swimmers* and an untitled work by Laurie Weller. There was an overwhelming response to the exhibit. Betty Ewing, Society Columnist at the Houston Chronicle, covered the festivities.

- Another showstopper happened in February 1988. It was an invitational Exhibition of national scope, "A Retrospective-Women Achieving Awards" in Conjunction with the National Conference of the Women's Caucus for Art. A tribute to the stature of WAS-H, exhibitors sent paintings from all over the country. The honor of being included in an exhibit of this scope was enough reward to the exhibitors. There were no awards, monies or ribbons given to entice participation. Our local artists were among the honorees.

- In the 80s we binged on breathtaking experiences. Here comes another one. WAS-H was honored to host the Third Watercolor U.S.A. Honor Society Exhibition and Conference. This is the first time the Honor Society had opened their conference to other artists. We were joined by co-sponsor Transco Energy. The opening of the exhibit, "Watercolor Now II," was at Transco Tower, December 1989. The conference day was held at the Doubletree Post Oak Hotel. Attendees came from all over the United States. It was a select group of award winners and jurors of the past 27 years of Watercolor U.S.A. competitions sponsored by the Springfield, Missouri, Art Museum. Jack Bowen was asked to participate

on the panel. Our own Judy Gard was the Honor Society's representative who organized and produced the Conference. Needless to say, it was a bonanza for WAS-H members to experience.



The Gates are open for the "Afternoon With The Arts."

An Afternoon with the Arts, 1985

At the Gardens of Bammel Lane

- The most unusual, charming fundraiser ever created, "The Piece de Resistance," was conceived of and produced by then, President Linda Lamb with an assist by co-chair Linda

Tibolla. And, of course, it was sponsored by WAS-H benefactor Jack Bowen, Chairman of the Board and CEO of Transco Energy Co. in cooperation with the Houston Grand Opera. In one masterful stroke the cultural community, the corporate community, the media community and the social community became aware of the Watercolor Art Society-Houston.

- Ten paintings by WAS-H members were selected to hang at the Opera during the production of *Die Fliedermaus*.
- The Gardens of Bammel Lane are surrounded on all four sides by charming cottages facing out to the street. Some of



AWTA Chairpersons Linda Tibolla and President Linda Lamb modeling costumes on loan from the Houston Grand Opera.

the cottages housed boutiques. WAS-H used one of cottages as a gallery.

- The High School for the Performing Arts Orchestra provided music.
- The Houston Grand Opera participated by loaning costumes from *Die Fleidermous* for our members to model. The models posed on the verandas of cottages, and were scattered around the Gardens as WAS-H artists painted them.



Carole J Everingham and Martha Terrell, Transco Representatives watching the auction at Afternoon with the Arts.



Jack Bowen, CEO of Transco Energy Co and Hostess Ann Pace Bowen and Transco are Sponsors of as AWTA.



Ava Jean Mears (Houston Grand Opera) and Liz Caderli (Channel 3 TV) at the AWTA luncheon.



The Kick-off Luncheon for the Afternoon With The Arts (AWTA) at the home of Ann Pace. The fare was catered by WAS-H members.

by WAS-H members.

- A host of WAS-H members, spouses and friends served in various capacities helping to make the event a success.
- The sole reason for this all-out event, the AWTA, was to raise the \$15,000 budgeted to finance the WAS-H commitment to host the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies (WFWS). The gross income from "The Afternoon With the Arts" was \$17,000. Expenses totaled 4,158.99. The net income totaled \$12,861.95. Volunteers met for two days

to hand address invitations, helping defray the cost of mailing 8,000 of them (the Opera loaned us their mailing list).

• Sixteen volunteers made WAS-H aprons to add money to the coffers. It was a giant, fabulous experience for everyone.

The Western Federation of Watercolor Societies

Co-Chairs Ann Hartley and Vanita Smith WAS-H is a charter member of the WFWS, which now includes over 3500 artists in nine regional societies: Arizona W C Assoc., Nevada W C S, New Mexico W C S, San Diego W C S, Southern Arizona W C Guild, W C S South Texas, WAS-H, West Texas W C S. Each year the WFWS juried exhibitions and annual meetings are hosted under the sponsorship of one of the regional societies on a rotation basis determined by the year of inclusion.

WFWS draws some of the most prestigious jurors available. In 1976, WAS-H's jurors were Alexander Ross and Lee Weis. Other societies' jurors over the years included Millard Sheets, Rex Brandt, Glenn Bradshaw, Charles Reid, Maxine Masterfield, Jo Taylor and Barbara Neches. Ten years later (1986), in Houston, the jurors were Dorothy Hood and Alexander Ross. Katherine Chang Liu was the juror of Awards. WFWS delegates were wined and dined, and WAS-H's image was enhanced even more.

Now the Nitty-Gritty

As you have seen, WAS-H members were privileged to experience many excellent demos and workshops by guest artists, some years almost one a month. We also experienced the luxury of having a permanent facility in which to enhance our talents by having great teachers from our membership. There have been a crisis or two ... or more, and we wondered if we could maintain this luxury. Obviously, as we celebrate 35 years of doing business, we can rejoice in the fact that we



"We did it!" says Linda Tibolla elated over the outcome of the Afternoon With The Arts.

did make it. Thanks go to the dedicated people who took on the presidencies and other major leadership roles; to those who always came to the fore to help anytime, any way; and to those who participated in the workshops and exhibits. So that is a thank you to our entire membership. As a volunteer-run organization,



United Nations Association Poster Exhibition Competition winner of Top Honor, Mona Rashaad, fourth grader at Longfellow Fine Arts Academy.

Extracurricular Exhibition Opportunities

The Westheimer Festival was an annual event for years. WAS-H participated as an organization in the select area as an outreach activity. Since space was limited, members of WAS-H vied for a space in the Alley Gallery, which was held in the parking area/alleyway at 3209 Montrose. A selection process was established. Portable display boards were set up, while other accoutrements were up to the participants. It was a fun time, a good time for sales. It was a regular on our calendar each year.

In an effort to "reach out and break up," a plan was implemented in which the Houston area was sectioned off. Members in their areas met together to bond, critique and entice others to become members of WAS-H. These area groups functioned for a number of years. They may still be active.

WAS-H tried at least four times while we were functioning at 3209 to hire a receptionist. They usually lasted a few weeks; one or two of them were not reliable or efficient. Our quest over the years finally brought us Martin Butler. I, for one, appreciate what a gem he has proven to be. ☺

is there another as successful as we? or which has a Jack Bowen and Dr. Faber McMullen as consistent donors?

The '90s at WAS-H

By Margaret Bock & A.J. Schexnayder

The period of history for the Houston Watercolor Society that began in the 1990s was one of the most important.

The Watercolor Society had no permanent home and was relying on the generosity of various landlords to grant space we could afford until that space was needed for their business.

Our meeting place was constantly moving to new locations. We lucked out when Katherine and James Ross offered us the location at 3209 Montrose. We thrived there for four years, rent-free. Of course, free isn't really free, as we were responsible for general maintenance and utilities.



D. Maury Wentworth demo at the General Meeting, October 1990 in the classroom at 3209 Montrose.

While there, we mounted several exciting large exhibitions and held workshops and general meetings all in one facility. How novel!

WAS-H held several open competition-exhibitions as a way of reaching out to the community. **Texas Through the Eyes of Texans** was a very exciting one. WAS-H partnered with the Houston-Galveston/Stravanger Sister City Society. WAS-H's Watercolor Exhibit



Left to right: Helga Shepard, Eleanor Tinsley and Eric Leikvang, Consul general. and Stravanger's **Art Glass Norway** were displayed in the WAS-H Gallery. Jurors was Marti Mayo and Judge was John P. "Jack" Cowan. Annell Livingston win-



Jack Cowan, judge.

ner of WAS-H's Exhibit got to travel to Norway to be present at the Stravanger's Exhibit.

Another community event was the **Photo/Mixed Media Exhibit** during the International Foto Fest month long convention in Houston. Jurors were Martha and Jack Meier of Meier Gallery. The Judge was Harry Burrus, whose Photo Exhibit Hung with ours at WAS-H.

This Land invited open competition from the community.

Private Collection Treasures featured works of "artists' artists" collected by WAS-H members and friends, a very popular exhibit.

A greeting card competition was held among members. The winning painting was reproduced as a greeting card for a fund-raiser.

People's Choice award was just that. At a chosen monthly gallery exhibit, viewers chose their favorite painting. The winning painting had a place of honor in the next exhibit.

The most popular show for our members was the annual Alley Gallery Show, a part of the annual Westheimer Festival.

Our "shop" was set up in the parking area of the Gallery and members could sell their work as part of the Festival. We were allowed to continue this even after we moved to Town and Country.

Besides our annual Membership and National Exhibits, we hosted the Watercolor U.S.A. Honor Society Exhibit from Springfield, MO. We brought the AWS Traveling Exhibit to Houston for the second time.

Alas, our good fortune came to an end, as we knew it ultimately would. The Rosses needed us to return their building to them. The search for a new environment was on. The best offer we had was for \$1200 a month for rent. We settled for a storefront in a strip shopping center just south of Town & Country Mall. The space was one large room, which we partitioned off with our display boards to create a classroom/meeting space, and a small gallery space.



Juror Dr. Rice with HAEA President Catherine Blount and WAS-H President Marsha Harris.

Our activities continued without pause. Sales to new homebuyers was brisk. In the meantime we bargained for free rent and were charged only for maintenance fees, insurance and utilities. Not much of a bargain, as this totaled \$1400 a month for us to operate.

The Houston Art Education Association took pity on us during our relocation, and offered to share the Houston Downtown Library for our Student Teacher Exhibit. The exhibit was called Joint Palette.

In 1991, while we were at the Town & Country location, a Selection Committee headed by Herb Cowell, along with Margaret Bock, Mary Rustay, A.J. Schexnayder, Doris Childress and Linda Tibolla, searched the City of



Members of the Selection Committee over-seeing the inspection of the WAS-H building site, August 29, 1991.

Houston for more satisfactory locations. Harold Phenix was asked to present to the membership a schematic location of member residences' and a projected central point from all members' area of residence. Harold determined the geographical center of our membership was "in the middle of a Shell Gasoline Station on the west side of the 610 Loop between Westheimer and San Felipe." Estimated land cost \$200,000/5,000 sq ft. and the building was estimate \$250,000, for a total of \$450,000.

A Steering Committee and Capital Fund Drive was put in place. A list of participants and contributors is so long it would be impossible to include them all. W. J. Bowen, Richard Kinder, Charles Foster, Jack Pardee, Mathew Simmons and Dr Faber McMullen, all prominent Houston businessmen, were a few of many involved in the dream of a permanent home for the Society.

The Committee took many months searching property throughout the area. After considering many locations, they decided to focus on the location at 1601



Our home at 1601 West Alabama at the time of purchase.

W. Alabama, the estate of Dr. Wilfred Bonin and his wife, both deceased. The building had been a residence and

physician's office. Thirteen contract actions between the two parties took place before terms of the contract were finalized. The contract: a sale price of \$170,000 was agreed upon on August 1, 1991, and truly took a team effort.

Many hours were spent, and many volunteers worked scraping, sanding and



The Kreitzer family working on the walls inside the new WAS-H building.



The volunteer renovations crew working at 1601 W. Alabama.



Our painting crew who did an excellent job on the upstairs work: left to right, M.F. Rutherford, George Bloxsom, Ruth Hill Radcliff and Efton Mitchell.



The Demolition Squad in action. Left to right, Gil Lamb, Warren Bock, Alen Lacy and Dave Tibolla.

preparing the building for occupancy. **Jurors we've had for national and member exhibits.**

Jurors: National Exhibits

Frank Webb, Gerald Brommer & Leo Smith, Stephen Quiller, Judi Betts, Linda Doll, Margaret Martin, Dan Burt, Maurice Schubin, and Michael Schlicting

Jurors: Member Exhibits

Murray Wentwor, William Herring, Pat Deadman, Doug Walton, Carl Dalio, Jean Grastorf, Mary Todd Beam, Gerald Brommer and Ann Pembraer

Presidents in the '90s include: Carolyn McElvain, Marsha Harris Soloman A.J. Schexnayder, Margo Vance, George Bloxsom, Gerry Finch, Efton Mitchell, Vivian Pollock, Jo Ann Miller, Carol LeCrone-Hale and Lew Glist

Major Workshops

Carolyn Lord, Linda Doll, Leo Smith, Gerald Brommer, Wm. H. Herring, Frank Webb, Shirley Romer, Al Brouillette, Stephen Quiller, Fred Messersmith, Carl Dalio, Virginia Cobb, Betty Braig, Milford Zornes, Ann Pember, Jean Grastorf, Mary Todd Beam, Michael Schlicting, Dan Burt, Judi Betts, Pat Deadman, William Herring, Murray Wentworth and Ed Reep.

Exhibit Venues

First City Bank, Cullen Center, Transco Energy Co., Texaco Heritage Plaza, Nation's Bank and Lyric Center

Outreach

Channel 8 Auction featuring four tables of WAS-H-donated paintings. The tables were featured on TV occasionally. The Museum of Natural Science Christmas tree project with the miniature matted tree ornaments going to Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children; Galveston Home and Garden Show ben-



Don LitzEAU paints portraits for Cash Construction's "A Texas Salute to France", benefiting The American Cancer Society.



Joanie Hughes at St Jerome's Elementary.



Lou Glist painting a mural depicting images of children's activities which are served by the Texas Children's Hospital around the world.



From the left, Diane McCarten and Sheryl Downing working at one of four murals they designed and painted for the Sundown Elementary School in the Katy ISD.



Judges at the Instituto Cultural Mexicano: from the left: A. J. Schexnayder, Gerry Finch, Lou Glist, and Rebecca Castilio from Ripley House.

efiting The Animal Shelter and Adoption Center; Life Enrichment Center of Houston; American Cancer Center; Texas Children's Hospital Cancer Center



Margot Vance, Chairman of "The Weather Show," with Juror T V Weatherman Doug Johnson holding the 1st place winner.

ngoing; Make a Mark; Ripley House; Girl Scouts and Brownie troops; The Art in Medicine Christmas Posters (project covered by Channel 13); Harris County Psychiatric Center; Spring Branch Health Center; Houston Junior Forum Seniors led by Mary Rustay; 20 schools,

many visited multiple times; WAS-H Children's workshop six weeks; Houston Arboretum; daycares; Nursing Homes; retirement homes; community centers; art leagues; and the Post Oak YMCA 6th



George Blossom, with Fund Drive Chairman Linda Tibolla, kicking off the Building Fund Drive with his \$100 donation..

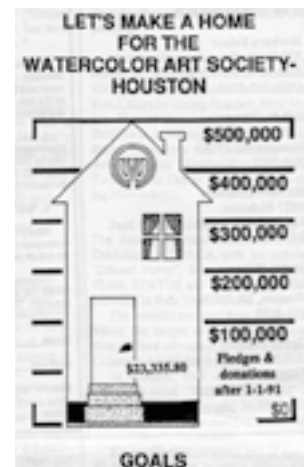
and 7th graders, just to mention a few.

The Traveling Exhibits reaches art-deprived areas across the state. WAS-H volunteers have painted Prints of Charles Dickens for a number of years to benefit the Museum of Printing History Fund Drive.

Faithful volunteers, your contributions to WAS-H and to those you have served in so many ways are so important and appreciated. Your numbers are legion, and I don't want to offend anyone by not being able to mention all of you by name, so I guess I will offend all of you with my apology to all.



Jack Bowen, Honorary Chairman of the Capital Fund Drive, lauding the participants in the Fund Drive for being able to retire the mortgage in only four months. After the congratulations he literally tore up the mortgage. President Margo Vance, left, and Linda Tibolla, Chairman of the Building Fund Drive, right, looking on.



Young of the Menil Collection and Linda Tibolla, among others.

Creativity in Action

A Building Fund was started before we



YEEE HAWWWW we're off to the Piney Woods Convention Center for a WAS-H weekender Paint-Out. It's time for a break.



even left 3209 Montrose. Don Lietzau's slogan won the contest for naming the fund drive, which was: "Catch the Spirit." The goal was \$500,000. Donations started coming in unsolicited from members.

Many projects surfaced:

- The Greeting Card Contest fund-raiser.
- Hand-painted greeting cards for sale at the Gallery.
- A C-note sale. Fifty people donated paintings to sell for \$100 each, raising \$2600.
- Eight area team Chairpersons canvassed their areas to ask for donations, and \$11,661 was the preliminary outcome. The teams were thanked with a luncheon at the Gallery catered by yet another group of WAS-H volunteers.
- Teachers of classes, workshops, award winners, Demo artists and many others donated their fees and prizes to the Building Fund.
- Aprons were made and sold for the cause.
- Garage sales were planned, executed and repeated.

When we had to move and found ourselves at Town and Country needing the stability of a permanent home, a Capital Fund Drive was established. The Building Fund Drive was enveloped into the Capital Fund Drive. First order of business was to form a Steering Committee with the following list of people.

Steering Committee

- W.J. Bowen, Honorary Chairman
- CEO, Transco Energy Company
- Roy Hughes, Vice Chairman
- The Consulting Group
- Richard D Kinder
- President Enron Corporation
- Matthew R. Simmons
- President Simmons & Company

- International
- Charles E. Foster
- Group President Southwestern Bell
- Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pardee,
- Coach Houston Oilers
- Dr. Faber McMullen, Jr. M.D.
- Mrs. Virgil Childress (Doris)

Within two weeks of organizing, commitments for over \$40,000 were received.

Building Activity

Members Paul deGroot and Helen Peters Architects, were taking care of



city ordinances and such, supervising and transforming our 65-year-old building. Ordinances, fees, etc. taken care of, and with the downstairs finished and upstairs work to begin in October 1992.

Sylvia Cameron came to the rescue of the giant oak tree, which was in a bad way. If saved it would make WAS-H compliant with tree ordinance.

By January 1997 we had raised over \$210,000, bought a building valued at \$250,000 in a highly visible location in the Museum District, renovated the facility and paid all but \$30,000 of our mortgage, with \$10,000 still in our Building Fund. The fact excited enough members that they responded with \$2,000 to add

to our coffers.

In December of 1997, the Mortgage was retired in only four months.

Points of Interest

During our many moves and transformations WAS-H prevailed and expanded.

The decade of the '90s was filled with innovative ways to grow — not inward, but outward.

Our monthly shows found their way into lobbies of downtown office buildings. Texas Art Supply was great to host workshops, exhibits and an auction dur

ing our transition.

WAS-H had three juried Big Painting Exhibits downtown.

WAS-H was instrumental in starting WATERFEST in 1993. It was proposed that all Houston galleries hang art watercolor exhibits during the month of July as an Art Walk. Seven galleries, three alternative spaces, one museum and one library have agreed to participate. Member Bill Watson agreed to design the common portion of the invitation. Individual artists could submit proposals for solo or group shows. The University of St. Thomas and the Jungman Branch Library approached us with interest in participating.

(continued on page 12)

(The 90s at WAS-H, continued from page 9)



WATERFEST 1993 as the WAS-H International Competition Exhibition was at Transco Tower.

What is WATERMEDIA 2000?

WAS-H was obligated to host the WFWS Annual Meeting in 2000 and that meant



Planning meeting in Dallas for WAS-H's WATERMEDIA 2000 Trade Expo Standing from the left: Lou Glist, WAS-H; Irene Gruen, American Artist Magazine; John Gilbreath, Texas Art Supply; Margaret Bock, WAS-H. Seated: Gail Fishback, American Artist Magazine, Nancy Dunn, Texas Art Supply.

that WAS-H would be mounting two major exhibits at the same time (our International Exhibition and the WFWS Annual Exhibit). The decision was made to go for broke and host six major exhibits at the same time since there were that many downtown venues available. One thing led to another and a trade expo was added to the menu.

National Trade Expos include: vendors of art supplies, art exhibits, workshops and lectures.

It was thought a National Trade Expo would be feasible for WAS-H to produce, so Glist and Bock returned to Houston full of ideas.

Publishing a 12-month calendar for Watermedia 2000 as a fund-raiser was decided upon. The plan was to have an open citywide contest for watercolorists, to celebrate Houston with their artist's perspective. The calendar was to be ready for purchase by October 1999.

A trolley-tour of downtown Houston was set up with Sandra Lord's Discover Houston to afford members a chance to view the wonderful sights to inspire paintings for the calendar.

Past president Jo Ann Miller put together a grant proposal to CACHH for WATERMEDIA 2000. ☺

Paint-In

Margaret Bock and Betty Frost
Paint-In Coordinators
Richard Linden – Saturday
November 27, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm



Landscape by Richard Linden

Richard Linden studied art and architecture at The University of Texas at Austin, where he learned watercolor painting. During the next three decades of architectural practice, he utilized watercolor painting as a means to illustrate project design proposals to his clientele.

As a member of the faculty in the College of Architecture, Texas Tech University, he taught undergraduate classes in design, watercolor painting and architectural illustration.

For the last decade, Dr. Linden has painted for leisure enjoyment. He has participated in the Lone Star Art League of Texas and is past president of the Northwest Art League of Houston. His work has been exhibited in galleries, libraries, hospitals, banks, churches and other institutional venues. He is a long-term member of WAS-H, a past member of the Galveston Art Society and the San Antonio Watercolor Society. His work has been recognized with numerous awards in juried competitions.

About the Paint-In

The subjects of interest for the Paint-In are landscape and cityscape scenes displaying fall foliage and water reflections.

Participants will have an opportunity to complete several paintings and be exposed to a number of techniques for creating interesting pictures.

Suggested materials:

Transparent and opaque watercolors
Watercolor pencils (blue violet, raw sienna, white), Rough watercolor paper (4 quarter, sheets, 140 substance), Brushes (#6, 12 round, 1 1/2 flat, 3/4 or longer rigger, toothbrush and any other assorted brushes on hand), Drafting tape, Scissors, X-acto knife
Bring any other materials you like to use in painting.

2010-2011 Paint-In Schedule

Dec.No Paint-In
Jan. 22Joanie Hughes
Feb. 26Nellie Kress ☺

Paint-Out

Mary Rustay

Paint-Out Chairman

Our November Paint-Out will be in Galveston at the vintage historic Galvez Hotel on November 20, 2010.

I have arranged for special overnight rates at the Hotel Galvez at \$99/night + tax, etc. for 2 DBL Beds or 1 Queen. One to four persons can share a room. I will be sending out reservation information with our special rate in a separate email. There is an art competition celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Galvez with an award of \$1000 for the winner. The winning painting will be auctioned off with proceeds going to the Historical Association of Galveston.

Save the date. You can come down for the day or the weekend. We are being given the use of a meeting room to gather on Saturday, if not painting, from 10 am - 10 pm. Do not miss out on this rare opportunity to paint a winner. Plan to paint all day Saturday at the Galvez, and use Friday and Sunday to drive around and take photos or paint elsewhere. Sounds soooooo fun.

Please email or call me of your interest ASAP. 713-965-9393- H, 713-965-0812, ext. 1668- W, 713-703-1533- Cell, rustay@heritagetexas.com - W or rustgeo@aol.com - H ☺

ART ALIVE FOR 35



December 2010
January 2011



Washrag

N E W S L E T T E R

Watercolor Art Society - Houston

From the President

By Jerrie Gast, *President*

We have a full schedule for the holidays, and then the 34th Annual International Exhibition, our April Clothesline Sale, great 2011 workshops and classes. Can we sit down yet and relax? If you do, you may miss something. WAS-H is an ongoing, busy, education, art-appreciation, making art, discussing art, showing art kind of place, and it never stops. We are so happy and grateful for that.

Sign up soon for the John Salminen workshop; his workshop will fill quickly. This time John will teach his expressive realism. He doesn't just copy his photos; he moves and changes things to make them a better composition. John and his wife, Kathy, are two of our favorites here at WAS-H, so save your place with a deposit.

We are bringing back an old tradition. Many of our members received a Signature Status pin when they attained that level in years past. At our Spring 2011 International Exhibition Reception, all Signature Status members who have not yet gotten a pin will receive theirs along with our newly designated Signature members. It is such a lovely recognition of a continued level of excellence in watercolor painting.

Signature members who did not receive your small signature pin at the time you received your Signature Status, please call the office and leave your name. You will then receive it along with new Signature members this year.

The history of WAS-H chronicled in recent months is an eye opener. All of the founders were certainly forward-looking
(continued on page 2)



The 2000s at WAS-H

By Margaret Bock

To quote President Lou Glist, "Watermedia 2000, like a horse race, is coming around the bend **fast**, and is almost at the finish line. "Excitement is growing; participating societies, national publishers, artists, lecturers and attendees are "chomping at the bit" to get the show on the road.

Watermedia 2000 was recognized by the City of Houston as a major cultural and tourism event by being invited to be a part of Mayor Brown's Houston Challenge 2000. We received a grant for Watermedia 2000 through the Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County.

The Greater Houston Convention and Visitors' Bureau hosted an exhibit of the paintings in the Watermedia 2000 Calendar in their showroom in the City Hall. H & H Music Company sent an organ and a musician to add to the festivities. Kudos to Mary Ann Lucas, who

canvassed businesses throughout the city and environs marketing the Watermedia 2000 Calendars. The Calendar was

(continued on page 6)

Calendar

Monthly Show Take-In – Dec. 4, 10 am – noon

Gallery Reception & Holiday Party – Dec. 10, 6-8 pm

General Meeting, Paint-Out, Paint-In – None in December

Board Meeting – Jan. 3

Monthly Show Take-In – Jan. 8, 10 am – noon

General Meeting – Jan. 9, 1:30, Demo Carol Slobin

Gallery Reception – Jan 14. 6-8 pm

Paint-Out – Jan. 15, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Paint-In – Jan. 22, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

International Show Entry Deadline – Jan. 29

Wed. Figure Labs – 12:30-3:30 pm

Open Studio – Fri., 1-3 pm

Paint-In

Margaret Bock and Betty Frost

Paint-In Coordinators

Joanie Hughes – Saturday January 22,

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Pen, Ink, and Watercolor - All levels



With attention given to all aspects of painting concepts and techniques, this medium has endless possibilities for a variety of themes with loose,

relaxed paintings inspired by favorite treasures, remembered travels, and nature, as well as references for future paintings.

Supply list: Watercolor pad 9x12 or 8 ½ – 100lb., black pens, one waterproof and one regular, Kneaded eraser, small, and medium brushes, tissues, paper towels, any current paints or pan paints, Winsor Newton paints (only if paint is needed), new gambage, burnt sienna, alizarin crimson, french ultramarine, Winsor violet, Hookers green, and digital camera. ☺

Carol Slobin

Paint-In, November 2010

Carol Slobin's class had a great view of



the model. Tables were placed in a circle surrounding the model, who posed on a stand. Carol did several demos while explaining that careful observation will produce a good likeness of the model. The class was most attentive, and some wonderful sketches and paintings resulted. — Betty Frost

Volunteer of the Month

Dan Doughty

You may have noticed that the block wall at the Mandell parking area, which screens the mechanical equipment, had collected some unsightly dirt and rust. The lower area of the building wall at both Mandell and Alabama also had a visually disturbing dark stain. Dan Doughty, Paula Doughty's husband, has removed the dirt, rust and stain from each of these areas. To do this, Dan brought a pressure washer to the building and, with a great deal of muscle power, time and commitment to making our building as attractive as possible, cleaned the walls.

We are pleased and thankful to have within our group of artists those such as Dan who are committed to making and keeping our environment a pleasant place to create and enjoy watercolor painting. ☺

(2000s at WAS-H continued from page 1)

plugged on Channel 2's "The Buzz," and Watermedia 2000 was featured on Debra Duncan's show as she hosted 25 of our members.

During 2000 WAS-H featured:

Jurors, Membership Exhibits:

Carol Meyers, Arne Westerman, Judi Morris, Marilyn Hughey Phillips, Doug Lew, Joy Moon, George James, Jan Fabian Wallake and Dale Laitinen.

Jurors, International Exhibits: Carla O'Conner, Jim Kosvanec, Chen Khee Chi, Steve Quiller, Betsy Dillard Stroud, Judi Morris, Frank Webb and John Salminen.

Major Workshops: Janet Walsh, Fred Messersmith, Dan Burt, Don Getz and Mark Mahaffey.

Show Venues:

Continental Center, Uptown Park, One Houston Center and Allen Center.

Meeting and Workshop Venues:

These events, meetings and workshops were held at the Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center on the northwest side of Hermann Park, the Glassell Auditorium and The Museum of Fine

Art auditorium to accommodate the larger audiences.

Miscellany:

- In September 2008, Stephen Brenner, Susan Giannantonio, Suzanne Leatherwood, and Stanley Smith were granted Honorary Memberships for their significant efforts over and above average on behalf of WAS-H.
- A quote from Barb Dougherty, Publisher of Art Calendar: "Watercolor has become a serious school of art in America. For

(continued on page 7)

Exploring Impressionism in Watermedia, Hands On

Susan Giannantonio

Tuesday afternoons, Jan. 18 thru March 8

Explore methods used by the impressionist artists we love. Alternating watercolor and acrylics, week by week. You may paint either one or both. Weekly Demos. Resource materials provided; paint-along a painting each week. All levels welcome.

For more info, go to <http://SusanTeachesPainting.blogspot.com>.

(continued from page 6)

Houston to recognize this fact is a gift to the entire world!"

- Seeds of Watercolor is a fund started to give an opportunity to honor and remember friends or families by sowing Seeds of Watercolor through donations. As of July 2008, \$8500 had been received.
- A permanent donor wall has been installed. Fretz Construction Co. provided the installation as a donation. Suzanne Leatherwood enhanced the presentation by painting the supporting wall. It is historic that an organization such as ours was able to raise the funds to build this state-of-the art building in just three years.



- A plaque to memorialize Past Presidents was donated by the GAS group and installed in the library. Three Past Presidents – Lou Glist, Harold Phenix, and Dr. Faber McMullen, who contributed greatly to the success and recognition that WAS-H enjoys today – are presently named on the plaque.
- Two Examiner Newspaper reporters, a documentary filming visitor and a representative from Mayor Bill White's office were present for the February "Sweet Arts Night" reception.
- Houston meteorologist Frank Billingsley from KPRC Channel 2 was emcee at the awards presentation for the Annual Members Exhibit held at WAS-H.
- The Citizen's Environmental Coalition (CEC) donated \$100 toward a Judge's Choice Award at our Earth Day exhibit.
- The 2008-09 Board of Directors took action to deem Monthly Exhibits to be truly juried as meets the Statement of Professional Standards for Exhibits as contained in the Annual Membership Directories.

Activities:

Amid all the above, WAS-H's usual activities proceeded with calm and aplomb for 35 years, they being Annual Juried Exhibits, monthly general meetings with demos, outreach, Clothesline Sale, Paint-Outs, Paint-Ins, figure lab, critique sessions with leading member artists, wonderful demos and workshops featuring our own fantastically talented artists.

- There were two overnighter Paint-Outs: one at Round Top at Festival Hill with all the amenities provided and the other at Galveston.



Mary Rustay with WAS-H's Paint-Out group in Chapel Hill, Texas.

- Weekend Splashes were inaugurated to give members who work during the week an opportunity to study with the pros.
- Monthly juried shows give members an opportunity to exhibit their work while learning the rules and regulations of entering competitions.
- Claybord was accepted as a viable surface for watercolor competitions and later on was ruled to be acceptable without plexiglass. This moved us even more into the new millennium.
- After much deliberation with members and other watercolor societies, the 2008 Board of Directors deemed canvas an acceptable surface for watermedia. This was done to encourage members to "think out of the box." The ruling limits painting on canvas to experimental exhibits in monthly shows for the time being only.
- An aid to help members learn of competition opportunities was a column in

the Washrag called "Show Ticklers."

- A WAS-H Web site was launched October 2001.
- WAS-H was the recipient of the art



contents of the Bowen Library!

Signature Memberships:

- The Board opened the Signature Membership category to include any member in good standing whose paintings had been accepted into our International Exhibition three or more times. Those existing Signature Members who had to earn their status by having been chosen in five or more WAS-H International Shows are now designated as Signature Member Elite.
- Arts In Medicine has been held at Texas Children's Hospital Cancer Center ongoing Tuesdays since 1998.



- Presidents in the 2000s were Lou Glist,
(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

Susan Giannantonio, John Ryall, Steve Brenner (2 terms), Linda Swaynos, Ann Bell (2 terms), Jeanne Heise, Mary Davis and Jerrie Gast (2 terms). The bylaws were revised limiting presidents to two terms.

Outreach Recipients:

On going programs are enabled by the wonderful volunteers who donate their



Left to Right: Jackie Williams, Sarah Kitgawa, Barbara Montagnino with Sarah's painted "Comfort Cart" to be used in the highest-acuity units stocked with items of comfort and care.

time and talents. Many who cannot partake physically contributed supplies or funds for supplies. Art Supply has donated many, many supplies.

• Art for Seniors has been ongoing since 1985, led by Mary Rustay Thursdays at WAS-H.



Mary Rustay with the Art for Seniors

• \$1000 Scholarship Annual Award was established and presented to a graduating senior of the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. The Award must go toward an example of the work that won the Scholarship Award in 2010. *Aroma 2* by Portlynn Tagavi.



college art program.

- Art programs at Cornerstone Academy, SBISD's charter school and Spring Branch Community Center.
- Houston International Festival's WATERMEDIA IRELAND volunteers teaching, coaching, judging in regional junior and senior high schools, and culminating with the contest winners exhibit at the Downtown Public Library.



- WAS-H Summer Art Classes for children ages 7 to 12/
- Brownie Scouts "Care to Share" at Ainsley Court Assisted Living, Cypress, Texas.
- Bethany Methodist Church; Depelchin Children's Center; Galena Park High School; Lomax Middle School, LaPorte; Riverwood Middle School, Humble; North Shore Middle School, Houston; Cypress Creek High; and Pasadena High.

• Judson Robinson Jr. Community Center after-school art program.

Auxiliary Exhibitions:

- Signature Membership Show. In recognition of the members who earned this special honor, the Board of Directors decided to provide a special show opportunity for them following the Membership Exhibit in the fall of 2001. The show, which was not be juried, was mounted in the WAS-H Gallery.
- Monthly Gallery Winners Show was part of Watermedia 2003. Juror Arthur Turner gave Awards for Best of Show, 2nd, 3rd and Honorable Mention.
- Giclee Exhibit one time only, July 2002

- monthly show fund-raiser. Juror: Kathy Buchanan of Buchanan Gallery.
- The Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Art Invitational.
- Art Houston. An annual July event sponsored by the City of Houston and the Houston Art Dealers Association (HADA). It is meant to create interest in art during July. A joint brochure is produced, sometimes with a theme. A

percent of sales goes toward aiding a charity. Costs of brochure and advertising are split. WAS-H participated in 2000 to bring attention to Watermedia. Watercolor exhibits were encouraged at that time.

• In September of 2008, WAS-H and Houston Grand Opera announced a painting competition celebrating the HGO production of Benjamin Britten's opera *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The competition afforded WAS-H an introduction to a new venue and was consistent with the Opera's mission to integrate the Arts in Houston.

The competition opened with an introduction to the opera by noted opera lecturer Ann Thompson, followed by three viewings of DVDs of both the Shakespeare play and the opera in October, November and December. The January 2009 General meeting demon-



Left to right: Elisabeth Basiley, HGO Director of Marketing and Communications; Neil Armfield, Director; and Dale Ferguson, set and costume designer.

stration was a presentation by internationally known Australian Director Neil Armfield and Set and Costume Designer Dale Ferguson. All offered to members to generate ideas for theme of paintings related to the opera.

Six paintings were selected by Juror Arthur Turner to hang in the Wortham Theater Center during the production of the opera. The first, second and third place winners each received two tickets to the opera and were treated to a wine and cheese reception prior to curtain.

Fifty paintings were entered at \$10 each. WAS-H donated \$500 in the take-in fees to the opera. HGO donated the tickets and hosted the reception.

- I-SEA, the International Society of Experimental Artists Exhibit, was scheduled to be at WAS-H in September 2008, complete with a Member Convention. Demos were scheduled by Joel Sampson and Maureen Brouillette Sampson. However, Hurricane Ike came instead and spoiled all the fun and all the hard work the committee did to produce the event.
- Montgomery College Invitational.
- Texas A&M University J. Wayne Stark Gallery Invitational Competition Exhibition was judged by Arthur Turner.
- The featured exhibit on display during the grand opening celebration was the



The silent auction wall of the Claybord 100 Rund Raising Sale



Left to right: Linda Swaynos, Elaine Salazar and Edwin Ramos

WAS-H 100 Fundraiser. To its credit, the sales from this exhibit grossed \$23,000 and netted \$20,000. The funds were committed to help round out our Capital Campaign. 125 clayboards were donated by Amper-sand Art Supply. 100 WAS-H



Three magnificent columns and two tables were constructed by the children in the Arts In Medicine program at Texas Children's Hospital.



Sam Caldwell introduces Alice Hoffman, who read her prizewinning poem "The Black Rose."



Bridgett Vallery, Gregory Wilson and Carolyn Farb

members donated paintings executed on Claybord to the sale, a number of which were fea-

tured in a silent auction. Approximately 400 guests were in attendance.

- Bridgett Vallery's "I Love New York" preparation for hosting the American Watercolor Traveling Exhibit was unique, causing anticipation and excitement while awaiting the arrival of the Show. The AWS show was paired with an auction and sale to benefit the Texas Children's Cancer Center. A fabulous exhibit of 100 WAS-H members' paintings on Claybord for the TCC auction. Clayboards were donated by Ampersand Art Supply. The evening was a resounding success. The fundraiser netted \$10,000. The guests enjoyed seeing what the American Watercolor Society considered noteworthy as they hummed along with Jordan Derouen as he sang "I Love New York in June." The Claybord sale paid for the expense of bringing the AWS show to Houston, and for the little patients at TCC to enjoy experiencing the joy of painting.

Watermedia 2000

- WAS-H apron sales were ongoing.
- WAS-H hosted the Annual Business Meeting and Exhibit of the WFWS.
- WAS-H celebrated Watermedia 2000 by simultaneously exhibiting over 500 award-winning artists from seven prestigious art societies from 27 states coast to coast.

The Exhibits were:

- From New York, the American Watercolor Society (AWS) 1999-2000 Traveling Show.
- From California, the National Watercolor Society (NWS) Permanent Collection spanning years 1955-1985.
- From Pennsylvania, the National Society of Painters in Casein and Acrylic (NSPCA) Signature Member Exhibit. Representing 19 southern states, the



Delegates of the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies in Houston for Watermedia 2000 in the lobby at the Doubletree Hotel Downtown getting ready for the day's activities.

Southern Watercolor (SW) 23rd Annual Competition Exhibition.

- From Texas, the Texas Watercolor Society (TWS) 51st Annual

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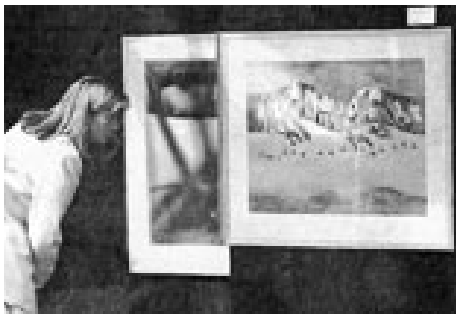
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Competition Exhibition.

- From Houston, the Watercolor Art Society-Houston (WAS-H) 23rd Annual International Competition Exhibition.
- From Houston, the Watercolor Art Society-Houston (WAS-H) 1st Signature Membership Exhibition.
- From eleven states from Texas to California, the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies (WFWS) 1st Signature Membership Exhibit.

On the day of hanging the exhibits, a crew was ready to start delivery of the flats at 5:30 am. One after the other, each venue received their flats. Soon after, the paintings followed, each venue receiving the correct exhibit. Carol Hale and Duncan Simmons had the details worked out to the minute. It was awesome.

Auxiliary Exhibits:



Paintings from Watermedia 2000 being viewed in downtown Houston.

- Watercolor Art Society-Houston Gallery Membership Exhibit
- Archway Gallery Membership Exhibit
- International Festival Brazil/WAS-H Area School Children's Exhibits were at the Houston Public Library.
- Texas Art Educators Association, Area School Children's Exhibit, Houston Public Library

The venues hosting the exhibits were: 500 Jefferson Building, Cullen Center, One Allen Center, 1100 Louisiana Building, Downtown Public Library, Pennzoil Place, Bank of America Center, The Lyric Center and Wells Fargo Plaza.

Expo:

- The Doubletree Hotel in downtown Houston was the venue for the three days of activities, which comprised the many activities of Watermedia 2000
- The sale of art supplies featuring major manufacturers of art materials and their

artists who demonstrated the many ways to use their products.



Vendors at Watermedia 2000 awaiting the surge of artists coming between workshops..

- Workshops by leading watercolorists such as James Juszcyk, Betsy Dillard Stroud, Susan Scheewe, Barbara Dougherty, Ed Betts, Gordon Fowler, Tom Lynch, Stephen Quiller, Zoltan Szabo, among the 24 who were there.
- Symposia speakers: De Carol Troyen, MFA Boston; Dr. Edmund Pillsbury, CEO of Pillsbury; Peters Fine Art in Dallas; Meridith Long; Virginia Cobb; Stephen Doherty, Editor in Chief, *American Artist* and *Watercolor Magazines*; Ed Betts; Polly Hammett; Hilary Page; Dean Mitchell and Arthur Turner.

• Many of the attendees had rooms at the Doubletree with easy access to all activities taking place on the second floor. Can you imagine the energy that was expended as artists sped from exhibit to exhibit, workshop to workshop, then to the vendors to get all those wonderful (and wonderfully inexpensive) supplies they just had to have? It was a very exciting time!

- The banquet at the Plaza Club, One Shell Plaza, was elegant. Jack Bowen was the Honoree, and Peter Marzio, Director of the MFA-H, was Guest Speaker.

• There was an Honorary Committee numbering 24 chaired by Ann L. Kinder. Jack Bowen was the Honorary Chair of the Advisory Board consisting of 17 people, The Executive Committee Watermedia 2000 numbered 33. There were 43 paintings donated to the Silent Auction, as well as 28 in-kind contributions.

• Among the 23 vendors were Jack Richardson Ampersand Art Supply, Holbein, Inc., Strathmore Paper and Savoir Faire.

- The art magazines donated ads, and KTRK TV/Channel 13 promoted us.
- The grand total of income was \$115,546.50; expenses \$97,821.95; and profit was \$17,724.95.

Watermedia 2003

• Watermedia 2003 opened April 9, 2003. The Doubletree Hotel downtown was again abuzz with excitement as artists from across Houston and environs as well as from around the nation arrived to take part in the 51 workshops and 13 symposia being offered, to say nothing of the trade show and the six exceptional watercolor exhibits.

• Among the WAS-H producers, there were high hopes of repeating the success enjoyed by Watermedia 2000. Being older and wiser, we were very much better organized. Thanks to computer-savvy people, things went very smoothly. Sales recordkeeping was perfection, thanks to Steve Brenner and Bruce Winquist. Workshop chairmen kept the changing of workshop takers and teachers running smoothly, seeing that the monitors were in place, directing the flow of traffic and



Watermedia 2003 Executive Committee at a planning session. Seated from left to right: Marsha Harris, Margaret Bodk, Mary Rustay, Jo Ann Miller. Standing: Bob Sklar, Susan Giannantonio, Carol Hale, Lou Glist, John Ryall.

getting the right instructor to the right room. Of course the students swarmed the trade show between classes, getting great, great bargains.

- Some of the instructors at Watermedia

2003 were Catherine Anderson, Virginia Cobb, Timothy Clark, Donna Durbin, Judy Morris, Hilary Page, Jan Pollard, Marilyn Huey Phillis, Jean Grastorf, Donald Clegg, Judy Coffey, Paul Jackson, Betsy Dillard Stroud, Calvin Goodman, Dean Mitchell, Karen Vernon, Marcie Boone, Steven Quiller, Zoltan Szabo was scheduled to come, but his sudden death called for quick action. Steve Quiller graciously stepped in and took his place.

- In attendance were Steven Doherty,



Artist Dean Mitchell with editors of *Watermedia* and *Watercolor Magic* magazines at *Watermedia 2003 Banquet*

Editor in Chief of *American Artist* and *Watercolor Magazine*; Maurine Bloomfield, Senior Editor of *Watercolor Magic*; Sandra Carpenter, Editor of *Artist Magazine*; Jennifer King, U.S Editor of *International Artist Magazine*. Jennifer King was very interested in the Challenge of Champions Exhibit. Her interest led to a featured article in the *International Artist Magazine* September of 2003. Congratulations to John Ryall, whose concept and execution of the Challenge of Champions theme was his.

- The art exhibitions included the WAS-H International Exhibit, the Ohio Watercolor Society Exhibit, The



Watermedia 2003 Workshop Artist Marilyn Huey Phillis with Pat and John Ryall, Challenge of Champions Chair.

International Society of Experimental Artists, the National Watercolor Society (NWS) Traveling Exhibit and the Florida Watercolor Society Exhibit.

- In-kind full page ads of *Watermedia* 2003 ran in *Watercolor Magic*, *Watercolor* and *American Artist* magazines multiple times. Art Calendar ran it once. KUHf 88.7 FM ran two 30-second spot announcements for two days. Fox News featured publicity competition winners singly for a week. Word has it that 2003 had a dramatic impact in terms of tourist dollars bringing visitors to downtown Houston from Greater Houston and environs as well as from across the U.S. and internationally.

Banquet:

A very gala banquet was held at the Plaza Club, One Shell Plaza, honoring Herb Alpert for his contributions to the arts. His efforts took form not only with his performance in the many facets of art, but also in the creation of the Herb Alpert Foundation to assist educational and arts programs.

- Herb Alpert was the recipient of WAS-H's Medallion recognizing artis-



Herb Alpert, wearing his WAS-H Medallion at *Watermedia 2003*, speaking at gala banquet.

tic achievement. He thanked WAS-H and spoke about his philosophy of art and its influence on his work. He was



Steve Brenner, WAS-H President; Ann Thompson, guest speaker and Margaret Bock, Chairman *Watermedia 2003* at the banquet honoring Herb Alpert. introduced by Calvin Goodman, Art Consultant. Ann Thompson, Founder

of Let's Go to the Opera, was Guest Speaker. She gave an inspirational (and humorous) speech about the link between art and music

- WAS-H was honored to have Edwin A. Eubanks, AIA, and John B. Holstead,



Left to right: John and Marilyn Holstead with Susan and Robert Lynch enjoying the festivities at *Watermedia 2003 Banquet*

ESQ, as Honorary Chairmen of the banquet. Their participation garnered *Watermedia 2003* the attention of many of Houston's philanthropists and art patrons. Donations from the Harry S. and Isabel Cameron Foundation, Tillman Fertitta, George P. Michell, Marilyn Oshman, Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Tomjanovich, Dr. Faber McMullen and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lynch, among others. With the help of these generous people, the banquet was a financial success, as well as a successful effort in making the community aware of watermedia and the Watercolor Art Society-Houston.

- Mr. Eubanks, owner of Mirabeau Antiques, Architectural Elements and



Herb Alpert in conversation at his reception at *Buchanan Gallery, Galveston, TX.*

Art Gallery, feted Alpert with an exhibition at Mirabeau Gallery during *Watermedia 2003*.

- Alpert was also honored with an Exhibition at Kathy Buchanan's Buchanan Gallery in Galveston.

- Among the nine door prizes was
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Lottie Glist; Katy Buchanan of Buchanan Gallery, Galveston; and Karen Vernon at Watermedia 2003 Banquet

a chance to spend some time at the O'Sullivan Condo in Breckenridge, Colorado, and a watercolor workshop at B&B in Mt. Home, Texas.

• Receptions were held for the WAS-H International Challenge of Champions and Herb Alpert at Mirabeau Gallery, Buchanan Gallery and Christ Church Cathedral Invitational. There was also a book signing and sale featuring seven artist/instructors of the Expo who were in attendance at the Expo.

Quotes:

- Ann Emmert Abbott, Editor of *Watercolor Magic* magazine: "I'm so impressed by the Watermedia 2003 Web site and by all of the events you guys have planned! WOW!"
- Jean Grastorf, Artist/Instructor: "It was really a joy to be with you."
- Judy Morris, Artist/Instructor: "You provide so much enjoyment packed into a few days — Outstanding."
- Participants: "Do it again, only sooner than three years." "It was wonderful." "The exhibits were beautiful and all in walking distance." "What a wonderful group of sharing, enthusiastic and creative people, both teaching and attending."

Not all workshop artists were very well known. Some were just emerging. So the income from the workshops was down from 2000. The total income from the event was \$168,711.78 minus expenses of \$164,209.44 for a profit of \$4,502.34.

• Those who made Watermedia 2000 and 2003 a success: the whole WAS-H membership, the volunteers, the donors, the participants. It took all of us, and we were a success!

S0000000000.....Let's do it again!

The Building

The year 2001 found WAS-H still having to find spaces in which to hold our



The last stand! An informal conference in the entry to the original 1601 W. Alabama.

meetings and/or workshops away from our building due to the lack of space for a large audience.

Other concerns were lack of parking space. This desire was hampered by city parking regulations and an aging building which was going to be a financial drain to maintain. The drawback that stops us from remedying these inconveniences is — guess what — money.

Explorations were ongoing with the approval of several years of our Boards of Directors, led by Property Chairman Stan Smith. To be able to locate in an area comparable to our present location,

The thinking of the Board was that for much, much less we could build a new building and renovate the original building. The Board of Directors 2001-2002 announced a fund-raising plan with

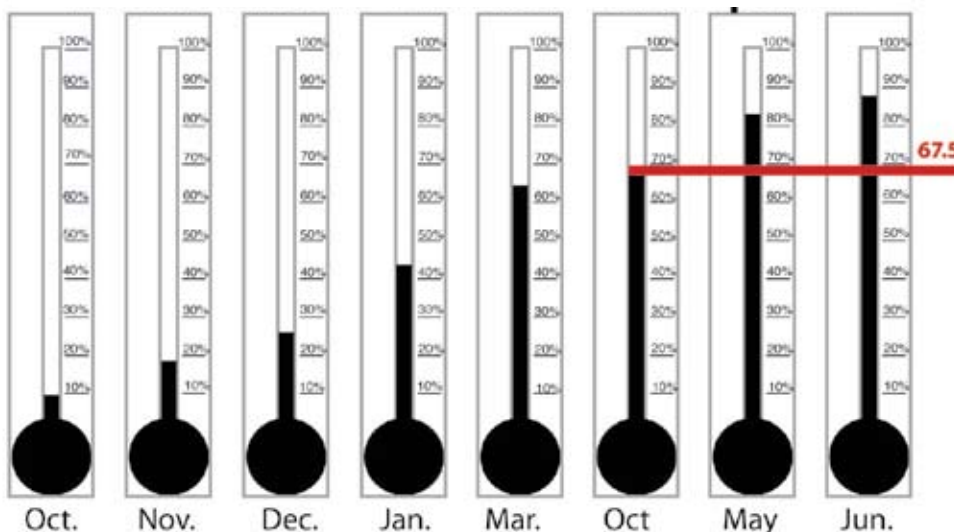


Capital Fund Guru Bruce Winquist and Susan Giannantonio

a specific solution to our space problems. They did this with assurances to members not to build a facility that was beyond our needs, would not incur debt and would keep the present membership fee schedule. The financial success of Watermedia 2000 allowed us to consider these important property questions.

Property Chairman Stan Smith, retired architect, drew up several concepts for a building on our property. One such plan would cost less than \$200,000. Stan created a scale model of this plan, and Eric Sproghe, member and architect, made an architectural

100 % Percent Member Participation



The thermometer indicates the percentage of membership participation.

and with larger facilities, it was calculated that the cost would be somewhere between \$750,000 and \$2,000,000.

rendering of it so as to better facilitate discussions about our course of action. Stan also conferred with city officials,

contractors, architects and other experts in the field. There was no action taken before asking for input from the membership. The first sign of progress was that the garage apartment at the rear of our property was demolished, lowering liability exposure, maintenance costs and affording us more parking space.

A capital campaign was initiated on April 2, 2002, with Board of Directors unanimous approval. Susan Giannantonio led the drive supported by Jack Bowen, Roy Hughes and Bruce Winquist, among others. No member assessments would be made. Foundations and corporations always expect 100% participation from members to support the goals of a project in tangible ways (participating in programs, exhibitions, classes, etc.). The preliminary cost estimate of the proposed building fell close to the fund-raising goal of \$200,000.

Our outreach programs were in full swing, helping us to “grab the golden ring.” Member donations totals in November 2002 were \$27,210 with \$4,400 pledged. That was about 19%



One last look except for the doctored and pruned ancient tree.



We couldn't leave without one last party. Hurrahs offered by President Ann Bell.



Demolition of the old house to make way for our new building.

of membership participation in the Charitable Foundation.

By December of 2005, the decision had been made to change direction and build a two-story, 5400 sq. ft. building priced at \$595,000. It appears that foundations and corporations would rather give toward larger projects.

January 2006 shows that \$520,000 in gifts and pledges had been made through member contacts. To kick off the campaign a generous gift was given by the Jack and Annis Bowen Foundation.

Art Supply made WAS-H an offer it could not refuse, that being, offering space during the construction of our building to house our office and hold classes and our mini workshops. Also the Gallery shows were displayed in the entryway of the store on our gray display panels. All activities proceeded as usual and carried an air of excitement and enthusiasm about them.

Meanwhile, Susan Giannantonio had her work cut out for her. Donations were being sought, and were gained, even \$66 from penny jars of loose change. Serious donations of

\$45,000 were added to our beginning balance. A modest line of credit was offered to help shortfalls by a group of supporters but was never drawn on. That way there would not be a need to mortgage either the building or the property.

Permits were granted and the household furnishings were moved and set up at Art Supply on August 10, 2005. A groundbreaking ceremony took place on August 24th at 3 pm; almost 100% of WAS-H members and some generous community support made this happen.

In March, Betsy Dillard Stroud's workshop completed our stay at Art Supply. April brought in a shower of classes, workshops and exhibitions at our fabulous new building. The Capital Campaign Drive was about to close out in May of 2006. Members, friends and private foundations generously supported WAS-H for four years to the tune of \$750,000 to build our building. WAS-H has made its mark on the art world.

In-kind gifts are invaluable and generous. Heartfelt thanks go to Builder Arch-Con; Art Supply's Vikki Trammell and Ben Russell; Ampersand Art Supply; and WAS-H members, their families and friends.

On the evening of May 12, 2006, WAS-H members and several hundred guests gathered at 1601 W. Alabama to celebrate and honor WAS-H's many patrons and supporters with a very Gala Grand Opening of the newly created building — a building which, to the best of our knowledge, is the only building built exclusively for the exhibition and teaching of art done in watercolor.

Roy Hughes and his Bagpipes, Ervin Nester's Touch of Brass Quintet and Suzanne Leatherwood's beautiful Touch of Class refreshment presentation all made for a fantastic evening.

Kudos to all who made this feat possible.

Hardly a breath was drawn after the excitement of the Grand Opening and two major fund-raisers. Muriel Christensen started planning a birthday party for WAS-H's 35 years of unbelievable growth. This fete was recognized with a birthday cake and festivities at the Monthly Gallery reception September 17, 2010. From there

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The building

WAS-H Breaks Ground



Left to right: Susan Giannantonio, Bruce Winquist, Susan Leatherwood, Stan Smith, Linda Swaynos, Ann Bell, Jack Bowen, Steve Brenner and Lou Glist.



Groundbreakers were led by our Honored Capital Campaign Honorary Chairman, Jack Bowen, at 1601 Alabama, Houston, TX. He was surrounded by Building Committee members, Fund Drive members, WAS-H members and friends.



Muriel moved on to honor the Founding and Charter Members of the Watercolor Art Society-Houston. Her committee tracked down as many of this group as possible and came up with an amazing number of them. Paintings were solicited for an exhibit featuring these Founding

and Charter Members. This exhibit was held in conjunction with the Monthly Gallery Exhibit "Experimental Works" November 12, 2010. The Founder and Charter Exhibit was hung on our black display panels upstairs where old friends could sit and trade memories. The

experimental paintings were on display in the Main Gallery downstairs. It was a heart warming, festive occasion. The combined receptions drew a large enthusiastic crowd. The elevator was a most welcome feature of our new building!

“Grand Opening of WAS-H’s Jack Bowen Building” - May 12, 2006



Development Director Susan Giannantonio presented Jack Bowen with WAS-H’s “Medallion for Outstanding Achievement” during the Grand Opening Celebration.



Susan Giannantonio and Jack Bowen at the entrance of the Jack Bowen building.



Roy Hughes with bagpipes; at entrance of building at WAS-H’s Grand Opening in May 2006.

WAS-H honored the Founding and Charter Members at a reception November 12, 2010.



Signing in at the front desk.



The Founder and Charter members at the reception in their honor.



**WAS-H
Holiday
Party**

Friday

December 10

6 - 8 pm

at WAS-H



**WAS-H 2nd Annual
Fund Drive**

Please watch for your letter in the mail asking you to consider putting WAS-H on your gift list this year. We know you love WAS-H — we all do. With your tax-deductible support, WAS-H can continue to do what we do best: bring watercolor into many people’s lives.

**WAS-H Community
Service: December Small
Paintings Show**

Our December Small Paintings Exhibit and Reception promises to be an exciting time of holiday spirit and fun. This year, our December Small Painting Show will also benefit “The Make A Wish Foundation,” which grants wishes to children with life threatening diseases. We are doing this in several ways:

December Small Paintings Show: \$5 donation per artist goes to Make A Wish. WAS-H will also donate a portion of its commissions from the sale of artwork in the December show to the Make A Wish Foundation.

WAS-H Members and guests may purchase Raffle Tickets (\$5 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20) to the Houston Grand Opera’s production of “Lucia di Lammermoor” and all ticket proceeds will benefit Make-A-Wish.

Thank you for participating and making this year’s December event successful and fun! — Linda Vanek, Vice President