

## Welcome New Members!

Pauline Garnett    Peggy Lamoureux  
Jennifer Gelinis    Virginia Pelletier  
Leslie Haworth    Karen Raus  
Margaret Howland    Randi VonSteinwehr

## Save the Dates

Sakonnet Arts Network invites you to a monthly Gathering of Artists! Come together with artists and art lovers in comfortable and informal settings to share ideas and focus on the work of regional artists. On Thursday, November 19, professional photographer Jan Armor of Portsmouth will transport you to Africa with images from his travels there. On Thursday, December 17, the cast of Ebenezer will sing holiday favorites. All gatherings are free and open to the public; refreshments are provided. Please visit [www.SakonnetArts.org](http://www.SakonnetArts.org) for additional information.

## Members Gallery

All members are eligible to have their artwork shown in the Members Gallery on our web site. Send 4 or 5 digital images with titles, plus a brief bio or artist statement to Mary Sexton at [marys@goodgraphicdesign.com](mailto:marys@goodgraphicdesign.com) for inclusion. It's FREE! Please participate.

Check out the Gallery at: [www.westportartgroup.com/gallery](http://www.westportartgroup.com/gallery).

## BrushStrokes Deadline

Friday, December 18th for the January/February issue

Send info to: Mary Sexton  
66 Peaceful Way, Tiverton RI 02878,  
401-288-0999 or email  
[marys@goodgraphicdesign.com](mailto:marys@goodgraphicdesign.com).

## Member Wins Award

Mary Sexton, WAG's Communication Chair, recently won an award for excellence in graphic design.

## Board Meetings:

Thursday, November 12, 1:30 PM

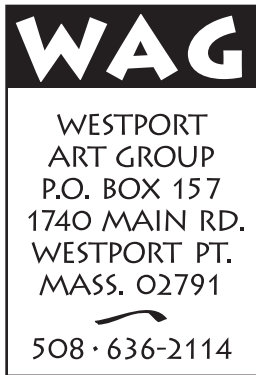
Thursday, December 10, 1:30 PM

### 2010 WAG OFFICERS

**Heide Hallemeier**, *President*  
**Inge Van Pelt**, *Vice President*  
**Tuck Buffum**, *Treasurer*  
**Janet Jones**, *Recording Secretary*  
**Paul Vien**, *Corresponding Secretary*  
**Alita Marks**, *Membership Secretary*

### COMMITTEES

| CLASSES   | COMMUNICATIONS  |
|---|---|
| <b>Judy Keeley</b><br>Madeline Ferraz, Classes<br>Barbara Chadwick,<br>Crafts | <b>Mary Sexton</b><br>Claire Tremblay                         |
| <b>ORGANIZATION<br/>&amp; FUND RAISING</b><br><b>Madeleine Ferraz</b>         | <b>PROGRAMS</b><br><b>June Roche</b>                          |
| <b>MEMBERSHIP</b><br>Susan Hadley,<br>List & Labels                           | <b>SCHOLARSHIPS</b><br><b>Doris MacGovern</b><br>Nancy Mackay |
| <b>EXHIBITIONS</b><br><b>Paul Vien</b><br>Susie Emery                         | <b>BUILDINGS &amp;<br/>GROUNDS</b><br><b>Nancy Burkholder</b> |
| <b>HOSPITALITY</b><br><b>Toni Keavy</b>                                       | <b>WAG SHOWS</b><br><b>Michele Bailey</b>                     |
|   | <b>MEMBER AT LARGE</b><br>Jane Cissel                         |



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# Brush Strokes

WESTPORT ART GROUP

November/December 2009

## WAG Annual Holiday Fair

This year's Annual Holiday Fair will be held Saturday, December 5th, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the WAG Center, 1740 Main Road, Westport. We are looking forward to a fun and successful event, and encourage you to join us!

As usual we will be featuring fabulous handcrafted items made by local artisans, including pottery, woodcraft, stained glass, and handcrafted jewelry. We will also feature original artwork by our members, in a sale we are calling "Artwork at a Perfect Price!" with the emphasis on smaller works, priced at

\$150 or less. WAG artists are encouraged to participate! We will also have a silent auction featuring an original painting by Dora Atwater Milikin, among other fabulous offerings. Thank you, Dora! And lest our shoppers get hungry, we will again be offering tasty temptations with our Baked Goods Sale.

Volunteers are needed and may help in any number of ways, from hanging the artwork, contributing baked goods, posting Fair flyers, staffing the fair, and more. If you can spare just 2 or 3 hours, it would be a big help! To help with the Bake Sale, please contact

Alita Marks at 401-624-6031; to help with any other aspect, please contact Michele Bailey at 401-569-7882.



## WAG Holiday Fair Scarf Sale

We offer you a wonderful opportunity to edit your bulging, over-stuffed bureau drawers and relieve them of scarves you haven't worn in years. Donate them to WAG for our Holiday Fair Scarf Sale. This new, original recycling idea will be this year's replacement for the White Elephant Table.

Send one, send all: prints, solids, squares, oblongs, men's, women's, kids.

Drop them off at WAG whenever the building is open, mail them to: June Roche, PO Box 267, Westport Point, MA 02791, or drop them off at June's home: 1950 Main Road, Westport Point.

## Call for Art!

Artists are cordially invited to enter original artwork in this year's Annual Holiday Fair, Saturday December 5th, in our *Artwork at a Perfect Price* sale. Works must be small, with outer dimensions no larger than 14" x 18" and priced at \$150 or less. Paintings in all mediums, drawings, fine art photography, and collages are welcome. All works must be for sale.

Artists must be members of the Westport Art Group to participate. Each artist may enter up to 3 works to be hung on the display wall and up to 3 unframed works for the bin. Entry fee is \$10 per artist. The Westport Art Group will receive 20% commission on all sales. Drop-off dates: Thursday, Dec. 3 from 12-3pm and Friday, Dec. 4 from 3-5pm.

For more information, and to participate, please contact Michele Bailey, Holiday Fair Coordinator, at 401-569-7882 prior to November 20th.

## Baked Goods Needed!

We are asking for donations of homemade pies, cookies, brownies or other bars, or small loaves of bread. Please deliver them to the WAG Studio between 3-5 PM on Friday 12/4. They will also be accepted between 8:30 and 9:30am on Saturday 12/5. Thank you!

## Dates to Remember

November 4, 11, 18  
November 5, 12, 19  
November 29

Wednesday Figure Workshop  
Thursday Painting Class  
Scott Baker Photo Exhibit

December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
December 3, 10, 17,  
December 5, 10am-3pm

Wednesday Figure Workshop  
Thursday Painting Class  
Annual Holiday Fair

## From the President

Dear Friends

Fall is here, our wonderful outdoor painting sessions have come to an end and with it our year at WAG. At our annual meeting we could look back on a successful year that brought new and interesting events like demonstrations, juried shows, open studio and our traditional ones like the community show. All were well attended and brought us a healthy amount of new members. In spite of difficult economic times our finances are in good shape, we actually did better than our projected budget. Our building is in good order thanks to a general clean-up that took place in October and to our new care taker Paul, who keeps it clean.

So we can now look forward to a successful year ahead and if you have any suggestions for events you'd like to see happen please e-mail them to [info@westportartgroup.com](mailto:info@westportartgroup.com).

Our next event coming up is the Holiday Show taking place on December 5th. As you can see from this issue of BrushStrokes it has been redesigned to put more emphasis on Arts and Crafts and we are thankful to Michele Bailey for organizing it. Please support her, come and see the Show for yourself and bring a friend!

See you then!

*Heide Hallemeier*

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## Photo Exhibit at WAG

Westport native Scott Baker will be showing his photographs of life in Korea and Southeast Asia at WAG on Sunday, November 29.

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## New Gallery

Central Village Art Gallery at 770 Main Road, Westport, is having a Holiday Exhibit, Nov. 1 to Dec. 31. The Opening Reception will be Friday, Nov. 6 from 4–8pm. Call 508-636-0888 for more information.

## Member Highlight: Jeanne Tufts Cassidy

by Nancy Burkholder

### Part 2 of 2

Jeanne spent two summers in high school as an apprentice at the Russian School of Acting in Mount Kisco, New York. She learned her craft there by doing everything: upholstery, costumes, some technical help, and painting scenery. She says she was always cast in the crowd scenes! But she really learned theatre and much about acting, and about painting. She remembers one summer when Henry Fonda was playing in "The Virginian" in Mount Kisco. The lights went out during a thunderstorm, and Fonda charmed, calmed and entertained the audience by playing his guitar. In later years, when Fonda was playing in "The First Monday in October", Jeanne asked him after the play if he remembered her, and he said, "Yes, you were a Villager." Jeanne laughed and said she was always in the group scenes.

After high school, Jeanne went to New York City to try her hand at the theatre. She was in off Broadway plays with Horton Foote but she found that—strangely enough—she needed to eat. The family helped her enroll in Columbia University and she later earned her masters from Sarah Lawrence. Jeanne said she shared her apartment with three women. One was going to the New York University School of Medicine to be one of the 8 women enrolled out of the 200 men. Jeanne never knew what would be in the refrigerator—an ear or another body part!

In 1946, Jeanne was offered a chance to avoid starvation again. Jeanne says the New England Conservatory of Music directors decided they needed to help the singers learn how to perform in a more natural manner. She was offered the job of opening a drama department at the Conservatory.



**Above, Jeanne in 1993, and right, Jeanne dressed for an opera role.**

Jeanne met her husband Frank sometime after when he was playing in summer stock on the Cape. Frank got a job as director at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, DC. The Cassidys moved there and Jeanne took a job teaching English and Theatre Arts at American University.

It was not long after they came to Westport Point and Jeanne discovered the Westport Art Group. Many happy summers have been spent on Macy Lane with family and friends such as the Harrises and the Yeomans. It was during those summers that she met Dorothy Curtis and all the other Westport Art Group members.

Jeanne said she did whatever needed to be done during her many years on the WAG Board. She was in charge of the craft element of the shows for a number of years. Jeanne spent countless hours creating signs inside and out. One of my favorites is the front hall sign with the old-fashioned diver bent over with the saying "Take a plunge! Join the Westport Art Group." She also was a record keeper. There are show records that Jeanne kept in her neat pen. I particularly appreciate the one-day children's Community Show and art class she created with art teacher Carol Duby. The children would paint their impressions of the show, and then Carol and Jeanne would have "the line up" just for the children.



Jeanne has painted with the Thursday group for many summers and during winters since she retired. Jeanne's distinctive style, whether in watercolors or oils, is relaxed but precise. My favorite painting is her oil of square dancers at the Point

Church on summer Saturdays. She says she learned a great deal from her years painting at WAG especially from the Steve Olszewsky and Meredith Cornell classes.

When I think of Jeanne and want to thank her for contributions to WAG, it is of memories of the "Entertainments" for the various functions such as the Valentines Teas. What humor we enjoyed—sly, subtle and hilarious. It was fun to see the sister act of Jeanne's old friends Ruth and Barbie and Dodie from Beaver Country Day reading excerpts with devilish delight from Thurber's "Fables of Our Time", or Thornton Wilder's "The Skin of Our Teeth". The Thursday painters got into the act one year with "Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?" What a surprise when the artists turned forward to face the audience, their paintings hitherto hidden from view, and their caricatures were presented. Such a hoot!

Jeanne is retired now but loves visitors to sit with her over a glass of ice tea and remember happy stories of WAG and the theatre while looking out at her lovely pasture.

*Part 1 appeared in the September/October issue of BrushStrokes. Visit [www.westportartgroup.com](http://www.westportartgroup.com) to read it.*



## From the Classes

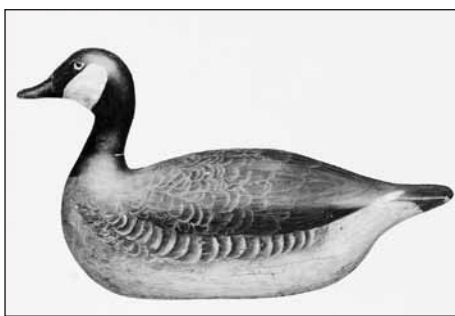
### Thursday Painting Class

We will meet at the WAG Center for the months of November and December! (If we should get an extra warm day, we may decide to paint outdoors!) All WAG members are invited to participate in the classes at any time. Come to one class or come by the month. We welcome all levels of painters from beginners to professionals! If you are not a WAG member yet, you are most welcome to join! For more information, please call Madeleine Ferraz at (401) 635-2739.

Thursdays 9 am–12 noon  
\$40 a 4-week month; \$50 a 5-week month; \$15 per class.  
Instructor: David Seibert



### WAG Member Wins First Place!



A painting by Janice Sexton of Westport, of a Canada goose decoy carved by J. Thomas Wilson of Ipswich captured the top honors in the 2010 Massachusetts Waterfowl Stamp competition.

### Figure Drawing Workshop

Wednesdays at WAG, 9 am–12 pm  
The fee is \$10 a session if paying monthly or \$15 a class. Call Carolyn Winter at 401-624-1699 for more information.

Visit [www.westportartgroup.com/classes](http://www.westportartgroup.com/classes) for more information on these classes.

### Meredith Cornell is Exhibiting at Tiverton Townhall

An exhibit featuring the work of WAG member Meredith Cornell is showing from October 15, 2009 through January 4, 2010, at the Tiverton Townhall, 343 Highland Road, Tiverton RI. The Tiverton Town Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Entries for this competition must be paintings of decoys by Massachusetts decoy makers. The winning paintings for each year are reproduced on the Massachusetts Waterfowl Stamp.

Prints of the winning 2010 painting will be available for purchase on Sexton's web site, [www.janicesexton.com](http://www.janicesexton.com), along with other examples of her work.

More than \$1 million from the sale of waterfowl stamps over the past 35 years has benefitted wetland conservation in Massachusetts.