



An Interview with Jane King

As part of our 75th anniversary celebration, we've been looking back through OAL's history and sharing some of our past. We thought it would be interesting to interview some of our longer term members to learn about their life and art journey. Candy Feris has been doing our articles and started her interviews with 30 year member watercolor artist Jane King.

Even if Jane King had never touched brush to paper, her story would be remarkable. Jane met her soul mate while she was stationed in Virginia as a Naval seaman. He was a career Naval submarine commander who would transport her and their four children across country and back several times, deployed in Virginia, South Carolina, Florida, Texas, California, and Washington. For 65 years they have lived, loved, laughed, traveled and retired together. She says he is her most avid art fan and has supported her all the way.

Jane started painting after getting a "Paint by Number" kit to pass the time. The addiction to painting caught immediately and has never left. She completed college classes in painting, drawing and design while living in San Diego. Sometime later at a workshop in Key West, someone told her she used oils like they were watercolors; perhaps she should try watercolors. After that, a new world opened for her.

Fueled by the vast references from her travels and the desire to paint, Jane became more and more active in her art. She associated with Art co-op galleries in Florida and South Carolina. So when she retired to Olympia she sought out artists with whom she could converse and share. Jane became a member of the Artist Gallery, taught drawing at Ben Franklin, watercolor classes at the Senior Citizen Centers and, through her contacts, became an active member of the Olympia Art League over 30 years ago.



When Candy asked Jane how she kept her passion for painting alive, Jane shared a story. At one point, she gathered all of her paintings from "under the bed and threw them away." Later, when she'd been invited to a neighbor's home for coffee, she was drawn to a very nice painting hanging on the wall. The painting had a beautiful mystical quality that she was admiring only to discover it was one of her discarded paintings. It became her neighbor's cherished find. She says, "I consider myself still a beginner with so much to learn. I start each painting as an unknown and am still amazed when it's a good finish." She has always believed that her painting talent was a gift to share. She often prays for God "to show me the beauty of your world, and let me show it to others."

Jane experienced a house fire eleven years ago, losing all but three paintings that were showing at the time. All her supplies were destroyed. "I will always be thankful for my friends in OAL who helped and encouraged me to get a new start and keep painting." Her home now includes an art room where she paints and includes her sewing machine, which is currently in use making masks to send where they are needed.



Staying Safe Moving Forward

We are halfway through 2020 and it has been anything but normal. Staying home means staying safe. It also means we are not able to be with friends we are accustomed to seeing on a regular basis. Though we can't meet in person to share our art, we have found a way to chat and share our art virtually. Some of our groups have started using Zoom to stay in touch. The Board met recently to discuss purchasing Zoom and will keep you posted as we explore our options.

The Board also considered what the OAL will be able to do going forward. It looks like stay at home restrictions and social distancing requirements are going to be with us for quite some time. As a result, we decided to cancel the Members Only Show and postpone the 75th anniversary celebration scheduled for this coming October. The Thurston County Fair has been canceled along with the art show sponsored by OAL. Unfortunately, it is looking more and more like we will not be able to hold our general meetings this Fall. All future shows for 2021 might also be in jeopardy.

There will still be a lot of risk to our members and we must be cautious. Our art is important to us, but our lives are more important. The Board will be closely monitoring the situation and will keep you informed over the summer via email alerts.

Meanwhile, we are exploring some ideas to help fill the void. For example, we are considering hosting a virtual Members Only Show. Our paint out groups aren't getting together, but they are thinking creatively. Check out paint out options on page 4.

Feel free to contact me if you have any ideas, questions or suggestions. I miss you all. This is not permanent and we will be able to get back together in the future. Until then stay safe.

Rick

Interview continued...

When asked for some words of wisdom to give OAL members to help them with their art, Jane suggests:

1. *Learn new things*—she is currently learning about and painting with casein watercolors;
2. *Sketch or paint daily*—Jane is a member of the South Sound Sketchers and is getting out around her neighborhood to sketch while we are staying at home these days; and
3. *Look for the unusual*—find the interesting, unusual item in a scene that many would overlook. Paint late afternoon light instead of morning sun.

Jane's enthusiasm is infectious and her support of OAL over the years has been invaluable. She is looking forward to painting and being on location at The Artists' Gallery when they reopen. Her paintings can be seen on The Artists' Gallery webpage, Facebook, and Fine Art America.com.

Tips from members for fun and inspiration....

Ruth Fuller gets the "Weekly Art Fix" from one of her favorite galleries located in Bend, OR. You can go on their website and sign up to get a weekly stroll through the online gallery and learn about their artists. It's a cooperative gallery with a very eclectic group of talented artists. Seeing their work is a treat and might give you some inspiration.

<https://tumaloartco.square.site/>



Deborah Cornett found paintings created by folks using the Google Arts and Culture App. They recreated famous paintings with sometimes hilarious results. Or you can download the app and interact with famous paintings on display creating your own take on a masterpiece.

<https://artsandculture.google.com/>



Heather Simons thought this “just seemed like a good time to try something new. I have been pushing myself to work on some landscapes. Trees clearly elude me. I am planning to pull out some junk paper and just do tree after tree until I get it down.”

OAL Artists Making the Best of Down Time

“On the bright side, I am no longer calling this shelter in place. I am an artist in residence.”

Unknown



Lyn Evans took Bill McEnroe’s painting class and joined OAL, both in 2000. She says, “since I’ve had lots of free time lately, I decided to try a new painting style for a change. My paintings have mainly been realistic, but I have wanted to loosen up. The painting above, ‘Lockdown Tulips’, is a result. It’s a looser style and less realistic. I like the freedom of interpretation.”



To keep busy and stave off boredom, **Martha Trupp** has been painting caricatures and portraits of celebrities, politicians and reporters on TV and the internet. “This became so much fun, I started painting every day, and for several hours each day. I’m enhancing my learning about portrait techniques with DVD’s and tutorials. These will never go in shows but, who knows, maybe portrait painting or caricatures can be my future. It all started with restrictions and a requirement to stay home.”

Deborah Cohen-Tucker loves working in a small format. This piece was done with ink pen and dual brush pens on an artist trading card 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" (ATC size). Her fellow Abstract Support Group members marvel at the rich detail and nuances she can pack into a small piece.



One of the things **Karla Fowler** has been doing the last couple months is finally clipping and organizing her file box. “It’s full of articles, ads and inspirational images I’ve been marking in my many art magazines. Some of these date back several years!

About a month ago, **Linda Selsor** started doing daily art journaling. She’s combined several techniques she picked up on-line and in our abstract play dates. “I look forward to doing my journal ‘entry’ each morning and it has really jump started my art practice.”



Jane King has been painting daily and experimenting with a new technique during her time at home. She learned about artist James Gurney who offers YouTube classes on [Painting Insane Detail in Two Hours](#). He works with casein milk paint and emphasizes colored underpainting. Jane’s been practicing his technique painting wildflowers and has found a local camp that’s closed, but she’s been able to walk there, paint outside, and maintain social distance.



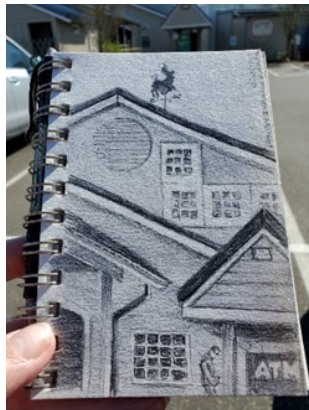
Have you heard about USk Talks? It's live on the USk Instagram account at 9 a.m. PDT on Sundays. If you miss it you can find it later on the USk YouTube channel:

<http://www.urbansketchers.org/p/usk-talks.html> .

There are fascinating conversations with Urban Sketchers from around the world. They discuss tool tips, ink info, inspirations, and offer in depth information on both historical and modern artists. At the end of the talk the guest artists offer an intriguing challenge that is aimed at helping you improve your drawing skills. Check out their website for the next Sunday's speakers.

As you may know, Urban Sketchers was started in Seattle and has spread throughout the world. A sketching group has formed locally and has become known as the South Sound Sketchers. Many Olympia Art League members belong to this group and all comers, regardless of skill level, are encouraged and welcome to join them. If you enjoy drawing or want/need structured events to keep you going with your sketching practice, this is the group for you.

The South Sound Sketchers get together at an interesting venue on the second Saturday of the month. Unfortunately, with the stay at home order, they have not been able to gather. That has not stopped these intrepid sketchers.



USk Talks continued...

They have been sketching from their cars, sketching homes and neighborhoods and share their drawings with each other on a Facebook group site. It's a fun way to stay in touch with other artists and practice drawing. Jan Hansen was able to complete a sketch of the farmers' market (shown lower left) and stay safe.

If you would like to join them, contact Cheryl Wilson at 503 -310-9874 or email her at cwilson3250@gmail.com

Contributed by Jan Hansen

OAL Summer Paint-Outs

About this time of year OAL usually publishes a summer schedule for our weekly Thursday Morning Paint-Outs. These are fun and scenic venues around the county—a lavender farm, local parks, beautiful homes. And, our weekly Evening Paint-Ins move outdoors. As with the league's other activities, we've had to cancel our formal paint together gatherings.

Even though no formal paint-outs are scheduled, parks are opening up and other scenic locations may offer opportunities to paint and maintain proper social distancing. You may also find lots of interesting things to paint around the outside of your homes and a balcony might offer a great view.



Our President, Rick Drescher, is challenging those of you that like to paint-out. "Go out into your yards and paint what you see around your homes and neighborhoods. Then share with us what you have created. We'll figure out a way to share our paint-out creations virtually." Let Rick know what you think. He says, "we can make this happen."

Meanwhile, if you want to keep in the loop for updates on the Evening Paint-Out plans or would like to share your thoughts and ideas for summer options, please email Karen Bush at kbush35@comcast.net.

Kudos and shows...



Deborah Henderson will be showing her work at Childhood's End Gallery this summer, July 17 – August 16, as part of a 'Flora and Fauna' show. If the gallery is unable to open at that time, a portion of the show will be displayed as a window exhibit and the entire show will be available online on the Childhood's End Gallery website www.Childhoods-end-gallery.com



Pam McKinnie has been juried into a couple of online shows. One of her Spirit Horse sculptures won 5th place in the 3D division of the *Fusion Art 5th Animal Kingdom Art Exhibition*.

Her piece *Faith in Our Future* was accepted by the International Society of Experimental Artists in their 29th Annual Juried Exhibition.



Cynthia Walker's painting "Regatta" has been accepted into a national juried competition: Emerald Spring Exhibition 2020. The exhibit can be seen online at <https://www.emeraldartcenter.org/exhibitions> and at the Emerald Art Center in Oregon during the month of June.



GETTING ACQUAINTED

Introducing...

Shari Buelt

Shari Buelt works mostly with acrylics and enjoys painting water and animals, especially dogs! "Besides my family, I find tremendous happiness when I can dip my toes in the ocean (or my whole body!) and watch dogs playing in the sand. I've been painting for many years, but in 2015 I started painting small and often (inspired by Carol Marine's 'Daily Painting'). Since then I've noticed a sizable improvement in my painting skills. I can complete three or more paintings a week! You can see my work at www.sharibueltart.com."

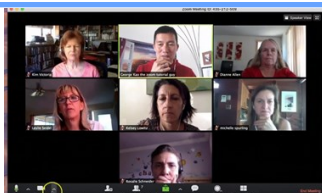


OAL members may remember that Shari has been a frequent winner in our ArtsWalk juried shows. She took Best in Show in 2017, an Honorable Mention in 2018 and Third Place in 2019.



Support Groups
Meeting Via

zoom



Over the summer, support groups will be conducted via Zoom. To receive a meeting invitation, please check in with the support group lead listed on page six and consult our new directory for their contact information.

OAL Board & Committee or Activity Leads

President: Rick Drescher

Vice President: Heather Simons

Secretary: Anne-Marie Brown

Treasurer: Tony Lirette

Members at Large: Karla Fowler, Ruth Fuller, & Jan Hansen

Past President: Nicki Weber

Newsletter: Linda Selsor, Editor

Getting Acquainted: Lindsey Ford

Proof Readers: Roxana Caples, Cynthia Walker

Membership Officer: Tony Lirette

Program Chair: Roxana Caples

Correspondence: April Works

Community Outreach: Teresa Marie Staal-Cowley

Recruiter: Roxana Caples

Art Workshops: JoAnne Sanford

Meetings:

Name Tags: Ruth Fuller

Phone Reminders: Jean Van Doren

Refreshments: Heather Simons

Meeting Set Up: Mike Scheurich

Reverse Mirror: Jean Stewart

Artistic Advice Basket: Carolyn Long

Website Gallery: Rick Drescher

OAL Sponsored Shows:

Members Only Art Show: Heather Simons

Arts Walk Juried Show: Canceled

County Fair Art Show: Diana Fairbanks, Kay Tolles

Local OAL Art Show Venues:

Bonsai Wok: Anne-Marie Brown

Capitol Chiropractic: Lone Moody

Cooper Point Public House: Rick Drescher

Thurston County Family & Juvenile Court and Sutton Chiropractic and Massage:

Teresa Marie Staal-Cowley

TRA Medical Imaging: Jan Hansen

Painting Get Togethers:

Paint-Out: Rick Drescher

Paint-In Day: Karen Crate

Paint-In Night: Karen Bush

Support Groups:

Abstract: Lindsey Ford

Acrylic: Karla Fowler

Drawing: Rick Drescher

Watercolor: JoAnne Sanford, Ruth Fuller

ART SUPPLIES FOR SALE

A family of artists and designers are cleaning out supplies. Find everything from beads to equipment.

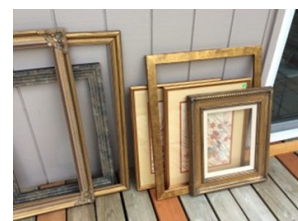
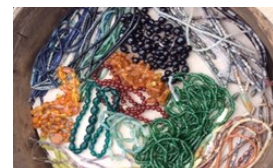
Equipment:

- Neolt Art Drafting table by Martin Instruments made in Italy- \$80
- Art Caddy by Joe Colombo \$35
- Nielsen Bainbridge C+H BG6100 Professional Glass, Mat and Foam board cutter \$150
- Fletcher 2100 professional Matt cutter \$150
- Plein air portable easel-\$35
- 3 Flat Files-37x26 older all good working condition \$100—\$200
- Ott-Lite (for viewing natural day light) \$25

Supplies:

- Picture Frames -high quality frames-antique to contemporary \$25-120
- Pastels-multiple trays and manufacturers \$20-50
- Brushes-older well made, very good shape \$5-20
- Canvases- multiple sizes \$5-30
- Beads-vintage, antique, semi precious, cabochons, Hilltribe silver \$1-25
- Black Foam core boards 48x96-3/16"
- Golden Art products-including (1) gallon medium soft matte and other products \$2-25
- Bar of pewter \$40

If interested please contact Anna Goguen by text at (360) 951-6697 or email at agoguen12@yahoo.com. When restrictions ease and you are comfortable getting out and about, you can check on items. Anna has an open air garage and access to a large back deck and yard that allow for social distancing.



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Wednesday, August 19th

OAL's newsletter takes a break over the summer. Please send your summer projects, articles, photos, announcements and ideas for the **September** newsletter to Linda Selsor via email—lselsor@msn.com. If you have questions give her a call at (360) 491-0377

Olympia Art League Newsletter

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