

## *Welcome Back to Monthly Meetings...*

### **Using Exercises to Hone Your Skills**

OAL's own Rick Drescher will demonstrate doing a series of small paintings using wet into wet skies with a silhouetted foreground. Working small provides a fun way to experiment with different techniques you can fine tune for later use in larger paintings. He's developed a video to compensate for the fact that we can't meet in person. It's a technique we hope to use with more presenters in coming months



You know Rick as OAL's President, but you may not know about his rich background in art. As Rick says, "I've been creating art since a very young age--starting with simple pencil drawings and progressing from there." He always knew he wanted to be an artist, but he didn't know what kind. He studied graphic design in college. While there he started painting and illustrating for a college Sci-Fi magazine.

After college, Rick set three goals for himself. "I wanted to create and publish a comic strip; to work in television; and do freelance graphic design." He managed to achieve all three. In 1982 he went to work for KSTW channel 11 (now The CW). In 1990, cartoons he was working on were featured in a Model Railroad magazine. And, as a freelance artist he started creating logos for people and companies.



He didn't take up watercolors until around 2004. "I watched a lot of videos, took workshops and started painting watercolors...not very well. Painting is a journey and it can be a long, long trip. Over the years I've learned a lot of different techniques that I use to create my paintings, whether it's landscapes, florals and even the very fun illustrations of my Strange Critters. It was an amazing pleasure to find the Olympia Art League and to meet all of the fantastic people that make up our membership." Rick hopes you will join us for the launch of our first monthly meeting since the start of Pandemic restrictions.

### **Need help with ZOOM?**

Linda Selsor is providing training to all those interested in participating in OAL monthly meetings via Zoom. There are a few extra tools you can use in Zoom to help in meetings with larger groups. So even if you are comfortable in small group Zoom meetings, it might help to sign up with Linda to pick up a few more tips. It's not hard and is a lot of fun. Please contact Linda at [lselsor@msn.com](mailto:lselsor@msn.com) for more information. Look for an email with more workshop options in early January.



## Things are looking up...sort of

One of the biggest things to look forward to is getting back together with our friends without worrying about becoming infected or infecting others. It's been too long since we've had our monthly meetings. That's about to change. As of this month, we will start having our monthly meetings via Zoom. They will be on our regular day of month at the usual time--the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM, starting Thursday January 21.

The meetings will not be the same as we are used to, but it's a start. The format for this first meeting is still a work in process, but we will have time for announcements and an artist's presentation. I volunteered to do the artist's presentation this month and be the guinea pig for the first test run. We hope to introduce an opportunity to share your artwork before the meeting next month.

To make sure our first meeting is as successful as possible, the OAL Board arranged the services of The Tech Steward, a consulting firm run by Mike Kyer, geared to help not-for-profits working in education, arts and social services. His goal is to help them make the best use of the Zoom platform so they can continue their important work. The Board also asked Linda Selsor to take on the role of Zoom Manager; she will work with our consultant, manage OAL's Zoom account, schedule meetings and provide training.

I hope to see you all again very soon, even if it's on my computer. Bear with us; there may be some challenges, but we will get them worked out so we can all enjoy meeting again.

Rick



## You Can Still Pay Your Membership Dues

The deadline for 2021 OAL membership dues is January 31, 2021. To maintain your membership and stay on the OAL mailing list, please mail your **\$30** check to: Olympia Art League, PO Box 404, Olympia, WA 98507, ATTN: Tony Lirette.

Introducing...

## THE TECH STEWARD

MIKE KYER



Michael Kyer has been running large meetings on Zoom since St. Patrick's Day. Every Sunday, he's helped manage Sunday Worship Services for Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation, often with 175 participants or more. As the quarantine progressed, he began to help more and more organizations in the same way. He's even started his own business—The Tech Steward. He says, "Arranging a single face to face meeting online can be challenging. Arranging a group can be daunting. OAL can do this! I am here to help."

Below you will find links to some helpful information about the basics of Zoom. Mike's video—

### [Download Zoom](#)

demonstrates downloading Zoom on a Windows 10 PC. The steps are similar for other devices. Please take a moment to click through to each one. They are all excellent references and may be helpful to anyone you know.

The first goal is for you to sign up with Zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/signup> You will need to provide a birth date, your email, and create a password. Refer to the included links for support. You can also learn more about how to use Zoom on your specific type of device. Check out these links to learn from Zoom about how to navigate using your platform.

### New Users

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360034967471-Getting-started-guide-for-new-users>

### Windows and Mac

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac>

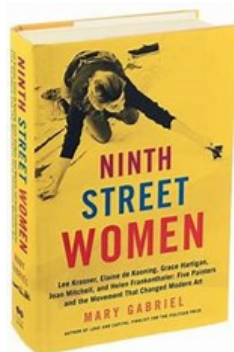
### Android

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/200942759-Getting-Started-with-Android>

### iOS

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362993-Getting-Started-with-iOS>

## Art Book Review...



### Ninth Street Women By Mary Gabriel

*I am an artist of paint, making discoveries.*

---Helen Frankenthaler

If you are looking for a good long read over the next few months of winter and the pandemic, check out *Ninth Street Women* by Mary Gabriel. It covers the lives of five well known artists (and their friends, lovers, and spouses): Lee Krasner, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, Joan Mitchell, and Helen Frankenthaler. Their stories are woven into the backdrop of the political and cultural events of the era: the Great Depression, European immigration, World War II, the Cold War, McCarthyism and the emerging feminist and civil rights movements. It includes the history of their lives, but also the history of the rise of modern art in New York City, that influenced the rest of America and the world. Over 900 pages, including 200 pages of notes and colored pictures.

Reviewed by Cynthia Walker

*If you have a favorite art book that you'd like to share with the group let Linda Selsor know at [lselsor@msn.com](mailto:lselsor@msn.com).*



### South Sound Urban Sketchers

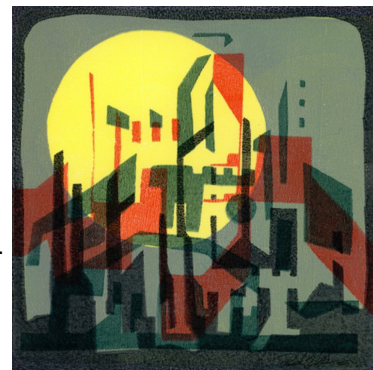
Until further notice all of the meetups for the Sketchers are suspended. We will be issuing a challenge each month for the second Saturday (our normal meeting day) to everyone to post a sketch that relates to the Urban Sketchers' manifesto and keeps to the challenge theme.

Instagram or post your sketches to the Facebook page or the Google Group for South Sound Urban Sketchers and check out what everyone else contributed while you are there.

**Contact:** Cheryl Wilson at [cwilson3250@gmail.com](mailto:cwilson3250@gmail.com)

## Kudos, shows & challenges...

Ruth Bravetti's Gelli plate monoprint "Silent Shift" was featured in Cheap Joe's new year's catalogue—ART STUFF: 2021 Guide to Great Art. The print has also been accepted into the prestigious CVG 2021 juried show.



Several OAL members responded to our first all league monthly challenge announced in the November newsletter. The challenge was paint "Joy." **Sherie Balko Nation** submitted her painting entitled "Serendipity" at left.

**Mary Lepingwell** submitted her sketch of "Joy" at right made with graphite and colored pencil.



### Support Group Meetings Via ZOOM

The abstract, acrylic and watercolor support groups meet monthly via Zoom. To receive a meeting invitation, check in with the support group lead listed on page four and consult our new directory for their contact information.



### New support group! Oil Painters Unit

If you are interested in starting an oil painting support group, contact Jill Jacoby at [avrio1@hotmail.com](mailto:avrio1@hotmail.com) or give her a call at (360)477-3675 to talk over the idea. She'd love to hear your suggestions about the group. She already has one recruit! The oil painting featured is Jill's *Grouchy Cat*.



## OAL Board & 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—Canceled  
*Arts Walk Juried Show:* Canceled  
*County Fair Art Show:* Diana Fairbanks, Kay Tolles—Canceled  
**Local OAL Art Show Venues:**  
*Bonsai Wok:* Anne-Marie Brown  
*Capitol Chiropractic:* Lone Moody  
*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:* Vacant  
*Paint-In Night:* Karen Bush  
**Support Groups:**  
*Abstract:* Lindsey Ford  
*Acrylic:* Karla Fowler  
*Drawing:* Rick Drescher  
*Watercolor:* JoAnne Sanford, Ruth Fuller  
**Zoom Manager:** Linda Selsor

## Making the Most of Down Time

January 2020 Teresa M. Staal-Cowley made the usual annual New Year's resolutions. Hers were focused on formalizing her art business. "I began working with business coaches David and Alissa Muller. I ended the year with an art display at their new Manda Group Custom Design Center located at 411 4th Avenue West in downtown Olympia." She accomplished her resolution when she formed LLC Teresa Marie Art and Design.



In addition, she received approval for a January 2021 launch of a new nonprofit art ministry--**The A.R.T.I.S.T.S.** The mission is consistent with the acronym--Advocacy, Respect, Truth, Inspire, Spiritual, Teach, Service. The focus of the nonprofit is to raise funds through the arts for vulnerable children, adults, worthy causes and current events. The organization will generate funds through the sale and auction of artists' works with 50% going to the contributing artist and the remainder supporting worthy causes and administrative costs.

The model is based on the 101 Artists Colony Teresa participated in when she lived in Encinitas, CA. They create capital through an annual Arts Alive Banners auction—now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year. The painting shown is of Teresa and one of her inspirational paintings. Contact Teresa if you are interested in learning more about A.R.T.I.S.T.S. or contributing: [teresamarie4art@gmail.com](mailto:teresamarie4art@gmail.com) or (360)480-9955 cell.



## Help Solve an Art Mystery

Ruth Bravetti's neighbor, Rick Stence, has an original watercolor painting shown here. It's 20" X 30" and was painted by Kay Young in 1985. There is no title on the painting or frame. Rick would like information about the artist and the painting. He is also interested in selling it. If you have any information or are interested in buying the painting, contact Rick at 206-551-2469 or email: [thinkfirst1@comcast.net](mailto:thinkfirst1@comcast.net).

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FRIDAY, January 22, 2021

Please send your kudos, photos, announcements and ideas for the **February** newsletter to Linda Selsor via email—[lselsor@msn.com](mailto:lselsor@msn.com). If you have questions give her a call at (360) 491-0377

## Olympia Art League Newsletter

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