

## Letter from the President

*Rhonda Lane Coleman*

We open our fall season with our Guild Members show and three amazing exhibitions – Hiroko Momii's meditative and thought-provoking abstract paintings, Mark Spangenberg's contemporary realist masterpieces, and Esther Shaw's impactful desert landscapes, flora and fauna. This range of exhibitions sets the tone for the diversity of exhibitions you will see during our 2015-16 Season and fulfills our continued goal of presenting high-quality work.

In an effort to raise the bar, the board recently completed a significant strategic planning workshop (the second in our long history), and established important goals for the coming year.

- improve volunteer, member, committee and board recruitment.
- increase revenue via special events, membership drives, gift shop improvements, grants, sponsorships, and facility rentals.
- develop a consistent building maintenance plan that includes updated electric, new lighting, adobe repair, signage, furniture, and landscape improvement.
- expand our marketing and outreach by implementing a new website, social media communications, advertisements, and improved press content.

We are grateful for your continued commitment and participation in the gallery's mission and growth. If you are interested in being more involved, please consider a position as a volunteer, offering your expertise on a committee, or run for the board in the spring.

### **Gallery Receives Largest Grant to Date...**

Our organization has held steady for 50+ years with support from membership, gift shop sales, artwork sales, and event fundraisers. Last year, the board set a goal to diversify our revenue streams and pursued important grant opportunities. Late spring, we received a \$500 grant from the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Officer Spouses' Club as well as a \$1500 grant from the 29 Palms Public Arts Advisory Committee to support our Youth Summer Art Program, and last week, Southern California Edison awarded the Gallery \$2500 to support our Education Programs.

We are particularly pleased to announce that the California Arts Council awarded the 29 Palms Art Gallery a Creative California Communities Grant in the amount of \$59,958 for *Sand to Stone: Contemporary Native American Art in Joshua Tree*. This large-scale collaborative project, directed by Rhonda Coleman, is multidisciplinary and incorporates many community members and organizations. Funds are to be applied to artist fees, professional fees, technical fees, a website, catalogue, education program, installation materials, supplies, travel, and marketing. We are pending notification of a special grant submitted to the National Endowment for the Arts, called "Imagine Your Parks" under the Art Works category also in support of the Sand to Stone project.

## Annual Pioneer Days Chili Dinner

This year's Annual Chili Dinner at the 29 Palms Art Gallery will be held on Saturday October 17 from 5 to 8 p.m. At this traditional Pioneer Days event hosted by the Gallery for years, will be your choice of vegetarian and meat chili, along with cornbread, salads and dessert.



Dinner will be served under the stars on the gallery's patio, accompanied by live music. A no-host bar opens at 4:30 p.m. In addition to the meal and music, the gallery will be open for viewing the Hwy 62 Open Studio Art Tours Collective Show. This will make this

year's event a truly enjoyable evening. Ticket info will be out soon and can be purchased in advance at the Gallery, or at the door.

Additionally, we will need some volunteers to help set up, serve food, bring corn bread and desserts, and clean up afterwards in order to make this event another great success. Please make a commitment NOW to help by calling **Helen or Joe Matoush at 760.367.5351**. For more information call Helen or Joe or the Gallery at 760.367.7819.

## Exhibitions \_\_\_\_\_

Each year we receive a number of fantastic applications from artists and curators for the upcoming exhibition season. There are numerous variables that go into the exhibition decision-making process, among them selecting the highest quality art. We must also carefully consider how the variety of exhibitions function together over the course of the year and most importantly, how they serve our diverse community. This season we are hosting Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council's Hwy 62 Art Tours Collective Exhibition, Joshua Tree National Park Council for the Art's 3rd Annual Juried Exhibition, Arts Connections' Veterans' Initiative Art Exhibition and the important community project, *Sand to Stone: Contemporary Native American Art in Joshua Tree*.

If you are interested in showing your art at the Gallery, you may submit an application to be considered for the 2016-17 Season. Applications are on the website and proposals are reviewed in June. In the meantime, please consider becoming a Guild member. Guild members may submit to our Annual Members Juried Exhibition in March and have the opportunity to show their artwork during the numerous Guild Members Exhibitions throughout of the year.

For our complete 2015-16 Season, please check out our Exhibition and Events Schedules on our website or pick up a hard copy at the gallery. Guild members, please note that some of our In/Out days have shifted to Sunday to accommodate as many Guild members as possible.

~ Suzanne Ross & Rhonda Lane Coleman  
Exhibitions Co-chairs



## Gift Shop News \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdays, anniversaries, holiday gifts... Visit our Gift Shop for just that something special. From southwestern jewelry to ceramics, metal works, books and more! This is the financial backbone of our gallery.

We are excited to announce that during Artist Receptions, the gift shop will offer

**20% off** to all gallery members.

During the coming year we hope to do some gift shop improvements. Come on in to see us ...we're open Wednesday - Sunday 12-3 pm.

~ Becky Huffman, Gift Shop Manager

## Sand to Stone: Contemporary Native American Art in Joshua Tree \_\_\_\_\_

*Sand to Stone: Contemporary Native American Art in Joshua Tree*, is a multidisciplinary project – art exhibition, outdoor performances, site-specific installation, publication, website, and education programs – that focuses on an area of specific cultural significance to the four tribes (Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave and Serrano) affiliated with Joshua Tree National Park. It encourages Native American artists to reconnect with the park in the production, exhibition, and performance of art, music and dance and fosters cross-cultural interaction, and the celebration of land within and around park boundaries.

This project strongly reflects the Gallery's desire to highlight frequently overlooked artists from our region, collaborate with local arts organizations and government agencies, and actively engage a diverse audience. It represents for the first time in the region's history, acknowledgment of contemporary Native American Art and challenges many long held assumptions.

### Project activities include:

Exhibition at the 29 Palms Art Gallery / Site Specific Art Installation by Lewis deSoto in cooperation with Joshua Tree National Park / Performance by Cahuilla Bird Singers in Joshua Tree National Park's Indian Cove / Intertribal Performance of Bird Singers at Copper Mountain College / Native American Highlights at the JTNP Art Exposition / Artist Catalogue / Website / Education Programs

~ Rhonda Lane Coleman, Project Director

## Art Auction: seeking donations \_\_\_\_\_

### Save-the-Date: March 26, 2016

Artwork donations for the Starry Nights Auction are currently being accepted. Quality pieces from your personal art collection will be appreciated. A tax receipt can be provided upon sale of the item(s). A percentage of sale can be arranged for artists donating an original work. Contact the gallery for more information at: [29palmsgallery@gmail.com](mailto:29palmsgallery@gmail.com).

~ Helen Matoush, Events Chair

## We Need You! \_\_\_\_\_

The 29 Palms Art Gallery has been a non-profit, all-volunteer organization since its inception in 1952. This is a major feat considering all that is required to sustain the gallery financially as well as physically. To date, it is to the credit of ALL who have volunteered their endless hours of time, members who have pledged their membership subscriptions, board members who work intensively to guide the organization, and artist guild members who give us all good reason to appreciate their art and be proud members of this historic adobe gallery.

To ensure the continued success of our gallery and its artists, the board of directors is actively recruiting volunteers for the following:

- Board of Directors (*Secretary or Member-At-Large*)
- Sub-Committee Assistance (*curatorial, events & hospitality, marketing/communication, & landscape*)
- Content Writer (*for curatorial, press releases, social media and marketing*)
- Social Media Posting
- Press Release Posting

If you are an artist, an art-appreciator, or just have time on your hands...we need you! Please contact us at [29palmsartgallery@gmail.com](mailto:29palmsartgallery@gmail.com), or reach out to a current board member you may know.

## Holiday Fine Art & Craft Faire \_\_\_\_\_



Our Annual Holiday Fine Art and Craft Faire will be held on Saturday, December 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the 29 Palms Art Gallery. Featured in the sale will be items by an eclectic group of artists and crafters, including paintings, jewelry, fabric art, scarves, hats, bags, pillows, hostess gifts, baskets, carved wood, gourds, pottery, holiday ornaments and decorations, art cards, soaps, jams, jellies, baked goods, and much more!

The Gift Shop will also be open, and the December exhibition will feature works by Six Chicks (Bonnie Brady, Janis Commentz, Diana Shay Diehl, Marjorie Franklin, Noreen Lawlor, and Esther Shaw) and Alexander de Cadenet.

Hot dogs, chili dogs, sodas coffee and muffins will be available for hungry shoppers on the patio and will be served by our volunteers. Please consider spending a few hours helping to make this year's Faire a great success. To volunteer or participate as an artist or crafter, call Helen Matoush 760.367.5351.

~ Joe & Helen Matoush, Events Chairs

## Docents & Volunteers \_\_\_\_\_

### ***A Call Out to our Membership...***

October will be a very busy month here in the basin, and especially at 29 Palms Art Gallery. In addition to our evening reception for the Hwy 62 Art Tours Collective Show on October 2, we will be hosting our annual Chili Dinner on Saturday, October 17. This also happens to be the first weekend of the Hwy 62 Art Tours. As hosts of the Collective Show and an information center for the tours, I am reaching out for your volunteer help.

Most of our regular volunteers will have studios open on the tour, and therefore will not be able to sit at the gallery, or participate at the chili dinner. We need volunteers for the following:

**October 2 - Evening Reception for The Collective Show**  
This will be a gala affair including food and entertainment.

### **October 17 / 18 & October 24 / 25**

**Extended Gallery Hours: Hwy 62 Art Tours Weekends**  
Hours in both the gallery and the gift shop on these dates are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. We will operate two shifts: 9-1 pm and 1-5 pm.

### **October 17 - Chili Dinner**

We need help with the Chili Dinner. Opportunities include: setting up, bringing corn bread, garlic toast, salads, or desserts, warming up the chili, serving, and clean up.

If you are available to help on these dates, please **contact Heather Sprague at 760.220.1311**, or email [feylittwingphotography@gmail.com](mailto:feylittwingphotography@gmail.com). A sign up sheet is available at the gallery. The more volunteers confirmed, the easier the job becomes. Thank you, everyone!

~ Heather Sprague, Volunteer Chair

## Youth Summer Art Camp 2015

### **Overwhelming demand spawns scheduling of additional classes!**

The original schedule for one session of drawing camp and one session of clay camp was simply not enough to meet the incredible demand of youth for our summer program offering. Art Program coordinator, Ed Keesling, quickly organized and opened a second session of each to ensure all youth interested were able to attend.

#### **DRAWING CAMP**

Drawing camp started with a sketch book class taught by Bonnie Brady in May. Students were taught to create their own sketch books to use during Drawing Camp in June. Due to the long waiting list during pre-registration for the June class, we opened a second section for the June class. Altogether we had 24 students register for the Drawing Camp. Each class session was 2 hours long and taught by a different teacher, with a specific focus on an element of drawing, skill development, and principle of design.

**Ed Keesling:** Art Education chairperson at the gallery, potter, illustrator, and retired elementary school teacher taught the first class focused on drawing with a pencil, and the element of line. Students also practiced abstract drawing and aesthetic valuing through mounting and displaying abstract line drawings.

**Jenifer Palmer, Lacy:** Architectural Illustrator and painter, taught the second session, focused on drawing geometric shapes and shading to create the illusion of three dimensionality. Students created a still life drawing of geometric shapes using shading skills to define the forms.

The third session was taught by **Rick Livingston**, painter, illustrator and published cartoonist. Rick taught students to use markers to build on previous lessons using lines and shapes to create cartoon figures. Students learned the basic elements of creating a cartoon character and each student creates an individual cartoon drawing.

The final session was taught by **Mark Spangenberg:** professional painter, sign maker and muralist. Mark taught the students to use charcoal and kneaded erasures to create values of grey to black in landscape drawing.

Through the drawing camp classes, students used their sketch books to practice drawing skills in preparation for creating final drawings which were matted and hung on the wall for display. Each class ended with a mini art show in which students were able to see their work presented as a work of art to be aesthetically perceived and appreciated.

### **The Story of Malki and White Feather**



Elizabeth Dahlberg  
Knee Bowl, 2015  
Clay  
\$5

The story begins with a young boy, whom we named Malki, and his sister, White Feather, who were camped with their family at the Oasis to gather the mesquite seeds and palm nuts. When Malki awoke early in the morning he was very thirsty, so he walked down to the Oasis for a drink. His sister, White

Feather, who was never far from his side, joined him. As they approached the Oasis, they saw Coyote standing at the side of the pond, getting his morning drink. In those days, Coyote and the people were on friendly terms and use to talk to each other. So the children and Coyote greeted each other with a short howl and bark. You have probably heard coyote using this greeting in the evening or early morning.

Coyote then asked the children to go to the other side on the pond to drink, so they wouldn't stir up the mud where he was drinking. Coyote complained that it was difficult to get a mouth full of water and carry all the way back to his den for his new pups. The children agreed, because the baskets that grandma made did not hold water long when they tried to take water back to camp.

As they walked around the pond, they noticed that the water level had gone down some and that the bank was very slippery. In fact, as they walked, Malki slipped and fell down on the slippery mud.

"Ha-ha", laughed Coyote.

"Tee- he," giggled White Feather.

"Ugh, this is too slippery and too sticky." groaned Malki.  
"Help me up."

As White Feather bent down to help Malki, she too lost her footing and fell in the mud. When Coyote saw this he howled so hard that he too fell into the water, everyone went farther out into the water and had a good bath before they went over to some rocks to climb out.

Coyote got out and shook himself off, and got a big drink before trotting off to his den. Malki and White feather shook the water off and let the warm morning sun dry them. After getting a good long drink, they started back to camp. As they were carefully walking past the place where they had slipped in the mud, White Feather pointed to the place where Malki had first fallen and said, "Look Malki, there is where you fell. See the place where your elbow and knee went down. Now they are full of water like a little pond."

Malki looked, and then carefully dug around the elbow impression to pick it up. When he did, it held the water



inside. So he and White Feather scooped up a few more impressions, and carried them back to camp full of water. Back in camp, the children showed their family how they were able to carry water in the clay vessels, and explained how they had made them with their elbows and knees.

Everyone was impressed and started making their elbow and knee bowl.

In only a few days, the camp was full of bowls that had dried out on the sun and were discarded because the dry clay didn't work as well to hold water as the damp bowls did. By accident, a few of these bowls had fallen into the fire pit and gotten scorched by the flame. Malki thought the black and grey colors from the flame made nice decorations, but White Feather wanted hers to be clean because she did not like the taste of ashes in her water. When she took it to the pond to wash off, she noticed that the ash color didn't wash off very well, but the burned bowl held water better and did not melt back into mud again like the other dry bowls did. So from that day to this, the people have been making bowls from clay and firing it in a fire pit to make it stronger



and waterproof. As time went by they learned to make them larger by making coils like the basket makers, and started using them to cook, store water, make ceremonial masks, and even toy statues or good luck charms. They even started decorating their clay works with the same symbols they used on the rocks to make petro glyphs, that you can see in the park.

In fact some of the very oldest artifacts or evidence of ancient people is the fired clay bowls and statues they made.

During clay camp, students began by mixing dry clay and sand from the Sun Fair Dry Lake, with water. They used the wet mud to make a clay mural by stomping on a pile of wet clay, leaving impressions in the mud, just like Malki and White Feather had done. They then made a series of elbow and knee pots as well as ceremonial masks.

During the second week of camp, went on a hike to the Oasis of Mara to see where the story began, then built a pit kiln, stacked and fired their pots. A day later, the pots were removed from the kiln, the mural reassembled, and the pots entered into the August Student Art Show.

~ Ed Keesling, Education Chair



### SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES!

<b>October 2</b>   5-8 pm	Collective Show Reception	<b>November 13-15</b>	Joshua Tree National Park Art Exposition
<b>October 17</b>   5-8 pm	Chili Dinner	<b>December 5</b>   9-2 pm	Holiday Fine Art & Craft Faire
<b>October 17/18 &amp; 24/25</b>	Hwy 62 Art Tours <i>extended hours 9 am - 5 pm</i>	<b>2016 Brings...</b>	Canvas & Cocktails Starry Nights Art Auction
<b>November 13</b>   5-8 pm	JTNP Art Exposition Reception & Awards		

### 2014-15 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Rhonda Lane Coleman  
 VICE PRESIDENT: Joe Matoush  
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 TREASURER: Stephanie Ince  
 DIRECTORS: Cathy Allen  
 Becky Huffman  
 Helen Matoush  
 Lori Rennie  
 Mark Spangenberg  
 Heather Sprague

### CONNECT TO US

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