



ART GUILD INSIDER

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

FEBRUARY 2026

NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY ART GUILD

WWW.WCAGTX.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lynn Kessel, President

lynn.president@wcagtx.org



Happy February everyone!

I've recently been reflecting on the immense amount of art that members of this organization produce. We now have 215 members, over a dozen exhibits throughout the year—many of which are rolling month to month exhibits—art classes, networking activities, special events, etc. Williamson County Art Guild members have numerous opportunities to create and express to others.

Art is powerful. We may be alone in our studios creating, but when we put our art out into the world for others to view, we have the power to move people, evoke emotions, draw people to think and ponder....in ways that words can never do. Looking at a painting or photograph or sculpture can make viewers feel alive in ways they thought unimaginable. Art has the power to change the way we see the world and open us up to new ideas and perspectives. Art can bring awareness to social issues and bring people together regardless of background. Think of Edvard Munch's *The Scream*, painted in 1893. A famous and very recognizable piece of work symbolizing the feeling of existential angst. There are countless other famous

works of art that have moved viewers and societies in immense ways. That impact can be about societal issues, but it can also be about bringing peace and beauty to an anxious mind.

While I'm sure most of us don't feel as gifted as some of these famous artists of the past, you all have a powerful skill to create and you all have a voice. I encourage each and every one of you to continue to create, challenge yourself, try new things, and share your voice. Get together with fellow artists and share ideas. The Williamson County Art Guild is a strong organization full of artist voices that the community is waiting to hear. Let's make a difference!

Lynn

Lynn Kessel, President
Williamson County Art Guild

THIS ISSUE AT A GLANCE

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WCAG, FIFTY YEARS STRONG

2026 is a milestone year celebrating art, events, and shared history

As we move through our 50th anniversary year, WCAG is proud to celebrate five decades of creativity, connection, and community impact. Throughout 2026, we have a full lineup of special exhibits and events designed to honor our history while looking ahead to what's next.

This milestone year is filled with opportunities to engage. Each month offers something new, and we're excited to share these moments with our members and the wider community. Be sure to explore this month's newsletter for details on upcoming events, featured artists, and ways to get involved as we continue celebrating all year long.

Don't miss these upcoming events!

- | | | |
|-------|----------|--|
| Feb 3 | 6:15-8pm | Member Meeting (Friends Room, Georgetown Library)
Karyn Derby: Gel Printing Techniques and Hands-On Demo
Challenge Theme: "Friends"
<i>*Meet and Greet at 6:15pm; Presentation starts at 6:30pm</i> |
| Feb 6 | 5-7pm | 50th Anniversary Kickoff Art Exhibit/Reception: WCAG Gallery |
| Feb 9 | 1-3pm | Peace, Love, and Art Affair Planning Meeting (2nd floor, Georgetown Library) |

OUR 50TH YEAR IS UNDERWAY!

Join us for each month of celebration!

The celebration continues! Here is what's still to come.

As WCAG celebrates 50 years in 2026, we're excited to continue our yearlong series of special events honoring five decades of art and community impact. Join us for the events listed below. Dates for some events may change, so watch for updates on our website, in upcoming newsletters, and on event flyers.

February

- Painting by Diane Fraser to be raffled
- 50th Anniversary Kickoff Art Exhibit at the WCAG Gallery
- Gallery reception on **February 6th**

March

- Painting by V. McConnell to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **March 6th**
- March madness sale at the WCAG gallery

April

- Painting by Theresa Wayne to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **April 3rd**
- Spring Art Stroll on **April 17th**
- Student exhibit at the art stroll
- Plein air event on the Square on **April 17th**

May

- Painting by Nancy Brown to be raffled
- BIG Exhibit at the WCAG Gallery
- Gallery reception on **May 1st**

June

- Painting by TBA to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **June 5th**

July

- Painting by Sue Bishop to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **July 3rd**
- Theme for WCAG gallery exhibit: America's 250th birthday, patriotism, etc.

"Never, ever underestimate the importance of having fun."

Randy Pausch

PLANNING CONTINUES FOR THE SEPTEMBER PEACE, LOVE, AND ART AFFAIR



As one of the 50th Anniversary events planned for 2026, WCAG is throwing a big party in September! This 70s-themed celebration—apropos since WCAG was founded in 1976—is called the Peace, Love, and Art Affair. It promises to be an amazing time, but more volunteers are needed to help make it happen. The next planning meeting for the event is **February 9th from 1-3pm on the 2nd floor of the Georgetown Library**. Please come, and bring your best ideas!

MONTHLY ART RAFFLES CONTINUE

Come see February's featured artwork

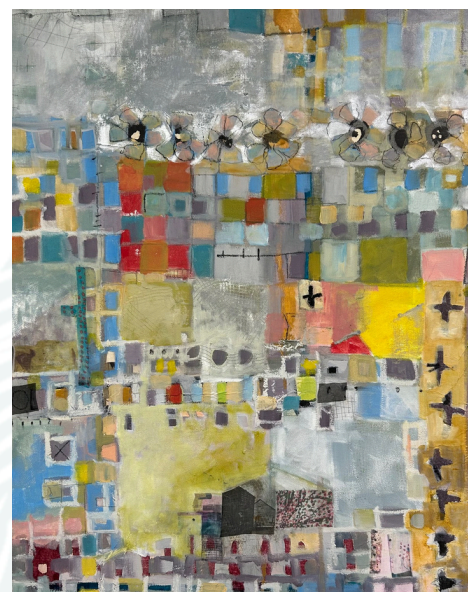
A new raffle painting takes center stage each month during our anniversary year.

WCAG's monthly art raffle series continues with a new painting on display in the gallery's front window. As part of our 50th anniversary celebration, one artwork will be showcased each month in 2026, giving visitors the opportunity to view the piece up close before entering the drawing.

February's featured painting is *Richness of Swallows* by Diane Fraser, a local abstract artist based in Leander, Texas. Working primarily in oil on canvas or paper, Diane creates intuitively rooted shapes, rhythms, and textures that draw viewers in through a strong sense of balance and visual intrigue. *Richness of Swallows*, an original oil on canvas measuring 30" x 24", is a striking example of her expressive use of paint and attention to form.

Diane exhibits her work throughout Central Texas at various venues and exhibit opportunities. More of her artwork can be also viewed at www.diane-fraser-art.com.

Watch for raffle details and upcoming featured artworks as we continue celebrating WCAG's milestone year, one exceptional piece at a time.



Diane Fraser's "Richness of Swallows" will be raffled by the WCAG Gallery in February.

August

- Numbered print by Dalhart Windberg to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **August 7th**

September

- Painting by Kathleen Stafford to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **September 4th**
- Peace, Love, and Art Affair (WCAG anniversary party) on **September 26th** for members and friends
- Special exhibit: The Art of Us 2026: Celebrating African American Creativity in Williamson County (*note, this has switched from its original date in August*)

October

- Painting by V. McConnell to be raffled
- Gallery reception on **October 2nd**
- Special exhibit: Waterloo Watercolor Society
- Autumn Art Stroll on **October 16th**
- Plein air event on the square (Date TBA)

November

- Painting by TBA to be raffled
- Large member juried art show at library and gallery
- Gallery/library receptions on **November 14th**

December

- Painting by TBA to be raffled
- Gallery reception and holiday party on **December 4th**
- Large member juried show continues

Mesquite Creek Outfitters FEATURED ARTIST

Andrew Corbin's oils highlight the landscape as a place of reflection and discovery.

Andrew Corbin's oil paintings are rooted in a deep connection to the landscape and the act of exploration.



After returning from military deployment in Iraq, he found grounding and renewal through time outdoors, hiking and photographing the scenery around him. Eventually, inspired by painters known for their romantic treatment of light and place, Andrew added paint, palette, and easel to his rucksack and began creating his own paintings, working directly from observation.



Over time, Andrew developed a personal style shaped by study, practice, and reflection. His work captures not only the land itself, but the experience of being present within it, inviting viewers to slow down, look closely, and share in the journey.



Andrew's artwork will be on display at Mesquite Creek Outfitters from **February 9th to March 9th**. To see more of Andrew's work, please visit his website: <https://www.corbinfineart.com>.

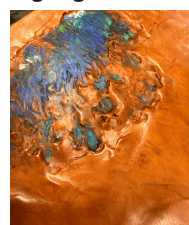
THE JANUARY MEETING IN REVIEW

Exploring encaustic art with Carolyn Todd

Our January members' meeting offered an up-close look at the history, texture, and process of creating encaustic art.

January's members' meeting offered an engaging introduction to encaustic art, led by WCAG artist Carolyn Todd. Members gathered to learn about this ancient and expressive medium, which uses heated beeswax combined with damar resin and pigments to create richly textured, luminous works.

Carolyn guided attendees through the history of encaustic painting, from its earliest roots to contemporary practice, using visuals that highlighted how the medium has evolved over time. She also



An encaustic painting on the surface (left) and from the side (above)

shared a variety of tools, materials, and finished pieces, giving members a close look at the process behind encaustic art and its distinctive surface quality.

After the presentation, several members participated in the monthly challenge by sharing their artwork on the theme "Primal."

All members who participated entered their names in a drawing for the prize of a free \$10 entry into a future member exhibit at the WCAG Gallery. Thank you to all participants, and a big congratulations to JoRene Newton who won the drawing!



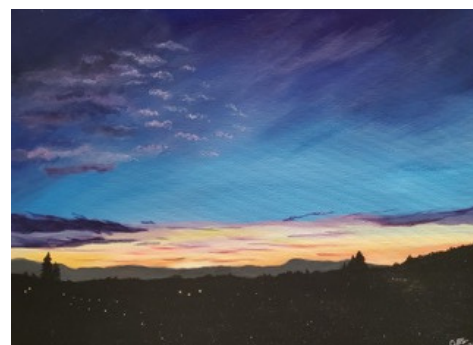
Carolyn Todd



Several members share their art for the January challenge theme, "Primal."

KELLER WILLIAMS ARTIST SERIES

Featuring art by Jessica Snowden



The Keller-Williams Artist Series artwork for February is Jessica Snowden's beautiful landscape, *View from a Hill*. Each month, Keller Williams selects one image from a WCAG artist for their monthly postcard mailing. Jessica's work will grace more than 3000 Keller-Williams postcards sent to households in the Georgetown/ Round Rock area. Congratulations, Jessica!

UPCOMING MEMBERS' MEETING

Next meeting on February 3rd

Join us for a fun hands-on demo and presentation!

All are invited to gather for our February meeting on **Tuesday, February 3rd at 6:30 pm in the Friends Room at the Georgetown Public Library**.

Karyn Derby will give a presentation on printmaking using a gel plate. We will talk about the different types and brands of gel plates available and a variety of techniques that make this printmaking method so versatile and approachable. She'll demonstrate several techniques step by step, sharing tips for layering, texture, and mark-making, and then open the table for participants to experiment with gel plate printing themselves. Whether you're brand new to the process or curious to expand your printmaking practice, this session offers a playful, low-pressure way to explore a medium that rewards curiosity and experimentation.

And don't forget—the challenge theme for February is *Friends*. Bring a piece or two to share. One participating member will be selected by drawing to receive a free \$10 entry into the next member exhibit at the WCAG Gallery. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Thursday-Saturday 11:00am-7:00pm

Sunday 1:00pm-5:00pm

FROM VISION TO REALITY

Kandi Morley transforms imagination into form through curiosity, craft, and boundless creativity.

Kansas-born artist Kandi Morley credits her early artistic awakening to her mother's influence on their family farm, fostering a lifelong passion for creation and ingenuity.



painting, sculpture, digital art, and a lifelong passion for portraiture. Kandi's unique artistic voice is often expressed through the challenge of transforming any concept or vision into a tangible reality, exploring techniques and materials until she finds the perfect solution. Bring her your ideas—she will figure out how to make them happen.



As the founder of Kandi-O Creative and a former silversmith, her current explorations are deeply inspired by human anatomy, the beauty of desert animal life, and nature's

landscapes. Her work, spanning vibrant realism to bold abstraction, invites viewers to embrace a feeling of universal love and optimism.



Kandi's exhibit will be on display starting **February 5th** at WCAG's Rock Street Gallery. Be sure to stop in and see her work firsthand!

FEBRUARY GALLERY RECEPTION

An artful winter evening at the gallery

Art awards, live music, and good company!

Join us for February's First Friday reception at WCAG's Rock Street Gallery on **Friday, February 6, from 5-7 pm**, as we celebrate our first juried and judged show of 2026.

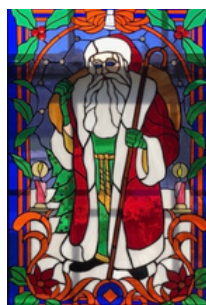
This special reception will feature new artwork by WCAG member artists, with ribbons and prizes awarded for standout work. While submissions were not juried at entry, the exhibit will be judged once installed, and winners will be announced during the reception—making this an especially exciting evening at the gallery.

Refreshments will be served, with beer generously provided by a local brewery, and live music will be provided by special guest About the Music. Whether you're stopping by to see the latest work on the walls, enjoy the music, or simply unwind at the end of the week, we look forward to celebrating with you!

A LOOK BACK AT JANUARY'S FIRST FRIDAY RECEPTION

Music, new art, and a lively start to the year!

January's First Friday reception at WCAG's Rock Street Gallery was a spirited and welcoming way to begin the new year. Members and guests gathered to enjoy an evening of friendly conversation, fresh artwork, and a vibrant gallery setting.



*Gary Whitbeck's
stained glass "Santa"*

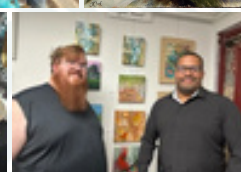
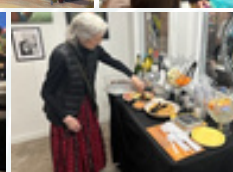
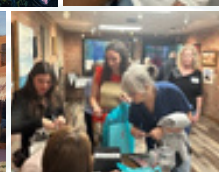
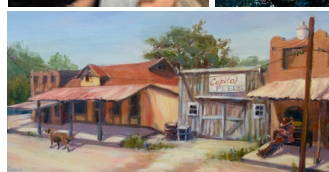
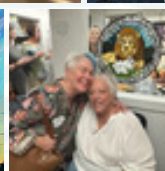
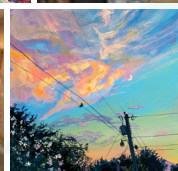
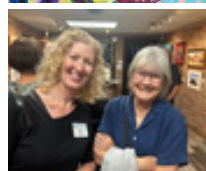
Live music by The Discount Pills added a fun, eclectic soundtrack to the evening, setting the tone for an engaging and upbeat reception. Visitors explored new work by WCAG member artists throughout the gallery while enjoying refreshments, including beer provided courtesy of Power Brewing Project.



Kathleen Stafford's embossed collagraph, "Village Chief"

The evening also included recognition of the December People's Choice Award winners. We had almost 200 votes! First place was awarded to Gary Whitbeck for his stained glass piece, *Santa*, and second place went to Kathleen Stafford for her embossed collagraph in a hand-carved African frame, *Village Chief*. Both works were featured prominently in the gallery throughout January.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make January's reception a warm and memorable start to the year. We look forward to many more gatherings ahead.



CURRENT EXHIBITS

Visit these venues to see beautiful art by our members!

The Williamson Museum

716 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown

Theme: "Celebrating the Moments"

Exhibit dates: January 6-February 3, 2026

Exhibits Chair/Coordinator: Patti Wojtowecz,
patti.exhibits@wcagtx.org



Some of the artwork on display at The Williamson Museum.

Truewood by Merrill's Truewood Gallery

4907 Williams Dr., Georgetown

Solo Exhibit by Jolaine Chatham

Theme: "The Nurture of Nature, Ceramics"

Exhibit dates: January 8-February 5

Coordinator: Katrina King, kinggirlsmom@aol.com



Some of Jolaine Chatham's ceramics on display at the Truewood Gallery through February 5th.

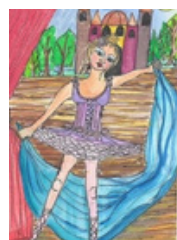
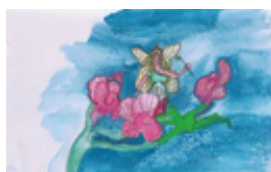
And, same venue, coming later this month...

Solo Exhibit by Leora Forstein

Theme: "Flowers and Fantasy"

Exhibit dates: February 5 - March 5

Coordinator: Katrina King, kinggirlsmom@aol.com



Some of Leora Forstein's artwork on display at the Truewood Gallery starting February 5th.

Framer's Gallery

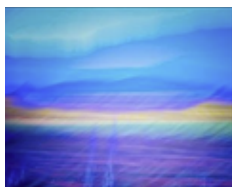
610 S. Main Street, Georgetown

Theme: Artist's choice

Exhibit dates: January 2-January 29

Coordinator: Debra Soule,
debra.framersgallery@wcagtx.org

One of the pieces on display at Framer's Gallery this month: "Lavender in Bloom" by Lesley Bradstreet



UPCOMING EXHIBITS/CFAs

Put your art on display!

Framer's Gallery

610 S. Main Street, Georgetown

Theme: Artist's choice

Call for art: Watch for an email the first week of February

Exhibit dates: February 26 - March 26

Coordinator: Debra Soule, debra.framersgallery@wcagtx.org

Truewood by Merrill's Truewood Gallery

4907 Williams Dr., Georgetown

Solo Exhibit by Denis Benjamin

Theme: "Images of Nature"

Exhibit dates: March 5 - April 2

Coordinator: Katrina King, kinggirlsmom@aol.com

St. David's Georgetown Hospital, Healing Arts Gallery

2000 Scenic Dr., Georgetown

Group Exhibit: About 20 different WCAG artists on display

Exhibit theme: "The Healing Power of Art"

Exhibit dates: March 6 - May 8

Exhibit is almost full—thank you for your submissions!

Coordinator: Ted Keller, tedk.secretary@wcagtx.org

The Palace Theater, Springer Lobby

810 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown

*****Pending the completion of repairs*****

We will keep membership updated as we receive updates from the theater.

Production/theme: "Oklahoma"

For more about the play:

Please Google "Oklahoma Musical Synopsis"

Call for art: Coming out by email January 25th!

Submission deadline: March 6

Exhibit dates: March 12-May 7

Performances: March 20-April 19

Exhibits Chair/Coordinator: Patti Wojtowecz,
patti.exhibits@wcagtx.org

The Wilco Office of Victims of Crimes

National Crime Victims' Rights Exhibit

100 Wilco Way, Georgetown

Theme: TBA

The formal theme has not been announced yet, but anything suggesting safety, love, support, resilience, healing, faith, sympathy, etc will be appropriate.

Call for art: Coming out by email in January

Exhibit dates: April 20-24, 2026

Coordinator: Lynn Kessel, lynn.president@wcagtx.org

Palace Theater exhibits canceled until further notice

The Palace Theater sustained extensive water damage to its theater space on Sunday, January 25th due to the freezing weather, so they have had to cancel the closing weekend of Disney's Frozen and the entire run of Swing! The Musical. While they will try to quickly complete the repairs, factors beyond their control may slow their progress. Please keep the Palace Theater, its staff, and its actors in your thoughts and prayers as they work toward being able to open again.

*"A good painting to me has always been like a friend.
It keeps me company, comforts, and inspires."*

Hedy Lamarr

ART CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Take advantage and sharpen your skills

Beginning Acrylic Painting with Helena Hatch

While WCAG member Helena Hatch is an accomplished and experienced acrylic artist, she has a special place in her heart for teaching the absolute beginner painter! She will take you step by step through the process.

The workshop will take place in six sessions tentatively scheduled on **Mondays February 2, 9, 16, 23, Mar 2, and Mar 9, 5:30 to 7:30pm in the kitchen/break room on 2nd floor at The Nest (Georgetown Project Building).** The registration fee of \$225 includes all supplies. Contact Helena Hatch at jchchatch@gmail.com.

Georgetown Art Center Members Open Art Session

The Georgetown Art Center will host its first Members Open Studio Session on **Sunday, February 8th from 1- 5pm.** The open studio provides an informal, interactive opportunity for artists to gather and create together.

The February session will feature **short demos by WCAG member Jessica Cook** and include a model for participants to work from! Please note that this is not a class, but an open studio environment. Artists are encouraged to bring the supplies and materials they prefer to work with.

Registration Fees:

- Artist Level Members: Free
- Individual Level Members: \$10
- Non-Members: \$10 (one-time trial for a monthly open studio session)

Register here (scroll to bottom of the page):
<https://www.eventeny.com/events/ticket/?id=23949>

Still Life Drawing with Carolyn Todd

This class, titled "Building Drawing Skill #1," will present the basics of drawing, including different drawing techniques to build your skill level!

These elements help define drawing in Grayscale and Composition:

- By light and dark contrast
- By stippling
- By placement/position
- By texture
- By atmospheric perspective
- By direction
- By rhythm or speed
- By shape
- By pattern
- By value: light, medium, dark

Students will use graphite and conte pencils to work on different techniques, scale, accuracy, light and dark values, and the other elements listed above.

Here are some examples:



Title: Building Drawing Skill #1

Date/time: March 28, 2026; 10am - 4pm

Location: The Nest, 2201 Old Airport Rd.

Number of sessions: 1 at this time

Cost: \$65 due by March 23rd (Supplies are provided.)

Limited number of students: 10

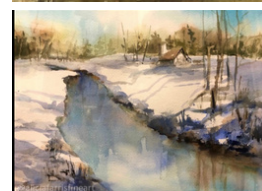
Student level: Novice (no experience), and
Beginner (limited experience)



BRUSH UP on Landscapes with Alicia Farris

With the holidays soon behind us, it will be time to take a breath and take out our paintbrushes.

Landscape painting with watercolor can produce spectacular results, especially when you discover new techniques and fresh perspectives from an excellent instructor, internationally known, like Alicia Farris. In addition to landscapes, we'll tackle pet portraits and experiment with yupo, so there's a lot to look forward to!



Sponsored by the Waterloo Watercolor Group of Austin, the class will be held **Wednesday, April 22nd to Friday, April 24th from 9am to 4pm** each day at **St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1500 North Capital of Texas Highway, Austin, TX.** Tickets are \$400 each. To register, please visit waterloowatercolor.org/event/3-day-alicia-farris-workshop.

To learn more about instructor Alicia Farris, view her recent feature in *Watercolor Magazine* and visit her website at www.afarris.com.

Want to teach a class? Want to learn a particular skill or type of art?

Contact Jennifer Polnaszek to share your ideas and she'll help make it happen! jennifer.presidentelect@wcagtx.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Get involved and support the arts in Williamson County

For a rewarding experience, volunteer with our art community!

Exhibit Coordinator

We are always looking for exhibit help! If you would like to volunteer to coordinate or even co-coordinate a show or two for any exhibit opportunities that may come our way, please contact Patti Wojtowecz at patti.exhibits@wcagtx.org.

Monthly Presenters

Interested in presenting at an upcoming member meeting? If you would like to share your expertise with other WCAG members, we would love to have you! Contact our Programs Chair, Ruth Gamble, at ruth.programs@wcagtx.org.

Art Class Instructors

Teaching an art class is another great way to share your expertise with other WCAG members. If you'd like to offer an art class, contact Jennifer Polnaszek at jennifer.presidentelect@wcagtx.org.

CONNECT WITH US

Stay current on WCAG, members' news, and what's happening around the area



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Williamson County Art Guild

Non-profit 501(c)(3)

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