



December 2023 Newsletter

From Our President

Flora Biggs

nbalpresident@gmail.com



Dear NBAL Members:

This is my last greeting to you as president and it has been an honor and a pleasure to have served you. My grateful thanks to the board: Mary, Gerlyn, Gretchen, Marcie, Susan, Robin, Chase and Elaine for their assistance, superb leadership and making my job easy. Thank you to Nanette for being a great newsletter and Constant Contact editor. Thank you to the team leaders and members who were always so helpful when I needed assistance. I am blessed to be part of this great art family and it has been a pleasure to be a member for 25 years. Each of you have contributed to NBAL's excellent reputation that continues to attract new members. What a great organization!

I hope your Thanksgiving was full of love and great food. My wish for each of you as we celebrate Jesus' birthday is that you have the most joyous Christmas and successful New Year selling art. May Santa fulfill all your dreams and wishes. Enjoy my last trivia.



Who invented Santa Claus? According to Google, the Legend of Santa Claus can be traced back hundreds of years to a monk named Saint Nicolas around 280 AD. He was known for giving gifts in secret and miracles.

The current depiction of Santa Claus is based on images drawn by cartoonist Thomas Nast for Harper's Weekly beginning in 1863. Nast's Santa owed much to the description given in the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (also known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas"), first published in 1823. Traditions have grown and changed each year.

The repair of the kitchen foundation is scheduled to start February 7th. The back door will continue to be difficult to open and close until all repairs are completed.

Your newly elected 2024 Board is excellent! Let's welcome them:

President

1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

3rd Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

President Emeritus

Parliamentarian

Mary Hammond

Vicki Houston

Joan Ehlert-McBride

Gretchen Goode

Jeanne Balkman

Marcie Helmke

Chase Willett

Elaine Felder

Robin Roberts-Walker



Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year,
Flora Biggs, President

Treasurer's Report October 2023

Top ten sellers: Marilyn Hamilton, Gina Cumberland, Lynda Smagac, JoAnn Beissner, Gay Joines, Juanita Garza, Diane Black, Cheryl Jividen, EilenThedford, Daryl Patrick

Total Sales: Oct 2023 \$11,706.30
 Oct 2022 \$10,136.26

A detailed financial report of the Art League balances is furnished to the Board monthly and is available to anyone upon request.

Docent Tip of the Month

Marcie Helmke

nbaltreasurer@gmail.com

Please complete your daily sales log entirely. All data needs to be entered and totaled.

Please complete the sales invoice completely. Dollar figures should be written with a decimal point to avoid careless errors. i.e. \$57.00 NOT 57.

You **MUST** submit a signed charge slip for every charged purchase. The customer keeps the copy without a signature line. NBAL retains the signed receipt.

Ornament sales are a fundraiser for NBAL. The "artist" on the sales invoice is NBAL.

NBAL Gallery Information

Mary K. Hammond - 1st VP

mkhstudio16@gmail.com

Note to all Docents

We are phasing out the DOCENT DAILY CHECK SHEET! After we have used the ones we have already printed, we will change over to a new Daily Sales Log/Check sheet combo. This will save us the printing of a two-sided form that is used every day as a reminder for the docents and then thrown away. I have taken the main items from our old check sheet and put them on the back of the Sales Log so that all the important money documentation and docent tasks that are done for the running of the gallery are on one sheet. This way there will be a record of how well your docent team did for the day on hand for you and your team to see. It would be good to start looking at the old Daily Sales Logs in the notebook behind the wrapping table to check how well your team is doing. You will see any mistakes or items missing marked in red. **PLEASE**, do not take this as a reprimand but as a note to what to double check as you work at the desk the next time.

DOCENT HELPFUL REMINDER will be on the docent desk as a reminder on how to write a sale, handle artwork sold, and docent tasks for maintaining gallery appearance. This will stay at the desk and should be referred to every day.

The Docent Desk Reference Notebook has been updated..... Please take the time to take a look at it as you work at the Docent Desk.

Docent Training

GENERAL MEMBERS... If you would like to help the gallery out by working at the Docent Desk or you would like to make some extra money by being a Docent Substitute (\$40 for the day), then you need to be trained. The training will be on Dec. 9, and there will be two

sessions from 9 to 12 noon OR 1 to 4 pm. Please contact **Joe Eby** to let him know you are coming.

Gallery Staffing

Vicki Smith and I are working hard to get the Schedule and Calendars out to you as soon as they are completed. We will send them to you for proofing before we go to print.

PLEASE remember to fill out your sub information on your new Timesheets when you get them in January. It would help everyone if you at least marked the day of the week that you work as a day you would trade and be a sub.

Gallery Appearance/Display

Gina Cumberland, who does a fantastic job at keeping our gallery looking beautiful, asked me to pass along a couple of messages to the docents. First, a big **THANK YOU** to all the wonderful docents who have helped her rehang the artwork when she comes in. She told me she could not do her job without you. Second, as you walk around the gallery, please look for any open spots that are there from artwork being removed or sold and shift the artwork around to fill it in.

Gina's message to displaying members: When you are submitting or displaying art at the gallery, you may hang your piece in any available space or if there isn't any space, hang it down low on the wall and she will make a place for it. If it's a larger piece, you may place it on an easel in the side gallery but be sure to not block others art pieces. Easels are stored by the elevator. If there's an easel in the side gallery with a piece of unframed art, you may return the piece to the bin and use the easel.

Team Leader Position that needs to be filled:

Special Events/Demonstrations Team Leader* – Oversees special events such as Wine & Saengerfest, Wine Stroll, and Wassailfest. Coordinates the staffing for the events. Schedules and manages artist demonstrations or programs planned for the General Meetings throughout the year. This job is perfect for the person who likes to showcase different artists and their talents.

Team Position that needs to be filled:

Cleaning or Maintenance Team Members – This job is perfect for those who work a full-time job because the workers can set their own hours to come into the gallery to work. Team members will have 2 work dates in each month and will need to also sign the Housekeeping check off list. (2 Slots)

NBAL Special Show News

Gerlyn M. Friesenhahn 2nd VP
gmfriesenhahn@yahoo.com

Current Show “Small Works for Big Holidays” 11/21/23 – 1/2/24

45 Artists submitted 160 works of art.

Make plans to do some of your holiday shopping at the gallery!



Don't Panic!!
Give A Gift Certificate
You Can't Lose
When They Choose

New Braunfels
ART LEAGUE

239 W. San Antonio, NBTX
www.thenewbraunfelsartleague.com

Jury Day Submission is Saturday Dec. 2, 10-am-12pm, Pick-up art 4-5pm

Next Show is “2023 Artist of the Year”. Submission day is Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024. Eligible artists were winners (Best of Show, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place) in a special show in 2023 and paid 2023 membership fees by 12/31/2022. Eligible artists have been notified by e-mail.

Please pay your membership dues for 2024 now. In order to be eligible for next year's Artist of the Year special show you must win Best of Show, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in a 2024 show AND must have paid your dues by 12/31/2023.

After members voiced their opinions, about half wanted to continue to receive award ribbons and half thought ribbons were not needed for special show winners. So, we decided that each artist can decide whether to keep the award ribbon or choose to give it back for use at another show. If you choose not to keep the award ribbon, simply leave it at the docent desk when you pick up your art at the end of the show.

2024 Special Show Schedule will be available on the Special Show bulletin board soon. There will be some returning shows by member request including “All Creatures Great and Small”, “Piece by Piece”, and “Art of Photography” along with many of the regular show themes.

By member request, special show receptions will be shortened in 2024. Friday receptions will be from 6 – 7:30pm with awards announced at 7pm and Sunday receptions will be from 2-3:30pm with awards announced at 3pm.

How Would You Market and Advertise NBAL?

By Gretchen Goode

goodecreative@gmail.com

If you were challenged with getting customers in the door to **BUY local art, TAKE classes, ATTEND special events and JOIN NBAL**, how might you do that?

How would you entice and engage a younger art-buying public, newcomers to New Braunfels and the public in general to come in the gallery to find out more and explore?

Have ideas or feedback? ... email Gretchen Goode at goodecreative@gmail.com

NBAL Membership Accolades

Nanette Scranton, Digital Communications Coordinator

Nanette.scranton@live.com

If you have an accolade to share (story and/or photos) with the membership, please send to Nanette.scranton@gmail.com by the 24th of each month. Format preferred is a word document and photos as JPGs.

Annual Christmas Fundraiser for NBAL

All NBAL members: The annual Christmas ornament fundraiser is underway. Many beautiful ornaments have been donated. A big thank you to contributing artists. Donations will continue to be accepted through Christmas.

Each ornament should be tagged with a sale price. Special tags are available. Place the sale price and NBAL on one side of the tag and your name on the other. All proceeds will be given back to NBAL.



Questions? E-mail Gina Cumberland, Chairperson, at gcumberland@yahoo.com

Thank You

LIBRARY NEWS

By Myra Knapp, Librarian

Love a bargain? Have a love for “homeless” books? Then watch the table in the back of the NBAL kitchen for many wonderful books available to purchase. The books will be of various titles and well worth the \$3 donation. A new supply of books will be available each week, so check the table often. If you don’t find what you are looking for, go upstairs to the library and pick from thousands of books and DVD’s available to check out.

December Photography Classes



NBAL’s Photography courses have been expanded recently to include both shorter timeframes and customized training to meet a photographer’s very specific interests. Now there are 4-week, one-day, and 4-hour classes designed for every skill level, from beginner to intermediate to advanced!

[Learn more here!](#)

Consider giving yourself or a loved one a Photography Course this year!

- **Essentials of Photography** If you are giving (or asking for) a new camera this year, consider adding an Essentials of Photography class with it! This class is perfect for anyone who loves taking pictures, but wish they really felt confident in how to get consistently good results! [Find complete details and cost/registration info here!](#) **The next class starts Wednesday, Dec 6, 2023!**
- **One-on One or Small Group Classes** These are the fastest growing category of photography classes offered at the Art League and are designed as one-on-one classes for photographers that are looking to add new skills in a highly personalized, short format, very hands-on experience.

Sessions may be held in a fully equipped photographic studio at the Art League; or at a variety of other locations, depending on the student’s interests. The goal is to help both new and confident photographers rapidly learn new techniques or skills they want to have, help them expand their photographic range, or solve

recurring issues in their images that are limiting what he or she can achieve. [Find complete details and cost/registration info here!](#)

- **Photo Editing in Lightroom** is a highly individualized one-day photo-editing workshop held on a Saturday each month that is guaranteed to help you produce better images. The next class is planned for December 9, 2023. The topics and strategies we will learn are ideas common across all the major editing platforms. Using them, a few minutes of editing can take an average picture to entirely new levels! [Find complete details and cost/registration info here!](#)

If you or someone you know is interested in getting up to speed with your camera or finally mastering manual mode and exposure, those topics can be done nicely in a small group or private class format. For more information or to discuss details, contact Larry at the email or phone below. (Send a text for the fastest reply.)

For more information on photography classes, especially our fastest growing category, private one-on-one or small group classes, please contact Larry Johnson at drjohnson@gmail.com or 512-740-6205.

[Learn more about Johnson's work here](#)

2024 Schedule of Workshops!

Larry Johnson, Workshops
drjohnson@gmail.com

While we have concluded our program of 2023 workshops, we already have six fabulous workshops planned for 2024, and more coming in 2025! You can learn full details about any workshop on the NBAL website, and online registration is available.

Here is the spring schedule! Consider gifting a loved one with a seat in one of these exciting Spring Workshops!



In **Vie Dunn-Harr's Jan 19-21 workshop**, she will introduce movement and abstraction as the foundation of any subject matter. Like an expedition, participants will immerse themselves into unfamiliar territory and be challenged creatively. Her group demos are extraordinary; she works personally with each

participant, encouraging them to realize new strengths and expressions. [Learn more here!](#) [Register now!](#)



Joan Fullerton's Feb 29-Mar 3, 2024, workshop is already fully subscribed. You can still sign up for the waitlist! When the last call to settle balances goes out, we will definitely have some cancellations. *Joan's classes are amazing!* [Learn more here!](#) [Register now!](#)



Monika Pate, April 19-21, 2024. During this 3-day workshop, students will explore a variety of techniques to create realistic glass objects in transparent watercolor. A simple still life will be used to learn how to approach the variety of shapes, colors, values and texture of glass and reflective surfaces. [Learn more here!](#) [Register now!](#)

Coming next fall, we have this fantastic lineup! Click on any of the listings below to see complete information about these fall workshops.

- [Marla Baggetta, Sept 6-8, 2024.](#)
- [Elizabeth St. Hilaire, Oct 18-20, 2024 \(Waitlist Only!\)](#)
- [David Lobenberg, Oct 25-27, 2024.](#)

You can register for any of these sessions right now via the online form at:

<https://form.jotform.com/230390334096150>

2023 Board Officers

President – Flora Biggs
1st VP – Mary Hammond
2nd VP – Gerlyn Friesenhahn
3rd VP – Gretchen Goode
Secretary – Susan Best

Treasurer – Marcie Helmke
Asst. Treasurer – Chase Willett
Parliamentarian – Robin Roberts-Walker
President Emeritus – Elaine Felder

