



February 2024 Newsletter

From Our President

Mary K. Hammond
nbalpresident@gmail.com



Hello Everybody,
Burrrrrr....
I think Winter found us!

It's February so who knows what type of weather we will be having: sun, rain, or ice, so be prepared for anything. I want to send a **Thank You** out to **Trace Guthrie** who monitored our building during the icy cold snap we had and caught a plumbing problem before it got too bad. **Extra Big Thank You to Gene Scranton (Nanette's husband)** who came out in the cold to help us take care of the problem by clearing a small ice clog. Keep in mind that if we have another freezing night predicted and you are the last one out of the gallery then please leave one of the kitchen sink faucets dripping. Those coming into the gallery in the morning will turn it off.

This year our building will be 111 years old. Kathinka Clemens of Comal County, a rare female contractor for the time period, built the building in 1913 for A. C. and Helen Plumeyer. Clemens was contracted to erect a two-story brick building: the first floor to be used as a bakery and the second floor to be a living space for the family. The Plumeyers paid a \$7,500 promissory note to Clemens within three years after the building was completed on August 15, 1913 with 8% interest.



The bakery was called City Bakery from 1913-1926 according to the ads in The Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company directories.



The New Braunfels Art League is the 13th owner of the property, purchasing it in 1990 for \$62,500.

Sometime between 1962 and 1968, while Frost Bank owned the property, it was a Thom McAn shoe store. I know because I can remember my mother bringing my sisters and I here to buy our school shoes. We would

take turns playing on the metal hand rails at the entrance and begging for pennies to put in the gum ball machine that stood at the doorway. 😊



Praise and a big *THANK YOU*, to Nancy Bower who had the intelligence and the tenacity to apply for our Historical Landmark status in 2004. She compiled the history, old photos, and needed documentation to get the recognition we have today. Nancy also helped with the renovations that happened in 2004. The large upstairs classroom is named BOWER CLASSROOM for her and her husband Paul's outstanding work done for our organization. It is from her research that I got this information for this newsletter.

Thanks Nancy!

Message about our building foundation repairs.

We have a contract with Alamo Hy-Tech Foundation, Inc. to start work on the foundation with steel pier installation at the backdoor this February 7. We have had a hiccup with Alamo pulling permits from the city; but we hope to still start on time. I will keep you posted.

Shout out of Praise to the Housekeeping Team

Our **Housekeeping/Maintenance team leader, Laraine Romine**, does an excellent job keeping our home looking beautiful and running smoothly. This year her team is Marta Roberts, Flore Chevaillier, Robbie George, and Kaela (Noel) Laue. We need extra hands to help with this job if you have the time. **Thank you, ladies, for taking on this important but difficult job.**

In addition to Laraine's team leader job, she has been working hard obtaining a grant from Exxon that will go into NBAL's Children's Fund. **Thank you, Laraine!**

See you guys in the gallery,
Mary Hammond
NBAL President

Treasurer's Report December 2023

Marcie Helmke, Treasurer
nbaltreasurer@gmail.com

Top ten sellers: Joe Eby, Diane Black, Mary LaFond, Gina Eby, Debra Cooper, Kay Primer, Sydni Dusek, Mary Shepard, Gina Cumberland, Margi Uniacke.

Total Sales:	Dec 2023	\$ 14,447.04
	Dec 2022	\$ 9219.90

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

EVERY person working the docent desk is required to sign the technology agreement book that has been at the desk since the start of the new year. Unfortunately, a considerable number of docents have yet to sign the agreement. Please stop by the docent desk and review the policy as soon as possible.

Sales invoices need to be completed with full monetary notation: 75 cents is \$0.75. Twenty-five dollars is \$25.00. Too many errors occur when this is not followed.

Be sure you are looking at the charge slip and marking the correct method of payment. DEBIT means it is a debit purchase and DEBIT should be circled on the sales invoice.

Open Art Night Returns

Mark your calendar for February 17 and plan to join us for Open Art Night 6 – 8 pm! Bring a project to work on and enjoy the company of fellow artists! There is no fee to participate. Contact nbaltreasurer@gmail.com if you have questions.

NBAL Building Fund Established

As you may have read in a previous newsletter, NBAL is beginning foundation work on the rear wall of the building. We THANK the members who have already donated funds to help with this project!

The reality of owning a 110-year-old building is that we will continually have building issues arise that require maintenance/repair just as you encounter in your personal home. We have a need to create a permanent building fund to maintain funds designated specifically for the building. In the past, NBAL has used personal donations and savings account money to fund major projects as they arose such as the roof repair several years ago.

We have received a couple of very generous donations and want to use this opportunity to start a permanent building fund for long-range planning. Besides the foundation work, we also need to repair and seal the brick-and-mortar areas on the front and side exterior walls. The cost estimate for that work is around \$40,000. We plan to explore available grants; however, grants will not fund 100% of the project. So, if you have any extra cash sitting around, think of us.

Donations can be submitted at the gallery or mailed to NBAL, PO Box 310325, New Braunfels 78131. Please designate Building Fund on your donation. NBAL is a 501 c(3) organization so your gift is tax deductible. Questions should be directed to nbaltreasurer@gmail.com.

If you were not aware, we also have a fund set aside just for our Youth Art Reach. This money goes toward our high school scholarship program and the teen spring art show. You may also mark donations Children's Fund for this cause.

2024 Schedule of Workshops!

Larry Johnson, Workshops

drjohnson@gmail.com

We kicked off 2024 with a bang, thanks to Vie Dunn-Harr, who put on a fabulous session in January. Coming up soon is Joan Fullerton's sold-out workshop at the end of February, and we've just signed with Robin Cheers to return in May with her excellent workshop on impressionism and her novel and productive way to approach it.

That will make our seventh workshop for 2024, and already two signed up for 2025! You can learn full details about any workshop on the [NBAL website](#), and online registration is available.

Here is the spring schedule!



Monika Pate: Exploring Glass Techniques in Watercolor. 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!](#)



Robin Cheers: Impressionist Oil/Acrylic Workshop

There are still seats available for this fun and informative workshop with Robin Cheers, to be held May 10-12, 10am - 5 pm! In this workshop, Robin will introduce movement and abstraction as the foundation for any subject matter. She will do group demos and work personally with each participant, encouraging them to realize new strengths and expressions. [Discover more about Robin and her work here.](#) [Register Now!](#)

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

- [Marla Baggetta, Sept 6-8, 2024.](#)
- [David Lobenberg, Oct 25-27, 2024.](#)
- [Elizabeth St. Hilaire's Oct 18-20 session](#) is waitlisted.

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

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

NBAL Gallery Information

Vicki Houston, 1st VP
msravenhouston@gmail.com

What a great start to the new year!

Remember to fill in your time sheets completely. You may not have noticed the place you can fill out to substitute for other docents. It is your responsibility to find a substitute. I have been checking timesheets to compile a list of people who are willing to trade or work.

As most of you have noticed, we have reduced the paperwork at the docent desk. The sales log and procedures for daily check list are on one page. That needs to be placed in the daily clear envelope at the end of the day.

Some of you still need to please fill in emergency contacts on your timesheets. Hopefully we will never need it!

Ideas! Ideas! Ideas!

Gretchen Goode, 3rd VP
goodecreative@gmail.com.

Got Ideas? Please Share Them!

In 2024 ... we want more! *More customers. More sales. More members.*

Have any ideas for how we do this? Please share. Send Gretchen Goode an email goodecreative@gmail.com.



Christmas Ornament Fundraiser

Dear NBAL Membership,

A great big thank you to all who took part in this year's Christmas Ornament Fundraiser. You know who you are: those who made submissions and those who purchased. Sales brought in \$1210.98. I think we can all agree that this year's event was an awesome success.

Thank you!
Gina Cumberland

NBAL Special Show Information

Joan Ehlert-McBride 2nd VP

joane050@gmail.com

ARTIST OF THE YEAR WINNERS

2023 Artist of the Year: Rendy Spangenberg

1st Honorable Mention: Will Wehmeyer

2nd Honorable Mention: Trace Guthrie

Congratulations to Rendy Spangenberg!



Born to a creative family from Wimberley Texas. Rendy is skilled and trained in a variety of mediums including drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, weaving, stained glass, mosaics and even taxidermy. Drawing from the beautiful colors and shapes found in nature. Her current interest is in creating 3-D works that also have a function in the home. Tables, mirrors, windows, murals, and sculptures encrusted in colorful glass and ceramics bits. Art is her passion and joy!

You can read Rendy's interview and full article in the Herald-Zeitung at:

[Link to Artist of the Year Herald-Zeitung](https://herald-zeitung.com/news/from-shattered-shards-mosaic-work-inspires-new-braunfels-art-leagues-2023-artist-of-the-year/article_bf6c51b2-ba34-11ee-a68f-6fa02f5ae37b.html)

https://herald-zeitung.com/news/from-shattered-shards-mosaic-work-inspires-new-braunfels-art-leagues-2023-artist-of-the-year/article_bf6c51b2-ba34-11ee-a68f-6fa02f5ae37b.html

Current Show: “Anything Goes” 1/30/24-3/2/24

Intake was Monday 1/29/24

Reception Friday 1/2/24

***** 6-7:30pm *****

NOTE TIME CHANGE FOR RECEPTIONS IN 2024

Next Show 2 Shows:

CLAG “Lasting Impressions” 3/5/24-4/5/24

Private show for Canyon Lake Art Guild members

Teen Spring Gallery Show 4/7/24-4/27/24

Open to area middle and high school age students

Please help us improve Submission Days!

Here are a few reminders to help us work efficiently and effectively on submission day:

- Have as much of your paperwork done **before** you arrive on submission day. Writing or typing your information clearly makes it easier for us to call you when you win and/or sell your masterpieces! All Inventory forms are available online and can be printed right from the comfort of your own home.
- Checks must be completely filled out in blue or black ink only.
- Review the dimensions and the weight restrictions as well as the framing and/or wrap canvas requirements before preparing your artwork for submission. The information is on the back page of the prospectus. The limits are strictly enforced.
- Please pick up your work from the show on the pick-up date. This helps us prepare the gallery for the next show and reduces the handling of your work, thus reducing the risk of damage to your masterpieces.

The Reception Committee is looking for Donations

The Reception Committee is trying to update our old serving items and is looking to upgrade what is being served at our receptions. We are on the lookout for the following gently used items:

- Chafing Dishes
- 2 one-gallon drink dispensers

Co-Chair needed for the “Come and Gift It” Show

This is the latest version of our holiday show. If you have wondered who picks the judges for our special shows, it is the Co-Chair! This can be one person or a group of people who share this responsibility of picking the judge, hosting the submission day, hosting the judge, calling the winners, and presenting the awards at the reception. Anyone interested please contact me and I will be happy to show you the complete list of duties. A summary is available on page 17 of the new Yearbook.

*****The complete 2024 list of Special Shows are now available online at *****

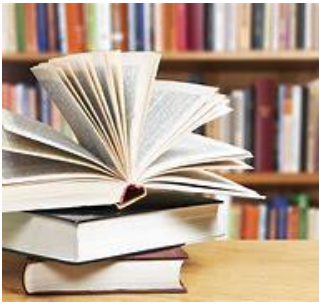
<https://www.thenewbraunfelsartleague.com/special-shows.html>

Myra Knapp

NBAL Librarian

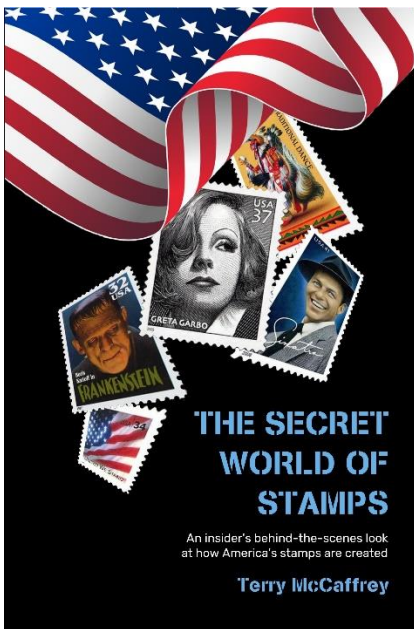
kattknapp@slcglobal.net

Have you peeked into your NBAL Library lately? The shelves are filled with the most amazing array of helpful and informational books on all facets of art-related topics. Most of the books in your library have been generously gifted to NBAL for the purpose of sharing the spirit of art with its members.



Recently Al Slavin, NBAL member, artist, teacher and author, has given the library an autographed copy of his new book: **Colorful Grays: How to Paint with Oils**. Al's wonderful book is filled with advice, diagrams and beautiful examples of his work and it is fun to read. Vickie Moon Merchant, NBAL member, Team Board member, jewelry artist and author has given her book: **The Story of the Rockport-Fulton Art Colony**, a true treasure to read. Also, long-time member, past president of NBAL and expert metalsmith, Barbara Blaschke, has given the library her treasured collection of books: **Creative Stonesetting, Jewelry Techniques, The Art of Jewelry Making**, and others. These will certainly give you new ideas and tools for your trade.

NBAL Membership Accolades



Terry McCaffrey, a NBAL Displaying Member since 2022 has just published a book of memoirs about his 40-year career as Design Director for the US Postal Service. He oversaw the design of over 2,500 postage stamps, stationery, and related stamp products. This book, "**The Secret World of Stamps**" gives a behind-the-scenes look at how some of the miniature works of art were produced. Stories include political influence; famous movie stars and sports figures; design challenges that occasionally resulted in lawsuits, national news stories, and denunciation from the Senate floor; customers suggestions; overcoming creative differences when partnering with major film and retail firms; little known stories of stamps that never saw the light of day due to family disputes, money issues, or creative differences; and negotiations with foreign postal administrations. The book is currently available on both Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

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

February 2024 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!](#)

- **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, Feb 7, 2024!**
- **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 February 17, 2024.** 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 an entirely new level! [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 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](#)

[See what students had to say about Larry's classes](#)

2024 Board of Officers

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