



# WAG Newsletter

May 1, 2020

## In A Word, . . . . (thoughts from your President)

Hope this newsletter finds you safe and healthy at home. While staying at home the WAG Board continues to brainstorm ways to get the Guild's name, our artists' name and their art out for viewing in our community. We are considering a number of things, and many of these are, or have been highlighted in our newsletter and on Facebook. Our self-portraits and artist profiles are just a few of those features. I encourage members to check out all of what's new on the WAG web site, our Facebook, and of course the newsletter. In the near future we are going to be adding many new features for our members.

At present, we are updating our website and Facebook to reflect our beautiful new, modern Logo (right). Thanks to Phyllis Howard, Mechel Bell, and Karen VerBurg for pooling their talents to create this great design.



Another new feature is we listed the artist's webpage, or on-line shopping link on the WAG website and Facebook. This will allow interested visitors to access our artist's pages and their work. We currently have over 400 viewers on Facebook, and WAG is an active member with the Whatcom Arts Project (WAP), which brings more visitors to our site each day.

To that end, we are asking you to provide us with contacts you may have that are associated with the announcement, or sale of your art. Please send this information to Mechel Bell at [artbymechel@yahoo.com](mailto:artbymechel@yahoo.com). This list might include your webpage, Etsy, eBay, Facebook, or an on-line store site where you sell your art.

Then keep checking our WAG Facebook and Website for great things to come.

Stay safe and healthy my friends.

. . . . Carol Ann



Inside	
Artist Challenge — Self-Portrait	2
Barb's Sketchy Thoughts	9
Whatcom Art Market News	18
Something to Smile About	19
Confessions of a Mask-Maker	20
Artist of the WEEK	25

# Artist Challenge

## Self-Portrait

The **Artist Challenge, Self-Portrait** is ongoing for the time being, and we're receiving entries daily. As the entries come in they will be posted on WAG's Facebook, and featured in the newsletter. Once the submission period has closed, **ALL** entries will be posted in the newsletter, and voting will commence. *What are you waiting for?* Email your entry .jpg to Belinda Botzong at [refindcreations33@gmail.com](mailto:refindcreations33@gmail.com). *Narrations are optional.*



BEV DAVIS

I recently completed a 100-day portrait challenge on Instagram, (@bevsart). I completed the challenge by painting and posting a new portrait each day for 100 days.

As my final post, I did a self-portrait in my studio, pictured here. I really enjoyed the challenge, and I feel like it helped me to gain confidence about painting portraits.

Doing this challenge especially helped to get my speed up as well.

JUNE KIEFER

I must admit I felt a little self-conscious creating my self-portrait. I found wrinkles I did not know I had. I first drew and painted a real portrait of myself to get my facial features down, then started working up a design. Starting all over again, I thought about putting some nature into the self-portrait by adding the tulips to mimic my hair shapes, then used the technique of positive and negative shapes on my eyes and my nose thinking this would bring interest to my design. By choosing pencil and watercolor as the medium it brings a nice flood and softness to the portrait.



# Artist Challenge

## Self-Portrait

LORRAINE DAY



Lorraine Day "She Who Watches"

This is the Cedar River, which runs parallel to I-90 from the crest of the Cascades down through Maple Valley and Renton, into the bottom of Lake Washington. It is home to wild Chinook and Coho salmon, and wild/hatchery sockeye salmon. Used to be home to steelhead, too, but they are gone. I worked as a volunteer naturalist on the Cedar River during the salmon run for about 11 years; we talked to upwards of 9,000 people on the river during the month of October every year! It changed my life and my heart is still there. It is a 'thin place' where the veil between us and god is very thin.



Lorraine's inspiration was She Who Watches, or Tsagaglallal, the most well known of the Native American pictographs and petroglyphs that can be viewed at the Horsethief Lake unit of Columbia Hills State Park about 100 miles east of Vancouver in the Columbia River Gorge. A combination of both pictograph and petroglyph, She Who Watches is among the best examples of aboriginal art in the U.S.

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2014/aug/18/morning-press-old-new-bridges-oil-boom-forestry/>

# Artist Challenge

## Self-Portrait

BARB DILTZ CHANDLER



This is the second self-portrait I've done, and the first one in watercolor. My previous attempt was in pencil. Each time I sketch a portrait of me, or somebody else, I learn something which inspires me to try again – not only so I can fix my mistakes, but so I can make new and different mistakes I can learn from. Maybe I will eventually succeed at capturing a true likeness and revealing personality, but for now I'm happy learning and striving.

Onwards and upwards!

PHYLLIS HOWARD



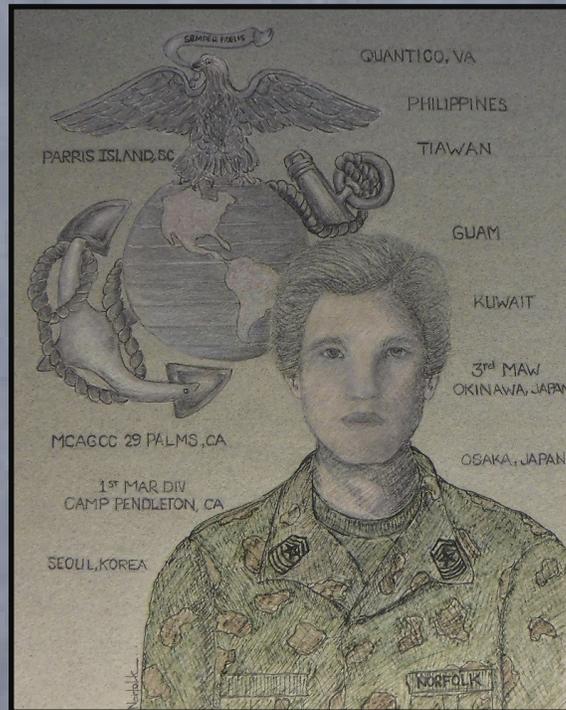
*"All Cracked Up"*

I painted my self-portrait as an exercise to see if I could, never thinking it would be viewed by the public. Observing my own face as an artist feels strange, as it's a very different type of observation from when applying make-up. I elected to use nine 4" x 4" canvases because I liked the idea of being able to turn one or more of the sections sideways or up-side-down (which is how I feel sometimes!). The nine canvases made it easier to grid out. They are mounted in a shadowbox frame with Velcro.

The fact that my face is spaced across nine separate pieces represents my life much of the time. Instead of wearing different hats, I'm really multiple parts.

# Artist Challenge

## Self-Portrait



*"Still Goin' Strong"*

### JOYCE NORFOLK



*Notice the blue ribbon with gold star attached at the neckline.*



The picture to the left was taken while attending the Marine Corps Ball during the Gulf War (Desert Storm) on November 10, 1990. I'm standing next to the base Commander, General James Livingston who is a Medal of Honor recipient for heroism during Viet Nam.

Few people ever meet a Medal of Honor recipient. I was fortunate to have served with General Livingston during the Gulf War. I consider it the hallmark of my military career.

# *Artist Challenge*

## *Self-Portrait*

### CAROLINE SCHAUER

These days I'm especially enjoying time in my lovely little studio which my husband built for me in our back yard. Turn on the music, squeeze out the paint and I'm ready to go! Usually it's a landscape, a flower, or maybe a rendering of life in Malawi, Africa (my favorite).

But, a self-portrait? Hmm...perhaps I should have taken the project, or myself less seriously. A self-portrait is a challenge indeed!



### ARLENE MORTIMER

Here is my attempt at a self portrait. I was not excited about this project, so I decided to look at it with a bit of humor. It was a little hard to sketch this pose as I was laughing a lot while holding a mirror. I ended up having a hilarious time painting this. I captioned it "Say What??"



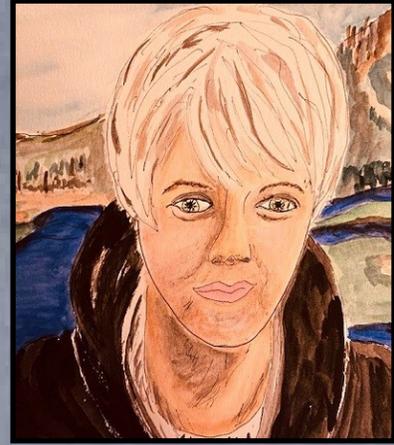
*"Say What"?*

# Artist Challenge

## Self-Portrait



*First attempt*



*Second attempt*

CAROL ANN ANDERSON

I'm a fiber artist, but I also have drawn a little. For my self-portrait I chose to use pen and colored pencil thinking I could easily erase if things got too out of hand. However, my attempts did not look great.

My first attempt was drawn with the board on my lap while watching TV. I did not realize that doing so messed with the perspective. My second attempt was also done on my lap, but with the board propped up. Alas, I think I'm slowly getting the hang of this.

Although I had fun doing something way out of my comfort zone, I think next time I'll attempt something more spiritual; the essence of me, instead of reality.

Sometimes reality is not all it's cracked up to be.

RICH CAVNAR



TRACY WEBSTER



# *Artist Challenge*

## *Self-Portrait*

BELINDA BOTZONG

Each blossom represents a part of my life. Passion flower eyes for my trip to Israel. Hibiscus butterfly heart for my Mom. Red roses and blue hydrangea for my Grandma's big rose bush and blue hydrangea bush. Daisies for my childhood playing "he loves me, he loves me not". Pansies for the first flower I ever loved as a child. Pink peonies for my Daughter. Camellia blossoms for historical beauty. Burgundy and pink hydrangeas for my wedding. A blue feather for my Brother who is an eagle. Hellebores and cosmos and a mix of flowers for my "flower ladies" who bless my life in doing crafty things with flowers!



An orchid for the love of a husband who cheers me on in all I do. Dogwood for the cross of Christ that strengthens, blesses, and encourages me, and saves me. Little purple flowers for my son whose eyes captured my heart nearly 30years ago-he's my very heart. Petunias for my mother-in-law who cultivates flowers and love. Lavender for the power of nature. And the whole collage for my RefindCreations business and blessings!! There could be oh so many more but, this was a good start!

# Barb's Sketchy Thoughts

## Episode II

Shortly after the April newsletter went out, I received an email from Barb Chandler who wanted to share with me her "Sketchy Thought for the Day" which was a watercolor with a hand-scripted caption expressing that day's thought while she and her husband were "sheltering in place".

Barb's work spoke to me, so much so that I too began creating a daily "Sketchy Thought". These cartoons allowed me to draw freely, and unencumbered, scribbling whatever I chose. Doing this filled my days and provided a welcomed distraction. Thanks Barb.

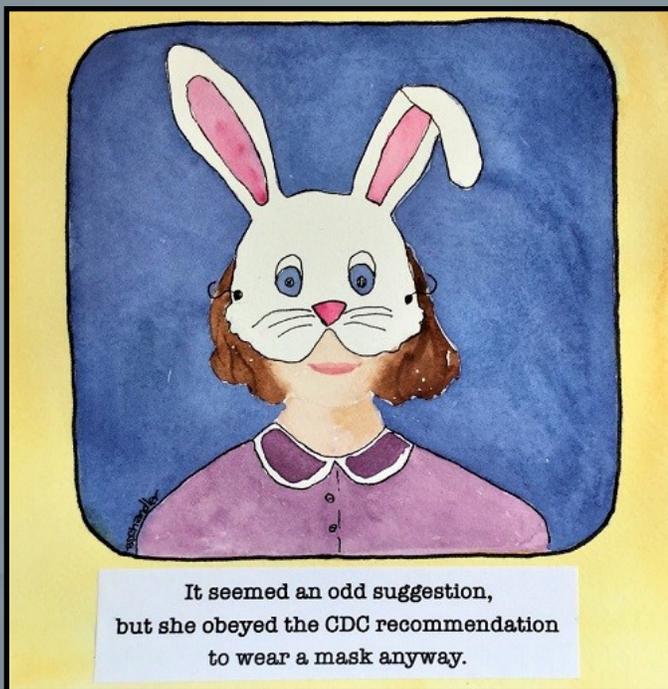
Barb's Sketchy Thoughts debuted in the Special Edition Newsletter which came out a few weeks ago. Sketchy Thoughts-**Episode II** continues —



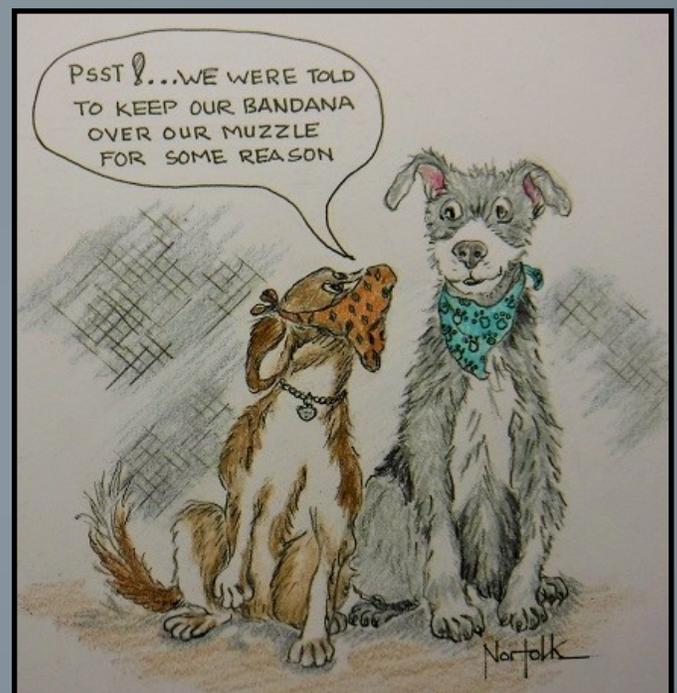
*Barb Chandler*



*Joyce Norfolk*



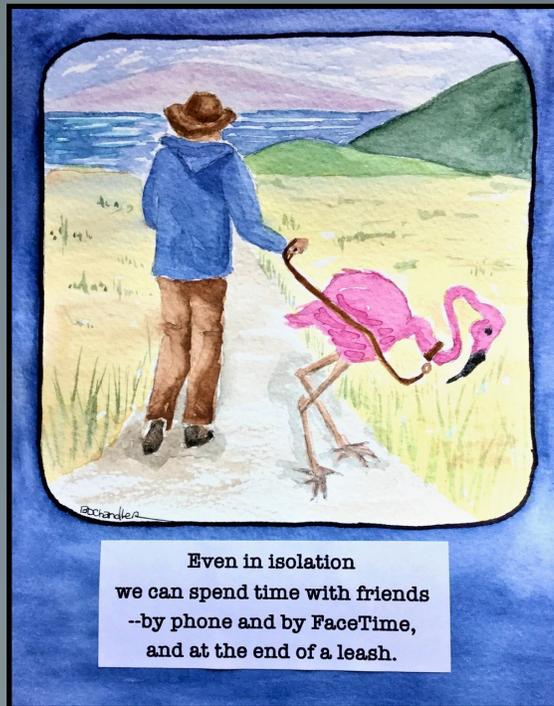
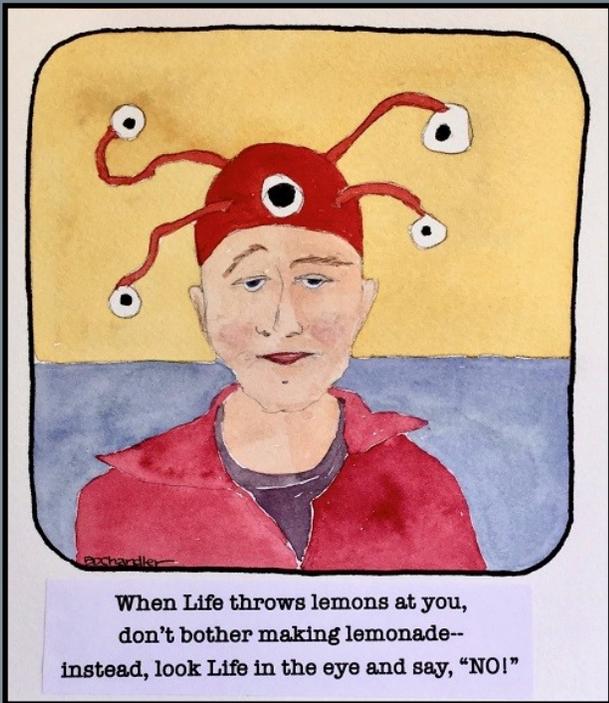
*Done Easter Sunday*



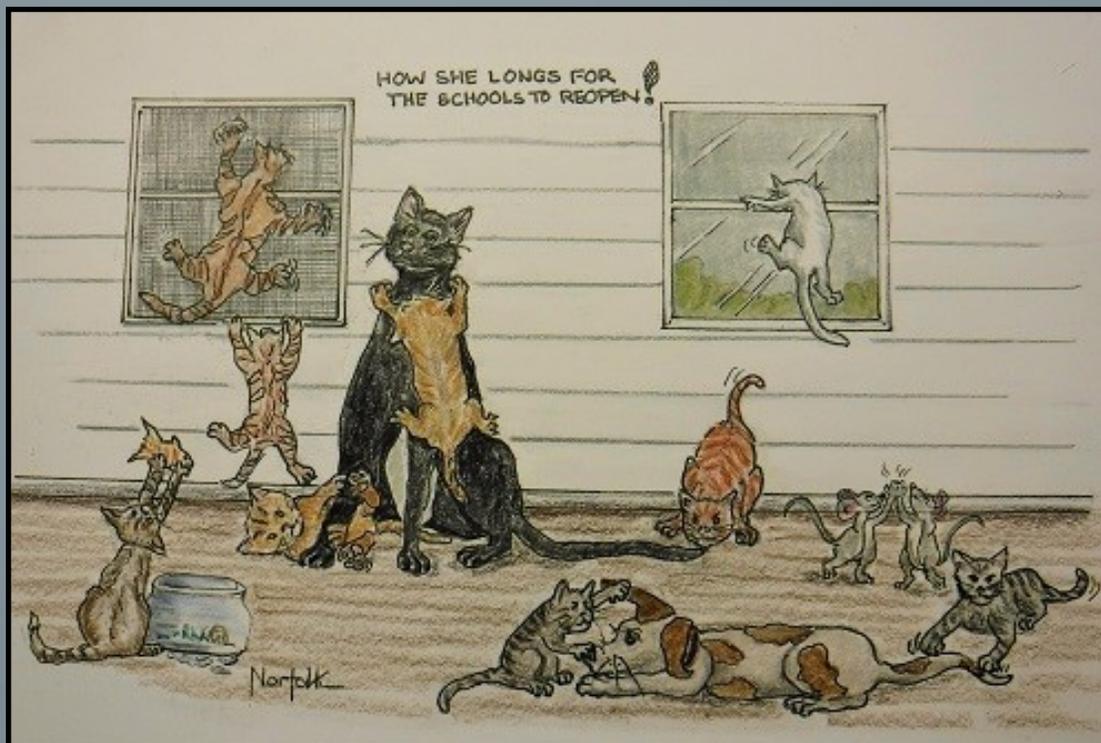
# Barb's Sketchy Thoughts

## Episode II

*Barb Chandler*



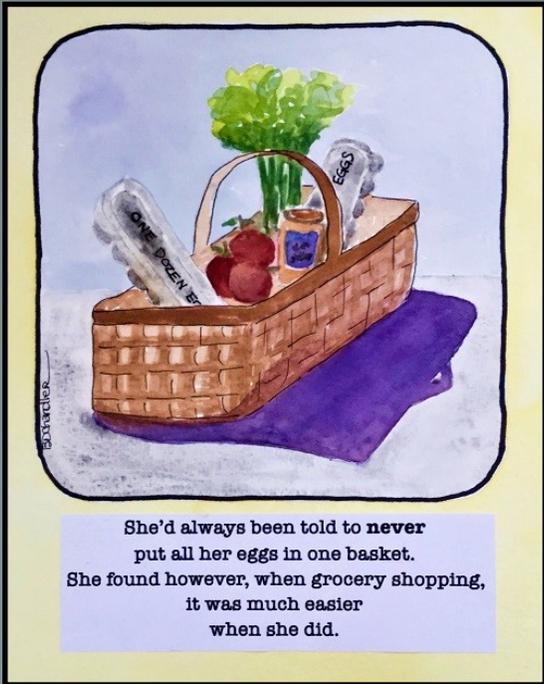
*Joyce Norfolk*



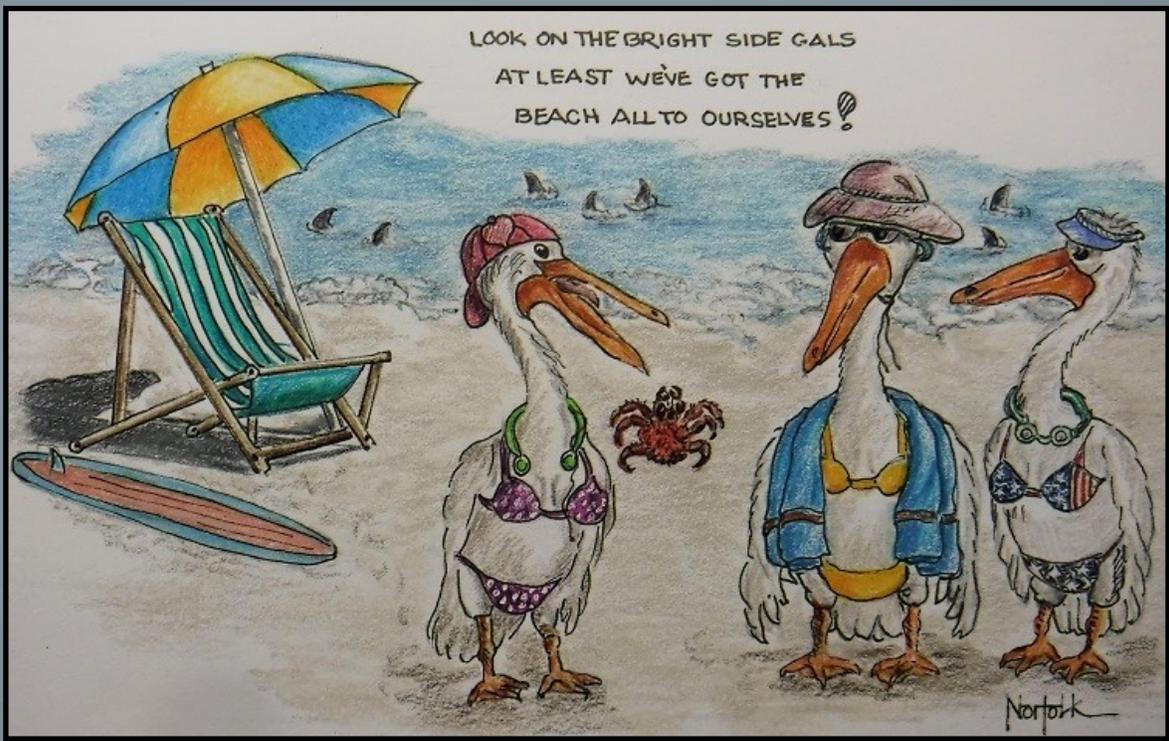
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## Episode II

Barb Chandler



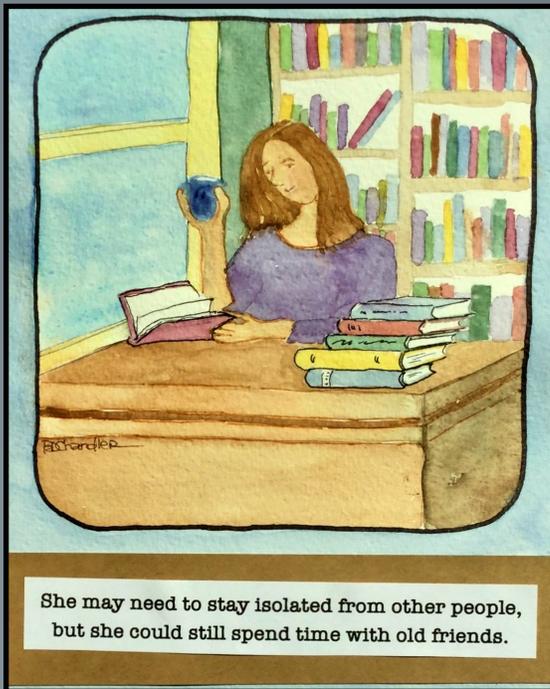
Joyce Norfolk



# Barb's Sketchy Thoughts

## Episode II

*Barb Chandler*



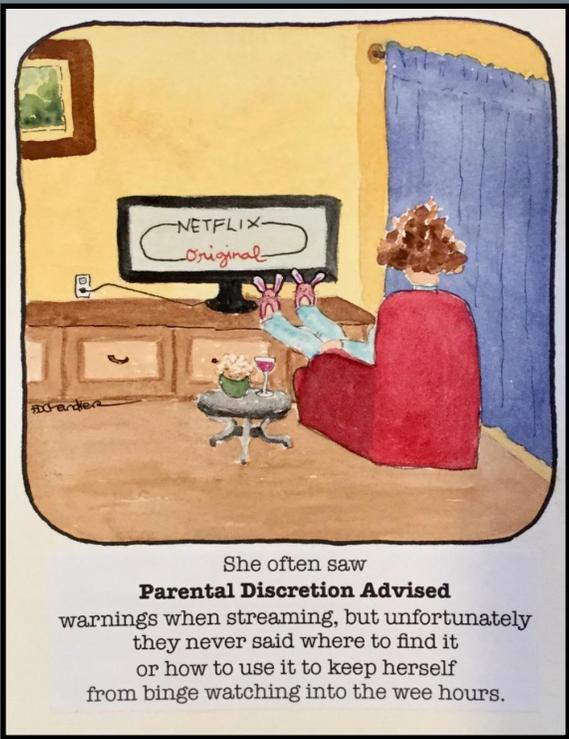
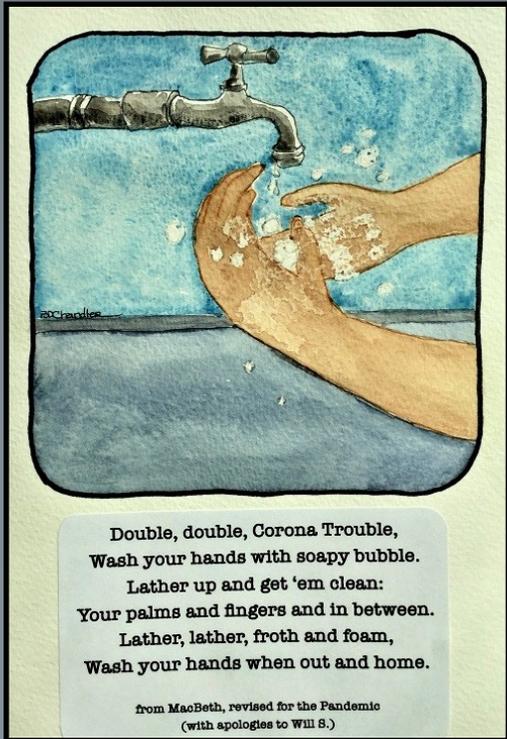
*Joyce Norfolk*



# Barb's Sketchy Thoughts

## Episode II

*Barb Chandler*



*Joyce Norfolk*



# Barb's Sketchy Thoughts

## Episode II

Barb Chandler

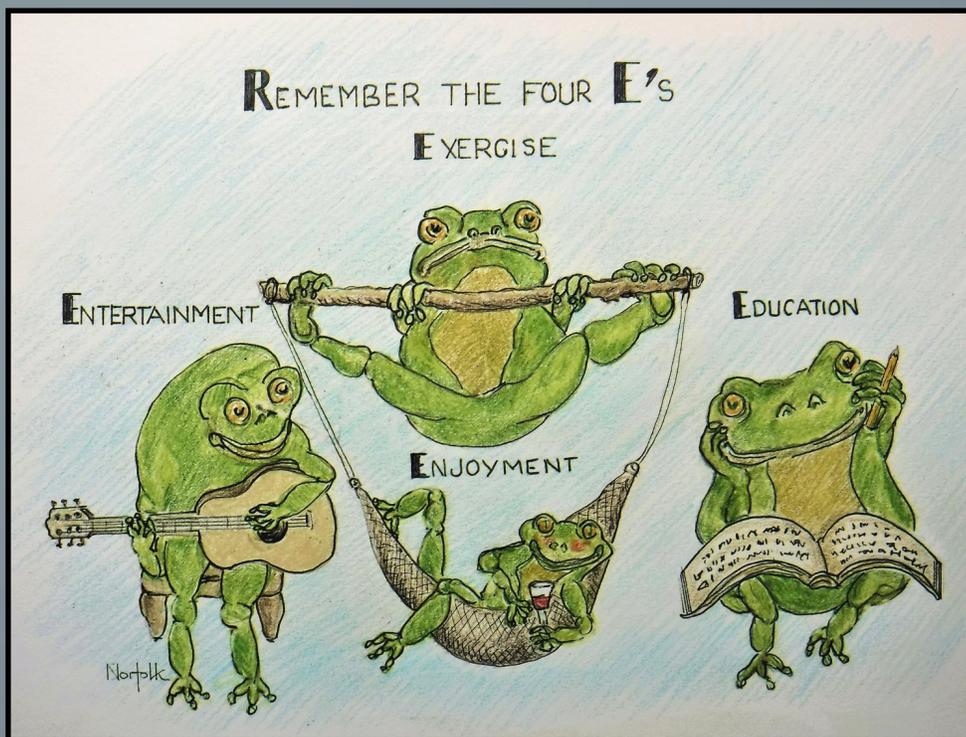


Barber shops & hair salons could reopen now that they'd successfully adapted tree trimming technology.



Some days she felt like she was marooned on an deserted island --So she decided to make it a tropical one!

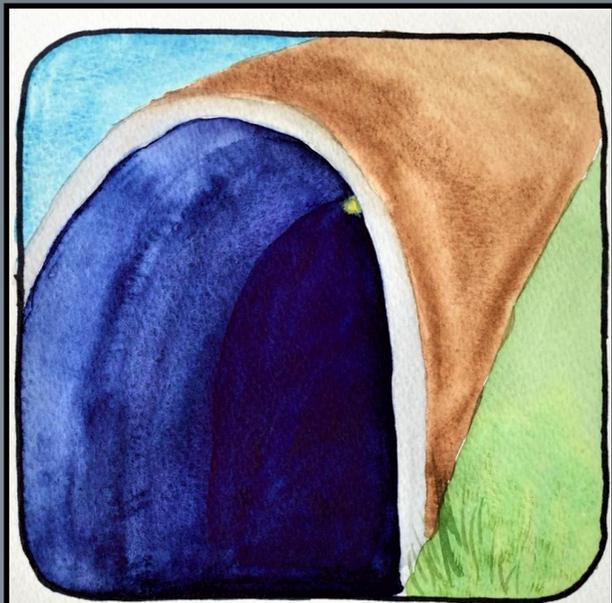
Joyce Norfolk



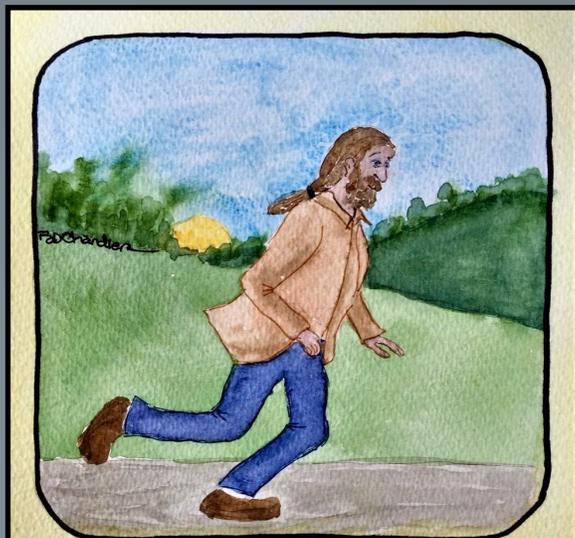
# Barb's Sketchy Thoughts

## Episode II

Barb Chandler



She dreamt she'd learned the exact location of the tunnel's end, and finally could see a glimpse of its light.



Herbert the Hermit hated hugs. Adoring the pandemic and its isolation, he skips merrily down the street with no fear of being fondled.

Joyce Norfolk

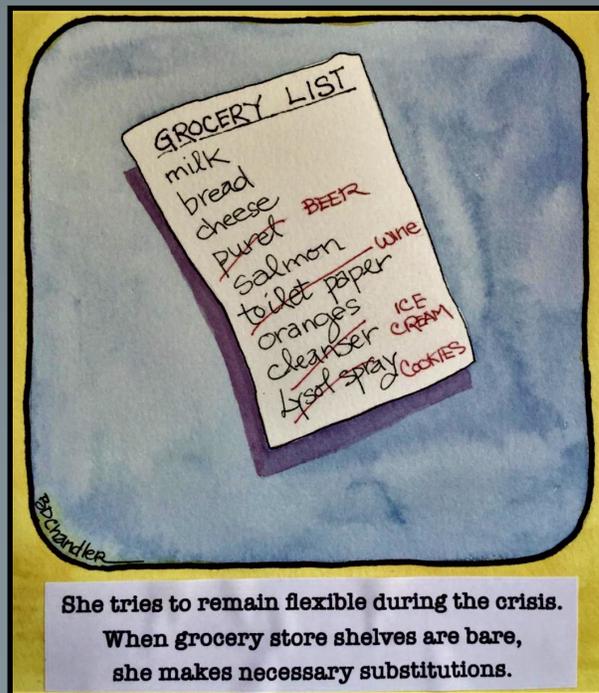


Norfolk

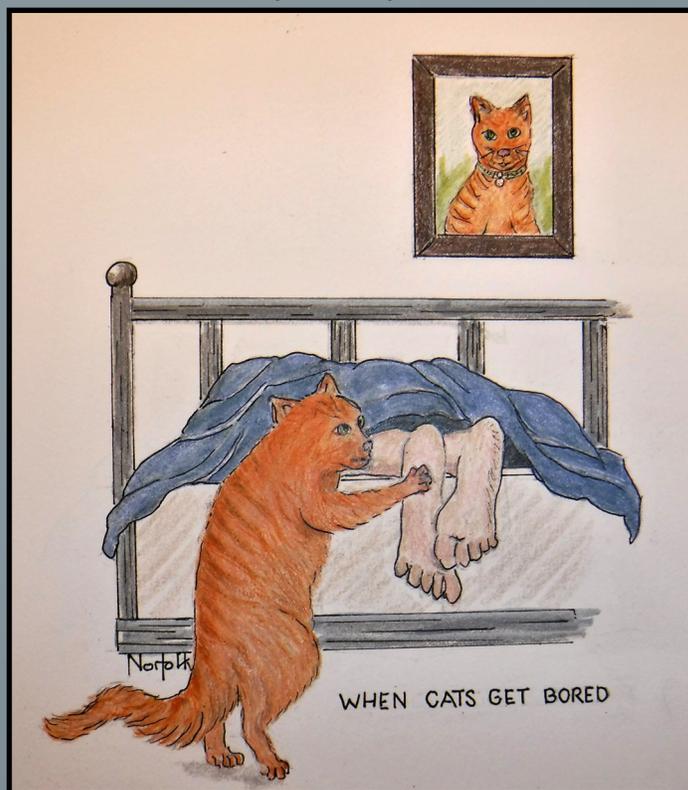
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## Episode II

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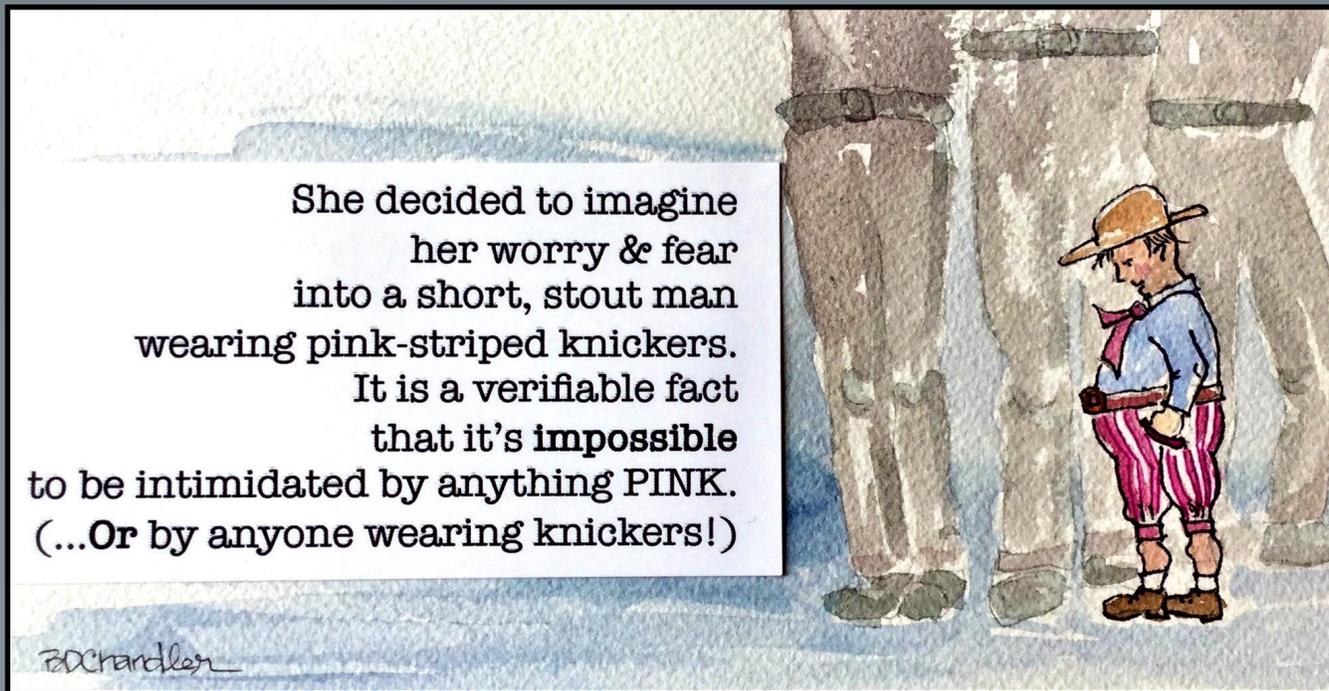
Joyce Norfolk



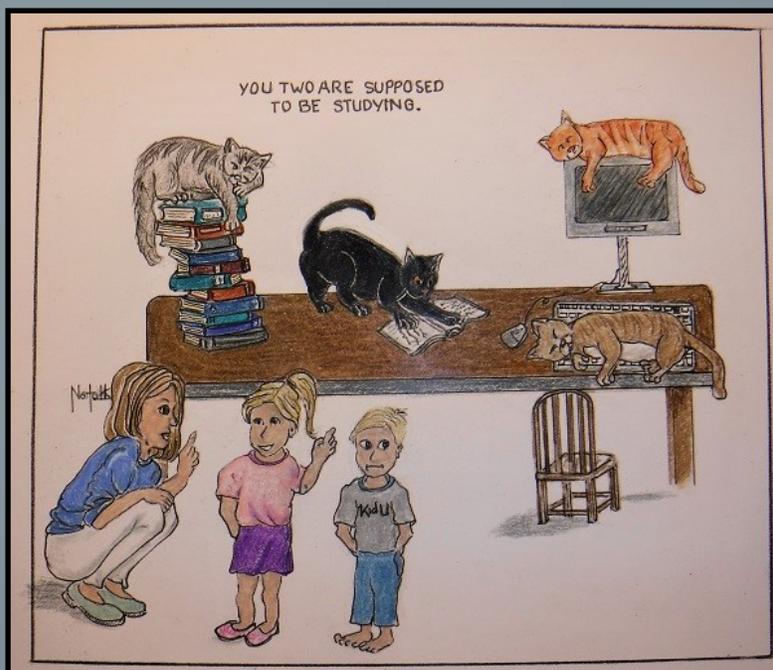
# Barb's Sketchy Thoughts

## Episode II

*Barb Chandler*



*Joyce Norfolk*





While our world is at a standstill, working to defeat the coronavirus, our artists are taking the time to be creative in their own very special ways. We look forward to being able to re-open the doors of our cooperative gallery at 1103 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Bellingham, in Fairhaven, and welcome our customers, both old and new to see the artist's new and exciting work.

In the meantime, you can catch up with us on our website at <https://www.whatcomartmarket.org/> and on Facebook and Instagram. Online, we will be featuring our regularly scheduled weekly featured artists.

Below is the list for the month of **May**. *All of the featured artists would be happy to be contacted through the Art Market's Facebook page, or their individual web/Facebook sites.*

- ★ Monday April 27 to Sunday May 3 - **Mani Troutman**, Acrylic Paintings.
- ★ Monday May 4 to Sunday May 10 - **Kath Piros**, Kate Studio Art ([www.katestudio.net](http://www.katestudio.net)). Fused glass and ceramic art.
- ★ Monday May 11 to Sunday May 17 - **Patti Ramsey**, Open Leaf Glass ([www.openleafglass.com](http://www.openleafglass.com)). Stained Glass Art and Ornaments.
- ★ Monday May 18 to Sunday May 24 - **Diane Stiles**, Willowcrane Art. Jewelry and Collage Art.
- ★ Monday May 25 to Sunday May 31 - **Karen Tobiassen**. The Luggage Tag Lady.



### *Other Events:*

Keep up with our news, both Whatcom Art Guild and Whatcom Art Market, as part of the newly formed Whatcom Arts Project @whatcomartsproject ([www.facebook.com/whatcomartsproject/](https://www.facebook.com/whatcomartsproject/)).

# Something to Smile About

## Life on the 49th Parallel



Lorraine Day recently took the below snapshots while driving along the boarder on Boundary Road in Lynden – young **Canadians** and **Americans** visiting along the border while observing social distancing requirements. Such heartfelt, and warming images.

If you have a smile you would like to share, please send to Joyce Norfolk at [studiogals@aol.com](mailto:studiogals@aol.com). We all could use something to smile about.



# Confessions of a Mask-Maker

By Beth Roberson



*Beth Roberson*

When coronavirus first appeared, I watched the community's response as it unfolded on my neighborhood *Next Door* app. I was so impressed watching women uniting their efforts to make masks to aid the hospitals and medical staff. Soon they were supporting each other by sharing materials and design ideas, and pick up and delivery of tasks. They didn't hesitate and jumped in with both feet to help where they could make a difference. It grew from there to a Facebook page with over 600 ordinary women constructing thousands of masks and distributing them throughout the community. It was impressive. Could I, practically a non-sewer, make a positive difference too?

I began looking on line for patterns. Ah, I finally found one that was approved by the hospital with pictures so I could view each step. But, then I had to square off with my sewing machine. I wound up with band aids wrapped around three fingers, and knots tied around the needle to prevent the machine from moving up and down.



My seam ripper was clenched permanently in my right hand. Anybody ever tried to wind a bobbin, stick a thread through a tiny needle hole requiring two pair of glasses to see, or make the crazy machine sew backwards? I was reading the manual while sweating profusely, but determined to join these modern "Rosie the Riveters". I finally got it, and perfected my first colorful mask! Hurrah!! When my husband tried on his mask and asked for two more, I knew I had it!



I worked for two more weeks and became a regular in the six-foot social distancing lineup at JoAnn Fabrics discussing the elements of elastic ear ties with other unknown masked ladies.

Then one day I looked up and noticed our house and dog were covered with little pieces of thread, and I realized I was more hooked on mask-making than my solitaire game. It was time to take a break. By then I had joyfully given our 21 colorful masks to very appreciative friends and family.

In case anyone would like to give it a try, here's the YouTube hospital-recommended mask-making tutorial Beth used. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9RWI12-5\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9RWI12-5_4)

# Confessions of a Mask-Maker

*By June Kiefer*



*June Kiefer*

The Bellingham Herald has been reporting about Peace Health, St. Joseph Medical Center having a shortage of masks, and they are reaching out to the public to donate homemade masks. I decided this is something I could do to help, and to support our health care workers and community. So, I started making homemade masks, and thus far have donated 54 masks to **Whatcom Unified Command**.



If this is something you would like to be involved in, please click on the below link for **Whatcom Unified Command** information regarding where and when to deposit your masks.

<https://whatcomcovid.com/donations/>

# Confessions of a Mask-Maker

By Lorraine Day



*Lorraine Day*

Since I'm a quilter, I have a huge stash of fabric and attendant notions, and in late February decided to see if I could make 100 masks to donate to one of the local organizations that are asking for masks. About that same time, another woman in my neighborhood posted that SHE was making masks, and selling them slightly cheaper than the first woman – and that all her proceeds were going to the Blaine Food Bank. OMG, yes – a perfect win/win situation!

So, after my supplies started arriving and my friends and family were adequately supplied with masks, I contacted that woman and asked if we could coordinate. And so we are; as she runs out of supplies, I take on her orders; as I need a break, she covers for me.

Sometimes people order two masks but leave money for four, or six; sometimes they mail money for masks but don't want the masks; instead, they want to donate them to the Food Bank as well. So far we have raised \$835 for the Food Bank, at \$5 a pop -- and have also donated almost 2 dozen masks.

I'm only an adequate sewer, so it's slow going – but very uplifting; it's great to be able to do *something* to help in this singular time. And the orders keep coming In.



# Confessions of a Mask-Maker

*By Phyllis Howard*



*Phyllis Howard*

I've only made a few mask for family, etc. But, my cousin Staci Rizner, (who is my kids age) is a seamstress extraordinaire; makes costumes and wedding dresses.

About a month ago she commented on a Facebook post about thinking the need for masks was "panic talk" since she lives in a tiny town in Texas and they haven't seen any COVID-19. I told her that Evergreen Hospital in Kirkland Washington where this started, has a total of 319 beds. I then asked her to consider that, and if only half of those beds were filled with COVID-19 patients, how many masks would they need, with 3 shifts per day for just one room. With that she started making masks.

After calling Evergreen Hospital, I told Staci that the hospital could only accept N95 compliant masks. So, she connected with someone to obtain the very difficult-to-get commercial Merv 16 medical grade filter fabric by the yard (equal to N95 fabric), and is now in full mask-making mode. However, at a cost of \$30 per yard (45" wide) this limited how many Staci could make. Each mask cost \$10 to make. In time the word got out about her medical grade quality masks, and nurses, and doctor's offices who knew they could trust Staci's masks to be safe for them, began contacting her to request her masks and offering donations to cover her expenses.



*Staci Rizner*

Even the Grey Lauren company (Nephew of Ralph Lauren) offered to team up with her to produce masks using Halyard H-600 filter fabric, and to distribute masks to hospitals with the most need. However, concerned about possible liability issues, the Halyard company opted not to sell the material to them.

Not to be discouraged, Staci continues making her medical grade masks.

***All this from a comment on FB!***

# Confessions of a Mask-Maker

By Suzannah Gusukuma



Suzannah Gusukuma



*Suzannah Gusukuma* is a mask-making machine. For nearly two months she has amassed a staggering amount of her hand-sewn masks, and donated them to those who truly need them. Suzannah is a volunteer working in concert with the *Whatcom Mask Collective (WMC)*

The primary mission of the *WMC* is to match mask-makers with medical providers who have specifically requested a need for them.

Not to go unnoticed is fellow WAG members *Janice Hartwell* and *Dee Bunge* who have donated mounds of fabric in support of Suzannah's mask-making. TEAMWORK!

★ Suzannah will gladly accept donations of **quilt-grade cotton fabric** and **1/4 inch elastic**, and she will be more than happy to do **no contact porch pickup!**

*WMC* has started a **GoFundMe** page, and all funds raised will be used to purchase materials and supplies for their volunteer mask-makers throughout Whatcom County.

If you would like more information about *WMC*, or their **GoFundMe** page, to include how to donate or become a volunteer mask-maker, click on the link below.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/whatcom-mask-collective>



*Just a few stacks of masks made by Suzannah*

# Artist of the WEEK



**Claudia Weintraub** was born in Pennsylvania and lived most of her life on the east coast. Interested in art from a young age, she began studies with watercolorists Lassie Corbett and Jean Gill in Northern Virginia. And after retiring to the west coast, continued to benefit from classes and workshops from Mark Allison, Richard McKinley, Teresa Saia and others. She recently relocated to Bellingham from Corvallis, Oregon.

Claudia's impressionistic paintings are inspired by nature. Most begin as plein air paintings. She says, "For me, plein air painting is a form of meditation. When I am out in the field I'm not thinking about the world - it's all about the art. The process of deciding what to paint, setting up the easel, preparing the paper, doing preliminary sketches, and finally putting paint to paper is a fulfilling experience whether or not the end result is a good painting." Her media are watercolor, soft pastel and alcohol ink.

Awards: Jurors Choice Award, Vistas and Vineyards (Oregon) Annual Show 2015  
Honorable Mention, Vistas and Vineyards 2013, 2014, 2018  
Honorable Mention, Howland Open, Corvallis Arts Center 2016

Claudia's art can be found in private collections on the east and west coasts. She is a member of the Whatcom Art Guild and the Salish Sea Plein Air Artists. [ClaudiaCW@Comcast.net](mailto:ClaudiaCW@Comcast.net)

*Artist of the WEEK is a new way to recognize our members and their talents. Each monthly newsletter will feature four weekly artists and their art. If you would like to be featured, email the following to Mechel Bell at [artbymechel@yahoo.com](mailto:artbymechel@yahoo.com)*

Photo (headshot), 2-3 .jpgs of your work, Brief Artist's Bio