



One artist's memorial in Washington D.C. recognizing the 500,00 lives lost to COVID.

Good News! *Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 14th. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour.*



The origins of daylight saving time, or DST, dates back to 1784 when Benjamin Franklin wrote a letter to a Paris newspaper proposing a tax on those whose windows were closed after sunrise. The letter was meant to be satirical, but the idea of moving the clock to lessen the dependence on energy sources, in Franklin's case candles, began.

During WWI daylight savings was officially instituted when Germany, Europe and the U.S. put the plan in place in an effort to conserve fuel. The practice was abandoned after the war, but was reinstated in 1942 by President Roosevelt in an effort to conserve resources during World War II. The practice wasn't made permanent in the U.S. until 1973, when President Nixon signed the Emergency Daylight Saving Time Energy Conservation Act.

In 2005, President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act, establishing the current schedule.

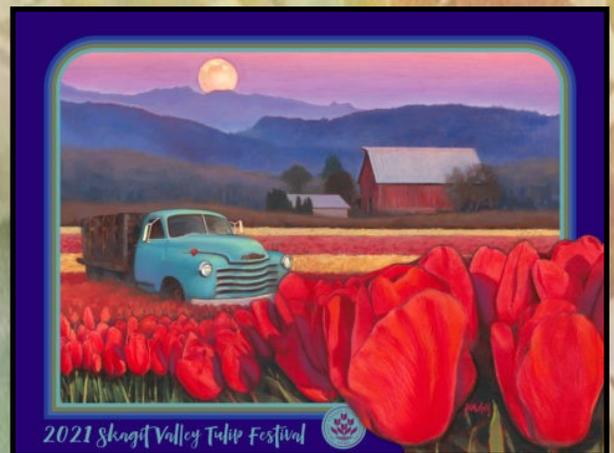
More Good News!

The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival begins in one month on April 1st!

Grab your cameras and sketching journals and take in everything that's TULIPS.

Click on the below link for more information.

[Home - Tulip Festival](#)



"Under A Tulip Moon"

by Mount Vernon artist Jennifer McGill



In Memoriam Sherry Shipley

"Be the Miracle"

On February 20th, long time WAG member Sherry Shipley lost her battle with brain cancer.



Growing up in the shadow of the Cascades, the beauty of the Pacific Northwest inspired Sherry's love of nature and wildlife which she reflected in her art.

Trips to the mountains supplied a stunning and endless backdrop for her wildlife subjects which she painted for over 40 years.

Sherry attended the Art Institute of Seattle where she graduated with honors with a degree in Visual Communications. She then went on to produce art for magazines, newspapers and television, but her background in the fine arts, coupled with her desire to paint animals called her back to doing what she always loved.



In Memoriam Sherry Shipley

"Be the Miracle"

Sherry's personality was reflected in her art style which was colorful and visually fun to look at. Her unique style of art has been shown in galleries from Seattle to New York, as well as at the Whatcom Art Market.

Sherry was an amazing person. Those who knew her knew she was a cat lover who would take in every stray she ever found.



"Getting to Know You"

By Sherry Shipley

She had a positive attitude, and was always kind, seldom without a smile and a laugh. She absolutely looked on the bright side of everything, right to the end.



"Tulip Quartet"

By Sherry Shipley

She will be sorely missed.

"Be The Miracle, . . ."

Sweetgrass



Baskets

If you drive along U.S. Highway 17 north of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina you may see roadside stands selling not vegetables, but beautiful sweetgrass baskets. Or, as you wander around downtown Charleston you'll come across vendors at the Four Corners of Law intersection of Broad and Meeting streets. Sweetgrass baskets are unique to the **Lowcountry** and the history of Charleston sweetgrass baskets goes back some 300 years or more.



History of Charleston Sweetgrass

When slaves were first brought to South Carolina in the 17th century they brought with them the skills necessary to make this type of basket. Initially, men used bulrushes (several large wetland grass-like plants in the sedge family) to create wide flat baskets called fanners that were used for winnowing rice (separating the grain from chaff). Some smaller baskets were also made for use in plantation households, and many others were sold to bring in a little extra income for the plantation owners.

In the 1890's, sweetgrass baskets began to evolve from agricultural tools to household items. Sweetgrass, a softer, finer material, replaced bulrush as a primary material. Longleaf pine was later added to the mix, and palmetto replaced split oak as binders. Today's baskets are made from sweetgrass, pine needles, bullrush and palms which are collected on Edisto Island, one of five undeveloped beaches on the East coast.

Sweetgrass



Baskets

History “con’t”

After the Civil War, basket making continued among the blacks in the Lowcountry, particularly in the area around Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. However, during this time the basket makers shifted from the men to the women, who could create baskets at home. At the same time, the basket materials shifted from the heavier, coarser bulrushes to the smaller sweetgrass that grew abundantly among the dunes and in the marshes. These artisans used thin strips of palmetto fronds and bulrushes, along with pine needles, to intricately weave the coils together so tightly that a basket made by an expert would hold water. These additional materials also have the added bonus of being useful for creating the decorative patterns seen in sweetgrass baskets.

Sweetgrass basket weaving has been passed on from generation to generation, is usually learned from childhood, and is viewed as a gift from God.

Modern Markets

By the early 20th century, many artisans were selling their baskets to entrepreneurs who marketed them through mail-order catalogs or in gift shops. Thus, sweetgrass baskets became desirable for the home. Other basket makers set up stands to sell their creations alongside highways or in busy city markets. Today, in addition to the places mentioned above, the Charleston City Market is a good place to find authentic sweetgrass baskets.



What Makes Sweetgrass Baskets Special?

There are two features of these baskets that set them apart. First, they are created using coiled grass rather than the woven construction featured in most baskets. Second, they are crafted of sweetgrass which grows only along the Atlantic Coast in the southeast United States. Sweetgrass is known for its pleasant scent and pale green color. These two features make true sweetgrass baskets unique.

Mary Jackson



Lowcountry Legend

Painting of the artist in her studio by Mary Whyte.



Meet **Mary Jackson**—genius, ambassador, advocate, and Lowcountry legend whose many titles and accolades reflect more than half a century dedicated to elevating the art of sweetgrass basket making.

With a devotion to perfection and a penchant for innovation, **Mary Jackson** has taken the age-old art of sweetgrass basket weaving to the world stage.

“My inspiration comes from what was done before and evolves from old forms, like the traditional rice (fanner) basket (*left*) which is a wide plate with a raised edge,” says Jackson.

The Mount Pleasant native grew up in the Seven Mile area, where she learned basket making from her mother, and both grandmothers. “I took that fanner basket form and had the idea of creating a cover by bending the grass over it and leaving an opening in the middle, and it became a wall hanging,” (*below*).



Before Jackson weaves, she ties on a work apron and sits at a plain wooden table. Six bundles of grass fan out beside her — four of tan sweetgrass, two of darker bulrush, and one cluster of longleaf pine. Three or four long strips of palmetto lie across the pile. These constitute all the materials she will ever need.

Mary Jackson



Lowcountry Legend

“This is my tool,” says Mary, holding up a silver spoon handle. Its bowl has been removed and the stem filed down and flattened (*right*).

With it she splits the rough edge off a palmetto leaf in one easy swipe, as if pulling out a hem. She then uses it to open small slits in tight sweetgrass coils through which she slides the pale ribbon of palmetto, binding one coil to its neighbor, and so on. Every three or four palmetto loops, she adds four or five more pieces of sweetgrass to the coil. All of this is gauged incrementally by feel. “These fingers let me know when the coil is thinning,” says Mary.



In the mid 1970s, Mary began addressing issues of sweetgrass scarcity. Native habitats were becoming increasingly threatened by coastal development and the proliferation of resort and gated communities. So, Mary worked to help basket makers find accessible places to gather their material, including negotiating harvesting agreements with the then-owner of Kiawah Island. Jackson also worked with Clemson Extension horticulturists to propagate new varieties and plant sweetgrass in places such as the Alcoa plant near Mount Holly and Charles Towne Landing, where basket makers were welcomed to harvest.

By 1984, the Smithsonian extended an invitation for Jackson to apply to a major craft show. The world beyond Charleston soon took notice. *National Geographic* included her in a piece, the *Today* show featured her in a segment, and recently the *Smithsonian* has commissioned Jackson to create pieces for its new National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Mary Jackson



Lowcountry Legend



Jackson's "Urn" and "Moses" baskets, original designs.

They've been exhibited at the Vatican and the White House, the Museum of Arts and Design in New York and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, among many others. The Prince of Wales is the proud owner of a Jackson basket, as is the Emperor of Japan.

Jackson received a \$25,000 National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellowship, the nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts, and in 2008, was awarded the MacArthur Fellows Genius award, of \$500,000.

It's certainly a long way from a four-year-old girl, the second oldest of 10 children, learning to sew sweetgrass while on her mother's and grandmothers' knees.

Today Jackson's baskets are in major public and private collections across the world, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Museum of African American History in Detroit, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC.



The artist in her studio in Mt. Pleasant.



About the Painting . . .



Painting of Mary in her studio by artist Mary Whyte.

In 2016, the Gibbes Museum of Art, located in Charleston, South Carolina received two incredible gifts to their permanent collection: a portrait of Mary Jackson by Mary Whyte (*above*) and a portrait of Mary Whyte by Jill Hooper (*left*). The paintings capture deep respect shared among fellow artists.

They're beautiful portraits of beautiful women who have helped shape the Charleston art community over the past 30 years. The Gibbes knew they wanted to display the paintings together, and with that thought, an exhibition idea was born. Why not organize an exhibition focused on this unique form of portraiture?



Painting of Mary Whyte by artist Jill Hooper.

Plans are in the works for a "Painters Painting Painters" exhibition which the museum hopes to debut in 2021-2022.

John Seevers



Basket Maker



John Seevers

Basket making became an art for me when I developed techniques to form eccentric shapes; to float stones and other objects. It is making those artistic decisions that involves creativity.

Every tribal group finds local fiber to make their baskets. They can weave or twine or coil that fiber. I learned basket making in Florida where they are fortunate to have the longest pine needles in the world (Longleaf Pines). It is natural therefore, that it is my fiber of choice.

Further up the east coast, particularly in North Carolina, they make both Sweetgrass and Pine Needle baskets.

I start a coiled basket in the center. Once the coil is attached to the center, it continues for the entire basket. The coil is formed by filling a small brass gauge (3/16") with pine needles.



As that coil is sewn to the previous one, more pine needles are inserted. This is the basic craft that all coilers use – stitch, stitch, poke, poke.



"Glimmers of Hope"

Glimmers of Hope is my first work of 2021. It is a wall hanging that includes a long list of inserted treasures – a large Labradorite in the center with its iridescence, Jadeite, Jasper, Willow, petrified wood, dinosaur poop, pine cone, glimmering beads and even a brass coin.

The highlights are an original design of *Tenerife* weaving, and a beautiful carved Jade stone which was a gift from fellow WAG artist, Judy Bishop

John Seevers



Basket Maker



"Serendipitous Surprise"

This small basket called **Serendipitous Surprise**, is the ultimate of simplicity. It is hard for me to make a small basket, but I am pleased with this, my latest creation. It's agate center is surrounded by a string of glistening Seed Pearls and Palm Tree Florescence. It includes *Tenerife* weaving and a butterfly which I cut from a piece of Maple wood. A highlight of this intricate basket is a beautiful carved stone (most likely from China) which Judy Bishop gave to me as well.

Natural Beauty is a special wall hanging for me since it was commissioned by my sister. She and I went shopping at a "rock market" in Arizona so there were no limits to the stones that went into the piece. The most expensive stone used is the round Genuine Turquoise at the middle of the piece. It has occupied a favored place on my sister's wall in Arizona, and recently took up permanent residency in Kansas City.



"Natural Beauty"



"Dinner at Eight"

This large basket (*left*) is meant to be my museum piece and contains the best that I could do with the materials I had at the time. It is called **Dinner At Eight** because it is elegantly black and white with a dash of purple. This was a follow up to a smaller black and white piece called Tuxedo Junction. The basket contains black granite, mixed color *Tenerife* weaving, copper pieces, and a large amethyst. It's currently prominently displayed at the Art Market.

John is the only basket maker in the WAG. His wife Ginny, is a fabric artist. You can view Ginny's entry in the Artist Challenge article on page 15.

Yardi Gras ?

When Mardi Gras was cancelled this year due to COVID-19, the local folks took matters into their own hands and created "Yardi Gras". They decorated their homes with the same energy they would've put into their festive floats. As of February 16th (date for Mardi Gras), Yardi Gras consisted of more than 3,000 "house floats" in the New Orleans area and in at least 40 states across the country.

They created a Facebook page which provided photos and a map pinpointing the location

of each house float that was decorated for Yardi Gras.



Mardi Paws ?

Yardi Gras is comprised of three events:
Yardi Gras, Mardi Paws, and a drive by Float Exhibit.



Mardi Paws consists of decorated dog houses and K9 Costumes. The goal of the event is, in part, to spread good cheer. It's also being held to draw attention to the plight of the homeless pups at the St. Tammany Parish Department of Animal Services in Lacombe.



Drive by Float Exhibit



Art Market



March is a wonderful month for the Art Market artists - it's our Anniversary month.

We opened our doors in March 2010 as a co-op for the Whatcom Art Guild, bringing local art to Bellingham and visitors. Growing out of our original home in the historic Waldron Building, we moved to our current sunny location on 11th Street in April 2016. Thanks to our talented artists and awesome customers, we were recognized in the Bellingham Alive 2020 annual survey as a leader in local galleries. Come see why!

Our 45 artists bring beautiful art for you - think jewelry, etched and colored glassware, artful woodwork, wraps and scarves, cards, fabulous local photography, home fashions for kitchen, living room and beyond, new art for your walls in all shapes, sizes and mediums. Quiet and spacious, the Market is a good spot to unwind. See our artists' creations online on our website www.whatcomartmarket.org and then come visit to see even more. 'Like' us on Facebook or Instagram and get regular updates (@WhatcomArtMarket) on our artists and their art.

Please expect to mask up, along with our staff. Security, space and protective recommendations are in place. We are open Tuesday through Sunday, 11am to 5pm.

In March, our weekly featured artists are a selection of newcomers to the gallery:

March 2-March 7: **Alice Moore**, Dream Catchers and Scented Candles. New to the Art Market, Alice brings an eye for great color and design to the ancient art of weaving dream catchers, and decorating candles. Our customers are loving her work.

March 9-14: **Tracy Webster**, Jewelry and wall-mounted Acrylic and Resin Art Hearts. Tracy brings a new art form to the Market, which has become very popular. Come see for yourself!

March 16-21: **Deborah Williston**, Acrylic and Oil Painting on canvas. Also new to the Art Market, Deborah's art is well worth the visit.

March 23-28: **John and Carrie Trax**, "*Zigzag Mountain Art*", Photography and photo-printed fabrics. John and Carrie bring beautiful photo images to the Market, in wall art, cards and household fabric fashions. You will be hard-pushed not to take some home, for yourself, or as a gift. www.zigzagmtart.com.

March 30-April 4: **Terri May**, Acrylic Paintings. Terri, also new to the Art Market, specializes in the painting method of Acrylic Pouring. Her pieces exhibit incredible color and depth and show really well in our location.

We participate in the Fourth Friday Fairhaven Art Walk, currently as a virtual event - check us out at www.fairhavenartwalk.com.

Keep up with us, both **Whatcom Art Guild** and **Whatcom Art Market**, as part of the newly formed Whatcom Arts Project @whatcomartsproject (www.facebook.com/whatcomartsproject/).



1103 11th Street, Bellingham (Fairhaven), 360 738 8564.

Artist Challenge

"Winter Sanctuary"



"Winter Birds"

Sherry Shipley

"Voting"

The Winter Birds Artist Challenge is now closed, and it's time for you to vote. Select your top two favorites and forward the corresponding number for each to *Joyce Norfolk* at studiogals@aol.com.

Voting closes at midnight, March 14th.

The artwork featured above and on the header of the following eight pages is a selection of the vibrant artwork of WAG member Sherry Shipley who recently passed away.

1



"Geisha with Cranes"

Fabric Art 69" X 35"



Ginny Severs

Artist Challenge

"Heron with Tulips"



"Winter Birds"

Sherry Shipley



Cristal McQueen

2



"Preflight Check" Photograph



3

"Sunlit Wings" Photograph

4



"Taking Flight" Photograph

Artist Challenge



"Winter Birds"

Sherry Shipley

"Chickadee With Apple Blossoms"



Carol Ann Anderson



5

"Kingfisher"
Colored Pencil



6

"Hawk"
Colored Pencil



7

"Red Bellied Woodpecker"
Colored Pencil



8

"Chickadee"
Colored Pencil

Artist Challenge

"Winter Birds"

"Heron Blue"



Sherry Shipley



Arlene Mortimer

9



"LGB's" - (Little Gray Birds)
Acrylic



Joyce Norfolk

**No Vote @ artist's request*



"Swan Bath"
Colored Pencil/Pastel

Artist Challenge

"Winter Birds"

"Snow Geese"



Sherry Shipley



Bev Davis

10



"Hawk Eye"

Acrylic on wood round

11



"Raven's Wood"

Acrylic on wood slice

12



"Swan Song"

Mixed media on wood canvas

Artist Challenge

"Flight of the Heron"



"Winter Birds"

Sherry Shipley



June Kiefer

13



"Winter Grebe"

*Species: Western Grebe
Watercolor*



"Goldie"

*Species: American Gold Finch
Watercolor*

14

Artist Challenge

"Anywhere Is" (song)



"Winter Birds"

Sherry Shipley



Kathy Harvey

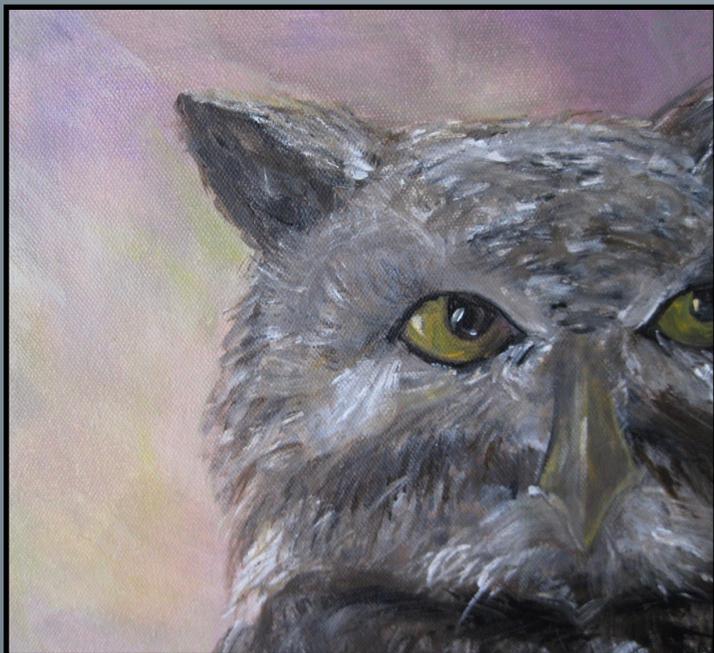
15



"Winter Heron"

Watercolor & Liquid gold leaf

16



"The Wizard"

Acrylic

Artist Challenge

"Night Flight "



"Winter Birds"

Sherry Shipley



Anita Thompson

17



"Snowy Owl"
Watercolor



18

"Hawk Owl"
Acrylic

Art and Happiness

Linda Smith, VP Programs, and the Artist Challenge Team received three \$10 gift certificates from the “everything art” supply store , *Art and Happiness*. The gift certificates will be offered as a prize in the Artists Challenge and other newsletter contests.

Art and Happiness is a Paper Arts and Crafts retail supplier in **Bellingham**, owned by **Elli Anderson**. It’s located at 2004 James Street, near Hardware Sales and WINGS, and their phone number is (360) 206-0389.

To visit their web site click on <https://www.artandhappiness.net>
And to visit their Facebook page click on [\(20+\) Art and Happiness | Facebook](#)

Let’s show Elli that the Whatcom Art Guild appreciates her support, by visiting **Art and Happiness** when shopping for your art and craft supplies.

THANKS Elli !!!



Elli and Ranger



canvases, craft kits, sealing wax, and notebooks



City Skylines

Contest Results



1 – Seattle



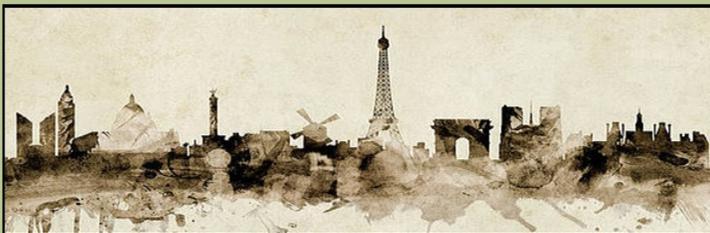
2 – Washington DC



3 – San Francisco



4 – Portland



5 – Paris



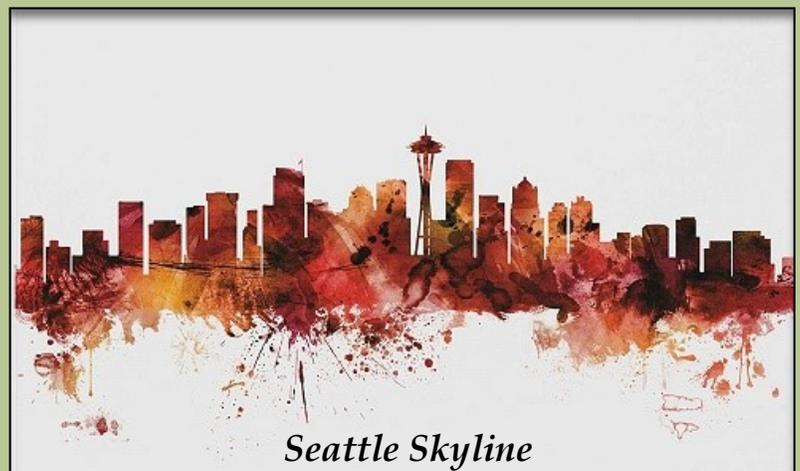
6 – St. Louis



7 – Las Vegas



8 – Virginia Beach



Seattle Skyline

John and Ginny Seevers won the City Skyline contest.

Their prize was a 12" x 19" wrapped canvas print of the Seattle skyline (above)

Something to Think About

When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

When this ends,
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way—better
for each other
because of the worst.

~30~
Seylah