



**H.K. Cheung**  
*"The Sensual Gaze"*  
Aspen Healthcare

Mr. Cheung was born in Hong Kong in 1947 and has seven brothers and sisters.

A very quiet and easy-going person, he's happy to do all sorts of activities at Kindred and especially likes to read, watch television with his roommate, and play Chinese checkers in the day room. He also enjoys eating. "Anything goes" is his philosophy of life.

In his art, Mr. Cheung is now moving from drawing animals into portraits. He is very focused and concentrated on his art in class and gets to work immediately.

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Kim Dong**

*"Opera Singer"*

Aspen Healthcare

This gentle and private elder artist, who leads a quiet existence, isn't quick to reveal his scholarly background. A polyglot---who speaks English, Korean, and Japanese, and reads a fourth language---has a Ph. D. in philosophy.

Born in Seoul in 1931, Kim married and had two children. He taught philosophy in Seoul, as well as at the University of North Carolina, and after retirement had the opportunity to travel. It was in one of his trips that he fell in love with San Francisco.

Kim is an avid reader, and as he ages does a lot of self-reflection. "People should think about their lives," he says, "and the meaning of their lives."

His AWE teacher describes him as having his own mind as to when and how often he does his art. Kim especially enjoys colored pencils and pay close attention to details, very aware of the angle of his pencil point.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Nina Ng**

*"Untitled Abstract"*

Aspen Healthcare

Ninety-six-year-old Nina speaks only a little English, but she's still learning. "I like to learn," she says. "Learning makes me happy."

This gentle elder artist, born in Hong Kong, worked as a teacher and has three daughters, one son, and two grandchildren. Her happiest moments came when studying in college, and she still revels in the times she's been able to return to Hong Kong.

Nina also reportedly likes to eat. Once she gets up in the morning, she enjoys reading the Chinese newspaper at Kindred, and her caregivers report that she's never given a mean look to anyone.

Nina's philosophy is "just try," and that's what she's been doing in her art class. Though Nina doesn't think her art is good, her teacher Rafael disagrees. "She's a rookie," he explains, "who started with scribbles and has developed her own language of line and movement."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





**Willie Shipman**

*"Pop Up Abstract"*

Kindred Golden Gate

Growing up in Montgomery, Alabama, Willie Shipman was athletic and loved playing sports – as a center fielder in baseball, a guard in basketball, and football too. In high school he started doing art, including drawing and painting. Willie likes using brushes, and prefers realistic art.

These days, he is a regular in the Art With Elders weekly class, where he experiments with making collages on cloth. He carefully arranges and glues small rectangular and square pieces of felt into a colorful pattern. He prefers darker colors, especially blue and green. "Making art keeps me calm," he shares.

Born May 27, 1944, as a young man Willie served in the U.S. Air Force in Oakland and San Francisco. Remembering how he liked the northern California climate, he moved to the Bay Area in 1962, living in Oakland for a while and then on Jones Street in SF. He worked as a longshoreman on the docks, and also did masonry work laying brick and concrete.

Easygoing and thoughtful, Willie enjoys reading the newspaper and nonfiction books about history. He plays cards and Bingo, and always shows up for events with live music. He is a music lover who used to sing at church, in school, and in the service. "I like all kinds of music, like jazz. Gospel's all right. But not rock."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Anne Gottlieb**

*"Through the Forest"*

Brookdale Vallejo Hills

Anne Gottlieb has been a free-lance writer most of her professional life (finally retiring when she was 75). She took up painting in her 40s as a "Sunday painter," honing her skills in classes and workshops as time permitted. Anne likens painting to golf: something you are never truly a complete master of, a challenge she says that keeps her energized. Anne primarily paints semi-abstract landscapes with a focus on color and texture. Her goal? To capture the "character" or essence of the landscape—the telling detail that differentiates one from the other—while standing in the deep divide between representation and abstract. Anne is also an accomplished portrait painter.

Since moving to Brookdale, she has become a regular member of the Art With Elders class, encouraging others with her upbeat energy and willingness to experiment with a variety of materials and techniques.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Larry McCown**

*"Geometric Folly"*

Brookdale Vallejo Hills

Larry, from Vallejo, California where his family has lived since his grandfather's days. He met and married his first wife, Gail, while living in Portland, Oregon, but they soon moved back to Vallejo where Larry began his 30-year career working on Mare Island in the ship-building and nuclear submarine industries, specializing in semi-conductor work for 12 years.

On retiring, Larry moved into the community now known as Brookdale Vallejo Hills, where he has been not only a resident, but also an actively engaged community member since 2006. Larry manages The Country Store at Brookdale, and is also involved in the Senior Coalition of Solano County.

He met his partner, fellow AWE student, Susan M., in 2016. Susan encouraged Larry to join her in art class. He started by coloring geometric designs in a coloring book and soon he was creating his own designs using a straight-edge and French Curve, experimenting with color arrangements using his preferred medium, glitter gels pens. Larry takes his work through another step by scanning his images to computer and using digital media techniques for his final output. In class with Susan and friends, he jokes, "It's all her fault, and I love it...I really do enjoy this, what I am doing!"

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





**Susan Medeiros**

*"The Regal Winter Birch  
Welcomes All"*

Brookdale Vallejo Hills



The appreciation and expression of beauty has always been at the heart of Susan Medeiros's life. She was drawn to ceramics in high school, while growing up with her sister in Vallejo. After starting a family at age nineteen, raising two daughters with Paul W., she enrolled at Long Beach State College as a ceramics major. She recalls early jobs waitressing at the "Beatnik clubs" in Hollywood.

Susan later remarried to Lee Medeiros, her partner for 41 years, until his passing in 2016. The couple lived in Vallejo, before retiring to a small town near Hilo, Hawaii, where Susan enjoyed and nurtured the beauty of nature on their remote property. As a member of the group, Wise Old Women (WOW), she painted, created pottery, arranged flowers, and learned the art of "Healing Touch," which she practiced for over twenty years.

Susan, born in Oakland in 1936, has returned to Vallejo to be near her sister Mary Ann, two daughters, Lisa and Carla, and four grandchildren. Now a resident of Brookdale Vallejo Hills, she enjoys the sense of community there. She has become a dedicated member of the AWE class, celebrating natural beauty with seascapes in oil pastels, and recently, with acrylic paint and palette knives. Fellow classmate and now partner, Larry M., says of his new love, Susan, "She's an artful soul!"

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Anita De Jesus**  
*"Untitled"*  
Central Gardens

Anita was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, an only child. The kids she played with in the neighborhood became substitute siblings for her. When she was eleven, her family moved to the Philippines--her father's native country. It was there that she went to high school and first met her six cousins. Anita loved the warm weather there. "You only needed one blanket in the Philippines," she recalls, with a smile.

At the age of twenty, with the outbreak of World War II, Anita returned with her parents to San Francisco. She studied typing and shorthand, and eventually worked as a landlady in her parents' apartments in the Mission District. She was always thankful for nice tenants.

Anita has always loved animals. Her only previous exposure to art was in high school, where she mainly did copying work.

"I go to church on Sunday and read my Bible," she says, "and that's plenty." Now 91, she's learned an important lesson in her long life: "It's what's inside that counts."

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Juanita Rappaport**

*"A Stroll Through the Garden"*

Central Gardens

Juanita raised four children in San Francisco. She has 13 grandchildren and 18 or 19 great-grandchildren. She is a self-taught painter. Although she prefers water colors, she uses colored pencils for the most part now.

Juanita had an interesting work life. For several years she worked at various craft fairs on the West Coast. Her job was to hire and train a team of outgoing folks who would wonder through the crowd urging the fair-goers to sign up for various free prizes. She taught them to "glad hand." If you hand people a clipboard and a pen and you are smiling, they are much more likely to sign whatever you've got! Later, she also worked for the IRS. She did intelligence work: "running people down." She even volunteered to go undercover

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Sandra Blanchard**  
*"Lynn's Painting"*  
Central Gardens

Sandra moved to San Francisco from the Texas Panhandle with her family at age 11. One thing she will tell you right away is that for all these years she has missed seeing a white Christmas. She raised three daughters and two sons. She has numerous grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Sandra began drawing when she moved to Central Gardens. Although she is very modest about her work, she is proud that a daughter, who lives locally, enjoys her work so much, she has one of Sandra's pieces hanging in her living room.

Sandra says her signature style is to use "lots of color." She chuckles when she says that her work is "abstract art" due primarily to her difficulty drawing figures.

"Art gives us a good feeling...to know you've accomplished something."

ART WITH ELDERS  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Danny Spencer**

*"On the Street Where You Live"*

Coventry Place

"If art were straight lines, we'd all be boring," says this professional drummer, turned artist. Danny asserts that the AWE class he attends weekly is his "favorite two hours of the week."

Danny turned to drums at the age of nine, studying with a drummer who played with John Philip Sousa. As a teenager he played in the J.W. Sexton High School Band, one of the best in the country, in his hometown of Lansing, Michigan. Unfortunately, his studies at Michigan State University suffered from his six-nights-a-week nightclub gigs.

Danny has played in every major city in the U.S. and Western Europe with the likes of Freddie Hubbard, Joel Henderson and the Contemporary Jazz Quartet and recorded on Blue Note. And he'll never forget the night he met Duke Ellington in a Paris bar.

Once an avid bike rider, he still practices Tai Chi, belongs to the walking club, and fills in periodically on the drums at local musical performances. He describes himself as a curious and social person and believes in the importance of getting exercise and practicing – be it your music or your art.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





**Gloria Leslie**  
*"Landscape Study"*  
Coventry Place

Gloria did not start painting until she came to her first AWE class. She likes to work with water colors. Since she began painting as an older adult and never had any formal training, winning an recognition and an award for her art work "is a shock" she admits. Gloria moved to San Francisco a few years ago to be with her daughter and step-son. She loves San Francisco, but hates the hills. Gloria was born and raised in the Bronx. After retiring from a state government job, she and her husband moved to Florida. In spite of living away from her home town for a number of years, she still has the spark and sharp wit associated with a "true" New Yorker.

Gloria and her husband travelled quite a bit. They made many trips to the Caribbean. She gets excited when talking about their visits to Morocco and the Alhambra in Spain. "Travelling makes you see that we are all the same," she says. "We may dress differently and speak different languages, but we are all the same: human beings."

Gloria's message to others is "Do what you like to do...whatever makes you happy."

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Shigeko Miles**  
*"Trout Fishing"*  
Coventry Place

"I think my life is pretty good. Art makes me very satisfied."

Shigeko was born in Tokyo. She planned to go to Medical School after high school. The consequences of WWII and the Occupation necessitated a change of plans. Ever resourceful, she decided to learn English and move to America. She began by taking a job as a housemaid on the nearby US Air Force Base in order to practice English conversation. In the evenings, she took classes in English grammar, reading and writing. Eventually she was able to work as a clerk typist on the Base.

Under the auspices of an organization in Los Angeles, she began a pen-pal correspondence with six men in the States. "It's easier to write to six men at the same time, than to date six men at the same time," she notes. Eventually one of these men came to Japan and proposed. She accepted the proposal and in doing so became the step-mother to his five children, ages 6 to 18.

Shigeko studied art in Japan and kept up her hobby after coming to America. She works primarily in water colors and acrylic. She showed and sold her work at the Monterey County Fair for many years. "A hobby helps you so much," she believes. Her advices to others, "If you like something, go do it. Don't hesitate. Different experiences are good!"

ART WITH ELDERS  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Agnes Ko**

*"Bay"*

Coventry Place

Agnes had never painted anything until she came to the Cypress. She credits the wonderful AWE teachers for her achievements. She was born in Guangzhou, China (formerly known as Canton). As an adult, she followed her older sister and brother to the United States. She taught kindergarten in China and continued in that profession in the States. After retirement she travelled extensively with her brother, sister-in-law and friends. Her favorite memories are of St. Petersburg, Russia and Singapore.

She is a classically trained pianist, but has only played for her own enjoyment and that of her friends and relatives. She plays every evening at the Cypress in the Fine Arts Room. In addition to painting, gentle daily exercise and playing the piano, Agnes reads a lot. She is currently reading *The Greatest Pianists: From Mozart to the Present*.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Christabel Bergbauer**

*"Blue Jay"*

Cypress Golden Gate

"I'm just an ordinary soul," says Christabel Bergbauer modestly. "I'm not that artistic...to have an opportunity to paint now is a wonderful thing. I love it! Patrick (her teacher) is a great guy."

Born in 1926, Chris and seven siblings grew up in Newfoundland, an island off northeastern Canada. She remembers picking berries and having "lots of boyfriends," and returns there often. She studied nursing in college and enjoyed her career, following in the footsteps of her mother, sisters, and aunts. "I liked people and could deal with anyone."

Chris and her husband Harry, a Navy captain whom she met in San Francisco, raised four kids in San Diego. She had a very full life-- shaking hands with Pope Paul in Rome, living in England for seven years and two years in Cape Town, South Africa with her family. "It was very unusual. I loved every moment of it, and made beautiful friends there." She collected art from all her travels.

Chris moved back to San Francisco recently to be near her two daughters. Looking back, she says, "I was interested in everything, admired all kinds of artistic things, enjoyed a glass of white wine and fish for dinner, and lots of dancing at family gatherings..."

After art class, Chris and new friend Paula head for the café together.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Victoria Chan**

*"Self Portrait at 8 Months"*

Cypress Golden Gate

Victoria (Vickie) Chan considers herself a lucky woman. Born in Hong Kong in 1931, she remembers people dying in the streets during the Japanese occupation, which began when she was ten. "I'm a Christian," she says. "I always thank God."

When World War II ended, she attended an English high school and entered nursing school, following in the footsteps of her mother, who was a mid-wife. She undertook advanced nursing studies in England returning to Hong Kong to work as a head nurse until the communist take-over in 1967. It was then that she and her husband, an engineer, moved to the U.S. with their two young children.

Vickie worked for many years at Laguna Honda Hospital, first as a staff nurse on the night shift and later as head nurse. After her retirement she enjoyed frequent trips to Europe and China until a serious fall limited her travels. Now the grandmother of five goes to church and plays mahjong weekly, exercises and does tai chi every morning, and enjoys watching Chinese movies. Her AWE classes are the first time she has ever painted.

She feels she's learned some lessons in life: "Always look forward, forget the past, trust in God, don't complain, and be happy."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Frances Jew**

*"Reading"*

Excell Healthcare Center

The only girl in a family of 13 children, Frances was born in San Francisco in 1930. In her youth, she was an excellent baseball player, a talent she attributes to many hours playing the game after school with her brothers. In high school, she spent her time watching over her younger brothers, painting and "chasing after boys." But wanting to live on her own while still in high school, she moved out of the family house to live with her girlfriends.

After graduation, Frances began working as a typist, but soon switched to taking care of elders. Her grandparents had lived with the family when she was growing up and she discovered a wonderful cure for the loneliness she witnessed in her clients—singing to them.

She married and has five sons and one daughter. She is now the proud grandmother of 35 grandchildren!

Frances used to love bowling and cooking and now enjoys doodling and painting with watercolors. She describes herself as a funny person who makes friends easily and loves to laugh. "You shouldn't be too serious," she says with a twinkle in her eye.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Percy Osibin**

*"Getting Cuts That Don't Hurt"*

Excell Healthcare Center

Percy's life has not been an easy one. Born in Fresno in 1945, when he was four his family moved to Oakland, where he, his brother and sister were placed in foster care for eight years--a time in his life with only bitter memories. At fifteen he was expelled from high school, became a heroin addict, and ended up in prison for bank robbery.

It was there, in prison, that his life finally changed for the better. After earning a high school diploma and a BA in Psychology/Sociology, he began writing plays. "Black Montage," his piece about people striving to rid their community of drugs, was performed in prison.

Upon his release, Percy received a grant to bring "Black Montage," with the Black Light Project, to the community in the late 1970s. He later became a community organizer, working on the campaign to protect the Oakland community from lead-based paint.

He is proud of his son and daughter and of his art, which lines the walls of his room. It's in his art, he says, that he finds spirituality. At last, he says, "I've learned to find the balance, work for a peaceful outcome, and look for justice and truth."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Sheila Moore**

*"Moore 2"*

Excell Healthcare Center

Born in 1961 and raised Oakland, CA., Sheila attended McChesney Junior High and then Oakland High. Later on, she became a typist at Hine Laboratory and had two children. Throughout her life Sheila was very adventurous, her favorite thing growing up was motorcycles. She rode a four-wheeler around town. When she met her husband, they traveled the country together going as far as her husband was able to drive that day. They loved going on trips to different states and wanted to do so by motorcycle. A trip she recalls fondly is visiting her husband's hometown in Oklahoma. Sheila's dream is to travel to Egypt.

Sheila began making artwork through Art With Elders. "My painting comes out of me wherever I am. I don't know what is going to come out, it is sporadic and don't know until I am there." Art has become a form of self-expression for Sheila. Art making is an automatic gesture for her that happens naturally. "The teacher wants us to express and that is what happens. What comes out of me is what is in my background." Sheila explains that when she is making art, her mind switches off and she just focuses on the art.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Velma Clay**  
"Physician"  
Excell Health Care

Velma was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas in 1926 into a family of seven girls and four boys. She had a very special relationship with her twin sister. Her happiest childhood memories centered around the holidays, when everyone in the family gathered together.

After graduating from high school, Velma attended cooking school. It was there that she found her passion and her career. When she moved to California in 1947, she found a job cooking in the cafeteria of Capwell, Sullivan and Furth, the well-known San Francisco department store. There, her specialty became peach cobbler. She also enjoyed singing as a soprano in the choir of the Second Union Missionary Baptist Church.

Velma was married to her second husband, Matthew, for fifty years and is the proud mother of two children. Though her baking days are over, she's discovered weekly bingo games at Excell, where she plays three cards at a time! Looking back at her life she says, "I tried, even if I didn't always succeed."

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Leleticia Mapp**

*"Hearts"*

Excell Health Care

Born in 1965 and raised in Oakland, CA., Leleticia's life has been a challenging one, she went to several different elementary and middle schools and later worked on the street selling her body to make a living. Leleticia began having trouble with her vision at the age of 23, when she consulted her doctor they discovered a tumor on her optical nerve. Shortly after, she had a stroke and was in a wheel chair.

When she discovered Christianity, she turned her life around. She went to Laney and Merritt College, where she took a braille class, got a job at Royal Airways as a receptionist and has three beautiful children and a grandchild. "I love to color, but I love going to church more than anything."

When in class, she has the instructor tape down her paper so that she can keep track of where she is working. Her preferred medium is crayons, she feels the texture of the paper and where she has already colored. Leleticia says, "I love bright colors, they give me a relaxed feeling." She asks her instructor which colors are which of the crayons and sets them aside to use individually. "I have to ask which color is which because one time I put pepper in my coffee instead of sugar, so I want to be sure of what I choose."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Doris Howard**

*"Bay"*

Heritage on the Marina

Born and raised in New York City, Doris spent most of her adult life on the Upper West Side until moving to San Francisco in 1989 to be closer to her son. She describes herself as an extrovert and "The #1 Volunteer of the Western World."

At age 13 Doris went to her first demonstration in Harlem, an experience that led her to become active in civil rights and gender issues. She earned a doctorate in psychology in her 40s while raising her son and had a private practice for many years in New York. In San Francisco, she was Program Director of Shrader House, part of the Progress Foundation, a non-profit agency in the mental health field. She's edited several books and published numerous journal reviews and articles. Doris was an active member of the Association for Women in Psychology, which presented her with The Doris Howard Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999. Over the years she travelled, for work and pleasure, to London, Paris, Rome, Australia and Asia.

Doris began painting and sculpting ten years ago and works in watercolor, acrylic and encaustic. She favors geometric designs which are featured in much of her work. "So many people are reluctant to do art," she says, "But it's one of the best things to do. It's the doing that's the fun part."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Doris Kravitz**

*"Carp"*

Heritage on the Marina

Doris was born in Tasmania, a very "male dominant" society at the time. She was always a curious child and, as a young woman, she moved to Sydney so she "could open up to the world." She met and married an American there and, after a brief stay in Hawaii, they moved to the mainland. She worked in real estate for many years. In 1980 her husband encouraged her to enroll in the Academy of Art in San Francisco. She studied all mediums: oil, water color, and charcoal, as well as, architecture and furniture design.

Widowed in 1985, the ever curious Doris began to travel the world. She believes in gathering "colorful memories." Her favorite memory is of visiting a Buddhist temple in Vietnam where she was invited to a meditation session led by Thich Nhat Hanh. "Life is what you make of it," she says. "It's not about what happens to you, it's about how you deal with it."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*24th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Gloria Learned**

*"On the Windowsill"*

Heritage on the Marina

Elegantly ebullient, with a warm, self-deprecating sense of humor, Gloria is 91 years old. Born in Tucson, Arizona, she grew up in Santa Barbara with her brother, Mark, and still has fond memories of a playhouse her father made for her, which even had a sink with a brass faucet and running water.

For their honeymoon, Gloria and her husband bought one-way tickets to Europe. In Paris and Darmstadt, she taught English to U.S. soldiers who did not speak English, while he was a journalist for the Stars and Stripes. They had four daughters.

Gloria loves the outdoors and enjoyed hiking by the lakes in Marin. She is still very active, attending Hardly Strictly Bluegrass, movies, and other outings with her daughters, granddaughter, and great-grandson. Always creatively inclined, she studied calligraphy, and also loved knitting and embroidery, but only began taking art classes five years ago. Recently, Gloria was enthralled by perspective drawing exercises taught in class, and she is excited to master this new challenge.

"The greatest thing in the world you can have is a sense of humor," Gloria says. "Sad things happen to everyone, but it will get you through anything, if you can manage to laugh."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Mary Peirce**

"Owl"

Heritage on the Marina

Mary was born in San Diego in 1923, but she and her younger brother grew up in New England—in Lincoln, Massachusetts and Nashua, New Hampshire. Her father was an architect; her mother, a housewife. "I had a very good childhood." She recalls her fun in the snow, tobogganing and skiing. "And I loved playing with my dog, Binky, and my cat, Kitty." She laughs, "Kitty! Now that wasn't a very original name!"

After moving back to San Diego, then to Portland, Oregon, with her family, Mary ended up in San Francisco on her own as a young adult and worked for a long time as a secretary for two San Francisco Chronicle reporters. "I loved my job, and I loved living in San Francisco in the Marina. I had a lot of girlfriends and enjoyed going to church, brunch, and the movies every Sunday."

Mary has always drawn, since childhood, for her own enjoyment. She likes to paint landscapes, and enjoys working with watercolors and colored pencils. "I've had a very good life," she says. "Some things are good, some things are bad, but I inherited my father's good disposition. That helps a lot!"

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Mary Roper**

*"Rhino"*

Heritage on the Marina

Mary Charlotte was born in Devon, England. When World War II began, she joined the British Auxiliary Territorial Services, the women's branch of the British Army. Though she enjoyed being in the Service, her happiest moment was when the war was over and her brother returned safely from Egypt.

Following the war, Mary worked for a while in England and after a few years, moved to Vancouver, Canada. She has had a variety of occupations. She has done secretarial work, bookkeeping, and taught pre-kindergarten and elementary school children. After finishing work in Canada, she and friends came to San Francisco for a visit. She hasn't left since, except to visit family in England.

In earlier years she was an avid tennis player. Now, in retirement, her hobbies include art (acrylic painting), reading, and knitting. She is amazed at her long life, as no one else in her family has been long-lived. Around the Heritage, Mary is known as an easy-going and pleasant person, with a sharp sense of humor.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





**Patricia Bixby**

*"In Thought/Coffee"*

Heritage on the Marina

Patricia was born in Woburn, MA in 1928. Her father was a mechanical engineer, and her mother was a housewife. An athletic child, she was always active playing tennis, roller skating, softball, and swimming. Art surrounded her as she grew up, but she only drew, never painted. "I looked at it in awe," she recalls.

When she moved to San Francisco in 1969, she never expected to stay here." It was quite the opposite of Boston! A drastic difference," she laughs. Patricia was very satisfied with her career as a Jungian psychotherapist, working directly with patients. "It's a healing profession. And dreams are fascinating to me. I liked helping people become more self-aware through their dreams." She enjoyed attending the theater and the ballet, continued to play tennis (until she was 65), and also took two years of figure drawing classes at City College of San Francisco.

Patricia, who recently had an exhibition at Heritage on the Marina, began painting after her retirement. She enjoys figurative work, portraits especially, and her favorite medium is charcoal, although she also likes working in oil and acrylic. "Be as creative as possible," she says. "Make use of your talents."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Robert Segrin**

*"Lake"*

Heritage on the Marina

This native-born Chicagoan came to San Francisco at the age of six and is glad he did. "I wouldn't live anywhere else. San Francisco has everything," he says. "Culture, world class architecture, and a very livable climate."

It was here he found his passion. Inspired by a stage craft teacher at Balboa High School, Robert became a professor of technical theatre classes, specializing in lighting, at San Francisco State University, where he worked for 39 years. Among his famous students, actress Annette Bening and Robert Patterson, who became resident lighting designer for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Robert's love of opera began in the 1940s, an interest that culminated in 1963 when he took master classes from the granddaughter of Richard Wagner at the renowned Bayreuth Festival in Germany. After his retirement in 1997, he became a tour guide at Marion Davies Symphony Hall, the S.F. Opera House, and Herbst Hall.

Robert, whose only previous art experience was painting projection slides for theatre sets, enjoys using watercolor to paint traditional landscapes. The advice of this 83-year-old culture lover who's working hard in rehab to get back to normal: "Persevere and don't give up."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Arlisa Rayford**

*"Feelin' Blue"*

Laguna Honda Hospital

Arlisa has always wanted to paint. She remembers doing art in the first grade. "Art makes you feel happy," she says. She likes to have people see her art and is thrilled to have one of her paintings in this show.

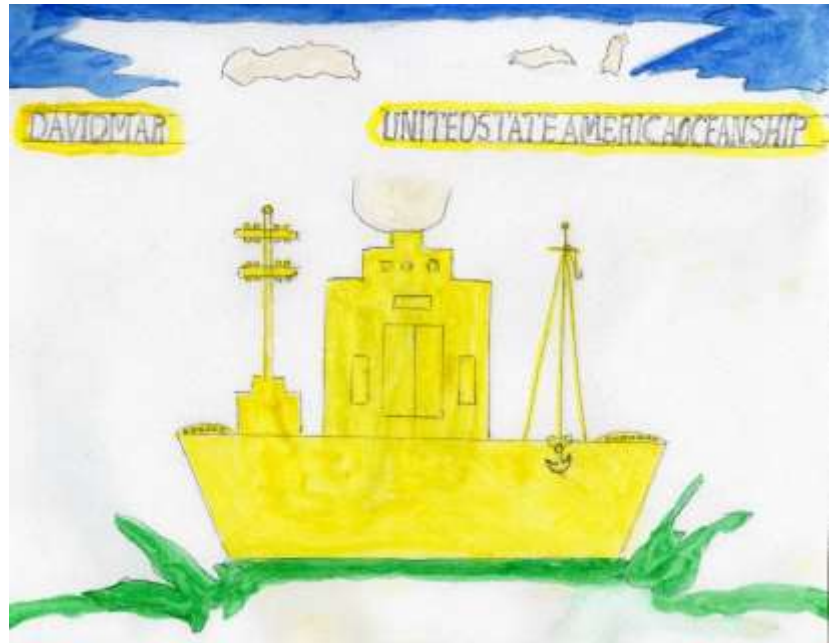
Arlisa's family is from Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Although she moved to San Francisco at age five, she has joyful memories of visiting her cousins there every summer. Thinking of those good times makes her laugh. She loved being in the country, running through sunny fields and into the woods, finding mysterious bugs and other creatures. She also loved going back to school in the fall and using country words like "vitals" to make her friends giggle.

Arlisa loves San Francisco and raised her three sons here. Jesus is a "big part" of her life. She credits Him for saving the lives of her children during difficult times.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **David Mar**

*"United States of America Ocean Ship"*

Laguna Honda Hospital

David Mar came to the United States from China as a child. Growing up in San Francisco's Chinatown, he attended local public schools. He worked as a dishwasher in various neighborhood restaurants as an adult.

The move to Laguna Honda eight years ago was a good one for David, and the Art With Elders classes have been especially helpful in giving him a social and artistic outlet. A shy, quiet person, David attends classes twice a week. He often works in intricate patterns, but he also paints buildings, flowers, houses, birds, and trees with elaborate root systems.

David's other passions include calligraphy and music. Completely, self-taught, he plays violin in the privacy of his room.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Donna Person**

*"Wolf"*

Laguna Honda Hospital

Donna was born in San Francisco in 1943. When she was eighteen, she enlisted in the Army and became a personnel specialist. She was stationed around the U.S. and even modeled for a recruiting poster. When she left the service, Donna returned to her birthplace and began working as a waitress. At the Pam Pam, David's and Sears Fine Foods she was known for her fast service and earned great tips. She graduated from San Francisco State with an anthropology degree.

An adventure-loving person, Donna has jumped out of an airplane, ridden in a hot air balloon, and learned flamenco dancing. She also loves to cook, especially Greek and Italian food, though she also enjoys a well-made BLT. One of the great advantages of her apartments in Pacific Heights and Noe Valley, she admits, was the easy access to the area's thriving ethnic food scene.

Donna started creating art when she was young, and has won twelve art contests over the years. She currently uses sponges, cloth, and acrylic in her abstracts. Donna offers this advice after her years of adventure: "Have a good time."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Dorothy Clancy**

*"The Wave"*

Laguna Honda Hospital

"Every time I moved away, I always came back home," Dorothy says of San Francisco, where she was born on Father's Day in 1954. Despite the tragic death of her father when she was ten, she has a personality as bright as the colorful Mardi Gras beads she wears regularly around her neck. She married at eighteen, lived on Treasure Island with her husband, and has two daughters and one son.

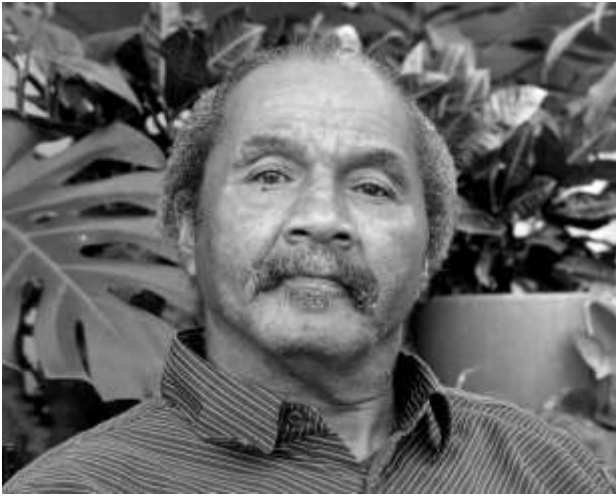
Dorothy has had many jobs. She worked with her brother for years, sharing newspaper routes with him as well as waitressing in the same Mission District restaurant where he cooked. She has kept score in the local bowling alley, where she herself bowled 300, and cared for senior citizens, including her own mother. Now at Laguna Honda, she helps out at the General Store.

She enjoys theater arts and has fond memories of singing and playing the guitar with her girlfriend. Dorothy has been doing art since childhood and explains, "I have to do art. It takes away the pain." Of herself, she says, "I'm still a kid at heart. We've got to maintain our joy; otherwise we're not going to make it."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Fred Davis**

*"San Francisco Fantasy"*

Laguna Honda Hospital

"If we can communicate with each other, that's the most important thing."

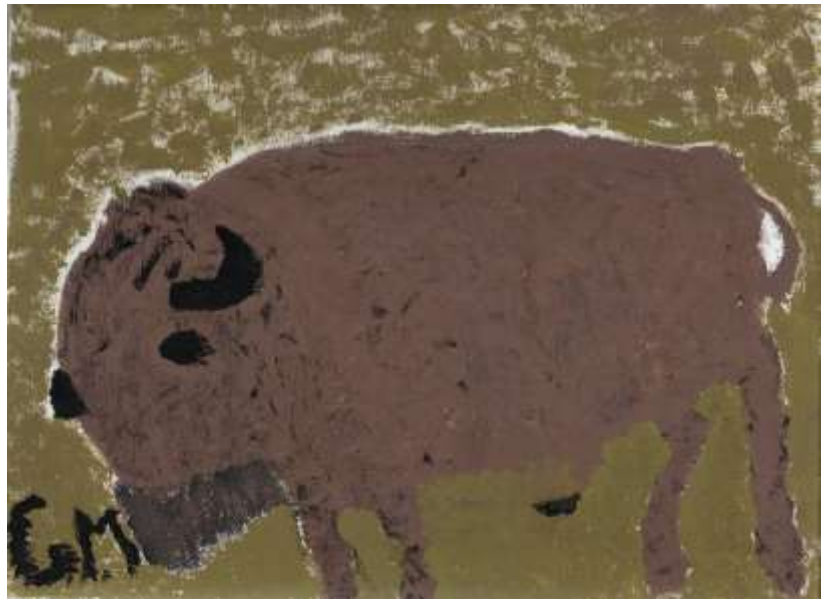
Fred was born in Mississippi and moved to San Francisco in 1965. With his sister and brother-in-law he did janitorial work for many years at several Bill's Cafes in the Bay Area.

When he was not working, Fred would go to an art studio on Golden Gate Avenue. As a painter, he worked in many different mediums. He also did ceramic pottery at the studio. Fred carries a notebook with him at all times to make sketches and notes of his experiences. Fred gives his work away to friends and family. "It's very nice to share your art with a friend," he says.

For Fred, love is "heavy work, but it has a power to it." He believes that respect and communication are the keys to good, especially romantic, relationships.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Geraldine McCowan**

*"Bison"*

Laguna Honda Hospital

"Mama G," as Geraldine is known around Laguna Honda Hospital, greets everyone with a wide smile and they all smile back. Born in Texas in 1942, she admits being spoiled by her brother and sister as the baby. Her father owned a large farm and she grew up feeding the fifty goats and caring for the vegetable garden and fruit trees. The family also raised chickens and hogs, sharing the "mess of meat" with their neighbors after butchering the hogs.

Mama G graduated from high school in 1959 and stayed on the farm plowing, hoeing, cutting trees and working on cars. In 1962, she came to California to visit her mother and ended up staying, supporting herself by babysitting and later cleaning the Officer's Quarters in The Presidio.

In later years, she studied at City College and became a library technician. During her eight years working at the San Francisco Main Library, Mama G loved meeting and helping out the patrons. She has a daughter and son, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She paints, sculpts and creates ceramics and has begun painting a series of Mexican masks.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Ida Marksman**  
*"The Dancers"*  
Laguna Honda Hospital

Ida's easygoing charm, sunny smile and vibrant spirit make clear why her nickname is "Beautiful," as she blushingly confides. Born in San Francisco in 1940, a stroke paralyzed her right side when she was two years old. However, Ida declares, "I don't feel like I missed out on anything. I did everything a normal person would do."

Her parents immigrated from Northern Italy, and she grew up in North Beach "when it was special." She cherishes memories of summer evenings when children would play kickball on Telegraph Hill as parents chatted on their front steps and of leisurely Sunday strolls with her family to Fisherman's Wharf and Union Square.

One of life's high points occurred when Ida was asked to sing for a benefit at the Fairmont Hotel. A fan of Doris Day and Al Martino, she still sings in the shows at Laguna Honda.

Ida always liked art and loves to color. Even her wheelchair is decorated with a pink butterfly and violet flowers. "I can stay here in the studio all day and draw," she laughs. "I always wanted to and never got the chance. Now I have that chance." Her advice: "Don't quit. I never quit when I felt I wanted something."

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*25th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Jeff McFarland**

*"Untitled"*

Laguna Honda Hospital

It's difficult to catch up with this loving, big-hearted artist with an infectious childlike spirit. He might be painting in art class or down at the end of the hall playing a game with volunteers. And he'll definitely be greeting everyone with a smile and an "ah-oh-ah," and receiving a smile and a "hello" in return.

Jeff's vivid imagination comes out in his art and his language inventions. Over the years, he has developed his own distinct style, often reflecting a surreal and stylized interpretation.

Wherever he is, Jeff makes people happy, comfortable and inspired, just by being in their presence.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **John Lindgren**

*"California Dreamin'"*

Laguna Honda Hospital

John's wardrobe exemplifies just how much color is important to him. The green of his shirt and baseball cap complement his green eyes perfectly and highlight his gaze, which is warm, alert, and intelligent. After a stroke four years ago that impaired his ability to speak, art is now his primary means of expression. He enjoys creating his art in any medium available.

Born in Saudi Arabia forty-nine years ago, where his father worked for the Saudi oil company Aramco and his mother was a housewife, John moved to Washington state when he was fifteen. The second oldest sibling, with three sisters, he recalls a happy childhood. John lived in Seattle for thirty years, where he worked as a file clerk and contract paralegal. As an adult, he especially enjoyed food, with barbecue as a particular delight, and travel, having visited Thailand, Scandinavia, and Germany among other places.

John's debilitating stroke also made him unable to use his right arm. He has taught himself to use his non-dominant left hand to paint, thus demonstrating two of the qualities he values most in himself and that he believes have been of most help in his life: patience and curiosity.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Mary Guthrie**

*"Untitled"*

Laguna Honda Hospital

"There is a gift of genius  
in every heart and mind.  
If that which now was hidden  
we would take the time to find."

With her gentle smile and blue eyes shining, Mary likes to recite these words from a poem she wrote as a young mother going through a divorce. She has used the difficulties she's faced in her life to find her own "gift of genius."

Born in Canada in 1946, she married at the age of sixteen to a young serviceman and eventually, realizing a difficult future for her family, gave up her four children to be raised in foster homes. She subsequently spent over twenty years on the streets of San Francisco, living in local parks, where she listened to other people's stories, discovered the beauty of nature and developed a passion for trees. "God showed me the sunsets and clouds," she says. A laundromat offered her shelter at times and she periodically helped out at the Shamrock Bar. To this day, her bible is her constant companion.

Mary, who describes herself as a seeker and thinker, did some art in grammar and high school and is an avid photographer, especially of her beloved trees, but she attributes her current art to the AWE staff at Laguna Honda. "When I first started," she says, "I didn't think I could do it."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Rickie Allen**

*"Nutz"*

Laguna Honda Hospital

"Art inspires me...like a passion." Rickie has been doing art on and off for over ten years. "Art would be my first love," he says. He watches art programs on TV and does art in his room. "It's a coping mechanism and I always want to improve." He is currently taking the CCSF painting and ceramic classes offered weekly at Laguna Honda. He likes to depict animals in both his paintings and his ceramics. He also wants to do landscapes and abstract pastels.

Rickie is one of thirteen brothers and sisters, only 4 of whom survived to adulthood. He has a long work history that includes working in hospitals, and doing janitorial, landscape, painter and plumbing jobs. He also liked to work with kids.

He is still very active. In addition to his art, he works in the Laguna Honda gift shop and general store as part of his vocational rehab program. He has also participated in the gardening program and the Resident Council.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Stephen Mays**

*"Tricky Dick"*

Laguna Honda Hospital

Stephen was born in Philadelphia but has lived in Berkeley, New York, Japan and Indonesia. His wife was Japanese. Tragically his only child, a daughter, died at age five. The memory of her death had haunted him for decades and still gives him nightmares.

He likes to draw cartoons and caricatures, perhaps to lighten his spirit. The concept of "djiwa," a word meaning "awareness of soul" in Indonesian, is very important to him. When asked about his career or working life, he responds simply, "spiritual exercise."

**ART WITH ELDERERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Theresa Piccirillo**

*"My Heart Cannot Be Broken"*

Laguna Honda Hospital

"Art makes the world pretty." Teresa has been doing art all her life. She studied print making and metal arts at UCSF, but long before that, as a child, she used food coloring to decorate the meals on her dinner plate. Born without a hip, Teresa has been disabled since birth. Her father died when she was quite young and she was sent to live with her grandmother. Her heart has already been broken she says and, so, it cannot be broken again. Her goal has always been to decorate everything. Make the world pretty!

She is a very prolific artist. Her drawings are very intricate, detailed and colorful. "Psychedelic!" one might think. In addition to selling her paintings, she supported herself making jewelry. Using metal scraps left over from her classes at UCSF, she made one of a kind pieces which she sold on Castro Street. Other street artists sold their work during the day. Wanting to have the street for herself, Teresa sold her jewelry at night.

Teresa's drawings always tell a story. The story she is telling these days is about women and how powerful they are. "Women can save the world," she says. "Eventually, women will save the world!"

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





**Walter Jourdan III**  
*"Cover Girl"*  
Laguna Honda Hospital

"This old body ain't down yet," Walter declares. Diagnosed with hydrocephalus in his youth, after fifteen surgeries and many health challenges he asserts that he is "on a journey to keep going no matter what. I'm not giving up now."

Born in Many, Louisiana, Walter came to the Bay Area as a young child, attended both City College and San Francisco State University and received a business degree. He credits his mother, an important inspiration and voice in his life, with instilling in him a strong sense of determination.

Walter was employed by the Hydrocephalus Foundation for ten years, worked as a teacher's aide in sign language and ran a catering service at San Francisco City College. He's particularly pleased with his Cajun catfish jambalaya and German chocolate cake. Walter plays piano, speaks conversational Tagalog, Cantonese and Mandarin, and loves to sing.

He is "flattered and flabbergasted" by the attention he receives for his artwork. Walter enjoys the AWE classes and believes they have a positive impact on his goal of getting well.

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Virginia Deeds**

*"Fantasy"*

Lytton Gardens

Virginia, known as Gini, has been painting since she was a child in St. Louis, Missouri, where she was born. She fondly remembers copying cartoons from the Sunday papers and Saturday morning visits to the city's Museum of Art, where children were given postcards of the museum's artworks and told to find them.

She lived in New York State for 28 years, where Gini combined raising five children with personnel work at both the University of Rochester and the Valley Manor retirement home. A special adventure in her life was driving cross country to Palo Alto.

Gini began her art education at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and has travelled in Europe and the U.S. to visit art museums. She has also had two retreat experiences in Martha's Vineyard, one of which included a show of her portraits and landscapes.

Since 1989 she has lived in Palo Alto, where she has studied art with a variety of local artists, including Grace Gibson, watercolorist Floy Zittin, Linda Logan, and now AWE instructor Sarah Dwyer. Her art has been exhibited at annual shows at the Menlo Park Art League and Lytton Gardens.

This watercolor, which Virginia says "painted itself," is based on one of her own photographs.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Hui Lan Li**

*"Springtime by the Ocean"*

Oak Center Towers

Born in the Canton province of China in 1940, Hui Lan has been passionate about physical exercise all her life. In her youth she played at least five sports, including volleyball, track, and basketball, and frequently won prizes for her athletic abilities. Even today she exercises two hours daily, and practices Qi Gong and Tai Chi.

Hui Lan, who came to the U.S. in 2000, worked as an elementary school teacher in China. She married in 1964 and has two daughters and two grandchildren.

She describes herself as a happy person who loves to be of service to others. In addition to caring for her husband and apartment, she helps out at the local farmers' market. AWE classes have been her first experience in art. Her favorite medium is acrylics.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





**Kekun Ouyang**  
*"Master Tiger"*  
Oak Center Towers

"Follow your heart and your passion," says this gentle and humble native of China with a captivating smile, "and keep doing what you want to do." And that's what he is doing today in his art class.

Born in Canton in 1945, KeKun was a farmer who picked up part-time jobs on the side. He came to the U.S., where he lives with his wife, in 2004 and has five children and eleven grandchildren. Except for one daughter in Arizona, the rest of his family still lives in China, which he manages to visit yearly.

KeKun loves to travel and even without a car he's managed to get himself to local beaches, the forest, and Yellowstone National park---all of which feed his love of nature. His other passions include playing pool and slow walking.

KeKun hadn't picked up a paint brush since his days in elementary school. Now he creates and composes his own art and especially likes to paint animals from pictures, which he then puts into different backgrounds that he creates. He has purchased his own set of watercolors and loves to do his art in his room also.

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Qi Zhen Duan**  
*"Spring in the Village"*  
Oak Center Towers

This soft-spoken 82 year-old native of southern China feels free at last here in the U.S. And she is very determined to use that freedom well: learning English, becoming an American citizen and then doing her favorite thing – painting. After her retirement in China in 2003, the former hospital nurse studied painting for three years in adult school there. The mother of two children came to the Bay Area with her husband in 2007 to help care for her two grandchildren.

When she's not in class, Mrs. Qi Zhen draws scenes from the outings she goes on or just strolls out to the garden to make pencil drawings of the trees and plants. The binder where she stores her work, often done on the back of recycled paper, is filling up fast. She also copies images from the newspaper.

She's proudest of her daughter and son. "They're very good kids," she says. "They have good jobs and they are good people." And one of her happiest moments was when her grandson, Hairuo, went to Washington D.C., representing California, and won first prize in a national high school physics competition.

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Wan Shan Ning**  
*"My Dream House"*  
Oak Center Towers

Born in Beijing in 1935, Wan Shan has spent most of her life raising her family, and now that her three grandchildren are grown, she's making a life of her own at Oak Center Towers. Wan Shan and her husband, raised two daughters and a son in Canton, and she came to the U.S. in 2009 to assist her daughter during her pregnancy. She's happy that all of her family now lives in the Bay Area.

She believes "you don't need to be successful, but it's important to have a good heart." As Wan Shan ages, she wants to be of service. She picks up trash to keep the environment clean and helps take care of people in need. She also enjoys hanging out with her friends over coffee and listening to Chinese folk music.

Wan Shan's only memory of doing art in her past is having used crayons as a kid. But she has always enjoyed going to art exhibits. Now limited in her ability to travel, she says that her AWE class "keeps my brain working." Her teacher, Insio, describes her work--mainly landscapes and flower scenes--as "calm and delicate," done with small brush strokes, which fit her personality.

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





**Ying Huang**  
*"Evening Walk"*  
Oak Center Towers

Born in Shanghai China in 1933, Ying Huang was a kindergarten teacher who remembers doing art with her students as well as teaching music. Her AWE classes have re-introduced her to art. She was widowed after 20 years of marriage before she came to the U.S. in 1999. She has three sons, two in the Bay Area and the youngest still in Shanghai.

Ying Huang, a very quiet and refined person, who doesn't like to bother people, attributes her long life to a regular walking routine, gymnastics, and Tai Chi. In her free time, she enjoys playing mellow music on her electronic keyboard. In her art, she is very detail-oriented and sets a very high standard for herself.

Ying Huang is supported by her strong Christian faith. She's especially proud that her grandson can sing Christian songs in English and Chinese. Her words of wisdom: "Love everybody as much as you love yourself."

ART WITH ELDERS  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Yu Chen**

*"Waterfall Beauty"*  
Oak Center Towers

"I'm old, but it's OK. You enjoy yourself," says this energetic 78 year old. Born in Shanghai, she started learning English in third grade. She still puts her skills in service to others as the official translator at Oak Center Towers, where she also helps with the weekly market and monthly newsletter.

A chemical engineer, Ms. Chen spent 35 years working in China. Her only daughter, with her mother's English lessons and family's financial help, later earned a degree in Electrical Engineering in the U.S. Ms. Chen and her husband joined her in New Jersey, but a cousin and warm weather lured them to Oakland in 2001. She still enjoys travelling, taking regular trips with her daughter.

Ms. Chen, who learned just a little art in her childhood, insists she's not an artist. She advises, "Tell people even if you don't know how to do color, any person can do it. No matter whether you're an artist or not." She enjoys painting flowers and animals and her favorite medium is watercolor. And the important lesson she's learned in life: "If you want something, you can get it. Just try, even in the hardest times."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Yun Ke Liang**  
*"Bamboo at Dawn"*  
Oak Center Towers

Art is something to hold on to for Yun Ke Liang. After years of serious health issues and the death of her husband in 2006, she admits she doesn't know what she'd do without her art class, which helps relax and calm her. She now picks up her pen and brush for two hours on her own almost every Saturday.

Born in China in 1939, in her youth Yun loved singing, music, dance, reading and anything related to the arts. A heart problem limited her life to the responsibilities of being a housewife and caring for her son and daughter.

She came to the U.S. in 1997, where she was able to embark on a new life following heart surgery in 2005. She is now able to practice tai chi once a week.

Yun is happy with her children and grandchildren, one of whom was crowned KTSF's Miss Chinatown. When they visit they often even bring her art supplies. As she says, "Art makes me appreciate my life."

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





**Zhi Ming Wu**  
*"Lily Garden"*  
Oak Center Towers

Zhi Ming Wu was born in 1937 in the Wu region of Central China, on the south bank of the Yangtze River. Because his family was poor, he raised birds as a child to earn money to go to school. Today, he smiles widely, saying he never imagined that one day he would live in the U.S. or have the experience of being picked up in a limousine at the airport when he visits his two daughters in Shanghai.

Prior to his AWE class, he had no formal experience in art, though he's always liked to paint flowers. As a teenager he taught himself how to draw faces, copying photos to make portraits.

Mr. Wu retired from his work in hydraulic engineering and came to the U.S. fourteen years ago to attend his son's graduation from college and help raise his grandchild. He now has six grandchildren.

He describes himself as a quiet man struggling to improve his English. His advice: "Pay attention to your health, be sure and eat breakfast, and take a bath before going to bed." And finally, don't interfere with the lives of your children or grandchildren.

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Mary (Be) Mardel, RSCJ**

*"Whimsical Fish"*

Oakwood Atherton

"I love to create things," says Sister Mary (Be) Mardel, who completed an amazing 100 years of life this year. Born in Seattle and raised in the Bay Area, she still remembers, as a sickly child often confined to bed, the pure joy of opening a box of crayons. She's loved color ever since.

After her last two years of high school at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Menlo Park and college in San Francisco, Sister Be went on to follow her vocation. Earning an English M.A. from Stanford, she has served as a teacher, principal, superior, and Director of Schools at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in San Francisco for 40 years. Sister Be was religious provincial for six years, ministered to AIDS patients in San Francisco, and founded a school for children with developmental disabilities in El Cajon. She also spent a sabbatical year in England and the Holy Land.

It's only in retirement that Sister Be has taken time to do art. She has studied oil painting at SF State and created and furnished seven doll houses, auctioned off for fund-raising. Her AWE classes continue to give her "a sense of creation."

She considers her vocation and her long life to be a "gift of God" and advises: "The best way to thank anyone and God for the gift of life is to enjoy it."

ART WITH ELDERS

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Virginia (Ginny) Dennehy, RSCJ**

*"Beauty in Chaos"*

Oakwood Atherton

In her youth in Chicago, Ginny used to beg her mother to take her to the local golf course, where she'd play alone and watch the sunset. It became a lifelong passion, which included playing competitive golf. It was getting out of sand traps that she enjoyed the most--a lesson in learning to take the good with the bad. Golf, she says, "made me who I am."

After entering the Society of the Sacred Heart at the age of 21, Ginny worked in the Chicago area for many years, working as a teacher, dean and principal at Sacred Heart Academy, doing life career planning at Barat College and co-teaching with Matthew Fox at his Creation Centered Spirituality program at Mundelein University.

She came to the Bay Area on sabbatical in 1980, and received a Ph.D. at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, where she taught and specialized in trauma. She also worked as a psychotherapist and spiritual guide and counselor until retiring at the age of 80.

Now, at 83 and unable to play golf, she has turned to art, joining the AWE class just a year ago. After attending a celebration of the Potawatomi in St. Louis, this image arose from her "gut." With a special attachment to Native American culture and music, she considers this Potawatomi teepee a symbol of rootedness.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Sister Madeleine Chi**

*"Forms and Colors"*

Oakwood Atherton

Born in Shanghai, China in 1930, Sr. Madeleine was raised in a family with mixed Catholic and Buddhist spiritual traditions that are reflected in her artwork. She grew up in the midst of war, with conflicts between China and Japan, World War II and civil war between Nationalists and Communists.

She first came to the U.S. in 1952, where she received all her higher education, including a Ph.D. in modern French history from Fordham and M.A. from Columbia. Sister Madeleine has done research in London and Tokyo, and taught at New York's Manhattanville College and Taiwan's Fujen University.

"Even though my study is in history," she says, "I have an artistic temperament." She developed her love of watercolors in her Chinese high school. She has a great passion for visiting art museums and taking photographs. In her art she likes using bright colors and contrast.

Sr. Madeleine believes in the importance of silence and practices "centering prayer" for an hour each morning, feeling "in union with the whole universe." She prays intensely these days for suffering children in war-torn countries.

She believes silence is helpful for painting also: "The Zen masters meditated for a long time, then picked up a brush and in one minute they finished their masterpiece."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Sister Rose Chen**  
*"There is a River"*  
Oakwood Atherton

Born in Shanghai, China in 1930, Sr. Madeleine was raised in a family with mixed Catholic and Buddhist spiritual traditions that are reflected in her artwork. She grew up in the midst of war, with conflicts between China and Japan, World War II and civil war between Nationalists and Communists.

She first came to the U.S. in 1952, where she received all her higher education, including a Ph.D. in modern French history from Fordham and M.A. from Columbia. Sister Madeleine has done research in London and Tokyo, and taught at New York's Manhattanville College and Taiwan's Fujen University.

"Even though my study is in history," she says, "I have an artistic temperament." She developed her love of watercolors in her Chinese high school. She has a great passion for visiting art museums and taking photographs. In her art she likes using bright colors and contrast.

Sr. Madeleine believes in the importance of silence and practices "centering prayer" for an hour each morning, feeling "in union with the whole universe." She prays intensely these days for suffering children in war-torn countries.

She believes silence is helpful for painting also: "The Zen masters meditated for a long time, then picked up a brush and in one minute they finished their masterpiece."

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Amitra Freeman**  
*"Introspection"*  
On Lok East San Jose

Amy is a dancer extraordinaire. She took ballet as a child, loves rock and roll and is always the first person out on the dance floor. She's also the first one to comfort people when they're having a bad day.

She enjoyed painting portraits of people in high school, but now she uses symbolism in her painting. Each color has a meaning. Her teacher admires her confident attitude and her bright, open, happy art. Amy's advice for others: "You have a life; live it. Just be yourself, but don't be destructive." She believes silence is helpful for painting also: "The Zen masters meditated for a long time, then picked up a brush and in one minute they finished their masterpiece."

ART WITH ELDERS  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Andy Banh**

*"Fantasy World"*

On Lok Lifeways East San Jose

Andy was born in Vietnam in 1951 after his grandparents, who were Chinese, had emigrated from Fukien. His grandparents and parents escaped to Vietnam as political refugees. When the communists took over South Vietnam in 1975, an unsuccessful attempt by the family to escape from Vietnam led to their homelessness. Four years later, Andy's uncle sponsored the family, which eventually immigrated to U.S in 1987.

Andy never dreamed of painting until he joined an art class at On Lok. He's been painting for three years, and enjoys copying pictures from old calendars. He also enjoys fixing things that he finds on the street. He will take apart a broken chair and then use the parts to create a new one.

As a Buddhist, he believes in benevolent kindness. He is always happy to help people, particularly the homeless. His philosophy of life is: "No matter what religion you are, if you believe in kindness you will find happiness and peace."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Carmen Cardenas**

### *"My House"*

On Lok Lifeways East San Jose

Nava de Cardenas has endured a lot in her 82 years of life. Born in Zacatecas, Mexico, she spent her life washing clothes, making meals and cleaning house for her husband and their ten children--nine boys and one girl. But she says, "I never tired of working." In those days, she explains, there were no schools for women. She spent only three months in school, and still managed to learn to read and write.

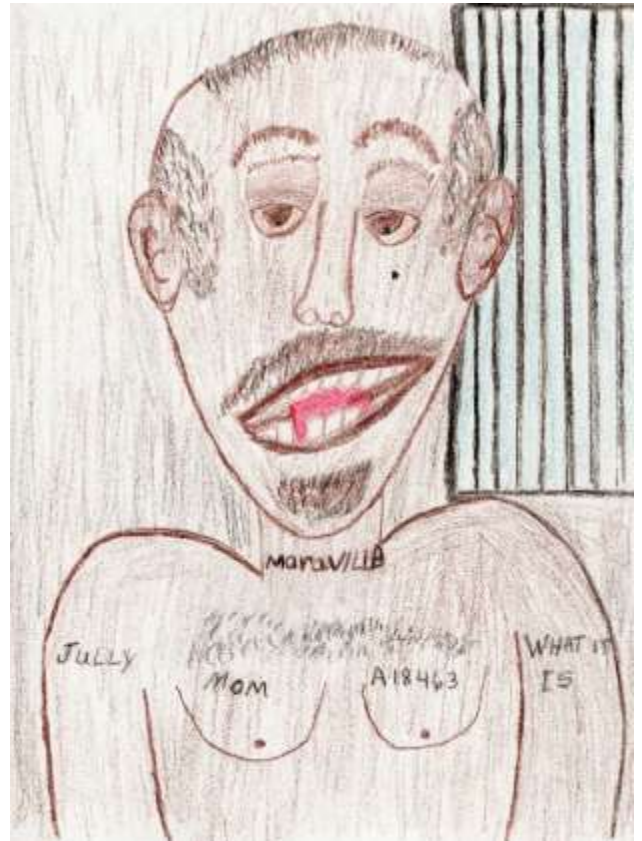
Nava says she's always been happiest when she's with her children. Her greatest gift has been to see her children here again in the U.S. Seven of them were here when she arrived forty years ago. She now lives with her son.

Though Carmen now struggles with a vision problem, she enjoys putting color in her pictures and drawing animals, especially dogs and cats, and flowers.

"I thank God daily," she says, "that my kids come and fill my house with children. She has thirty grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Frank Ortega**

*"I Didn't Do It"*

On Lok Lifeways East San Jose

Born in Stockton, California in 1943 to a family of five brothers and two sisters, Frank overcame learning problems in his youth, eventually completing high school and college. He graduated in electronics and worked at Honeywell in San Jose for eleven years, followed by a career as a real estate appraiser.

An avid gardener, he grows tomatoes and flowers at home and prides himself on watering the plants on the patio at On Lok. Frank's face lights up when he talks about the biggest joy in his life--his grandson, Frankie Ray Ortega, who is following in his father's footsteps, studying electronics in Texas.

Frank's first exposure to art was at On Lok. He is fascinated by the art of Mesoamerica, particularly Aztec culture, and his drawings include the fierce and colorful masks that were used to keep the spirits away. His pencil drawings also mirror the varied faces of people he encounters on the street: the homeless, the confused, and the depressed. In his art, Frank captures their lives.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Vo Huong**

*"Golden Gate"*

On Lok Lifeways East San Jose

Huong was born in 1946 in Binh Dinh, Vietnam into a small family. When she was twelve, war broke out in her hometown and she, her parents, and older sister migrated to Pleiku, located in the central highland region of Vietnam. She later married and had two children and remembers well a contest that took place in 1970 in Nhatrang to celebrate mothers who had raised beautiful and healthy children. She enrolled her son in the contest and he won first prize. It was one of the happiest moments of her life.

Huong, whose life was devoted to her children and now her four grandchildren, loves to cook and exercise. She describes herself as a happy person, who loves to laugh and care for others and advises: "Love all living things and don't ever lose your temper." She believes in the importance of hard work and patience.

AWE is her first experience with art, as Huong never had the luxury of doing art until now. She always does her best working on the scene that her art teacher Dmitry provides and feels content to pour all her emotions into her art. "It's like a therapy to me," she says.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Yang Yuan Xiang**

*"Untitled"*

On Lok Lifeways East San Jose

Mr. Yang, originally from China, moved to California in 2006. He loves spending time with family. He is married, has two daughters, and currently resides with one of them. He used to be an engineer in China before he retired and moved to the U.S.

Although he had no previous art experience, he says he always enjoys doing something related to art, especially drawing or writing Chinese calligraphy. "My hobbies are drawing, painting, playing table tennis, writing Chinese calligraphy and traveling," says Mr. Yang.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Irene C. Higgins**

*"Put Down the Devices"*

On Lok Lifeways Gee

All her friends call her IrishH and she's led an interesting life. A multi-talented performer, she led a blues band (Spoonful of Blues) in San Francisco, composing some of the songs, playing bass and singing lead. She has worked with a small local theater group (Ninjaz of Drama) behind the scenes and in performance. With a Mission district crew (A Waking Dream), she constructed fantastical costuming and participated in the local Carnival and Pride parades, as well as Unity celebrations.

Always a bit of a nerd growing up, IrishH studied Spanish in high school, adding German studies and some French courses in college. After being a dropout for some years she returned to school and earned a bachelor's degree, cum laud, in Russian from SF State University after using scholarship funds to spend a summer semester studying in the Soviet Union. While back in school and afterward IrishH used her academic skills to empower learners in Academic Support programs at City College of San Francisco and After School Programs at Visitacion Valley Middle School.

She came to On Lok through a CCSF Older Adult Program art class and continues along the creative path here experimenting with watercolors, acrylics and gouache paints as well as at the San Francisco Senior Center working with oil paints and ceramics.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Robert Sok**

*"Cityscape"*

On Lok Lifeways Gee

Robert Sok is not limited by his wheelchair. Although he is not as mobile physically, he travels widely in his mind to times and countries in his rich past. A polyglot, Mr. Sok speaks eight languages, including several dialects of Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Lao, Vietnamese, French, and English. An architect by trade, who was trained in civil engineering, he spent his university years in Cambodia, where he was born in 1946, and in Paris, where he received his Master's degree. "In two weeks," he says, "I became Parisien."

He came to the U.S. in 1973 with a work permit to do work on the Empire State Building. Later, after moving to the Bay Area, he used his skills doing jobs as varied as re-doing the ceilings of a Chinese restaurant to serving as a court translator in San Francisco. He has two sons, both of whom live in San Jose, and two grandchildren.

Robert describes himself as hardworking, independent, and helpful to friends. He's an avid reader of all kinds of books and, in his life in Cambodia he was a jazz drummer. He also likes painting alone in his room, which is full of his work. His art teacher explains that when doing landscapes, he frequently adds people to the scene and prefers bright colors.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



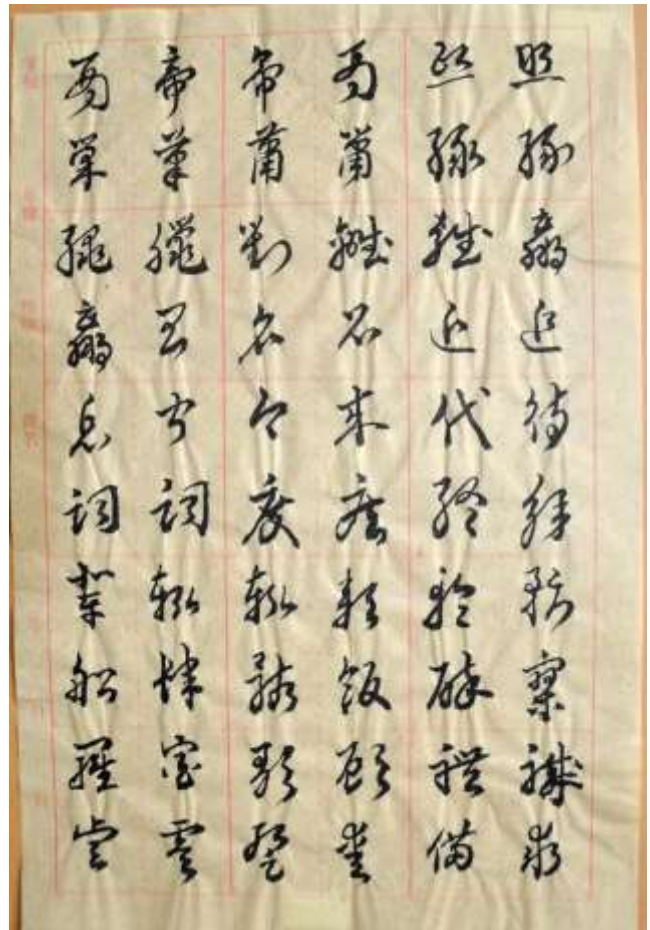
**Tunde Zwerencz**  
*"Autumn Festival"*  
On Lok Lifeways Gee

Tunde was born in 1959 in Budapest, Hungary. She had one son and one daughter; she is divorced and immigrated to U.S with her daughter in 1992. Tunde was a social worker in Hungary for 17 years, she loves to help people and loves to learn. Tunde is now enjoying her life with her daughter and loves attending Art with Elders class.

Tunde's major influence is her father who was a famous Fine Artist and a botanic Illustrator in Hungary. Tunde recalled her childhood memory and said: "My father was a hard-working person who would painted over 16 hours daily. I remembered he painted a mural, it seemed so easy to him but it wasn't when I tried to do my art. My father would encourage me to just keep practice, it will make better and easier!" Tunde then added: "My father is a humble, generous, warm-hearted and a wise person. I enjoy creating art because I can remember my father who passed away many years ago."

"Creating arts can calm me down, help me to focus, forget and ease my physical pains. Attending Art with Elders class helped me a lot. I am living very happily now!" Tunde's also advises: "Making art is not easy but don't give up, take step by step and be persistent to practice."

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## Zhiwen Luo

"Cursive Study 1"

On Lok Lifeways Gee

Born in Guangzhou, Canton province in 1930, Zhiwen came from a traditional Chinese family that emphasized the importance of doing one's best and being humble and quiet. And she's certainly always done her best in calligraphy. Recognized as an excellent calligrapher as early as middle school, she was always asked to write for important school functions.

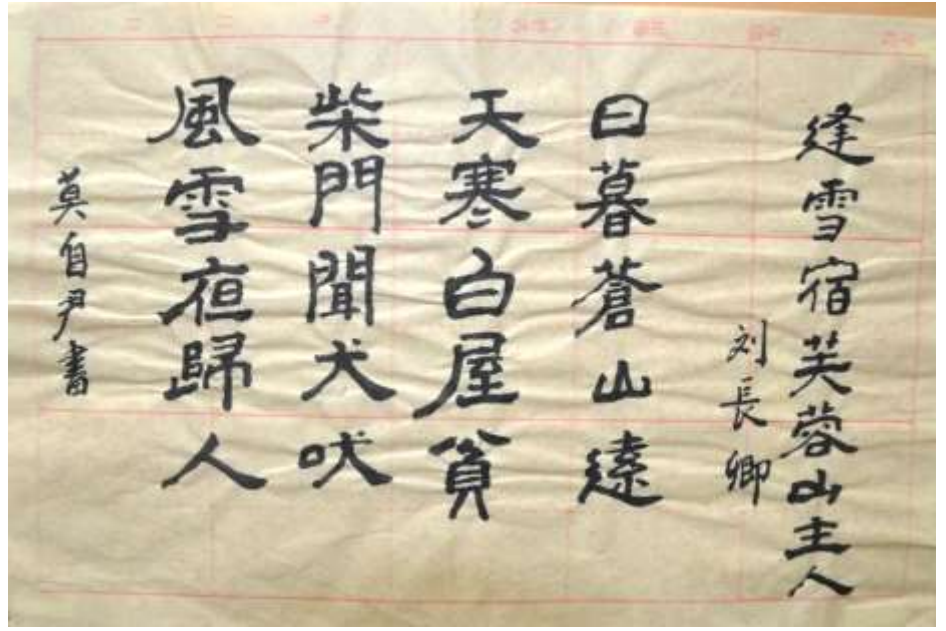
Zhiwen married and raised her children (one son and two daughters) while working full-time in a chemical factory. She and her husband came to the U.S. over twenty years ago to be with a daughter who lives in South San Francisco. Though her son lives in Canada and her oldest daughter in Singapore, she revels in the joy of finally having the time to enjoy her family, which now includes three grandchildren.

Doing calligraphy is like practicing music, she says---it demands perfection and patience. She now has to stabilize her hand to write her characters, and claims that her art is "only 1% of the master's." She continues striving for perfection in her art, working at home outside of art class, and advises: "Be serious in anything you do."

ART WITH ELDERS

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Zi Yin Mo**

*"Memories Poem"*

On Lok Lifeways Gee

Zi Yin Mo taught Chinese literature and calligraphy classes in high school for over 30 years in China before he immigrated to U.S with his family in 1980. Born in Guangzhou, Canton province in 1926, Mr. Mo came from a traditional Chinese family that emphasized the importance of family values. He had four sons and seven grandchildren. Besides working and practicing calligraphy, Mr. Mo has always enjoyed spending time with family.

Mr. Mo continued to teach and help others as a volunteer after his retirement. He was the president of "Chinese Culture and the Arts center" in S.F. Chinatown where he taught calligraphy, poetry and Chinese literature to other teachers and young students until recent years. Recognized as an excellent calligrapher and teacher, Mr. Mo also gave various seminars in Bay Area including Daly City, San Jose and Senior Centers. He is a humble, quiet, hard working, warm-hearted person who practices calligraphy daily at home and during Art with Elders class.

Mr. Mo loves nature and he exercises regularly at 6:00 a.m., "Practice calligraphy can calm me down and that is the secret for a long life beside living happily, eat healthy and exercise!" He also added: "You need to be patience, focus, persistent to practice calligraphy. More importantly, love what you are doing."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Hamida Asif**

*"Lonely Evening"*

On Lok Lifeways Peralta

Hamida describes herself as a happy person. "I have everything I desire and I thank God for my health and my children," she says.

She was born in 1939 in Karachi, Pakistan, where she grew up with her six sisters and two brothers, many of whom are now scattered around the world. She and her husband, an engineer, had five children. Upon her husband's retirement, her children called and begged them to live with them in Fremont. They immigrated to the U.S. about 15 years ago and now have 13 grandchildren.

Hamida likes to watch television and enjoys doing needlework. She used to do a lot of the cooking, but now she says that's limited mainly to holidays. Her family still loves her delicious biryani, a mixed rice dish.

Her AWE classes are her first experience with art. She is open to any medium and has recently discovered acrylic on canvas. Landscapes are her favorite subject.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Nordmann Fernandez**  
*"Christmas"*  
On Lok Lifeways Peralta

Born in San Salvador in 1939, Nordmann likes to explain that his father, a primary school teacher, studied a lot of classical European literature and gave all his eleven children unusual names. Like his father, he too has a passion for reading.

Nordmann has university degrees in law and business administration and worked in law offices and government for many years. He proudly explains that it was his historical research on Luis Vergara Ahumada that helped put an image the Chilean artist's "Primer Grito de Independencia" on Salvadoran currency. The father of six, he came to the U.S. eleven years ago to join his daughter in Redwood City and now lives with his son in Fremont. He has eight grandchildren.

"I haven't been a saint, nor a wise man," says this elder artist with a great sense of humor, "but I respect God and His creation." He likes to serve others and enjoys dancing.

Nordmann's AWE classes are his first exposure to making art himself but he's patient with it. Like Confucius advised, he said, I'm trying to "discover beauty in everything."

**ART WITH ELDERERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Fenglan Qu**

*"Ducky"*

On Lok Lifeways Peralta

Fenglan was born in China in 1940. She's a renaissance woman, studying Chinese literature in college, working as a newspaper editor, and going back to college to become a lawyer.

She began her newspaper career by developing her own black and white photographs to accompany her articles on political and cultural news. She became an editor and still has calluses from editing stories by hand. She says she has a "man's character" since she was the only woman.

She met her husband when her older sister took her to a dance and he danced with her all night. They have been married for 56 years. She visits him at his nursing home every day and feeds him lunch. They have three children.

She also studied law in China and "made a lot of money" as an attorney. She and her husband, who came to California after her oldest son moved here, traveled throughout America. Her favorite city is Austin, Texas.

She writes about her life in her diary every day, and treasures the quiet time when she draws. She believes that "life is about getting to know each other deeply with the heart."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Vanita Shah**

*"Log House"*

On Lok Lifeways Peralta

Vanita was born in 1942 in Varavel, a city in the Gujarat province of India. She was the oldest of four brothers and a sister. She enjoyed art in school, but as was the tradition at the time, she left school after the eighth grade and entered an arranged marriage at the age of fifteen.

The couple had three sons and a daughter, and Vanita stayed at home caring for her children. She loved to cook, especially her specialties of samosas and shrikhand, a sweet dessert made of strained yogurt that is a Gujarati specialty. She is now the proud grandmother of seven grandchildren.

Vanita and her husband visited the United States whenever possible to see her children and she moved here after her husband's death to be close to them. She has returned to India to see her husband's family, as well as traveled to Dubai to visit one of her sons.

Vanita, who describes herself as a very good-natured person, feels that education is important and appreciates her AWE class. Her art teacher Dmitry says that she specializes in folk art and reports that, with her attention to details, her drawings take months to finish.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Yuzhen Lu**

*"Stream"*

On Lok Lifeways Peralta

Yuzhen has been an artist all his life, with a few detours along the way. Born in China in 1944, he started learning techniques in elementary school when he was seven years old. But there were no art classes in high school and he trained to be a teacher. When he graduated he was drafted by the army and learned to send messages in Morse Code.

After five years in the army, he began a 40-year career as a high-school Physics teacher. He would have loved to become an art teacher and to continue painting, but stopped painting since he was so busy. During the Cultural Revolution artists were only allowed to do portraits of Chairman Mao and Karl Marx.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





**Dorelia Gordon**

*"Untitled Bird"*

On Lok Lifeways San Jose

Dorelia, whose friends call her Dot, was born in San Leandro, California, in 1932, and grew up with one sister, two stepbrothers and one stepsister. When she was in her teens, she enjoyed doing commercial art and also learned to sew. She once won first prize for one of her clothing creations and second prize for a two-piece outfit.

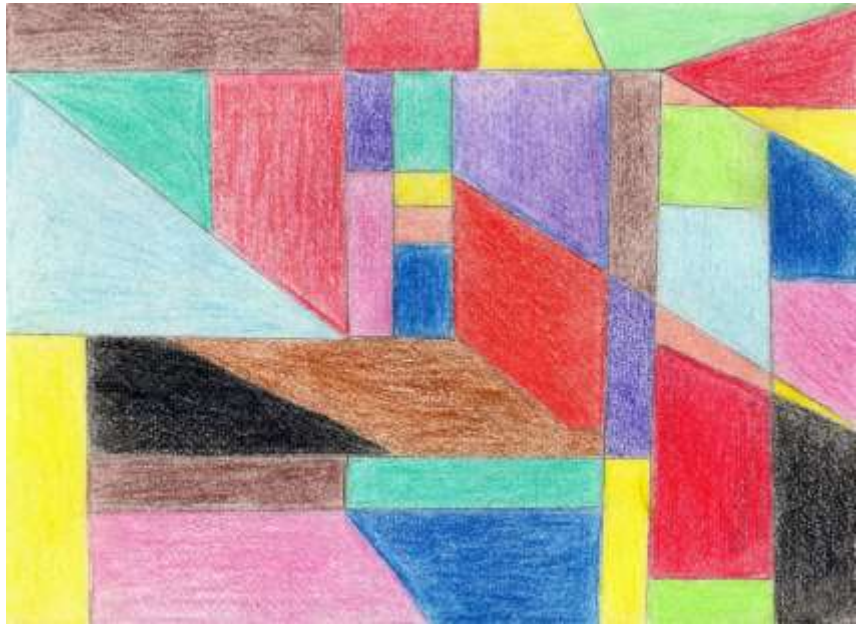
Later in life, she volunteered at the Heart Association and worked at Goodwill. She remembers fondly her good life with her husband, whom she took care of for thirteen years.

Dorelia's happiest moments were when her mother took her to church. It was there, she says, that "I got saved," and she attributes her long life to having put her life in God's hands.

She's grateful for the doctors who have helped her over her lifetime, and to her art teacher Virginia, who has taught her a lot about contrast colors. Art for her, she says, means "accomplishment."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Dorothy Hickey**

*"Untitled"*

On Lok Lifeways San Jose

Dorothy, known as Dottie by her friends, has been a lover of the arts since she was a child. This New York City native, born in 1931, has acted on the stage in the Little Theater of New Jersey and published five books of poetry, while making a living as a cashier on Wall Street.

Some of her happiest moments are marrying her second husband and travelling around the world with him. She has visited 44 countries and done 66 cruises! She also loves visiting museums and decorating.

Dorothy describes herself as a happy-go-lucky person who enjoys everything and loves children. She has one daughter, two grandchildren and one great grandchild.

It's her sense of humor and love of life, she says, that have been her key to a long life. She advises: "Be yourself and do what's right for you." Dorothy loves to do what she calls "easy abstract compositions" and feels that art has taught her patience.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Fencai Tang**

*"Spring is Coming"*

On Lok Lifeways San Jose

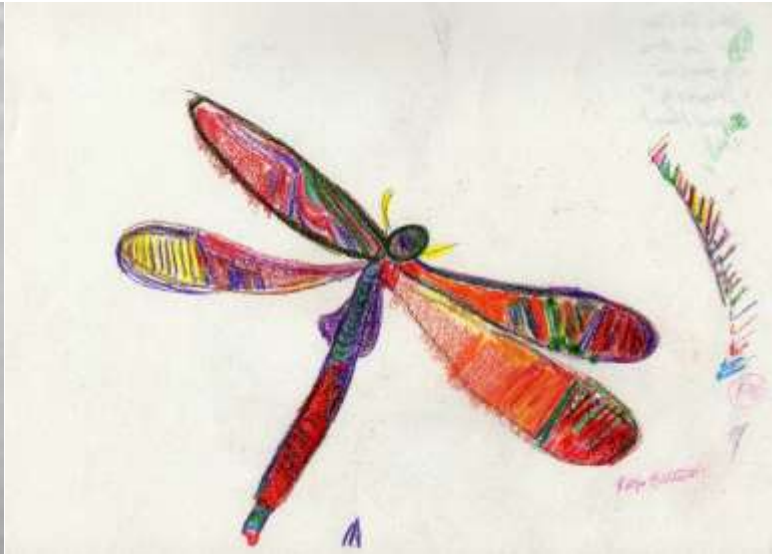
Feng Cai Tang, born in Heilongjiang, China says liked to read a lot during her childhood years. She used to be a biology teacher. She has one daughter. She liked to travel to scenic places in both China and U.S. One of the happiest moments in her life is when she gets to be active with her hobbies which include singing, ping pong, dancing, going on trips, and engaging in her paper cutting art.

She attributes learning and traveling her long life to. She describes herself as adventurous, active, a learner, and crafty.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Ray Baggiani**

*"Dragonfly"*

Pacific Care Home

A native San Franciscan, Ray was born in 1934 into a traditional Italian family that worked in the produce business. He remembers rising at 3 a.m. with his father to get to the produce market, which looked like "a big city all lit up." He also loved watching his athletic dad, who completed sixteen Golden Gate crossings, swim with the Dolphin Club.

After serving in the army, Ray worked over for 30 years as an equipment manager and later foreman for PG&E, affectionately called "Pigs, Goats, and Elephants" in those days. One of his most memorable jobs was replacing the gas main and services on Lombard Street. He also helped out in his grandfather's Christmas tree business, once delivering a sixteen-foot tree to City Hall.

Ray and his wife, whose family was involved in Half Moon Bay produce business, raised two daughters, Karen and Christine. After his retirement, the two enjoyed cruising, including trips through the Panama Canal, Mexico and Hawaii. He advises his grandchildren: "You've got to get out there and work."

Ray's father loved to draw and Ray did art at Burlingame High School. "I enjoy doing something with my hands," he says, which includes working in the yard, as well as doing his art, some of which adorns his room.

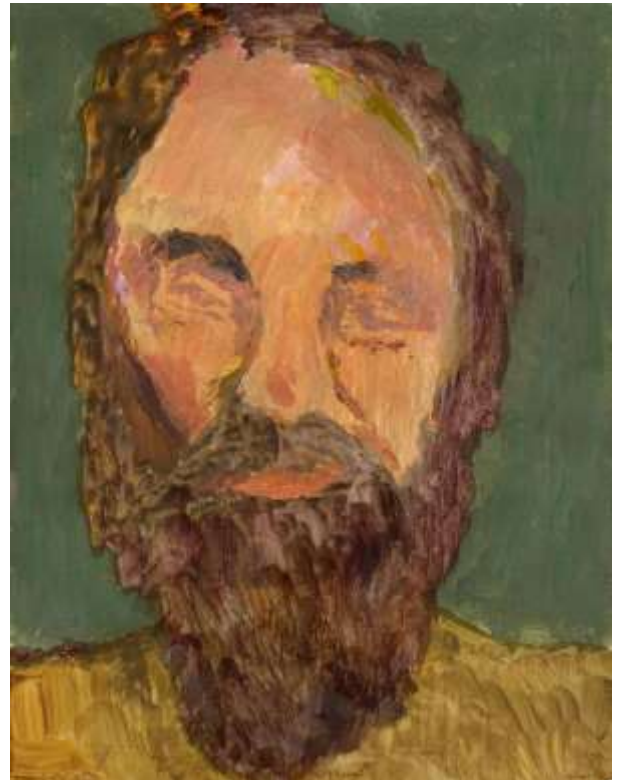
ART WITH ELDERS

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Hazel Yuen**

*"Portrait of a Man"*  
Peninsula Del Rey



Hazel was born in San Francisco in 1924. Her father's job as manager of Dollar Stores required that the family move frequently during her childhood. She met her husband at a Lake Tahoe Christian Conference, married at 22, and has two girls and one boy.

A registered nurse, Hazel recalls an amazing work adventure. Accompanying a sailor who could not fly due to a stroke, she made a three-week boat trip to Taiwan.

Her travels continued when her children were older. She and her husband traveled to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Southeast Asia and Europe. An avid shopper, Hazel says her favorite destination is Hong Kong.

Hazel likes being with people and says being involved in activities keeps her going. She's been creative in many ways all her life: singing in a church choir, making her own clothes, doing needlework, embroidery and knitting, and writing. When her children were younger she painted their portraits, paying them to pose. She has taken art classes in adult school and now enjoys painting landscapes.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Hisako Cardwell**  
"Church"  
Peninsula Del Rey

Hazel was born in San Francisco in 1924. Her father's job as manager of Dollar Stores required that the family move frequently during her childhood. She met her husband at a Lake Tahoe Christian Conference, married at 22, and has two girls and one boy.

A registered nurse, Hazel recalls an amazing work adventure. Accompanying a sailor who could not fly due to a stroke, she made a three-week boat trip to Taiwan.

Her travels continued when her children were older. She and her husband traveled to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Southeast Asia and Europe. An avid shopper, Hazel says her favorite destination is Hong Kong.

Hazel likes being with people and says being involved in activities keeps her going. She's been creative in many ways all her life: singing in a church choir, making her own clothes, doing needlework, embroidery and knitting, and writing. When her children were younger she painted their portraits, paying them to pose. She has taken art classes in adult school and now enjoys painting landscapes.

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Gretchen Klug**

*"Pink Panther"*

Raksha Care Home

Gretchen was born in Alliance, Nebraska, and lived in several Midwestern cities in her youth before the family moved to San Diego. Her German-born father, an osteopath, and her mother believed in the importance of healthy living and Gretchen was raised in a nudist camp from the age of 10-18.

After coming to Berkeley, she worked as a secretary, taking dictation for Chancellors Robert Gordon Sproul and Clark Kerr. She remembers fondly the sense of community in Berkeley at the time—the wine and spaghetti parties, poetry, meditation groups, and folk music. For years Gretchen helped raise her sister's children and she and her mother rented rooms to students who weren't welcome in other places. She has also worked for the California State Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation, Workmen's Comp and an alcoholism clinic, her favorite job.

Gretchen has been interested in art since her childhood when she made art with the children she babysat, and despite serious vision issues continues to this day. What she describes as her best painting was a huge tiger, which she had to stop painting because it kept getting "bigger and bigger." She's a fan of Frida Kahlo and her AWE art teacher describes her work as "having a shamanic, Native American feel."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Muriel Greenhut**  
*"Monday"*  
Raksha Care Home

Muriel, known as Mikki by friends and family, was born in New York City in 1928 and moved to California in 1976. She remembers well one of the happiest moments in her life—when a man called her with his finger and said: "Someday I'm going to marry you." He did, and they were married for 51 years. Muriel asserts with a smile that one thing she learned in life was "how to pick a man."

Besides raising one daughter, Muriel has always liked working with and around people. She worked as a legal secretary for many years and also has served as a crossing guard, polling place worker, and a filing clerk in a medical office. She admits that in high school she enjoyed drama and would have liked to have been an actress.

Muriel considers herself an "up person;" she is playful and has a great sense of humor. Her daughter, Marcy, describes her as generous, sweet and kind.

She loves music and dancing, especially square dancing, as well as playing mahjong. She also played handball and roller-skated in her youth. The only craft or art-related activities she engaged in before her AWE class were knitting and ceramics.



**Audiene Wilson**  
*"Hometown Village"*  
Redwood Healthcare

Audiene was born in Northern California where she spent her youth and much of her adulthood. After raising her two sons, she traveled to India and eventually moved there, living for many years in an ashram. That period of her life was one of spiritual and creative richness and growth. "I liked the freedom that I had in India," she says. She made many friends and spent her time at the ashram pursuing her spiritual practice and creating art. She was deeply inspired by her surroundings in India, which in turn influenced her paintings and drawings.

Audiene likes to paint flowers, among other things, and prefers painting on a small scale. "When I'm in a good mood," she says, "I like to spend time making art." Audiene also takes great pride and delight in her young grandchildren and looks forward to the time she shares with them.

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





**Canzanetta Lofton**  
*"I Like San Francisco"*  
Redwood Healthcare

Canzanetta, known as Kansas, likes to recount how she received her unusual name. When she was born, her mother, undecided on what to name her, consulted another new mother across the room. The woman, a stranger, suggested the exotic name. But Canzanetta's great grandmother, who lived to be 105, insisted on nicknaming her "Kansas," since it was easier to pronounce.

Born in Sacramento, the first of three children, Canzanetta later moved with her family to Oakland. She has worked in an educational guidance center and various libraries stocking books, as well as at the Salvation Army and in convalescent homes.

Canzanetta has suffered from seizures and headaches most of her life, and was often bullied in school for not "talking right." At the age of 18, with the help of Rev. Thomas Compton, she was fortunate to find a place where she could be herself—at the Berkeley Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

She enjoys the slow music of radio station 102.9 and gospel music. And her AWE classes offer her an unexpected benefit: she never gets a headache when she's working on her art.

"I didn't have any past experience with art," Canzanetta says. "I paint from what I feel. It just comes naturally."

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Celina Bauer**

*"Festival"*

Redwood Healthcare

Celina spent most of her life in El Salvador where she was born. She grew up in a close family with two brothers and a sister and says she was a studious child. She attended a girl's school where her athletic abilities were nurtured. She played on softball and basketball teams and developed a love of drawing in her early years. She later studied to be a secretary and joined both her parents in the profession working for the government.

She moved to the United States fifteen years ago, living first with friends in Washington D.C. and eventually joined her brother in California. She worked as a housekeeper for several years while attending school to learn English. She never forgot her native country and used to return when she was able for visits. Today she enjoys art classes at Oakhill Springs and visiting with her youngest brother.

" I didn't have any past experience with art", Celina says. "I paint from what I feel. It just comes naturally."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Laura Dittmore**

*"Flower in My Heart"*

Redwood Healthcare

Laura was born in 1961 in Oakland, California. She had two daughters and four grandchildren. Laura had been working many jobs such as a lab specialist and several art-related jobs. Her longest job was a wedding cake decorator where she enjoyed creating artistic patterns and colorful cakes for her clients. Her most memorable was the three tiers Christmas theme cake with many holly berries. As she recalled her memories, she smiled and said: "I love making beautiful colors and carve the shapes into little patterns on the cake, then fill the other side with the same techniques." Laura enjoyed attending Art with Elders class because she can be creative again.

Laura's mother was an artist who created artworks in oil paint, watercolor, mixed media with Japanese themes and children book illustrations. With her mother's influence, she used to create many artworks in different media such as Paper Mache, French style arts and crafts, balloons covered with painted animals, watercolor paintings and more. "Creating art can relax me and help me forget my physical pains! I used to live near by the beach, loved to travel and exercise a lot before I became disabled. Attending Art with Elders class helped me to regain those memories, I hope to recreate the memories of nature into my art." Laura also said: "Life should be enjoyable, just keep it simple!"

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Bess Meek**

"Mystifying Walk in Central Park"  
Reutlinger Community

"The colors are ecstatic," Bess giggles, as she describes one of her colorful paintings that hangs above her bed. "That's my little lavender person – it's me. I call it 'Voilà!' When I paint, the colors have fragrance, a memory, a temperature and a feeling."

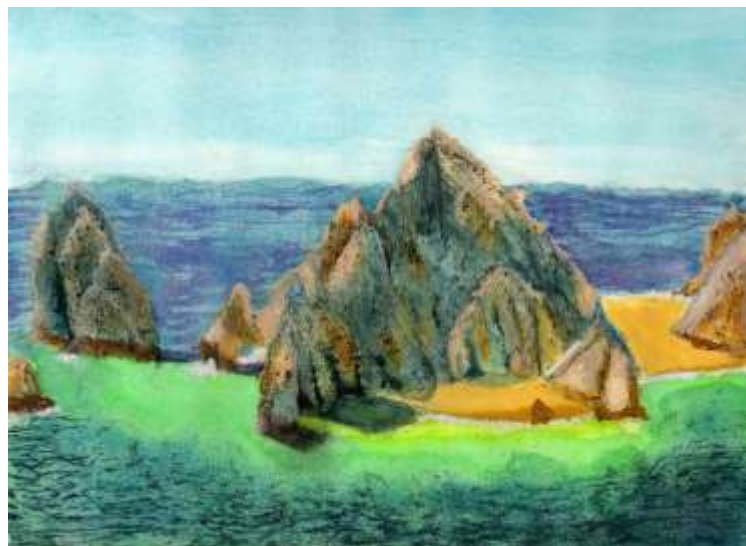
Bess is infectious, just like her art. "I've been happy since the day I was born," she says with a smile. She grew up in a family full of Pekinese and Pomeranian dogs, raised by her father, and reports proudly that she was frequently called on in class to read for the other immigrant students in the lower East Side of New York City, where she was born in 1932. Later she worked as an assistant bookkeeper for a giftware company, raised three children, and became intrigued with pharmacology.

Bess has read everything from Erma Bombeck to Lobsang Rampa and boasts, "I've learned how not to be a stick in the mud." She's a Gemini, loves German milk chocolate, and her favorite season is fall because "when you look outside, it makes you shiver inside."

Her wise advice: "If you don't laugh, you get in a rut. Life is here for the living."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Evelyne Ostreicher**

"The Meeting of the Two Seas at Cabo"

Reutlinger Community

Evelyn's room is full of memories—family photos, a certificate honoring her volunteer services from the Ohio House of Representatives and another from Ronald Reagan, and even the wooden cane of her mother, who died in her arms years ago. Her memories and her art seem to sustain her. And despite living over 50 years with multiple sclerosis, she says, "I'm grateful I still have my mind."

Born in Canada in 1930, Evelyn grew up with her brother in Loraine, Ohio. She met her husband, Ernie, there thanks to the efforts of her matchmaker father and his aunt, and three or four dates later, they got engaged over the phone.

Evelyn and Ernie worked together in Ernie's jewelry business and raised three daughters, Helen, Isabelle, and Sharon. In her free time, she loved volunteering, and has fond memories of the kosher cookies she took for "cookie time" at a home for the aged.

Evelyn never thought she could do art until she met Betty Rothaus, who has now become her favorite teacher of all time. She especially enjoys making interesting visual combinations of different nature scenes, like the winter clouds in Hawaii with the summer trees of Yosemite. "I look forward to coming to art class to explore myself and continue learning," she says.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Lucy Danzig (and Ofelia Gow)**

"Taking Off to Canada"  
Reutlinger Community

Lucy, who had never done art before coming to Reutlinger two years ago, is proud of the partnership she and her friend and caregiver Ofelia Gow have formed to create her art. "In our process," she says, "we discuss design and draw the images and then with Ofelia guiding my hand, together we paint."

Born in 1937 in Brooklyn, New York, Lucy moved to Los Angeles at the age of nine, where she later met her husband Bill in junior college. She supported him through dental school at NYU, working as an executive secretary, but made him promise to return to California to raise their children. They had three girls--- Dana, Susan, and Wendy—and now three grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Lucy cherishes her memory of taking the family on a Caribbean cruise on their 50th anniversary.

Lucy describes herself as an "up" person, with a lot of patience, a quality which proved invaluable through many years of helping her husband recover from a serious biking accident in 1999.

Now, besides stealing away to the art room, even when her teacher Betty Rothaus isn't there, Lucy enjoys playing poker, bingo and pokino.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Michie Takashima**

*"Tri Flower"*

Reutlinger Community

Born in Loomis, California in 1917, Michie spent her childhood working on her family's fruit farm, where she and her six siblings helped to harvest peaches, pears, plums, and cherries.

After high school she enrolled in business classes at Placer Jr. College and later pursued her creative interests through classes and lessons in flower arranging, tea ceremony ritual, and dress pattern drafting.

As a Japanese American, Michie and her family were interned during the war at Tule Lake in Northern California, where she worked for the hospital's chief medical officer. After the war, she worked for the U.S. Maritime Commission in San Francisco. Michie married in 1948 and she and her husband moved to Oakland and raised their two daughters. A skillful seamstress, Michie made their clothes throughout their childhood and used the remnants for making outfits for their dolls.

Michie attributes her long life to always having taken care of herself. "I ate well and cooked for myself and never drank or smoked."

She first started painting at Reutlinger and is surprised by what she has created. Michie gets her ideas from magazines and periodicals and then recombines them into her own compositions. "I am deeply satisfied with the results," she says. "It brightens my whole life!"

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Maher Salama**

*"The Dawn and the Moon"*

Reutlinger Community

"God bless America, the land that I love" says this 86-year-old Egyptian, who came to the U.S. in 1970. Maher studied English in high school and graduated in business management from the American University, where his father was a professor. Before coming to the U.S., he worked in an accounting company, and was an avid swimmer and member of the Greek rowing club.

With a kind smile, his gentle blue eyes light up when he describes the months of dancing and dining that led to marrying his wife of 55 years, Therese. Maher found a job (and a passion for chess) at Bank of America two days after his arrival here, where he worked until his early retirement. He still feels most "accomplished" when helping the needy. The couple has a son and daughter and three grandchildren.

A lover of classical music, especially the work of Chopin and Tchaikovsky, Maher enjoyed playing the piano. "As I love music, I love paint," he says now, after his introduction at Reutlinger to making art. And despite vision and shoulder problems, he revels in learning "how to paint beauty and how to expose it to other people—especially so the blind can see."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Rita R. Goldman**

*"Explosion of Spring Blossoms  
Awakens the Sleepy Mountain"*  
Reutlinger Community

It's easy to spot Rita in the halls of Reutlinger. Known as the "Flower Girl," she'll be wearing a colorful flower in her hair that matches her clothes and her personality. But her life hasn't been as bright as she is.

Eighty-three-year-old Rita grew up in Washington D.C. in a family permeated by her Polish mother's losses during the Holocaust. Her early hopes to become a counterculture artist were quickly dashed by a Corcoran Gallery art teacher, who told her she'd never be an artist. But she managed to write poems for the local Jewish paper, and eventually became a school psychologist, married and had four children.

At the age of 49, Rita suffered a devastating stroke that left her wheelchair-bound, paralyzed on her right side and blind in one eye. Even after her stroke she finished a Ph.D., did volunteer work, including counseling and tutoring in the temple, and endured the tragic loss of her 33-year-old son, Shalom.

Now, painting with her left hand, the art program is "a shining light" for her. "I feel like my disability was an opportunity to do good deeds and learn," she says.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Rhoda Wasserman**

*"The Grist Mill"*

Reutlinger Community

Rhoda was born across from the Hudson River on Riverside Drive, Manhattan, which she describes as the most beautiful place she ever lived. She moved to the Bronx as a child and lived there many years, marrying and raising her three children. Rhoda attended business school and worked first as an accountant for her husband, a contractor, and later for AT&T. When her children were grown she moved to San Diego where she lived for more than 30 years.

She started painting three years ago. "I never even knew I could draw before I started working with Betty and AWE. Now, after painting for several years, I see variations in size, color, depth, lights and darks, focus and originality."

Rhoda takes pleasure selecting books at the Reutlinger library and also enjoys movies and visiting museums with her daughter. She has a vibrant laugh and describes herself as a happy person, but admits, "I don't know if you make your own happiness -- if it's luck or what." At age 96 Rhoda has learned much from life and says, "Everything is a learning experience. You have to keep your interest in things and I do. I have a lot of fun painting. If it wasn't fun, I probably wouldn't be doing it."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*

**Barbara Rosston**  
*"Lady in Red"*  
San Francisco Towers



Painting has been what Barbara calls a "sometime hobby" throughout her life. Her parents, she says, had "an artistic eye" and her sister has also taken up painting. Now, at the age of 91 she feels that art provides her "an outlet."

Born in Manhattan, Barbara, who describes herself as a shy person, moved to California sixty years ago. She did post-graduate work at Stanford in physiology and worked in medical research. She and her husband Jack raised two sons, both of whom still live close by on the Peninsula. She's feels lucky to have wonderful family support.

After retirement, Barbara was a dedicated volunteer reading for the blind. Now, suffering from macular degeneration, she admits that painting is hard for her. But she's found a temporary solution to help herself distinguish the colors better: she puts the paint first on paper.

"Beach Umbrellas" is actually based on a painting Barbara did years ago--of rain umbrellas. She prefers oils over watercolor, as she likes to be able to correct her mistakes and is very grateful for the encouragement of her teacher Rafael.

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Fukon Yen**  
*"Northern Lights"*  
San Francisco Towers

ART WITH ELDERS  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Ophelia**  
*"Flower Card"*  
San Francisco Towers



ART WITH ELDERS  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Aurora Gamboa-Spikol**

*"Seascape"*

The Carlisle

As vibrant as the colors she loves, Aurora was born in Manila in 1937. The youngest of five, she left in 1964 to work with the Philippine Foreign Service, spending six years in Rome -- where she became fluent in Italian, two years in Toronto, and then thirty-four years with the World Bank in Washington, D.C., where she met her husband, Ade.

Aurora began studying art in 1990, and became an active member of the World Bank's art society. She especially enjoys painting landscapes and still lifes. She also enjoys music and French and Italian film from the '50s and '60s.

"I'm 80. I'm happy at this stage of my life. I had the opportunity to do what I liked to do, to discover life. They say we have no time, but if you want something, you have to give time to it. The more you paint, the more you discover yourself. It's always a challenge, but at the end, you feel so good. I see the artwork of other people here, and it's wonderful. Everybody has their own talent. If you're challenged, try and try. You'll find that you have the talent; you just have to develop it!"

ART WITH ELDERS

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Bob Nelson**

*"Untitled Landscape"*

The Carlisle

Bob was born in Milwaukee ninety-five years ago. The oldest of two sons, he has fond memories of his warm, loving mother. After graduating from Michigan State, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service from 1943 to 1947, near Mt. Lassen, living on a tent platform with his beloved late wife, with whom he had four children. "Jill shared all of my adventures and successes, and she learned to love the outdoors as much as I did."

Always drawn to water, they lived on Pewaukee Lake, Wisconsin after returning to work for his family's film processing business. Upon retirement, the couple moved to Marco Island, Florida, becoming avid sailors. "Jill was the first woman elected Commodore of a racing yacht club," he says proudly. Bob also started painting in earnest, mainly watercolor landscapes.

Bob began losing his eyesight in 2009. He moved to San Francisco four months ago and dove right into Carlisle life, joining the art class, the foreign policy discussion group, and the food and dinner committee. Now legally blind but undaunted, he's trying acrylics and oils. True to his indomitable spirit, Bob advises, "The first brushstroke is the most difficult. You never know if it will turn out well, but you never know until you try. Just do it!"

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## Jayne Ross Matsuda

"Four Photos"

The Carlisle

Sure that she was destined for a more-than-average life, Jayne Ross fled her childhood base in New Jersey for New York City as soon as she could. Her father was willing to pay only for post-high school courses that would provide "practical skills". No college for her. The first class she took? HOW TO BECOME A PBX OPERATOR! But working the switchboard for several Manhattan-based companies infused her with a life-long fascination with business and launched several careers that eventually landed her in upper management positions at CBS. It was also in New York that she married George Matsuda.

Daily immersion in the broadcast business led Jayne to take acting lessons which she then used to land roles in TV commercials. From there she went into actual television programming where she especially enjoyed being part of the cast of "Law and Order." After forty years in New York, a timely sale of real estate (George's area of expertise) prompted a move to Seattle and from there, just a few years ago, to San Francisco.

By her own admission, Jayne has had a long-time but erratic interest in the visual arts. It has only been at The Carlisle, in the Art With Elders class, that she has found a teacher who can instill the discipline required to learn the skills that result in a deeply satisfying art practice.

ART WITH ELDERS

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





**Kioku Kay Matsuda**  
"Words"  
The Sequoias

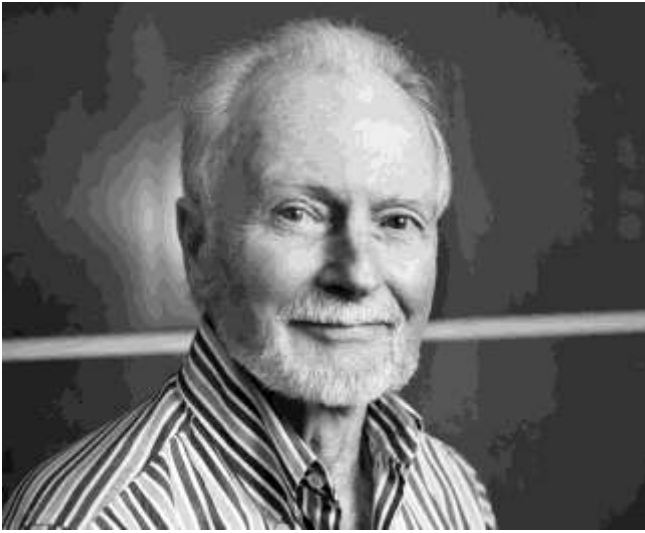
Born in the northern rural area of the Big Island of Hawaii, Kay grew up on a sugar cane plantation. A trained nurse, she came to San Francisco in 1949-- the only one of her six siblings who emigrated to the mainland--and worked for many years at St. Francis Hospital.

After over sixty years of marriage, Kay asserts, "The three things I live by are trust, respect, and responsibility." She believes deeply in keeping life simple. At the Sequoias, this articulate and independent 89-year old goes up to the roof at dawn to view "nature's gallery" and works out at the gym. She also draws, paints or thinks about her art daily.

May drew nothing other than stick figures before she took art lessons from a resident artist at the Sequoias and then joined the AWE class. Now, she says, "When I finish my drawing or painting, I look at it and say, 'Now, did I do this?' It's something I created and it's a moment I treasure."

One of Kay's art projects has included a series of drawings depicting her family history, accompanied by stories to pass on to her nieces, nephews and grand-nephews.

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Richard Williams**

*"Fire and Ice"*

The Sequoias

Born in Ypsilanti, Michigan, Richard grew up in Wisconsin, went to Northwestern University, and performed in live theatre, mostly comedies and musicals, for twenty years. His favorite character was playing King Arthur in Camelot.

But his true passion is ceramics. Richard returned to school for an MFA in ceramics and came to California planning to become a potter. He has worked in San Francisco's Castro district for thirty years as one of the managers of a non-profit studio for ceramic artists – Ruby's Clay Studio – where he has his studio.

Richard has been an avid participant in Art With Elders for many years, painting stunning landscapes of some of his favorite spots. Richard exhibits with us frequently, often choosing to donate his work. Richard has been in the "Artist Spotlight" of our newsletter and his recently sold work, *Stony Cliff*, was on the cover of our 24th Annual Show Program.

Richard, who describes himself as a generally positive person and a peacemaker, is excited about painting. "You're never too old to discover new things," he says and quips, "I doubt I'll develop into Grandpa Moses, but I'm having a great time in my AWE class."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Bonnie Peterson**

*"Abstract Circles"*

*The Village at Hayes Valley*

Bonnie (Bonita) is a native San Franciscan of Swedish extraction who used to draw for hours, according to her mother, Jeanne, and sister, Billie Jean Wall. All three have blue eyes. Bonnie attended Louise Lombard School, and worked as a gardener at Mills-Peninsula Hospital. "She's a perfectionist and was very good at her job," says Jeanne.

Bonnie was always very athletic in everything from gymnastics to horseback riding to her favorite, swimming, since age 3 at the Janet Pomeroy Recreation Center for the Handicapped. A regular participant in Special Olympics till age 51, she was the state champion in power lifting for her weight class, and posed for a photo once with Arnold Schwarzenegger. She had physical strength even as a baby and was nicknamed "Bonnie Biceps."

An accomplished, committed artist, Bonnie has shown and sold her work at The Arc San Francisco. She has painted portraits of Tilda Swinton and Priscilla Presley, sewn flowers and teddy bears with needle and yarn, and used "psychedelic colors" in pictures of stained glass in adult coloring books.

At 54, Bonnie is a seasoned world traveler who has gone on Hawaiian and European cruises with her family. Social and affectionate, she has a great sense of humor and "... a lot of personality in a tiny little body," says Jeanne. "She has had nothing but love her whole life, including lots of friends at church."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Toula Caloyanides**

*"Owl"*

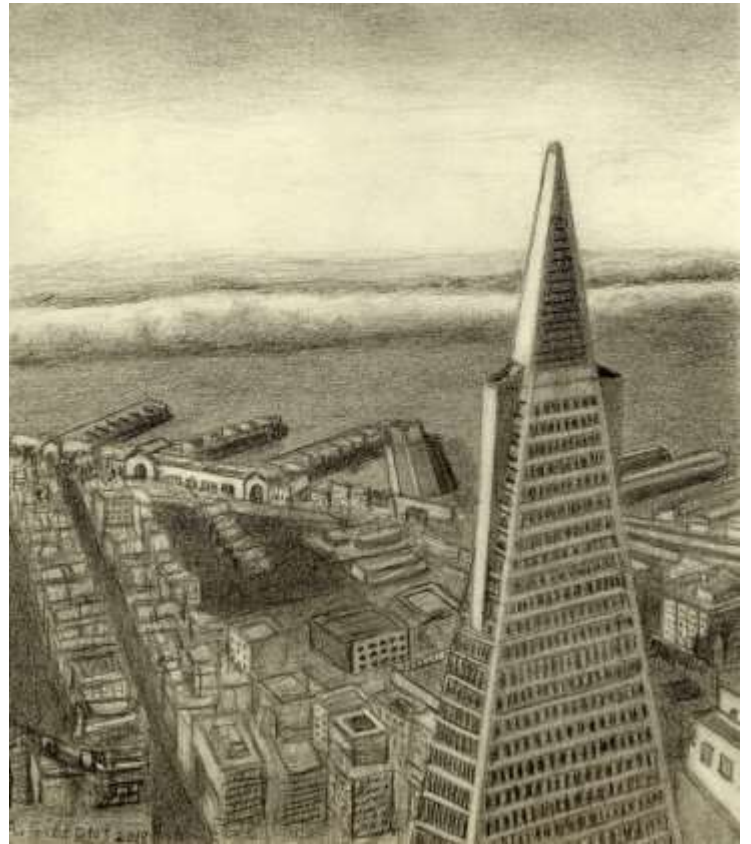
*The Village at Hayes Valley*

At 90, Toula has so much vitality in her. She loves dancing and singing in a group, listening to piano music, outings to the park, and the simple pleasure of eating a soft pear. She's happy and talkative. As an artist, she draws, paints, and colors. While working on a picture of a woman, maybe her mother, she remembers her as "very beautiful. She wore beautiful homemade dresses." Toula herself loves to dress in lovely clothes, and sometimes changes outfits four or five times in a day.

An only child originally from Greece, Toula never married, and kept busy her whole life. Her family came to New York when she was very young, and she worked in an office there. They later came to California "for the good weather."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**Alice Gibbons**

*"Northeast from Pyramid"*  
Western Park Apartments

"In the legendary neighborhood of Montparnasse, the most celebrated painters and the most secretive amateurs come to the Academie de la Grande Chaumiere to practice the timeless art of painting" – *taken from the Academy's historical sketch*. After four years of study at the San Francisco Art Institute, majoring in printmaking, Alice Gibbons recalls fondly the spring of 1967 when she went to Paris to study at the Academy to improve her painting and drawing techniques.

Artistic inclinations surfaced early in Alice's life in her native San Francisco. And she has worked devotedly to achieve a high degree of competence – a devotion that has paid off handsomely in local, national and international exhibits of her prints, drawings and etchings. She is represented by galleries through the U.S. and abroad and her prints especially are in many private collections.

Alice loves entertaining a concept, image or idea and then grappling with just how to communicate this idea through art. When she gets stuck doing this, that's when she'll return to the classroom to perfect her techniques. She's determined to find a way to express herself. "I find I become quite peaceful in this process," she notes, "it's nutrition for the soul. I feel better physically, too."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





**Barbara Gray**  
*"Silent Reverie"*  
Western Park

In words and paint Barbara Gray still describes with incredible detail the pre-revolutionary house in historic Monmouth County, New Jersey, where she grew up. "It was the kind of house that creaked and made noises," she says of her home of fifteen years.

Barbara comes from an artistic family. Her father, who died early in her life, was a pen and ink artist; her mother did all kinds of crafts, including colorful embroidery; and her grandmother made rugs of braided strips of material. Some of her happiest memories are of family holiday gatherings, including summer vacations spent on the shores of New England.

For a while, Barbara attended the Pratt Institute, where she worked in fabric design. She then went to night school to become a graphic artist, and art became a hobby. She's happy to be back painting, especially in her preferred medium of water color. Barbara advises: "You're painting for yourself, but it's important to let somebody else see it. They may see something you don't see."

**ART WITH ELDERS**  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



## **Pearl Yue**

*"Back Home in the Sunset"*

Western Park

"I have loved art since I was seven years old," Pearl Yue will tell you. "I spent a lot of time in my bedroom painting." Her sisters and brother also showed decided artistic talents early in life but their father warned them, "Artists only become famous when they're dead. Get work that will support you!" Pearl found a career as a microbiologist for China's Academy of Science.

Born and raised in Tianjin, in Northern China, Pearl's family owned an herb factory over a 300-year period that produced such high-quality products that the Emperor made it the royal pharmacy. Her father was the last of the family to manage it when the communist regime put an end to private property ownership.

Pearl and her husband moved to San Francisco in 1990 with their son and daughter and she quickly found work at U.C.S.F. Even then, though, she continued to make art – taking charge of holiday decorations at work and painting in the evenings and weekends at a gallery on Sutter Street. She retired in 2002 and moved into Western Park Apartments almost six years ago. She was delighted to find a thriving Art With Elders program there and takes advantage of the art studio as often as possible.

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*



**John Cragin**  
*"Abstract"*  
Western Park

John embraces life; his motto is "Be outrageously funny!" He was born in Massachusetts in 1936, and then moved to New Hampshire, where his father bought a general store in a town of 1,000 people. Raised on a farm, he remembers milking cows, baling hay, and collecting maple syrup.

His career began with a stint in New York, studying acting. He then hitchhiked across the United States with his dog Charlie to Hollywood, where he became a stage manager at the Camino Playhouse, living in the theater's green room.

When John moved to the Bay Area, he took classes in photography and later graduated with a Master's degree in psychology from Sonoma State. He subsequently taught psychology classes for five years at the University of Maryland's campus in Munich, Germany.

After a pilgrimage to Israel, John returned to California, where he obtained a license in Marriage and Family Counseling. Unable to find a job in San Francisco's tight market, his career took yet another turn. He was hired as a gardener at the Presidio, where he worked for fifteen years until his retirement.

John started painting with watercolors, but is now doing abstracts in acrylics.

ART WITH ELDERS  
*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*





## **Yu Mei Lu**

*"Autumn's Symphony"*

Western Park

Born in mainland China, Yu Mei Lu grew up in a large family in rural Taiwan, where survival meant a lot of hard work. Her first visit to the U.S. was with her husband, a pastor, to Amherst, Massachusetts, where she studied English and art--useful skills for a kindergarten teacher. The two devout Christians returned to Taiwan, where she taught and did church work in a hospital.

Mei came to live in San Francisco in 2007 to be near her adopted daughter. She also has a son in Boston and three grandchildren, and enjoys playing piano, cross-stitching, and knitting.

The fall colors of the maple trees in Amherst still influence Yu Mei's work. "I appreciate those natural things," she says. The 75-year old loves the feeling of freedom that painting gives her, especially with acrylics. It took her awhile to learn that in art, "You don't follow. You just do what you want-- not like in China."

Art, she feels, increases your self-confidence, and "makes your life happy and peaceful." Her advice: "Art is from the inside--it's your idea. Don't let outside things cover your inside things."

**ART WITH ELDERS**

*26th Annual Art With Elders Exhibit*