



Coachella Valley
Watercolor Society

Brush Up
May 2026

ZOOM General Meeting: May 11, 2026

5:30pm Social Time

6:00 pm Meeting

(See page 11 for Zoom instructions)

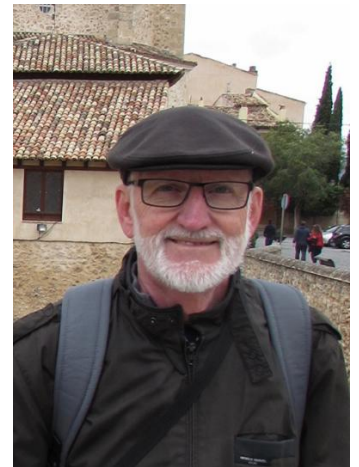
Painter of the Year Jurist Harold Walkup

Harold Walkup is a signature member of the National Watercolor Society, the Northwest Watercolor Society, The Western Federation of Watercolor Societies and the Watercolor Society of Oregon. His works are in public and private collections throughout the U.S. and in other countries, including Russia, Spain and South America.

Harold's paintings have received many national and regional awards, including The Grumbacher Silver Medal, Winsor Newton Painting Award, Watercolor Society of Oregon Best of Show, and recent 2nd and 5th places in the Northwest Watercolor Society Exhibitions in Seattle, Washington. His paintings have been featured in numerous art publications including by Northlight Publishing in "Splash 4", Best of Watercolor II, and "Best of Color: Painting Color", Nina Leland's book "Exploring Color Workshop" which includes 3 of Harold's paintings, and many others.

In 2023 Harold's painting "The Light We Seek" was accepted into the 156th Annual American Watercolor Society Exhibition in New York City and was awarded the Mary S. Litt Memorial Medal.

Harold earned a B.A. degree in Advertising Art & Design at Texas Tech University and has been a popular juror and workshop teacher for the past 35 years.



How to Enter Painter of the Year

If you have won ANY ribbon at the PAINTER OF THE MONTH competitions this 2025 – 2026 season, you are eligible to enter Painter of the Year.

You may enter your originally awarded painting or another painting if it was **created within the last two years** and has **not been in a juried show**.

May 1st is the deadline for submission of all entry photos at <https://www.cvws.org/painter-of-the-year-upload-2026>.

Harold Walkup will announce the winners and give critiques of all the work submitted. You can view his presentation at the **CVWS Zoom meeting on May 11th**. You will receive a link to the Zoom meeting by email.

If you have any questions, please contact Connie Zane at cpinenuts@gmail.com

President's Message



Bob Hannah, President

CVWS 2025 – 2026 Officers

President: Bob Hannah

Exec. VP: Connie Zane

1st VP- Programs:

2nd VP – Shows:

Mary Anne Brower
& Ian Cooke

3rd VP – Publicity:

Kathy Weyer

Treasurer: Cindy Mason

Recording Secretary:

Alicia Siegler

Corresponding Secretary -

Newsletter: Jean Grover

2025-2026 Committee

Chairs:

DVD Library: Vera Knowles

Grants: Nancy Rizzardi

Membership:

Connie Collins

Painter of the Month/Year:

Connie Zane

Raffle: Sharon Mabrey

Sunshine: Cindy Green

Web Chair: Lance Brechbill

Workshops:

Sue Ober & Traci Davis

May 2026

Wow! This year has just flown by. The April meeting was our last in person general meeting of the year. It was great to see some new faces, and one of our guests was visiting all the way from Thailand. Dave Howell, our demonstrator, did a great job with his fast and loose style.



Our May meeting will be our final event of the year, held on Zoom for Painter of the Year. This is always a good meeting as each painting will be critiqued and you'll be able to see and hear all the comments made by the judge for every painting submitted. It's a great event. There will be an e-blast with links to the zoom meeting so everyone should be able to log in. Don't miss it.

If you've won any ribbon during this season, you're eligible to participate in the POY. Entry will be online on the CVWS website. Remember you don't have to submit the painting that got you the ribbon, if it's a painting created in the last two years and hasn't been in a judged show before. Please visit www.cvws.org to familiarize yourself with the process.

The April Meeting was also the election of the newly elected Board officers for the 2026-2027 and 2027 - 2028 seasons. I'm confident that our new President elect, Kat Weyer, will do a fantastic job. Carrie Bova is our new 1st VP – Programs, and Jennifer Winn is our new 3rd VP – Publicity. These newly elected board members will inject new ideas and give our watercolor society an exciting shot in the arm for the coming seasons. Not to be left out, the remaining returning Board Members are Mary Anne Brower and Ian Cooke - Shows, Cindy Mason - Treasurer, Alicia Siegler - Recording Secretary, and Jean Grover - Corresponding Secretary / Newsletter.

As always keep putting those "miles on the brush"!

Bob

April 2026 Painter of the Month

Photos courtesy of Terry Simons

**1st Place & Demonstrator's Award:
Jennifer Winn**



2nd Place: Mike Cedeno



3rd Place: Cindy Mason



Honorable Mention: Carrie Bova



Membership

Welcome to New CVWS Members:

- Janet Barajas
- Anne Finch
- Emelita Gasco
- Sandra Kalas
- Kathryn Kleiter
- Alice Santos
- Jane Zimmer

IF YOU LIKE TO WRITE & WANT TO BE PUBLISHED...READ THIS!!!!

Want to do something fun and help CVWS at the same time?

After winning the election for President (unopposed - it was a tough campaign), I must let go of one particular job I really enjoyed doing.

This job was to interview new CVWS members and find out about them, pick up a few good concepts from the conversation, write it up and send it in to Jean for the newsletter. It really takes less than an hour from start to finish.

This was more fun than I thought it would be! Chatting with someone you don't know to find out about their art turns into talking about life, kids, grandkids, past livelihoods, (and oh yes, painting...). Every conversation meant we found something in common. Every conversation resulted in laughter. Every conversation left me happy.

If you are interested in chatting with someone with like interests and writing an article, let me know at katmweyer@gmail.com. I would love to turn it over to someone who will enjoy it as much as I did.

Membership, continued

MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

Submitted by Connie Zane

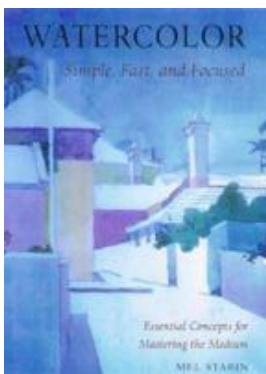
Learning from the Masters

You may have heard of Mel Stabin, one of the leading watercolorists of our time. At 95, he is no longer giving art workshops around the world, which he did for some 25 years, but is retired in New Jersey. He studied under, and was close friends with the renowned Edgar Whitney, a pioneer in art workshops and what came to be known as the “California School” of painting.

In his book, Watercolor - Simple, Fast and Focused, Stabin presents his view of the essential concepts for mastering the medium. His three main goals for painters are:

- 1) **Simplify** - Stabin feels simplicity is a powerful force. Resist the urge to include everything and overwork details. Complexity may simply create chaos. Art is often a process of subtraction, not addition. Try to connect big shapes.
- 2) **Think and paint quickly** - Water doesn't wait...it dries out and we have to move quickly. He says, “Watercolor likes to misbehave. It is at its best when it is set free and does what it wants.” He believes that one shouldn't worry about the outcome. He references a quote from Edgar Whitney, who stated, “The objective is not to create a work of art: the objective is to adopt a frame of mind that makes art inevitable.” So, Stabin recommends that we just RELAX, and let watercolor do what it's going to do. He also believes that we shouldn't take ourselves or our art too seriously. Art should be fun.
- 3) **Focus** - He says when things don't turn out, just let it be and move on. And don't belabor all your decisions and brushstrokes. Instead, paint quickly and try to make each single brushstroke say as much as you can. He says the worth of your painting doesn't depend on how long it took to paint. And then he jokes, “Why spend three hours working a painting when you can fail in an hour and a half?”

His book (online for about \$7.00) is full of good advice plus his beautiful artwork. It is short, (just 111 pages) to the point and well worth a read.



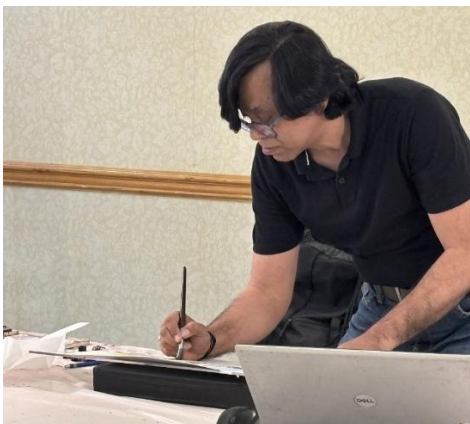
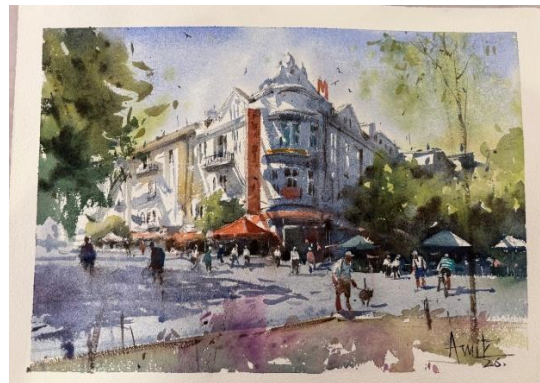
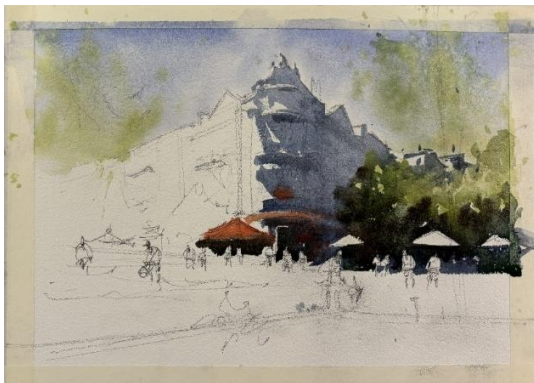
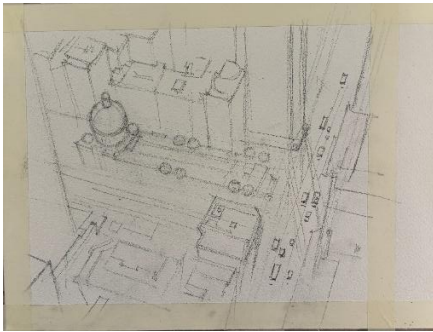
Workshops

What an awesome four days we had in March. The Coachella Valley Watercolor Society hosted an amazing artist from India. Amit Kapoor was in the house and painted up a storm. It was a great opportunity to see how he approaches the very difficult subjects he paints. It was a real confidence boost to realize this possibility could be attained. He is a true master of the medium.

Stay tuned to our website at cvws.org for future announcements on visiting artists and workshops next season.

Susan Ober, Workshops Co-Chair

Photos from Amit Kapoor's workshop:



News

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW CVWS BOARD MEMBERS!



President: Kat Weyer



Programs: Carrie Bova



Publicity: Jennifer Winn

Cindy Mason, CVWS Treasurer, shares this information from our recent Annual Show showing how people heard about it:

<u>What Brought them to the Show</u>		
Friend	284	63%
Walk-in/Saw the Sign	60	13%
Return Visitor	42	9%
Postcards, Email, Website	34	8%
Desert Sun	20	4%
DAC	8	2%
Artists Council	5	1%
	453	



Kyoko Iguchi, who has been a CVWS member and generous volunteer for many years is going to be permanently moving back to Japan, probably sometime this summer.

As we bid you a fond farewell, Kyoko, please know that we will miss you!

News, continued:

Save the Dates!

Next year's **Annual Show** which will once again be the first week of March: Monday March 1 to Sunday March 7, 2027

Photo/Art/Write Project



Thank you to all who participated in this fun project. I hope you had some relaxing painting time with this as a palette cleanser (pun intended) after the big Annual Show. By the time you read this, the Pen Women will be working away at a story or poem to go with your masterpieces.

The Pen Women have invited all participants to their May lunch meeting where they will show your art and read the written interpretation of the art. It is sure to be a fun afternoon.

When I have the details of the date, time, and location of the luncheon I will forward it to all the participants.

Thank you again, and I hope to have more fun projects like this in the new year! - Kat Weyer

We have received word that Mary Minamide, of one of the Founding Members of CVWS, passed away on April 16, 2026, at the age of 99.
May she rest in peace.

Kudos

Congratulations to Jean Bradley

for winning the Desert Art Center's Artist of the Year competition in April.



We are always interested in hearing about any good news you have about your creative life (awards, show acceptances, etc.).

Please send your submissions to the newsletter
on or before the 15th of the month to:
cvwsnewsletter@gmail.com

Veronique Branger was kind enough, for what has turned out to be a "Slow Kudos" month, to share a couple of pictures of her Hat Series, saying "There is a quiet power in what we don't immediately see - those hidden layers beneath the surface that invite reflection and stir the imagination. I wanted to explore that sense of mystery and personal discovery through the simple act of looking away."



Brimming With Confidence



Red Hat

Odds & Ends

Coachella Valley Watercolor Society 2026-2027 Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Kat Weyer
Executive Vice President: Bob Hannah
1st Vice President (Programs): Carrie Bova
2nd Vice President (Shows): MaryAnne Brower, Ian Cooke
3rd Vice President (Publicity): Jennifer Winn
Treasurer: Cindy Mason
Recording Secretary: Alicia Siegler
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Committee Chairs:

DVD Library: Vera Knowles
Grants: Nancy Rizzardi
Membership: Connie Collins
Painter of the Month/Year: Connie Zane
Raffles: Sharon Mabrey
Sunshine: Cindy Green
Website Chair: Open
Workshops: Susan Ober & Traci Davis



If you hear of someone who needs a bit of cheer or support, please contact our Sunshine Chairman, Cindy Green at (425) 765-9509 or cindynwrs@seanet.com



Editor's Note: If you have a topic or feature that you'd like to see included in the CVWS newsletter, or on the CVWS.org website, please send an email to: cvwsnewsletter@gmail.com

Many CVWS members offer excellent painting instruction and classes. Call for information:

Ian Cooke	760 408 3313
Ellen Jean Diederich	701-799-9505
Bob Hannah	206-409-9786
Karin Harris	808-268-0847
Dave Howell	425-319-5858
Moira Johannessen	760-322-2523
Diane Morgan	760-902-8855
Alicia Siegler	650-207-0585
Suzy Voss	209-768-7647
Connie Zane	775-846-9719



Instagram:
<https://www.instagram.com/cvwatercolor/>



Follow us on social media!

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=coachella%20valley%20watercolor%20society>

Instructions for Joining the CVWS Zoom Meeting

5:30 pm Social Time, 6:00 pm Meeting Begins

We recommend you log in 10 minutes before the meeting to get yourself set up.

ALSO Watch the YouTube Videos at the end of this page.

1. Zoom works best on a Desktop Computer, an iPad or Tablet or an IOS/Android Phone.
2. Get on your device, open your CVWS email and look for “Meeting ID#...write this number down. Then click on the link in the email that says, “Join Zoom Meeting”. This will take you to Zoom. If you want to listen via regular telephone (not smartphone), use any of the teleconferencing phone numbers at the bottom of the email invitation.
3. When Zoom opens, click Join a Meeting.
4. It will ask for the Meeting ID Number and Password, which will be in your email invitation. Enter your name. This identifies you to others in the meeting.
5. Click Join. Then Click Join With Video or Join Without Video, if you don’t want others to see you.
6. Click Join with Computer Audio. If you don’t have a microphone enabled on your device, you can type in your questions during the Q&A using the Chat feature at the bottom of your screen. If you use an Android or IOS phone, tap the screen and the controls will appear. **YOU’RE IN!!**
7. When you enter the meeting, you will see the person that is talking on your full screen (“Speaker View”). If you would also like to see the other participants in the meeting in a grid layout, switch to “Gallery View”. The controls for these are: a. Desktop Windows or Mac: On the top right of your screen. b. iPad: On the top left. c. Android/IOS phone: Swipe left to switch from Active Speaker view to Gallery View. Keep swiping left to see more of the gallery.
8. Your microphone and video on/off are on the bottom left of a desktop. Tap the screen for smartphones and iPads and the toolbar will come up. You will see icons for the microphone and video with a bar through them if they are not on. During the meeting presentations, your mic will be off unless you’re called on to ask a question, and then the meeting manager will turn on your mic.
9. If you want to leave the meeting, click End, then Leave Meeting. **There are a number of good videos that you can watch to help you use Zoom for the first time. Here are a couple:**

Joining a Zoom Call for the 1st Time – A Fun and Easy Connection: <https://youtu.be/9isp3qPeQ0E>

Joining a Zoom Call for the 1st Time – A Cozy Step by Step Guide: <https://youtu.be/6fIYWnfTc5o>