



Community Outreach — Oakland Veterans

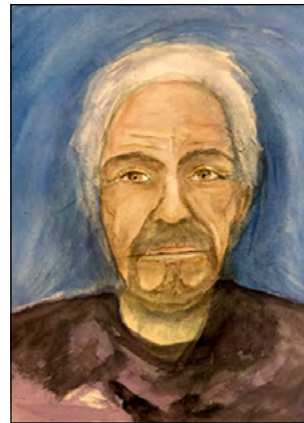
Finishing Out the Year 2024

2024 was a good year for Outreach with the Oakland Veterans. We began working in a new place, a room with wonderful natural light in the VA Outpatient building on the 21st in Oakland. We gained a highly skilled new CWA volunteer, Pat Mosek, whose work is abstract, she is capable in all subject matter. She and Michael Friedland led the group, with Sheila Cain assisting.

Throughout the year we covered many different watercolor skills. We began with a lily floral which involved a range of whites with a blush of pink, then mid-range green to dark green leaves. The next lesson was the basic shapes applied to a still life. While we could have continued with just the basic shapes—cube, cone, ball, and cylinder—it was beneficial to see these forms applied to a still life setting.

Next, we tackled two landscapes. The first was a three-piece band playing outside in a farm venue. The second was a value study of a shack on the horizon with fields and a foreground fence. The next month involved a full-color version of the same composition. Pat led an abstract diptych on Yupo paper including collage. It was a nice change of pace and a whole new way of thinking. Michael led a snowy landscape.

We rounded out the year with a portrait and then self-portraits. We had painted self-portraits ten years earlier. For myself, I noticed that they hadn't become any easier. In our December class, we continued working on unfinished projects or painted new ones. The group's watercolor skills are improving.



We are growing together in more ways than one. One of our members had a health crisis and her recovery was a great relief. We enter 2025 with gratitude for the health that we have and best wishes for the coming new year.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach