



Community Outreach — Oakland Veterans

The Ladies Take Over the Oakland Vet Group



Painting trucks was the subject of the June class and, ironically, only women attended. The men had their excuses, I'm sure. Nevertheless, they weren't there. We had begun painting the truck previously, looking to use a granulation technique to achieve the look of rust. This is the first time we extended a project over more than one month and seems luxurious. Most of the paintings look unusually complete. Others were clearly incomplete and may have lost some freshness due to too much concentration on small areas and not considering the big picture. It was fun to only have women, though it wasn't that different for me. It's a pleasure to paint in a group and see each other's approaches and progress.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach

If you'd like to be a pen pal, please volunteer!

CWA received an unusual four-page handwritten letter recently. The writer referred to it as "a message in a bottle." The writer is an inmate in a California Correctional Rehabilitation Facility. He has been discipline-free for ten years which qualified him for the Hobby program. Now he has been in the Hobby program for six years and is the Hobby Coordinator. There are 200 artists in the program. His responsibilities are enlisting others in the Hobby program, ordering art supplies from Dick Blick, and giving general art advice. Over the years he has experimented with many mediums, but spends the most time with watercolors. He likes painting landscapes. He writes, "When I am in the process of creating art it promotes inner peace, calm, and I lose track of time. Joining the Hobby program here helps keep my mind focused on art instead of committing another crime." He is looking for a pen pal who can advise on tools that will work across multiple media, e.g., gouache, oil, watercolor, water-soluble graphic, acrylic and more. Also, he would like this pen pal to be a support group that looks at his artwork and gives constructive feedback on how to improve it. He has no access to computer or cell phone, so all communication will have to be via U.S. Mail. That's all. The writer is very polite. I have responded to his letter with some advice on watercolor materials. This is a volunteer opportunity for which you can earn points to use in a CWA workshop, or other items in our online store. If you're interested, I will send you all four pages of the letter, and you can decide. Just email me at sheilahillcain@gmail.com and put Pen Pal in the title.

