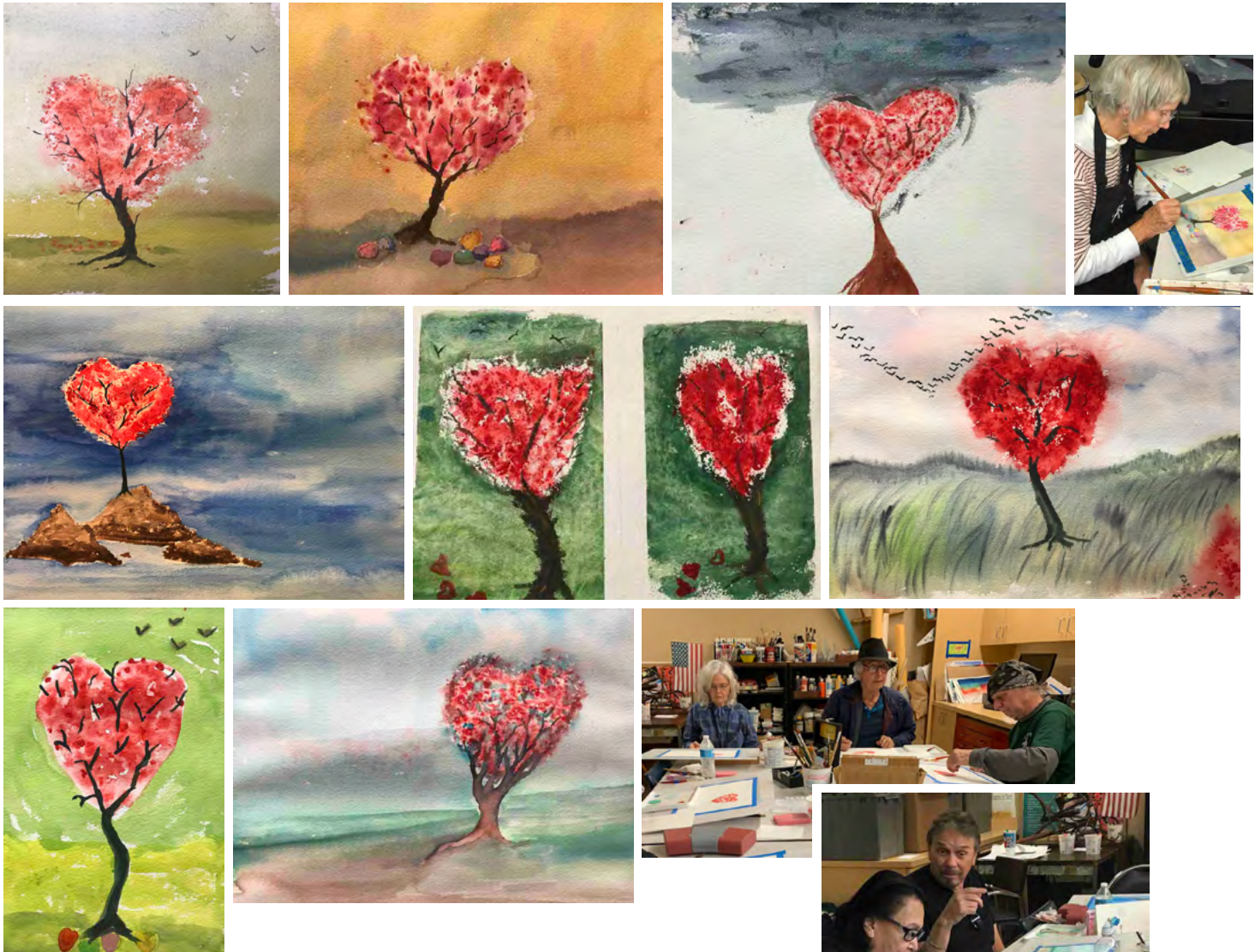


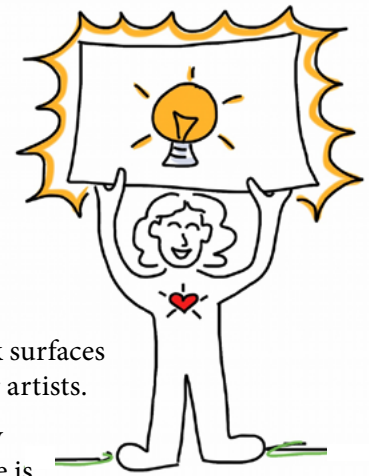
Valentine Trees

Two days before Valentine’s Day Community Outreach enjoyed painting with the veterans in Oakland. Every vet was provided watercolor paper, a CWA brochure and a box of Sweet Tart candies. The theme was obvious. Michael Friedland had cleverly worked out a prototype for a blooming heart tree in a landscape with birds. Jaclyn planned an adaptation for making two cards. The conversation flowed and included places to go and see flocks of migrating birds; for example, the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge.

Michael demonstrated how crinkled up tin foil dipped in thick red paint and applied to semi-wet paper can produce tiny blooms – blossoms. The sky was washed in and dry brushed around the tree blossoms, then worked down into landscape. When all was dry the tree trunk and branches were painted, then the birds. Craig added a flock of geese for his wife. No doubt some of these creative projects would become tokens of affection in the following days.

Sheila Cain





Looking for Ideas for Displaying Artwork

One of the challenges we have encountered at the Martinez VA is displaying artwork for events that provide an opportunity to show veteran's artwork. Unlike a CWA show, where members submit framed artwork to be hung in a gallery setting, we have no designated space, even for a short period of time. In addition, viewing areas are where there is a lot of activity and foot traffic.

We have experimented with a variety of presentations using trifold presentation boards or judiciously taping artwork to windows taking care to maintain visibility. Believe me, it sounds easy but the tape that works best is a challenge to work with!

Matting the artwork calls for more creativity. A properly matted and backed painting sans a frame looks fabulous but is often too heavy for taping to any surface. We found some thin pre-cut mats that work and the compromise in quality is balanced by the lowered cost and weight. We have had to

reduce the size of the art paper to accommodate them. Smaller work surfaces can be a challenge for some of our artists.

There are glassed-enclosed display cases nearby, but most of the space is dedicated to VA related information. I think that there may be very short-term possibilities here! I will pursue that.

What we are asking our CWA members for is help. Truly. If you have experience with this kind of situation and have found something that works, please contact us. We would be happy if you want to come in and do a visual assessment and offer input.

Please contact Maggie Metcalf at magster753@msn.com or (925) 849-5212 Thank You!



Joseph's Work



Ziggy, who often focuses on portraiture, delighted us with his horses.

February at the VA

We were still having fun with a Valentine theme. Some things don't get old. Our fellow volunteers from the Daughters of the American Revolution showed up with stickers. They really are fun to play with. Combining watercolor with them brought out the inner child in several of us.

We will be at the VA Martinez on March 11 and 25. We invite you to drop in and see what we do. The wide range of CWA artists' styles and approaches is greatly appreciated.

We will be happy to see you!

BTW, parking is free.

Please contact Maggie Metcalf at magster753@msn.com or (925) 849-5212.

Georganne, Julie, Victoria and Maggie

John Swett High School Gives Impoverished Children the Gift of Art



John Swett High School students' finished portraits of Pakistani students.

Students of the John Swett High School Art Club in Crockett led by Ms. Nelson have participated in The Memory Project under CWA sponsorship. This project collects photos of children from vulnerable situations and brings them to U.S. students to create portraits from the photos.

The John Swett Art Club students received ten photos of students from Pakistan via The Memory Project. They have completed the portraits which are on their way back to the Pakistani students. We are very excited by the quality of these portraits and are sure that the Pakistani students will be thrilled too.

CWA Community Outreach's next step will be to take The Memory Project to more students in other high schools. We feel that making portraits promotes creativity and giving these portraits to students of other cultures in challenging circumstances enriches both the giver and receiver.

Project website: www.memoryproject.org

Front and inside of thank you note to CWA from John Swett High School Art Club President, Daphney Saviotti, and art teacher, Ms. Nelson.

