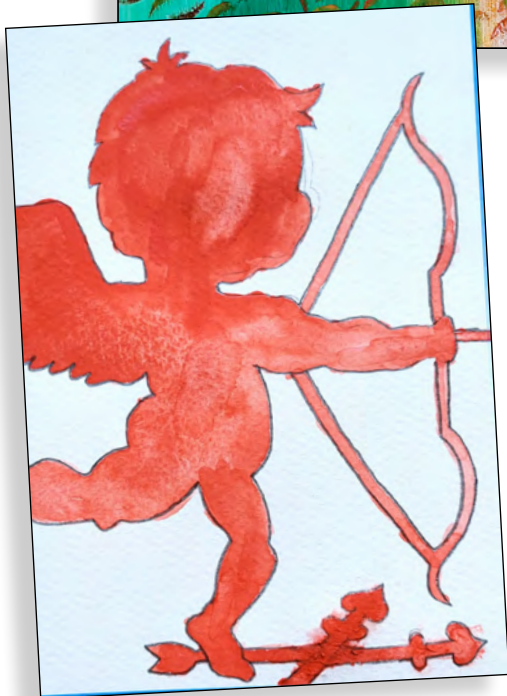
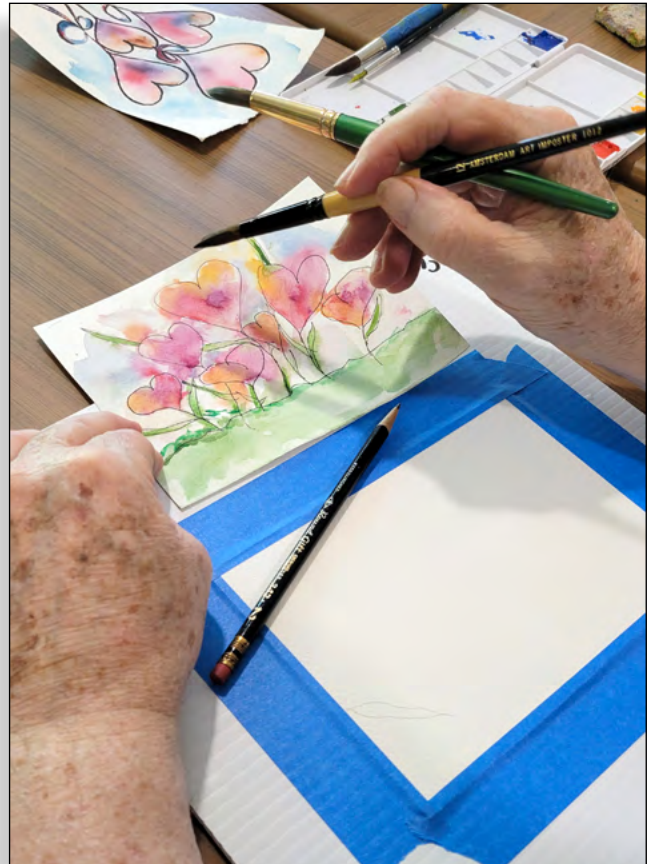




Community Outreach Martinez Veterans

Our first session in February focused on an activity many of us have done since childhood... creating Valentines. Dale Rutz expedited the process by taping folded watercolor paper to the board to create a classic card. The painters could add a message inside, more artwork of their own, or a logo on the back. There were some examples, but our artists created their own works of art. One gifted artist rendered the cupid freehand, while another painted overlapping hearts showcasing the transparency of watercolor. As you can see, someone had fun painting the backing board into a colorful frame, and everyone had an individual approach to color and message. And yes, one artist even improved upon the example painting with his double brush technique.

Maggie Metcalf
Community Outreach Volunteer





Community Outreach

Oakland Veterans

Painting a Country Music Band Celebrating Azolla Farm



Source Photo

For the February Oakland veterans gathering we chose a source photo of a band playing at the celebration of the Azolla Organic Farm in the California Central Valley. One of our participants had requested that we use a source that could be painted in the style of Jane Sneed, an artist whose painting was featured in this year's National Exhibition ([click here](#) to view Jane's portfolio).



Java Beach Cafe by Jane Sneed



The source required the vets to simplify their drawing and to plan out the sequence of steps for their painting. Many chose to use masking fluid to save the whites in the three strings of lights. The source photo had an alternating value scheme of lights and darks from the background to the foreground. The masking fluid allowed the strings of lights to rhythmically punctuate the dark and middle-valued foreground.



Completed at Home

This was a fairly complicated project and a number the group could not finish in the allotted time. A few completed the project at home. In the future, we plan to make this type of project a two-meeting event in order to clean up on time and complete what we set out to do. Nevertheless, a lot was accomplished in the time allowed.



Completed at Home

In the critique, it was noted how the vets chose to paint the musical instruments even if they didn't have the time to paint the musicians playing them. On one table the two vets took opposite ends of the value scale; one in the light and mid values, the other in the mid and dark values. Few managed the delightful open-color style of Jane Sneed. Maybe we can carry the open-color concept over to next month when we will be working on Yupo. As always, it was a very friendly gathering and a pleasure to paint together.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach

