



## Art Guild recognized for 60 years of giving

**By Jean Bartlett**  
Tribune Writer

On behalf of the City of Pacifica, on Monday, October 8, the Art Guild of Pacifica was presented with a Proclamation by Mayor John Keener. Founded in September of 1958 by 22 members, the nonprofit has never steered from its original purpose "to bring art, education and the enjoyment of arts" to the community.

"Whereas the AGP offers numerous opportunities for group art experiences with monthly discussion groups, low-fee or free workshops, and an artists' store." "Whereas the AGP collaborates with the Sanchez Art Center and its 30 Studio Artists, by working together to organize, coordinate, curate, and sponsor all exhibits and activities to ensure the best possible art experience and education for the community."

The Art Guild's dedication to art makes for a long and giving list of recognitions.

The late Roberta Grant Ewald was one of the Guild's earliest members. The following historic commentary by the artist was created from a 2002 Tribune interview and a 2009 "Footprints of Pacifica" episode.

Roberta and Henry Ewald moved to Pacifica in 1959. Roberta joined the Art Guild immediately.



photo courtesy of Pacifica Historical Society

**Early Art Guild member Roberta Grant Ewald, works in her home studio during a 2009 interview with "Footprints of Pacifica."**

"Our guiding principal was art, to help each other improve and to promote and encourage art for the community," Ewald said. "Our original focus was painting and sculpture but we broadened over time. Being an artist was not required for membership, just an interest in art."

"Juanita Lombardi was Pacifica's Postmistress. She did not do art, but she recognized that Pacifica had talented artists and they needed an Art Guild. She got things started. She was a wonderful lady."

There is a plaque that honors the Guild's earliest presidents through 1970, some who served twice: Juanita Lombardi, Luther Spraker, Otis Strong, Roberta Ewald, Robert Southworth, Sydney Clark and Lucile Sutherlin.

Since its earliest days, the AGP had annual exhibits. Show locations included: the Pedro Point Firehouse, Sea Bowl and Periwinkle Gallery.

Until they found a permanent home in the 1996-created Sanchez Art Center, the AGP held meetings at various locations, including the Sharp Park Library and the homes of Sydney Clark, Roberta Ewald and Jackie DiCello.



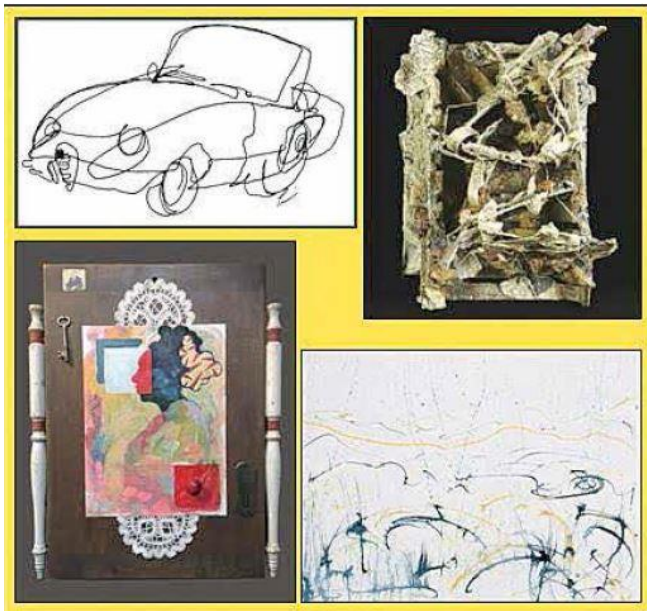
photo by Michael Risenhoover  
AGP member Steve Dever at AGP's 2005 "Open Walls Exhibit."



Art Guild of Pacifica files  
AGP volunteers paint the Sanchez Art Center, 1996.

Currently, 160 artists are AGP members and of those, 88 are represented in the 60th Annual Members Show, now through November 18 in the Center's East and West Galleries. The previous year's award winners are exhibiting in the Main Gallery.

Below, 59th Annual Awards Artists (*clockwise from upper left*):  
Rick Lucia, Laura Lee Green, Alice Kelmon, Andrew Leone





Artist Nancy Russell joined the AGP in 2000 with her husband, sculptor Jerry Ross Barrish. Russell has served in multiple capacities on the AGP Board. Her art medium is acrylics or oil stick. In the Guild's current show she has an abstract painting titled "Umea." She has many favorite Art Guild memories.

"Celebrating Mary Harris' 100th birthday at the Center," she began. "Working with many others to create the pop-up Oceana Gallery at Eureka Square, and being on the receiving end of artwork created for a new show."

In the Art Guild's home in the Sanchez Art Center's West Gallery, there are four group shows annually with different creative themes so everyone can participate. In addition, AGP's Annual Members Show & Winter Art Faire exhibits in all the galleries.

An AGP member since 1997, artist Kathy Miller said knowing Mary Harris tops the list of her favorite AGP memories as does the Arts on Fire events. Miller's art medium is clay and mosaic.

"The Art Guild provides Pacifica with a place to exhibit and view art, and the exhibited art includes local artists alongside emerging/established artists," Miller said. "It provides an opportunity for artists to express diverse perspectives and a space for community gatherings which promotes an exchange of ideas and collaborations."



photo courtesy of AGP files

**In 2007, an AGP Gallery Committee gets to work, (l-r): Alice Kelmon, Ann West, Ramon Bravo, Andrew Leone and Nancy Russell.**

Jennifer Alpaugh has been an AGP member since 1996 and served twice as Board President. Her art medium is oil painting and cyanotype. In the current show she has an oil painting titled "Into the Cool." She described a favorite memory.

"I arrived at the reception of an AGP 'Winter Art Faire,' and found the windows lit with candles, music playing, art and craft filled halls, twinkling selfie set-ups, children's activities, and lots of people enjoying this fun, beautiful and magical occasion."

AGP Board president Charlotte Seekamp joined the Guild in October of 1996 and is one of the founding studio artists. Her main art medium is two dimensional media and includes: darkroom photography, collage, mixed media and acrylic painting. Her cyanotype titled "Mementos" is on exhibit in the current show.

"The AGP is a wonderful organization," Seekamp said. "It provides camaraderie with other artists. It provides Pacifica a cultural venue that few cities of this size have. I also love that our members, including myself, can exhibit our works of art in at least five exhibits per year in the West Gallery. It is important to have one's work seen."

Bonnie Miller is the AGP Liaison to the Sanchez Art Center Board. She has been an AGP member since 2008. Her original college intention was to be an artist, to paint, to do metal sculpture. But science also interests her and she has spent her professional life in the medical field. Art, however, has always been a constant.

"Every artist in the Art Guild shows and I love that they are constantly experimenting," Miller said. "It's a safe place to do art."

"The Art Guild has this phrase 'Community Through Art.' That is exactly who we are and what we bring to each other and to the public. Art connects us."



photo by Charles McDevitt

**Striking a pose in the Art Guild's 2017 Winter Photo Booth are AGP members Charlotte Seekamp, Daniele Derenzi and Kathy Miller.**

The Sanchez Art Center, 1220 Linda Mar Blvd., Pacifica. Galleries are open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 1–5 p.m., and by appointment. For more information call 650-355-1894. Visit AGP online at: [www.artguildofpacific.org](http://www.artguildofpacific.org) and the Sanchez Art Center at: [www.sanchezartcenter.org](http://www.sanchezartcenter.org). This show concludes on Nov. 18 with an artists' talk at 3 p.m.

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